

The cabinet steals amount similar to annual war expenditure; where the patriots are, asks Shiral

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Counsel Shiral Lakthilaka says that Corruption Watch will initiate legal action internationally against all malpractices of Rajapakse regime including petroleum hedging and the wealth the corrupted have amassed in foreign countries will be brought back.

Addressing a seminar on 'Socio-political reality revealed by hedging gambling' held yesterday (02) in Colombo, Lakthilaka said that legal initiatives would be based on the UN Convention against Corruption agreed on December 09, 2003 at Madrid, Mexico.

He said that the government is in gambling in war and in the deals like hedging as well. He pointed out that the entire political authority is connected to this gambling and it is a crime against people that the Ministers are stealing the spared Rs. 150 billion from the Rs. 750 billion gross national income in a time Rs. 600 billion of it goes for service charges and installments of the loans obtained by the state.

Mr. Lakthilaka said that there is another corrupt deal in CPC and \$ 12 is paid to shipping lines to transport a barrel of petroleum while other shipping lines have come forward to do it for \$ 07. Former CPC Chairman Asantha de Mel has been able to obtain the cabinet approval for this deal as well that has caused a loss of Rs. 600 million to the CPC.

He said that the cabinet of Ministers is stealing an amount similar to the annual war expenditure. Sri Lanka will lose Rs. 4000 million by December 15 due to petroleum hedging. Lakthilaka charged that the Rajapakse regime is emptying the coffers to their pockets covering to war.

United Socialist Front leader Sirithunga Jayasuriya says that the government is now stripped although the patriots cannot view the corruption and malpractices. He said that no party could eliminate corruption without implementing the 17th amendment.

The government stripped

United national Party MP Dayasiri Jayasekara addressing the seminar said that the CPC that sells diesel to international shipping lines at Rs. 85 per liter while local consumers have to pay Rs. 110 for it. He said that the fact exposed the quality of the patriotism of the government.

MP Ravi karunanayaka and Dayasiri Jayasekara pledged to go to courts against corruption under a future UNP regime as well.

Ven, Thiniyawala Palitha Thero and Ravi Jayawardhana, lawyer, also participated in the seminar.

(Photo and report by Sisira C. Vithabage)