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வெளிநாட்டு அலுவல்கள் அமைச்சர்
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Independence Day Message

As we celebrate the 76th anniversary of our independence today, this milestone carries more significance than ever before.

Economic independence is integral to a nation's journey post-freedom. Given the deep economic crisis we were facing only a year ago, the current recovery and upsurge in the economy seemed inconceivable. It was a combination of good leadership and teamwork that has put us on this path to recovery. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and our diplomatic missions abroad have contributed to this process. Though Sri Lanka is still a long way ahead of a full recovery, we can be cautiously optimistic of the way forward in light of the indomitable resilience we have displayed in the face of hardship.

Sri Lanka is committed to democratic principles, human rights, and the rule of law. It is noteworthy that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs played a key role in the establishment of institutions like the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Office for Overseas Sri Lankan Affairs (OOSLA) to promote inclusivity and protect citizen rights. Sri Lanka is committed to international cooperation, actively engaging in bilateral and multilateral engagements to address global issues like climate change, economic development, and peace. It aims to foster diplomatic relations, contribute to regional stability, and uphold shared responsibility. We have increased global engagement through numerous bilateral visits and consultations, fostering enhanced political and economic relations. Sri Lanka also assumed leadership of the Indian Ocean Rim Association. In the coming year, Sri Lanka must strengthen and deepen these engagements.

However, we must keep in mind that we are still a work in progress when considering our most critical aim: forging together the diversity of our people into one coherent and strong Sri Lankan nation. In the past 76 years as we have permitted our differences to gain prominence and dominate the social fabric, subsequently failing to nurture the commonalities that bind us together. To achieve our true potential, we must resist divisive policies and embrace the unity within our diversity while we continue these difficult yet prudent economic policy reforms.

Wishing all Sri Lankans a happy independence day.

M.U.M. Ali Sabry, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs

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