



## MINISTER RAVI KARUNANAYAKE ASSUMES DUTIES AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Having received his appointment from President Maithripala Sirisena on May 22 as the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ravi Karunanayake assumed duties at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 25 May 2017.

Foreign Minister Ravi Karunanayake was received at the Ministry by the Secretary of the Ministry Esala Weerakoon, senior staff of the Ministry, Ministers including the former Minister of Foreign Affairs and present Minister of Finance & Media Mangala Samaraweera, Parliamentarians and well-wishers.

Following religious observances conducted by Buddhist, Hindu, Islamic and Christian dignitaries, the Minister officially assumed duties.

Speaking to the Ministry staff after assuming duties, Foreign Minister Karunanayake noted that he would carry out his duties to meet the expectations of the President and the

Prime Minister in the interest of the country, and expressed his commitment to uphold Sri Lanka's foreign policy of friendship with all and enmity toward none. The Minister stressed that he will enhance Sri Lanka's foreign policy, focus on spearheading economic diplomacy, and stated that the country would need to move forward through interaction, foreign investments and innovative thinking. *More*

## PROVIDING RELIEF ASSISTANCE TO FLOOD VICTIMS IN SRI LANKA

As you are aware, due to heavy rains in the past few days, several regions of Sri Lanka have been affected by massive floods and landslides, resulting in substantial loss of life and property and displacement. The relevant government agencies and the security forces have been mobilized to assist those affected and provide relief to the victims.

According to the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) around 717,622 people (184,265 families) have been affected in 15 districts. As of June 4, 2017, DMC reports 212 deaths and 79 missing. 24,962 people (7,046 families) have been housed at 226 safe locations. Please visit [http://www.dmc.gov.lk/index\\_english.htm](http://www.dmc.gov.lk/index_english.htm) for regular situation updates.

The people and the government of Sri Lanka appreciate the concern and support being expressed by Sri Lankan expatriates and the international community and their desire to assist Sri Lanka and the affected people at this difficult juncture.

## PRIME MINISTER WICKREMESINGHE'S ADDRESS AT THE SDG GOAL 14 UN CONFERENCE

Madame President, Mr. Secretary General,

Allow me to express my appreciation to those who have

been responsible for organizing this conference – notably Mr. Peter Thomson - President of the General Assembly,

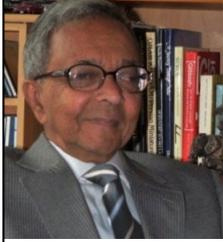


the Governments of Fiji and Sweden - co-hosts of the Conference, the Permanent Representatives of Portugal and Singapore - facilitators of preparatory meetings and to the Secretary General of the Conference.

This assembly is part of a historic process – The collective international efforts to define and correct the deprivations of humankind on the Planet Earth. It is a relatively recent effort, beginning with the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm and the Stockholm Declaration in 1972. Since then we have made much progress in recognizing the environment and its protection as the responsibility of all nations. We have largely accepted the connection between ecological management and the human condition. We have had many conferences, created many institutions. Public awareness and concern about the environment is wider than at any time in history. Yet with all these developments, we have still a long way to go to reach the optimum level of global environmental sustainability. *More*

Well-wishers living in the United States can contribute to relief operations through the Embassy of Sri Lanka, Washington D.C. by making direct financial contributions. The Embassy accepts cash, cheques or money orders drawn out in favour of the “Embassy of Sri Lanka”. Cheques and money orders can be addressed to Embassy of Sri Lanka, 3025 Whitehaven Street NW, Washington DC 20008. All such contributions will be acknowledged by an official receipt by the Embassy as “Contributions to Flood Relief” and will be transmitted to the Disaster Relief Account (Bank of Ceylon Account No. 7040171) operated by the Ministry of Disaster Management through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. *More*

## FORMER AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. ERNEST COREA PASSES AWAY



Distinguished former Sri Lankan diplomat and journalist Deshabandu Ernest Corea passed away on May 11 in Washington D.C. after battling an illness.

Appointed to serve Sri Lanka as ambassador by former President J.R. Jayawardene in 1978, Ambassador Corea first served as High Commissioner to Canada and then as Ambassador to the United States from 1982-1986.

During his tenure in Wash-

ington D.C., among others, Ambassador Corea was charged with facilitating the first state visit by a Sri Lankan Head of State to the U.S. capital. President Ronald Reagan welcomed President J.R. Jayawardene to the White House in June 1984. Ambassador Corea will be remembered with gratitude by Sri Lanka and the United States for the invaluable contribution he made to strengthen US-Sri Lanka relations.

The Embassy of Sri Lanka extends its condolences to Ambassador Corea's wife, children and extended family at this time of profound grief.

### MEMORIAL SERVICE ORGANISED BY THE FAMILY OF THE LATE ERNEST COREA

A Celebration of Life service for Ernest Corea will be held at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, 6320 Hanover Avenue, Springfield VA 22150 on Saturday July 8, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.

Interment of ashes will follow immediately after the service at St. Christopher's Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, if you wish to make a memorial contribution, please make checks payable to St. Christopher's Episcopal Church with memo indicating "in honor of Ernest Corea." The funds will be directed to the Hypothermia Prevention Shelter Fund.

## SRI LANKA'S NATIONAL FLOWER ADORNS DC'S INTERNATIONAL FLORAL EXHIBIT



A magnificent blue water lily (nil manel) floral display lent unique Sri Lankan flavor to the International Floral Exhibit at National Cathedral's Flower Mart held on May 5 and 6 in Washington D.C.

Designed by the Embassy staff especially for the annual spring event, the floral arrangement salutes the national flower of Sri Lanka. The blue water lilies which were especially flown in from Sri Lanka bejeweled the traditional oil lamp in ornate bursts, adorned with white roses and cascading frangipanis. Sri Lanka was one of the 19 countries that presented a flower display and the only South Asian country to do so. [More](#)

## SRI LANKAN CULINARY SHOW AT THE EMBASSY CHEF CHALLENGE IN WASHINGTON



Sri Lanka presented its authentic cuisine at the Annual Embassy Chef Challenge held on May 24 at the International Trade Center in Washington DC.

At this well attended annual event over 30 Embassy Chefs showcased their culinary talents with food preparation skills and signature delicacies of each country.

Sri Lanka was represented by the Embassy Chef Anuradha Wijesinghe, who received public compliments for his spicy kottu with chicken curry for its unique taste and presentation. All participating chefs were required to present one pre-prepared food item for sampling and consumption by visitors.

[More](#)

## HILTON TO OPEN FIRST UPSCALE RESORT IN WEERAWILA, SRI LANKA

On June 6 Hilton (HLT) and DoubleTree by Hilton signed a management agreement with KDU Adventures (Pvt) Ltd, a subsidiary of KDU Group (Pvt) Ltd, to manage the 140-room DoubleTree by Hilton Weerawila, scheduled to open in the first quarter of 2018. The latest signing brings the current Hilton pipeline hotels in Sri Lanka to seven properties.

"With a fast-growing, global portfolio of more than 500 upscale properties, we are delighted that our award-winning DoubleTree by Hilton brand is gaining traction in Sri Lanka. The DoubleTree by Hilton Weerawila will mark the fourth upcoming DoubleTree by Hilton property in this emerging market," said Dianna Vaughan, senior vice president and global head, DoubleTree by Hilton. [More](#)

## US - SL NAVY HOLD STAFF TALKS

The second edition of staff talks between US and Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) officials were held at the Navy headquarters in Colombo on May 16 and 17.

The SLN delegation was led by Director General Operations, Rear Admiral Piyal De Silva while the US delegation was led by Captain Brian Anderson of the US 7th Fleet. The discussions highlighted the importance of similar dialogue to further mutual cooperation between the two navies.

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