

Carbon, NBN and Boats The lost voice of Australian Labor Party

Age tells on individuals in varying degree, some become senile and inactive, while others carry on as usual with the same vigor they had in younger days.

This senile decay is not common to live organisations such as Corporations and Businesses. The best business in town by the name of Politics has to be one of them- live, alert and constantly being refreshed with new blood, new members.

There seems to be one glaring exception though. That is the oldest political party in the country, the Australian Labor Party.

The lesson held on 7th September 2013, exposed the vulnerability of an ageing, tottering organization, bereft new ideas or strategies to take to the voters. ALP was pitted against a well planned, well rehearsed campaign which had the benefit of best advisers and strategists available anywhere.

Those who brought back Kevin Rudd including the latest convert Brutus believed in his ability to wave the magic wand and win over the masses.

Even in a third world country like Sri Lanka, way back in 1977, politicians looked for best experts to lead their campaign, or rather, show them the way. J. R Jayawardena, known to be a merciless, shrewd operator in politics, was recycled by some American experts and presented to the public as a saintly figure- a true Buddhist full of compassion.

And the public believed in the new incarnation of Junius Jayawardena. They voted him into power with an unprecedented majority. And the saint made use of it pretty well. He



created the most powerful position of Presidency for himself. What followed is history.

I wonder whether there were home-made strategists within Labor Party capable of giving advice and direction to the campaign. Going by what was on display, it was all an amateurish puerile attempt to tell the people that they 'still had petrol in the tank'. Anyone with open eyes could see that Kevin Rudd was "free Wheeling" after the initial enthusiasm that erupted as he got back to his former seat.

His followers too believed this was an easy run to the Lodge. No one apparently questioned, no doubts raised.

No one noticed the wheels that were dislodging from the triumphal chariot.

This failure on the part of labor leaders is seen even when they were trying to elect a leader to replace Kevin Rudd.

Even after been badly beaten by Tony Abbott, they are still harping on or hanging on pet schemes of Carbon tax, NBN and Boats.

Even now they say they had a mandate to implement the carbon tax. Why on earth did they fail to convince the Australian voters that it was not

a "broken promise" as repeatedly broadcast by Tony Abbott for three long years? He perhaps did convince the voters that Julia Gillard did break her promise.

Anyone who saw the pre-election advertisement with Malcolm Turnbull as the star performer would have felt NBN myth was useless for the ALP, who did not see the writing on the wall. Both aspirants for leadership were talking of the advantages of introducing NBN. Find a person who believes them.

We will stop the boats! That was a very powerful message that Tony Abbott gave right through the campaign.

We will abolish Carbon Tax!

We will stop the Boats!

Two war cries of a man destined to win and walk to the Lodge. How effectively did he capture the imagination of an Australian Public that had got fed up with "policies on the run" by two successive PMs Julia Gillard and Kevin Rudd?

It was Julia Gillard who made perhaps the silliest mistake as soon as becoming PM. She offered it to the "unsuspecting" public. A solution that was just a pigment of her imagination in the East Timor Solution- with no reference to the host country involved. The fatal error was never erased from the public that became more and more "suspecting".

Labor has not recovered from the blunder! The solution that Kevin Rudd patched up with Nauru and PNG too did not remove this never ending doubt in the minds of discerning voters.

The NBN is one slogan which Labor ought to have discretely left untouched, even in private. The business of boats could have been a fool-proof solution, with a little more patience and planning. What happened was that Tony ABBOTT outsmarted his rival, with a battery of uniformed officers, who looked determined to do the needful.

In an age in which communication has impacted at top speed, offering many avenues to reach every level of the population with one's message, labor had no clear idea of the message to deliver, other than ad-hoc solutions on burning National issues. Added to that they had no set plan to reach the voter with whatever message they had. Labor proved to be novices in that expert game of mass communication. They did not even take note of the hostile press that was all out to oust them from power. If they did they would not have even dreamt of a Bill to Control the Press and offer more ammunition to the enemy, already fully armed.

Labor failed even to communicate their achievements to the public. I.e. the National Disability Insurance Scheme - NDIS. One of Labors best products, perhaps after Medicare, just faded into insignificance in the midst of adverse propaganda and misguided attacks on the opposition.

All the well planned attacks on the opposition and its creditability failed to register in the mind of the voters.

Just as J.R of Sri Lanka did in 1977, Tony Abbott successfully offered himself in the new "incarnation" as family man, always accompanied by his wife and lovely daughters. No more talk of "misogyny".

ශ්‍රී ලාංකික නිර්මාතෘකරුවකුගේ දස්කම් ක්වින්ස්ලන්තයේ දී

ක්වින්ස්ලන්ත බෞද්ධ විහාරයේ ඉදිකළ වෛතසරාජයාගේ කොත් පැරැදවීමේ උත්සවය ලඟදී ම පැවැත්වීමට විහාරාධිපති ගරුතර පූජ්‍ය සිටිනාමලවේ සුගතසාර හිමියන් ප්‍රමුඛ දායක සභාව විසින් වැඩ කටයුතු කරමින් සිටිති.

මෙම අභිනවයෙන් ඉදිකළ වෛතසරාජයා දෙස බැලීමේ දී මෙතරම් විශාල, අලංකාර කැටයම් වලින් ඔප නැංවූ, ලාංකික බෞද්ධ හා සංස්කෘතික උරුමය ක්වින්ස්ලන්ත වාසි බෞද්ධ ජනතාවට වැදූ පුදා ගැනීමට මෙන් ම, දරුවන්ට දැක බලා ගැනීමට ලැබීම මොනතරම් වාසනාවක් ද ? මොනතරම් පිනක්ද?

ඉතාම කෙටි කලක් තුළදී මෙම අලංකාර වෛතස නිර්මාතෘ කළ නිර්මාතෘ ශිල්පියා මෙහිදී අපට අමතක කළ නොහැක. ඉතාමත් අලංකාර කැටයම් වලින් ඔප

නංවමින්, ශ්‍රී ලාංකික අන්‍යන්‍යතාවය මේ රට තුළ දී කැපී පෙනෙන අන්දමට ලාංකිකයන්ට මෙන්ම අනිකුත් ජාතීන්ට ද දැක බලා සතුටු විය හැකි අන්දමට සිය දෑතින් නිර්මාතෘ කළේ ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ සිට පැමිණි ඩී. එස්. ප්‍රේමලාල් නම් වූ නිර්මාතෘ ශිල්පියා විසින් ය. මොහු ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ රුහුණු පුරවරයේ අකුරුවාගොඩ, සිය පියා වූ ඩී.එස්.සරණේරත්න නැමැති සුප්‍රසිද්ධ වෛතස නිර්මාතෘ ශිල්පියාගේ අධිපාතේ යමින් සිය හැකියාවන් ඔප් නංවාගත් දක්ෂ නිර්මාතෘ ශිල්පියෙකි.

මුලදී සිය පියා සමඟ වෛතස නිර්මාතෘ, බෝධිප්‍රාකාර, මකරතොරන වැනි වැඩවලට සහය වෙමින් විශේෂයෙන් කළුතර බෝධිප්‍රකාරයේ වැඩ වලට ද දායක වෙමින්, අත්දැකීම් රාශියක් සිය ජීවිතයට එකතු කරගත්තේ ය. ඉන් පසුව

නොයෙකුත් විහාරස්ථානවල කැටයම් වැඩ, බෝධිප්‍රාකාර, වෛතස නිර්මාතෘ කරමින් මේ වනවිට වෛතසයන් 35 ක් පමණ තමා තනියම නිර්මාතෘ කළ බව ඔහු අප හා පැවසුවේ ඉමහත් සතුටිනි.

විශේෂයෙන් මුතියංගන රජමහා විහාරය හා ඊට අමතරව දිවයින පුරා ඇති නොයෙකුත් විහාරස්ථාන වල වහල්කඩ, මකරතොරණ, වෛතස ඉදිකර ඇති අතර මේ වැඩ කටයුතු දිගටම කරගෙන යමින් මේ වනවිට ගෝල පිරිස 100 ක් පමණ පුරුදු පුහුණු කර ඇත.

මෙම වැඩකටයුතු වල නිරතවීමේ දී මනාව පිරිසිදුව, බැතිමත් සිතින් සිය පියාගේ ඔවදන් සිති ගන්වමින් හා විශේෂ භක්තියකින් කරගෙන යන නිසා, තමන් කරන මෙම වැඩ කටයුතු ඉතාමත් සාර්ථක නිර්මාතෘ වන බවයි ප්‍රේමලාල්ගේ විශ්වාසය.

තමන්ගේ මෙම දක්ෂතා දුටු විහාරාධිපති ගරු පූජ්‍ය සිටිනාමලවේ සුගතසාර හිමි ක්වින්ස්ලන්ත බෞද්ධ විහාරයේ නව වෛතස ඉදිකිරීමට ආරාධනා කළ බවත්, තව නොබෝ දිනකින් එහි වැඩ කටයුතු නිම කර, ආපසු ලංකාවට යන්න බලාපොරොත්තු වන බවත්, ඒ අතර ඕස්ට්‍රේලියාවේ වෙනත් නගර වලින් මෙවැනි කටයුතු සඳහා ඇරයුම් ලැබුණොත් තමන් ඉතා සතුටින් භාරගන්නා බව ද අවසාන වශයෙන් ප්‍රේමලාල් අප සමඟ පැවසී ය.

ඔබට ද මෙම නිර්මාතෘ ශිල්පියාගේ සේවය ලබා ගැනීමට අවශ්‍ය නම් ක්වින්ස්ලන්ත බෞද්ධ විහාරය අමතන්න. 07 381 88806.

ආනන්ද සමරතුංග
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