



## **PM says organized group behind unrest**

An organised group had been behind the recent unfortunate incidents which occurred in the Kandy area, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said. "Police have already received vital information about it. I have directed the Law and Order Minister and the IGP to conduct an urgent investigation into the matter and take necessary action about it," the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister was speaking at a special discussion convened at the Kandy Kachcheri on March 10, regarding the unrest which occurred in Kandy recently. The Prime Minister said he convened the meeting to discuss measures to pay compensation to people for the properties damaged during the clashes.

"Several factors should be taken into consideration at the discussions, including assessment of compensation payments, payment of compensation for lives lost and the programme of work to rehabilitate damaged business places," the Prime Minister said.

According to latest statistics, 465 places of worship, houses, vehicles, business places and other institutions had suffered damage during these incidents. Of them, 87 had suffered total damage and 196 partially damaged, while another 182 suffered minor damage. The Prime Minister said the police had already investigated the recent unrest in Ampara and Kandy. What ought to be done was to prevent a repetition of such ugly incidents in the future," the Preimer said.

He said investigations would not be confined to the appointment of a Commission only. The Government would go ahead with its duties and responsibilities without waiting until the Commission announced its decisions. The Prime Minister said investigations were also underway about certain social websites which instigated the Kandy incidents. Two students of two leading Colombo schools have also been identified during Police interrogations.

Prime Minister Wickremesinghe said incidents of this nature would not recur only if punishments were meted out to the wrongdoers. If this was not done there would be a repetition of such incidents. As such the law should be strictly implemented against the wrongdoers, irrespective of their status of position. The Prime Minister who said that these ugly incidents had tarnished the country's image internationally added that it would take another two to three years to minimise the damage caused.

The Prime Minister said this had badly impacted on the tourism industry too. A majority of tourists visited Colombo while an equal number visited Kandy too. Although they hoped for an increase in the influx of tourists, there was doubt as to whether they could achieve that target.

“The Government had already held talks on moves to increase tourists visiting Kandy and the surrounding areas,” the Premier said. There would be problems if our march forward together as Sri Lankans was harmed. We should act in a manner that would not jeopardise that collective march forward. The Maha Sangha and other religious dignitaries should visit the trouble spots and educate the people. The Maha Sangha and clerics of other religions had already joined forces to assist this endeavour,” the Premier said.

The Prime Minister who said that these clashes also dealt a major blow to the sacrifices made by our War Heroes who helped end the 30-year terrorist war and unite the nation, said the declaration of a timely curfew for the entire Kandy district enabled them to restrict the incidents to only four Divisional Secretariat areas without allowing it to spread to other areas in the district. The Prime Minister said that even though there had been shortcomings on the part of certain Police officers in enforcing Law and Order, the Police service as a whole had performed a commendable job in bringing the situation under control and he wished to thank them for it.

“The Armed Forces too had done a commendable service in this connection. Similarly, the public servants, Provincial service employees, Local Government employees, members of Civil Society, religious organisations and the Maha Sangha, as well as dignitaries of other religions too had rallied round to bring the situation back to normalcy. The government wished to thank every one of them for the assistance rendered,” the Prime Minister added.

Ministers Ranjith Maddumabandara, Lakshman Kiriella, Rauf Hakeem, M.H.A. Haleem, State Minister Ruwan Wijewardene, Parliamentarian Lucky Jayawardana, Central Province Chief Minister Sarath Ekanayake, Secretary to the Prime Minister Saman Ekanayake, Service Chiefs and several other state officials attended the discussion.

**Source: News.lk - 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

<https://www.news.lk/news/politics/item/19781-pm-says-organized-group-behind-unrest>



## Schools reopen in Kandy

All schools in the Kandy administrative district which were closed due to the communal conflicts were reopened today. The Education Department took measures to close all schools in the Kandy district on March 7.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said last Saturday that according to latest statistics, 465 places of worship, houses, vehicles, business places and other institutions had suffered damage during these incidents. Of them, 87 had suffered total damage and 196 partially damaged, while another 182 suffered minor damage.

**Source: News.lk – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

<https://www.news.lk/economy/item/19787-schools-reopen-in-kandy>

## Communities come together to repair burnt Muslim shop



The Anamaduwa traders' association and residents in the area with the assistance of the police have renovated a Muslim Hotel in Anamaduwa, which was destroyed in a petrol bomb attack, and reopened the establishment last night (Mar.11th).

The Muslim-owned business was burnt down by the petrol bomb attack by an unidentified group at around 2.00am yesterday. In a sign of solidarity among the business owners and residents following the incident, people from all communities joined together and helped rebuild the burned down eatery within a short time.

The repairing was completed within 12 hours after the attack and the hotel resumed business the very same day. A majority of those who came to assist the repair of the hotel were from the Sinhala community living in the area, Ada Derana correspondent reported.

The initiative was launched under the guidance of Maha Sangha, religious leaders, State Minister Palitha Range Bandara, Parliamentarian Priyankara Jayaratne, SLFP organizer of Anamaduwa electorate Ananda Sarath Kumara and senior police officers.

Meanwhile, seven persons were arrested over the petrol bomb attack by the Anamaduwa Police. The Police launched investigations to apprehend the suspects with the use of CCTV footage recorded in a nearby camera. The arrested suspects were identified as youths between the age group of 19- 25 residing in the Anamaduwa town.

**Source: News.lk – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

<https://www.news.lk/news/political-current-affairs/item/19793-communities-come-together-to-repair-burnt-muslim-shop>



## Extremism should be wiped out - Malwatte Chief Prelate

Extremism should be totally wiped out from the country. When the Armed Forces and Police are available to protect and safeguard the public there is no need for other auxiliary Balasenas or Balakayas to offer them protection, the Most. Ven. Tibbotuwawe Sri Siddharatha Sumangala Mahanayake Thera of the Malwatte Chapter said.

The Prelate said what the Maha Sangha ought to do was to join hands with devotees to develop the village rather than trying to build the country.

“When they build and develop the village, the country as a whole would automatically develop,” the Mahanayake Thera said.

The Prelate who said that extremist organisations were spreading extremism and creating communal division in the country by openly maintaining offices emphasised that the government should pay more attention to this.

The Malwatte Prelate expressed these sentiments when a group of Parliamentarians led by Speaker Karu Jayasuriya visiting Kandy, called on him at his temple and received his blessings on March 10.

The Prelate said each and every temple had a devotee village assigned to it. If the Maha Sangha at the temple guided the inhabitants of the village on the correct path, they would be able to uplift the whole nation in keeping with their expectations. The Prelate who said that Sri Lankans usually had a short memory added that the recent incidents too may be completely forgotten within a short passage time.

“They should remember that the country suffered immense setbacks in the past due to the 30-year-war and incidents like the Black July,” the Malwatte Prelate said

The recent incidents in Kandy not only tainted the country’s image, but could even have an impact on the country’s economy. He said the perpetrators of the recent violence should be identified and brought before the law.

The Most Ven. Wendaruwe Upali Anunayake Thera of the Asgiriya Chapter delivering an Anusasana to the team led by the Speaker, said the Sinhala Buddhists are a very sensitive group of people. But, some of them had been induced to violent acts by a few extremist groups.

The Anunayake Thera said he highly appreciated the decision taken by Parliamentarians of all political parties and groups to join hands in working out a programme to help restore peace in the area by forgetting petty differences.

Minister Riarth Bathiutheen said he would request the government to conduct an investigation into the Wilpattu issue and divulge the truth to the country.

He said reports spread about his involvement in clearing the Wilpattu areas for settlement, were all false.

Other members of the Parliamentary team who accompanied the Speaker included Deputy Speaker Tilanga Sumathipala, Ministers Gayantha Karunathilaka, Susil Premajayantha and Mano Ganeshan, Deputy Minister A.H.M. Fowzie, Parliamentarian Vijitha Herath, C.B. Ratnayake, M.A. Sumanthiran, Lucky Jayawardena and Selvam Adaikalanandan.

Central Province Governor Mrs. Niluka Ekanayake and Chief Minister Sarath Ekanayake were also presented.

Malwatte Prelate and the Anunayake Thera of the Asgriya Chapter with the Parliamentary team led by Speaker Karu Jayasuriya which called on them at their respective temples on March 10.

**Source: News. lk – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

<https://www.news.lk/news/sports-travel/item/19780-extremism-should-be-wiped-out-malwatte-chief-prelate>



## Police request Kandy victims to report property damage promptly

The Police Headquarters requests the victims affected by the communal clashes in Kandy to immediately lodge complaints with the police on the damages to their properties, if they have not done so already. Accordingly, complaints should be made to the relevant police stations in the area where the properties were damaged.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the National Housing Development Authority Lakvijaya Sagara Palansuriya said that the reconstruction of the residences damaged by the attacks has already begun.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, who visited the violence-hit areas of Kandy on Saturday said the measures will be taken to promptly assess the damage incurred to the properties by Friday (16th) and provide compensation to the victims.

**Source: News.lk – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

<https://www.news.lk/news/sri-lanka/item/19794-police-request-kandy-victims-to-report-property-damage-promptly>





## Normalcy returns to Kandy

Public life in Kandy which had been disrupted over the past couple of days due to ethnic tensions is now returning to normalcy.

Businesses which had been shut for the last three days, opened yesterday, after Police curfew was lifted at 6.00am yesterday and transportation services were also seen to be getting back to normal. Government offices too opened their doors after being shut for the last three days. Only a few Muslim business places however were seen open and security was beefed up around the district with around 6000 Police, STF, Army, Air Force and Naval officers on the ground.

The Police reported that they had arrested 23 persons including a student from the University of Peradeniya from the areas of Peradeniya, Digana and Ambakotte for breaching the curfew.

The Kandy District has been fully secured and I can certify that, Army Commander Lt. General Mahesh Senanayake said.

He added that the Army together with the Tri Forces and Police are capable of handling any situation.

The Commander expressed his views at a discussion held between Sinhala, Muslim and Tamil Traders' Association in Kandy on Thursday (8).

Lt. General Senanayake further said that the people in the Kandy district were getting back to restoring normalcy to their lives and that the Army was committed to helping them in anyway necessary to rebuild their lives.

He observed that these acts committed by a small group of people had brought great disrepute to the country internationally and it would be very hard to erase this blackmark on the country's image. "We have uncovered many details about these organized groups which committed such acts and having arrested the main suspect who instigated all these people over social media, it is going to be easy to arrest the rest," the Army Commander said.

**Source: News.lk – 11<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

<https://www.news.lk/news/business/item/19771-normalcy-returns-to-kandy>





## President to appoint a Committee to investigate incidents in Kandy

President Maithripala Sirisena has decided to appoint a Presidential Inquiry Committee to investigate incidents occurred in several parts of the Kandy district recently.

Accordingly, a Committee comprising of three retired judges will be appointed in the future.

The Committee will investigate if there is any violation of law and order among the reasons leading to this situation, evaluate the damages to lives and properties, if there is any conspiracy behind this incident, the steps that should be taken to prevent recurrence of this kind of incidents and look into the conduct of relevant authorities in controlling this incident as well as their accountability in this regard.

**Source: News.lk – 11<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

<https://www.news.lk/news/politics/item/19765-president-to-appoint-a-committee-to-investigate-incidents-in-kandy>

## High-Level Government Delegates Arrive in Kandy

A ministerial delegation, headed by Hon Prime Minister, Ranil Wickremesinghe, including several heads of political parties and the Speaker was in Kandy this morning (10) with a view to separately evaluating developments in the aftermath of recent violence in the Kandy district.

Hon Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister arrived at Digana earlier on the day to be received by a host of Ministers including the Commander of the Army, Lieutenant General Mahesh Senanayake.

The Prime Ministerial delegation after a few minutes visited most-affected areas in Kandy district and met a cross-section of Sinhala and Muslim leaders and religious dignitaries.

Meanwhile, a separate delegation of political heads, led by the Speaker met Chief Buddhist Prelates of the Malwatta and Asgiriya Chapters. They also had separate discussions with relevant authorities and religious dignitaries of other faiths.

By mid-afternoon, a special meeting at the Kandy District Secretariat discussed a wide-range of measures that needed to be adopted to avoid recurrences and commencement of reconstruction works.

The Commander of the Army, Lieutenant General Mahesh Senanayake was also associated with the discussions.

The Commander of the Army also took time off to visit the provincial sports complex in Digana at the invitation of authorities during his stay in Kandy.

**Source: Army.lk - 10th March 2018**

<http://www.army.lk/news/high-level-government-delegates-arrive-kandy>



## **SPEAKER LEADS MP TEAM TO KANDY**

A delegation of Members of Parliament representing all political parties, headed by the Speaker of the House, Karu Jayasuriya visited the crisis-ridden areas of Kandy, yesterday.

“We have a duty to ensure that no repetition of a crisis of this nature takes place again. Thus, the purpose of our visit was to ensure

unity between the Sinhalese, Muslims and Tamils,” Speaker Jayasuriya told the Sunday Observer.

The group first visited the Chief Prelate of the Malwathu Chapter of the Siyam Sect, Most Ven. Thibotuwawe Sri Sumangala Thera.

The Speaker discussed with the Chief Prelate the gravity of the incidents that had taken place and stressed the need to ensure that re-occurrence of similar incidents did not take place in the future.

The Speaker also stated that this incident not only had an effect locally but also brought a black mark on the country in the international arena.

Several countries had issued travel advisories immediately after the initial incidents

and this, in turn, affected the country’s tourism industry on a large scale, at a time the country’s tourism sector was growing, especially considering the prevailing situation in the Maldives, the Speaker explained to the Thera.

The delegation then met with the Chief Prelate of the Asgiriya Chapter of the Siam Sect, Most Ven. Warakagoda Sri Gnanarathana Thera. The Speaker said the delegation had a dialogue with Muslim and Tamil religious and community leaders, Christian religious leaders, members of Civil Society, the IGP and the Army Commander.

“What we wish for is to restore normalcy in the area. It is bad for a country when a curfew imposed,” he said.

“Hopefully, by Monday the country will return to normal. Then, we can tell the international community that the situation in Sri Lanka is normal and that tourists can visit the country without fear,” he said.

The Speaker was joined by MPs Gayantha Karunatilake, Vijitha Herath, Susil Premajayantha, M.A. Sumanthiran, Mano Ganesan and several others.

**Source: News.lk – 11<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

<https://www.news.lk/news/politics/item/19769-speaker-leads-mp-team-to-kandy>

## Premier directs suspension of loan instalments of ethnic violence victims

March 10, 2018,



Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe inspects a shop destroyed during last week's ethnic riots at Digana. The premier toured areas affected by the violence in the Kandy district yesterday.

By Cyril Wimalasurendre

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe yesterday directed officials to inform commercial banks to suspend instalments on loans obtained by the victims of last week's ethnic violence in affected areas of Kandy district.

The premier presided at a meeting at the Kandy district secretariat to discuss the restoration of property damaged or destroyed in the clashes and providing compensation to the victims.

He instructed officials to obtain valuation reports expeditiously and pay compensation in respect of loss of lives and damage caused to properties due to the violence.

The valuation of commercial buildings and houses should be prepared with the assistance of Grama Niladhari of the respective areas. They should also assist to recover goods looted from business premises and private residences, if there were any, the Prime Minister said.

Every victim whose properties were destroyed should be paid compensation expeditiously and Rs. 100,000 should be given as the first instalment of their due compensation, he added.

According to reports at least 465 buildings, both commercial and residential in four or five Pradeshiya Sabha divisions were affected, some totally and others partially, the premier said, adding that three persons had lost their lives.

Source: Island.lk - [http://www.island.lk/index.php?page\\_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code\\_title=181268](http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=181268)

## Commander Gives Patient Hearing to Kandy Business Communities

Lieutenant General Mahesh Senanayake, Commander of the Army during his second day's stay in Kandy on Friday (9) while supervising security arrangements in place, took time off to speak to a cross section of Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim business community and attentively listened to their concerns in the aftermath of violence that affected general areas of Digana, Akurana, Galaha, Katugastota, Menikhinna, Ambetenna, Akurana, Poojapitiya and a few other places a few days ago.

He at first chaired a meeting of business entrepreneurs, attached to the Kandy Sinhala Businessmen's Association at their office premises and listened to their concerns, regarding eruption of violence and disruption of cordial relations that prevailed. Later on, the Commander met a joint gathering of Muslim and Tamil businessmen at the same venue with a view to receiving a firsthand account of their grievances and concerns.

Lieutenant General Senanayake in his reply explained how such emotional outbursts, most of which are sometimes based purely on rumour-mongering, gradually lead to bloodbaths, sabotaging efforts for promotion of ethnic harmony and reconciliation which we have begun after a period of bitter war fighting. He appealed to all three business communities to rise to the occasion as one united force and work out strategies to avoid such recurrence as a community of intelligent and broad-minded civilians since such narrow-minded eruptions should not be swelled out of control.

"Responsibility of restoration of peace is not a responsibility of the Security Forces and the Police alone. It also belongs to all of you, and we as Army troops reiterate our commitment to provide the best form of safety and security to all of you until normalcy is fully restored in your residential areas. We will ensure all your business establishments would equally be protected, and we would stand strong behind maintenance of peace in your cities and villages as expected. If necessary, I would take steps to bring in more reinforcements and strengthen your security further, I assure you", the Commander emphasized.

"It is also of paramount importance for you to come out with your own initiatives, new inputs and suggestions for prevention of such repetitions in the future. Security Forces would complete reconstruction of all damaged properties at least by the end of April with the funds, allocated by the government since a decision to that effect had already been taken as I understand. The Army is always ready to play a prominent role as far as the security of the country is concerned, and no one should entertain any doubt about it".

"Our hard-earned peace should be always upheld for the betterment of our nation and the future generation. We cannot inherit another bloodbath to the upcoming generation as responsible elders. Although state emergency is in force, the Security Forces are simply applying the minimum force with the intention of causing no inconvenience to anyone. We would be behind you whenever necessary".

Towards the end of those interactive meetings, the Commander invited them to raise any questions with regard to matters of concern to them, if any. Lifting of the curfew in Kandy municipality area and reconstruction of damaged properties, etc were among main issues, taken up by those representatives attending businessmen's meetings.

Lieutenant General Mahesh Senanayake after a while met the District Secretary for Kandy District at the District Secretariat and took up the concerns, expressed by businessmen earlier on the day for discussion.

Major General Rukmal Dias, Commander, Security Forces - Central and Major General Nissanka Ranawana, General Officer Commanding, 11 Division were also associated with some of those meetings.

**Source: Army.lk - 09th March 2018**

<http://www.army.lk/news/commander-gives-patient-hearing-kandy-business-communities>



## Normalcy restored, President informs foreign envoys



The disturbing prevailing in certain parts of the country are completely under control and a peaceful environment has been established, President Maithripala Sirisena informed foreign ambassadors.

President Sirisena mentioned this at a meeting to brief the foreign envoys about the present condition of the country. Ambassadors and high commissioners and other diplomatic representatives of foreign countries were present at this event held today (09).

President Sirisena mentioned that he has instructed the police and related sections to arrest and punish the parties that are responsible for creating such violent acts in certain places around Kandy district.

President Sirisena pointed out that such disturbing incidents were created by certain parties inside the country during the March and September when United Nations Human Rights Council sessions are held. Such incidents happened for the past several years.

President Sirisena assured that the government has taken maximum efforts to rebuild peace and reconciliation within the country for the past three years and these efforts will be continued in future too.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesighe, Minister of Foreign Affairs Tilak Marapana, Minister of Public Administration and Law and Order Ranjith Madduma Bandara, Secretary to the President, Austin Fernando, Secretary to the ministry of defense kapila waidyarathne, and other officials were present at this event.

**Source: President.lk – 09<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

<http://www.president.gov.lk/normalcy-restored-president-informs-foreign-envoys/>



## Kandy communal violence: Main suspect arrested

The main suspect in connection with the recent incidents of violence in the Kandy district was arrested yesterday by the Terrorism Investigations Division (TID) of the Police.

According to Police Spokesperson SP Ruwan Gunasekara, Vidanapathirana Amith Jeewan Weerasinghe believed to be the main suspect and his main associate Nasnarampattige Sumedha Suraweera were arrested from the Digana and Poojapitiya areas, yesterday morning in a special operation carried out by the TID.

“A total of 10 suspects were arrested,” he said. A 14 day detention order was issued under emergency regulations on 10 suspects arrested in connection with the violent incidents in Kandy, the Police said. They were brought to Colombo for further questioning.

Gunasekara pointed out that while the main suspects were from Kandy, all others arrested were from various areas across the island.

“The Police have uncovered how they planned these attacks and their future plans,” SP Gunasekara said adding that the TID is now uncovering more information in this regard.

Meanwhile, the Police have up to date arrested 71 persons for engaging in violent and disruptive acts.

According to the Spokesperson, 45 incidents of damage to houses and businesses have been reported to the Police while four places of worship have been attacked according to reports.

“Eleven incidents of damage to vehicles have been reported as well,” he said. “Two deaths have been reported while 10 persons have been injured,” Police said.

The curfew was also re-imposed from 6 pm yesterday till 6 am today on the orders of Inspector General of Police Pujith Jayasundara.

**Source: News. lk – 09<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

<https://www.news.lk/news/sri-lanka/item/19750-kandy-communal-violence-main-suspect-arrested>



## **Government strongly condemns violence in Ampara and Digana in Ampara and Digana,**

The Government of Sri Lanka strongly and unequivocally condemns the recent Sporadic incidents of violence that had sparked" off in Ampara and Digana, creating Communal disharmony, where some places of worship, residences and businesses have been damaged.

The Statement issued by the Director General of Government information, Attorney at Law Sudarshana Gunawardena says that the Government also condemns the hate and mischievous Misinformation campaigns carried out by some, especially via social media Targeting the Muslim community in particular and others as well, with the clear

Objective of creating disharmony among communities and inciting violence

The text of the statement issued with the signature of Mr. Gunawardena is as follows:

The Government of Sri Lanka strongly and unequivocally condemns the recent sporadic incidents of violence that had sparked" off in Ampara and Digana, creating communal disharmony, where some places of worship, residences and businesses have been damaged. The Government also condemns the hate and mischievous misinformation campaigns carried out by some, especially via social medi4 targeting the Muslim community in particular and others as well, with the clear objective of creating disharmony among communities and inciting violence.

The Government urges every citizen of Sri Lanka to desist from falling prey to such hate and misinformation campaigns. As a country that had suffered by acts of violence for nearly three decades, we as a nation should desist from repetition of such.

At the National Security Council Meeting held today His Excellency the president has ordered the Security Forces and the Police to enforce Law & Order and to take immediate action to counter any acts of violence affecting any community, in liaison with the Government Agents / Divisional Secretaries and other District Administrative Authorities. Already they are working in unity to ensure the full and impartial enforcement of law to protect all communities against any attacks that create communal / religious disharmony.

Government will not hesitate to take firm and stem action against perpetrators of crimes, and violate law and order. The Government urges for total co-operation from all citizens irrespective of any communal, religious differences to build a Nation that is stable, peaceful and progressive, where diversity is respected; and, where every individual has the opportunity to enjoy all freedoms that are the rights of equal citizenship. Every Sri Lankan citizen inclusive of the clergy, politicians, social leaders, civil societies and media should and must deplore any violence and must co-operate to bring peace and harmony to achieve reconciliation.

Sudarshana Gunawardhana  
Attorney at Law  
Director General of Government information

**Source: News.lk – 06<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

<https://www.news.lk/news/sri-lanka/item/19705-government-strongly-condemns-violence-in-ampara-and-digana-in-ampara-and-digana>



## President orders impartial probe into Digana incidents

President Maithripala Sirisena had directed the police and security sector to hold an unbiased, independent investigation into incidents at Digana Kandy today.

President has also instructed government officials to start new special program me with all responsible parties to create peaceful situation in the area.

**Source: News.lk – 05<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

<https://www.news.lk/news/sri-lanka/item/19703-president-orders-impartial-probe-into-digana-incidents>