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Collective effort to combat corruption- President

(DailyNews.lk) - The fight against corruption is the best self defence in a progressive country and nation,

President Maithripala Sirisena said. The President addressing the 70th National Independence Day celebrations

held at Galle Face in Colombo, said financial discipline should be considered an act of patriotism at a time where corruption has become a major hindrance to a prosperous Sri Lanka. "Despite achievements it has made over the last seven decades, bribery, corruption, fraud and other malpractices have a detrimental impact on economic independence and the future of the country. Thus, all politicians should play a dedicated and exemplary role to survive," the President emphasised. The President re-iterated that there was a great need for a national movement against fraud and corruption. This movement, he said, should promote financial discipline among all citizens. "There have been diverse interpretations on patriotism during different eras. At this hour, patriotism means financial discipline," the President added.

He also observed that financial discipline, honesty and integrity should be promoted with a top to bottom approach, where not only those at grassroots level are expected to uphold these qualities. The President also requested politicians, heads of government departments and all public servants to act with discipline as a part of the national movement against corruption. The President also pointed out that public opinion against corruption should be promoted and strengthened which will ultimately contribute to the progress of the country. President Sirisena also pointed out that "there is a requirement of a national movement against corruption in order to establish a clean political culture and such a collective effort should be backed with the participation of the country's intellectual community." He observed that there... **CONT P14**



The 70th Independence Day was celebrated with the attendance of the Earl of Wessex, Prince Edward and Countess of Wessex, Sophie as chief guests. They stood together with Chief Justice Priyasath Dep and his wife, Speaker Karu Jayasuriya, former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, Prof. Maithree Wickramasinghe, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and First Lady Jayanthi Sirisena to watch the celebrations at the Galle Face Green. Pictures by Rukmal Gamage

Queen Elizabeth II of England



Queen Elizabeth II of England conveyed her well wishes to President Maithripala Sirisena for the 70th Independence Day celebration of Sri Lanka. Her Majesty said, 'It gives me great pleasure to send to Your Excellency my congratulations on the occasion of the celebration by Sri Lanka of the seventieth anniversary of Independence. The relationship between our two countries has continued to grow, and it is my hope that the connections between our people continue to flourish in the years to come.' "Although I am unable to be with you as you mark this historic moment, I am very pleased that The Earl and Countess of Wessex are able to represent me and to join you in celebrating all that the people of Sri Lanka have achieved in the past 70 years' the Queen said. Expressing her sincere congratulations Her Majesty concluded the message saying, "I send my best wishes to the people of Sri Lanka on this occasion."

MEMORIAL SERVICE



Most Ven. Prof. Wimalaratana Anunanyaka Thero

Sri Lankan Sangha Sabha in UK & The London Buddhist Vihara

organize a memorial service to commemorate the life of Most Venerable Professor Bellanwila Wimalaratana Anunayaka Thera, who passed away on 3rd February 2018.

Ven. Prof. Bellanwila Wimalaratana was the Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayawardhanapura since 2000. Prior to his appointment to the post of Chancellor, Ven. Thero held the position of Professor, Associate Professor, Lecturer and Visiting Lecturer respectively, at the Sri Jayawardhanapura University. Also, Ven. Thero has been a Visiting Professor at the School of Oriental and African Studies University of London, UK.

Ven. Thero obtained a Doctorate (Ph.D) in 1980 from the University of Lancaster, United Kingdom. He also served as the Deputy Chief (Anunayaka) of the Kotte Sri Kalyani Samagri Dhamma Maha Sangha Sabha of the Syamopali Maha Nikaya.

The memorial service will be held at the London Buddhist Vihara on **Sunday 11th February at 6.00pm.**

You are cordially invited to attend this important memorial service.

London Buddhist Vihara
The Avenue, London W4 1UD. Tel: 0208 995 9493 Email: london.vihara@virgin.net

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