

## Press Release

19 June 2007

On the morning of June 19, Mangala Samaraweera and Sripathi Sooriyaarachchi, Members of Parliament from the United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) sat on the Opposition benches in Parliament. Please find attached herewith the letters sent by Messrs. Mangala Samaraweera and Sripathi Sooriyaarachchi forwarded to the Hon. Speaker.

Mangala Samaraweera will represent the Mahajana Wing of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party and is scheduled to deliver statement explaining his political decision to cross over to the Opposition benches tomorrow morning (June 20) in Parliament.

Sripathi Sooriyaarachchi is also scheduled to give a speech on June 21<sup>st</sup> and has requested permission from the Hon. Speaker.

### Special Note to News Editors/ Foreign Correspondent:

#### *Launching of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (Mahajana Wing)*

You are kindly requested to send your representatives to cover the historical launch of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (M) at the auspicious time at 10.00 AM on Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2007 by paying floral tribute at the Bandaranaike Samadiya at Horogolla

### Special Media – Information Centre, SLFP- (M)



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பாராளுமன்றம்  
**PARLIAMENT**

Francis Samaraweera Lane  
Hakmana Road, Matara.

19 June 2007

Hon. Speaker  
W.J.M. Lokubandara  
Sri Lanka Parliament  
Jayawardenapura, Kotte.

Hon. Speaker,

**Sitting in the Opposition in Parliament and Issuing a Private Statement**

1. At the Parliamentary election held on 02 April 2004, I represented Matara district under the United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) and was elected to Parliament by the people.
2. The main coalition partner of the UPFA, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, has seen its principles and political philosophy betrayed by the present Government. They have rejected the party's centrist policies and are taking our country in an extreme direction.
3. We are totally opposed to this path of extremism and in order to protect the principles of the SLFP, Member of Parliament for Gampaha district Mr. Sripathi Sooriyaarachchi and I have decided to sit in the Opposition benches of Parliament as MPs of the UPFA. We shall represent the Mahajana Wing of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party.
4. Therefore, I respectfully request that necessary arrangements be made for me to be given a seat in the Opposition according to my seniority in Parliament.
5. Furthermore, I wish to explain my political decision to my constituents and the people of Sri Lanka. I hereby request that arrangements be made for me to give a private statement in Parliament in the morning of June 20, 2007.

Thank you.  
Yours sincerely,

sgd/ Mangala Samaraweera  
MP for Matara District  
United People's Freedom alliance



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பாராளுமன்றம்  
PARLIAMENT

22, Nivasa Mawatha  
Rilawulla, Kandana.

19 June 2007

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W.J.M. Lokubandara  
Sri Lanka Parliament  
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Hon. Speaker,

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3. We are totally opposed to this path of extremism and in order to protect the principles of the SLFP, Member of Parliament for Matara district Mr. Mangala Samaraweera and I have decided to sit in the Opposition benches of Parliament as MPs of the UPFA. We shall represent the Mahajana Wing of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party.
4. Therefore, I respectfully request that necessary arrangements be made for me to be given a seat in the Opposition according to my seniority in Parliament.
5. Furthermore, I wish to explain my political decision to my constituents and the people of Sri Lanka. I hereby request that arrangements be made for me to give a private statement in Parliament in the morning of June 21, 2007.

Thank you.  
Yours sincerely,

sgd/ Sripathi Sooriyaarachchi  
MP for Gampaha District  
United People's Freedom alliance