

Sarath failed

Why did Sarath Fonseka lose the Presidential Elections by such a huge margin? It is simple. Mahinda Rajapakse had to win by such a majority. Sarath Fonseka has failed and failed miserably. However, this inexperienced politician with dictatorial tendencies and ambitions does not want to admit that he has lost. He has said that judging by the numbers that attended his political rallies, mainly organized by the JVP the Marxist party with dictatorial ambitions which has become anti national, he could not have lost the elections. Either he had not seen any political rallies that were held to support the candidacy of Mr. Mahinda Rajapakse or thinks that those who attended the meetings of the SLFP led coalition were brought there by “illegal” means by the government supporters. The JVP not to be outdone by Sarath Fonseka has also claimed that the elections have been rigged and the results are due to “computer jillmart”. Somawansa (Somahansa to some people) Amarasinghe should have elaborated on “jillmart” and explained how it differs from “jackmart” and whether all these are connected with the “American line” of Anura Kumara Dissanayake and Walmart.

The trouble with people such as Sarath Fonseka and parties like the JVP is that they consider their opinion as public opinion. They like many so called intellectuals had thought that Sarath Fonseka would win and unlike the “intellectuals” the JVP and Sarath Fonseka continue to believe that they had won but “jillmart” by the government had prevented Sarath Fonseka taking his oaths as the President. Perhaps they were aware of these “jillmart” and that was the reason for booking into some seventy rooms each in two hotels within close proximity to the Presidential Secretariat, President’s house and the Temple Trees. We would not speculate on the “jackmart” associated with the hotel by the lake but concentrate on the elections that Sarath Fonseka and the “intellectuals” dreamt of winning even by a slight majority.

Predictably it was the English speaking “intellectuals”, mainly Tamils or NGO Christians not to mention a few “broad minded” Sinhala Buddhists, who took the lead. Week after week they told us how the one horse race had become a tight fight between Sarath Fonseka and the incumbent President and some of them went to the extent of discussing transfer of power after Fonseka had won. These “intellectuals” must be having such broad minds that lesser mortals such as us cannot even dream of as even in our wildest dreams we would not have expected Sarath Fonseka to win. Perhaps it is helpful to have narrow dull minds rather than broad open sharp minds. The “intellectuals” appeared to work according to some plan as they kept on narrowing the margin with their broad minds perhaps imported from Broadway. The narrow minds, on the other hand, were not capable of narrowing the margin of victory and they were happy with a Mahinda Rajapakse victory.

I am glad that I do not have a broad mind with space (space –time) for all these fantasies of Fonseka victories and thinking as an ordinary Sinhala villager (*gamaya*) would think I had predicted that Fonseka would not get more than forty percent of the valid vote. My *gemi* mind was not that accurate as Fonseka managed to poll 40.15% of the valid vote. The *gamayas* unlike the sophisticated intellectuals “armed” with the latest western theories on post war situations in the post modern world can afford to make mistakes and are not bothered of that additional 0.15% of votes that Fonseka has managed.

The Goebels who had worked overtime to propagate the myth that Fonseka would win did not know the minds of the Sinhala villagers. The Germans could be brainwashed with propaganda of Hitler but the Sinhala villagers, yes the Sinhala Buddhists a species hated by the “intellectuals”, could not be brainwashed by the various channels who campaigned for Fonseka. The “intellectuals” including the human rights giants (*poraval*) would speak against the state media for using tax payers’ money to campaign for Mr. Mahinda Rajapakse. Theoretically they may be correct but when the private media campaign for the so called common candidate the “intellectuals” should have given the unsophisticated such as us an assurance that these media have paid their income tax in full without resorting to “jillmart” or “jackmart” and thus denying the government the tax due from them. Tax not paid to the Inland Revenue Department amounts to using Tax payers’ money for various purposes as decided by the management. I am not justifying the use of Tax Payers’ Money by the state media but the “intellectuals” should have done better by presenting a “balanced” picture as they always claim to do. In any event what has been demonstrated over the years at least from 1956, when Lake House supported the UNP, is that the people cannot be fooled by media propaganda whether they belong to the state sector or the private sector.

It is clear that Mr. Mahinda Rajapakse became the President for the second time through the Sinhala Buddhist vote. In the electorates where the Sinhala Buddhists are in an overwhelming majority Mr. Rajapakse polled more than 65% of the valid vote and reached 70% mark in two electorates. Sarath Fonseka won in all the districts in the Northern and the Eastern Provinces, and also the Nuwara Eliya district. In addition he won the electorates within the Colombo Municipality limits and also Dehiwala, Negombo, Galle electorates. In short Sarath Fonseka won in the electorates where the Sinhala Buddhists are not present in substantial numbers. The results are very clear as to who won the “war” against the LTTE. It is clear that the Sinhals especially the Sinhala Buddhists have voted for Mr. Mahinda Rajapakse agreeing with the fact that the latter won the “war”. The voters in the above mentioned districts and the electorates having voted for Sarath Fonseka accept that Sarath Fonseka was not the person who led the “war” against the LTTE. It is difficult to understand why Sarath Fonseka is clamouring for so much security. He cannot have a threat from the LTTE as Sambanthan the proxy of Prabhakaran has an “understanding” with him, and as the Tamils have voted for him. It is true that the LTTE cannot be relied upon but it is unlikely that there is threat to Fonseka from the LTTE.

There was a time when the Pundits used to say that one could not think of becoming the President of the country without winning the Tamil vote. These were misconceptions planted in the minds of the people by the so called intellectuals. This myth has been exploded and though Mr. Mahinda Rajapakse polled roughly about 20% of the non Sinhala vote in the districts and electorates won by Sarath Fonseka it is through the Sinhala especially the Sinhala Buddhists vote that the former has become the President for the second time. Though his percentage of votes may be less than that of Chandrika in 1994 he has increased his vote in 2010 substantially. It has to be remembered that in 1994 Chandrika polled the Sinhala as well as the Tamil votes not to mention the Muslim votes.

The fact that a nationalist candidate could become the President of the country through the Sinhala vote should open the eyes of the Tamils and the Muslims. It has to be remembered that if Ranil contested the votes polled by Mr. Mahinda Rajapakse would have increased. About 8% (a rough estimate) of the Sinhala people voted for Sarath Fonseka assuming that he was a nationalist figure. Ranil would not have obtained these votes and Mr. Rajapakse would have obtained about 66% of the valid vote without depending on the Tamil and Muslim votes. This 8% innocently believed that Sarath Fonseka having won the Presidency would turn back on Ranil Mano Ganesan Sambanthan and others and work for the Sinhala Buddhists. They did not know that Sarath Fonseka would not lift a finger against the Americans and the other westerners.

The Tamil problem or the “ethnic problem” was created and nurtured by the Dutch and the British and it was the English educated Tamils who were used by them against the Sinhala people. The English educated Tamils were inspired by the British to become the leaders of the country but with universal franchise gradually it was realised it was not possible to do so. Later Chelvanayakam having realised this completely formed his Ilankai Thamil Arasu Kadchi to establish a separate state in the Northern and the Eastern provinces. Prabhakaran took up arms to realise this dream helped by concepts such as self determination, Tamil homeland etc. The concepts and the terrorist outfit that stood for these concepts have been now defeated politically, militarily and ideologically and even with Sarath Fonseka and Samabndan joining together these concepts cannot be resurrected. The English speaking Tamils had been using non English educated Tamils to achieve their ambition and it is clear that the Tamils have been fighting over a non issue.

The dispersed Tamils in the western countries with the help of the western nations still try to use non English speaking Tamils but they have been losing on political, military and ideological fronts for some time now. When it is clear that the myth of concepts such as self determination have been exploded, the so called war against the government and the Sinhala people have been defeated and when it has been realised that the Sinhala could elect their President without the Tamil and Muslim vote even when the opposition candidate has been a “war veteran”, the Tamils have to think differently without falling into the “traps” of the western politicians and “intellectuals”, and of course their henchmen and henchwomen in Sri Lanka. The Tamils should realise that they could live in this country with self esteem protecting their culture and language even after accepting that Sinhala Buddhist culture is the significant culture of the country.