

Mahinda Chintana.....

Mahinda Chintana (Mahinda Vision) has been based upon the proposals and suggestions of thousands of my beloved fellow citizens who have been closely associated with me over the past 37 years of my political journey.

It is presented to religious dignitaries, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters and children of my motherland with deep affection.

MAHINDA RAJAPAKSA

**'This earth and its vegetation is yours.
But they should be protected not only for your benefit but
also for the benefit of future generations.
A ruler is only a temporary trustee and an owner of your children's heritage'**

Towards a new Sri Lanka...

Fisheries and Ocean Resources development

We have so far failed to tap the vast potential of the ocean resources surrounding us. I am determined to change this situation and develop the fisheries industry and to bring it to a level of the industry in Japan and Thailand. While I was the Minister of Fisheries, I established an Ocean University as a first step towards this goal.

The coastal guard which was initiated by me will be strengthened further in order to protect our ocean resources. I will take action to utilize these resources to the maximum, enhancing the employment opportunities and increasing the national production.

My priority will be to realize the potential of the deep seas around Sri Lanka which possess large quantities of fish. To do so 50 trawlers will be deployed to engage in deep sea fishing.

I will also make arrangements to provide 500 multi-day boats at concessionary prices to the coastal fisherman in Sri Lanka, within a period of 3 years.

I will develop 100 fishery harbours, anchorages, boat yards and fishery crafts centres along the coastal line.

A fuel subsidy will also be given to fishermen with effect from January 2006.

I will provide the required incentives to the private sector to make available fisheries craft with new technology and to provide fishing gear to fisherman. Action will also be taken to develop fresh water fishing in new rehabilitated tanks, reservoirs and ponds.

I will provide land, capital, knowledge and technology to set up 150 brackish and freshwater prawn farms in 10 zones.

Factories for fish processing and canning will be set up in the North, East and South in close proximity to fishery harbours and anchorages

I will popularize the breeding of ornamental fish. The government will intervene in securing new technology, information and incentives to our small and medium scale ornamental fish breeders to penetrate into international markets.

I will take measures to prohibit poaching by foreign fisherman in our territorial waters.

I will also take measures to curb the use of destructive fishing methods.

I will also make arrangements to replace nets and other fishing gear at subsidized rates if these are lost or destroyed through natural disasters. Lost fisheries crafts, nets, fishing gear and fishery houses will be replaced within a period of 3months