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ගෞ. ජේවගැති ඩබ්ලිව්.පී. එබෙනෙජර් ජෝසප් - මහා මන්ත්‍රණ සභාවේ මහනායක
அருள்திரு. டபிள்யூ. பி. எபனேசர் ஜோசப் - திருப்பேரவை தலைவர்
Rev. W. P. Ebenezer Joseph - B.D.(Seram) M. Th.(Seram) - President of Conference

Statement on the Prevailing Situation in the Country

The Methodist Church Sri Lanka is perturbed at the increasing burden and unbearable suffering experienced by the people of this island, due to the prevailing economic chaos, the worst since the country attained independence.

We are saddened and heartbroken by the miseries endured by the poor and grieve at the plight of the Farmers, plantation laborer's, fisherman, carpenters and the many thousands who depend on their daily wages for their day-to-day survival. Standing in unending queues, lacking basic essentials for their survival, coupled with prolonged power cuts and lack of fuel, have only resulted in driving them to point of despair, frustration and hopelessness. This dangerous and unfortunate situation could be used by anyone to create mayhem and anarchy in the country.

The country is gradually sliding to chaos, as the genuine concerns of people remain unattended. It is clear that fiscal management in the past decade was without foresight and catered to immediate political exigencies lacking sensitivity to the genuine concerns and needs of the people that led to the debt crisis resulting in this pathetic situation.

It is a tragedy that at a time like this, the authorities have unfortunately taken repressive measures to curtail the genuine and peaceful protests and demonstrations of the people by declaring a state of emergency and curtailing social media, further shrinking the democratic space instead of attending to the needs of the people.

We call upon all those in positions of power and authority and all parliamentarians elected by the people, to work together to redeem the country out of this mess and relieve the people of the unbearable miseries they endure.

We call upon the government to take adequate steps to immediately supply the basic essentials needed by the people and ensure that what is available is equally distributed to all in a transparent manner without making the weak, the vulnerable and the and the poor to be deprived of the same while those influential and those in power enjoy such privileges. It is also vital that the state of emergency be withdrawn immediately.

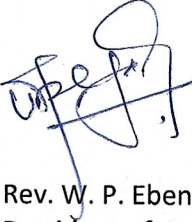
We also call upon the government to have a committee of Independent professionals to handle the management of the finances of the country without leaving room for further manipulation by politicians. It should also ensure that politicians of their constituency should not make rash or baseless statements that could further aggravate the frustration and hurt of the people.

We call upon the people to act with discernment while exercising their right and privilege to demonstrate and protest, that they are not manipulated for any ulterior political purposes. It is also vital to refrain from acts of violence. It is an opportune time that we as Sri Lankans, transcend all that divides us and work together for the welfare and integrity of this island and make it a country where peace and prosperity will overflow.

We pledge as a Church, that we will do all within our means to alleviate the sufferings of the people regardless of creed, colour or ethnicity and calls upon it's faithful members to respond by sharing our resources sacrificially with those who are under privileged, give voice to those affected, adopt a simple lifestyle and engage in prayer for the early resolution of the crisis.

We believe in God of transformation that instills hope that even the worst social scenario can be changed into something beautiful.

We are confident of our hope rooted in the Risen Lord, who overcame death, that our Island will blossom once again to be a land of peace and prosperity.



Rev. W. P. Ebenezer Joseph
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