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President says there are enough local judges with knowledge

(FT.LK) - President Maithripala Sirisena, reiterating his stance that foreign judges should not be involved in the country's internal affairs, said the country's Judiciary must be trusted to mete out justice as the background required to make decisions independently and issue verdicts without any political influence has been set up. The President made these remarks while addressing the Annual Conference for Judicial Officers which commenced at the Galadari Hotel, Colombo yesterday. The two-day conference was organised by the Sri Lanka Judges Institute on the request of the Judicial Service Association of Sri Lanka. Speaking at the occasion, the President said he

believed that the background required for judges to make their decisions independently and issue verdicts without any political influence had been set up. President Sirisena said he was of the strict view that foreign judges should not be brought to the country at any time. On every such occasion, he said that he had mentioned that there should be trust in the Judiciary. The President said he had explained to the international community that under this Government it would be permitted to implement a Judiciary that could be trusted and was the supremacy of the law. He has also explained that there were enough

intellectuals with enough knowledge in the field to carry out legal tasks without consulting foreign judges. As a result of that, the problem has been solved, he said. Some LTTE members living abroad and members of some organisations as well as NGOs affiliated to the LTTE are the ones still making various statements and have not given up the cause, he said. However, the UN, the Human Rights Council or the Government of any other country has not presented their opinion at any time regarding foreign judges. "I consider it a victory Sri Lanka received as an independent sovereign country," he said. Speaking of the promotions granted to judges, the

President said he had informed the Chief Justice and the Judicial Services Commission to prepare a formal system which everyone could accept to solve problems that had arisen when granting promotions to judges. The President emphasised that judges approaching anyone to submit facts about promotions was unsuitable. The commemorative volume, which had been published on behalf of the Annual Conference of the Judicial Services Commission, was presented to the President at the event.

'They Call Him Ken' proceeds presented to charity

(FT.LK) - John Keells Holdings Former Chairman Desamanya Ken Balendra who saw the release of his biography – 'They Call Him Ken' – written by Savithri Rodrigo in September this year, presented

the proceeds of the books sold thus far to the designated charity, Friends of Prisoners' Children (FPC) Trust. A total of Rs. 536,000 was presented to

Chairperson Sr. Dhammi Fernando, collated from the proceeds of the sale of books and generous donations towards the cause resulting from reading the book from friends and relatives, including Past President of Rotary International K.R. Ravindran and Chairman of Renuka Hotels Ravi Thambiyah. It is pertinent to note that both Ken Balendra and Savithri Rodrigo unanimously agreed to donate all proceeds of the book, which was distributed by renowned publisher and distributor Vijitha Yapa, to a designated charity. The FPC Trust founded in 2006 by Sr. Immaculate De Alwis primarily presents scholarships to children of prisoners who are incarcerated for long terms at the Welikada prison, to continue their education. Totally operated on donations received by well-wishers, the Trust disburses Rs. 18,000 annually to the high achieving scholars sustaining these scholarships until their A/Levels via a savings book monitored by the

school principal. These scholarships not only help sustain the education of prisoners' children who are most often ostracised by family, relatives and their community, which almost feels like a prison term for them as well, but also significantly reduces the drop-out rate from school. The success of this program, which encourages the children to remain in school and also grow up to be good citizens is well evidenced in some unique triumphs including students being among the top percentage in the country for the Grade Five Scholarship, O/Level and A/Level examinations and gaining entrance into university and professional examinations.



Desamanya Ken Balendra presents a cheque for Rs. 536,000 being the proceeds of the sale of his biography - 'They Call Him Ken' to the Chairperson of Friends of Prisoners' Trust, Sr. Dhammi Fernando. Also seen (from left): FPC Trustee Shiromal Cooray, Sr. Dinesha from FPC, author Savithri Rodrigo, Kens' wife, Swyrie Balendra and the distributor of the book, Vijitha Yapa

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St Peters' 'La Bamba Nite 2017'



Methodist & Wesley Carol service



ASLUK - 13th Tsunami reception

See these and other photoshoots inside. If you are having some Christmas or New Year events, make sure you take lots of pictures. Send them with a report to: info@newslinka.net

NEWSLANKA CORRECTION
Vernon Udugampola MBE
In last weeks paper we had put that Vernon Udugampola had received an OBE. However he had actually received the more prestigious MBE. Please accept our apologies Vernon. ED.

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