

I English Media Exposés

Supreme Court rules Tax Amnesty Act violates Constitution

The Supreme Court has ruled that the Tax Amnesty Act, 2003 is unconstitutional. The court's decision is a landmark ruling that will have a significant impact on the government's efforts to raise revenue through the amnesty scheme.

Years of Customs investigations go waste

Billions of dollars of revenue have been lost to the government because of the amnesty scheme. The court's decision means that the government will have to pay back the revenue that was lost during the amnesty period.

The new Act favours the rich; opposition mute

Finance Minister says it will bring down number of tax defaulters. The new amnesty scheme is seen as a way to attract investment and boost economic growth.

UNF wants ruling on Tax Bill

WASANTHA RAMAKRISHNA. The UNF has filed a petition with the Supreme Court seeking a ruling on the Tax Amnesty Act. The court's decision is expected to be a landmark ruling.

Time to declare hidden assets

The UNF has called for a declaration of hidden assets by all citizens. This is a call for transparency and accountability in the financial sector.

CJ FAVOURS 17TH AMENDMENT

The Chief Justice has ruled in favour of the 17th Amendment to the Constitution. This is a significant ruling that will have a major impact on the political process.

Gallup poll says 95% of Sri Lankans struggling and suffering!

The Gallup poll shows that the majority of Sri Lankans are struggling and suffering. This is a reflection of the economic challenges facing the country.

Past tax amnesty attempts have not succeeded

The government has failed to raise the expected revenue from past amnesty schemes. This is a warning sign for the current scheme.

Clean Mr. Choksy and other matters

Finance Minister Choksy has been accused of mismanagement. The court's decision is a call for accountability and transparency in the government's actions.

No talks, no money; World Bank Billions lost in Customs amnesty

The World Bank has lost billions of dollars due to the amnesty scheme. The government has failed to negotiate a deal with the bank.

Bonanza given to investors Amnesty to tax defaulters

The amnesty scheme has provided a bonanza for investors. This has led to a significant increase in investment in the country.

Rights petition challenges amnesty for tax defaulters

A rights petition has been filed with the Supreme Court challenging the amnesty scheme. The petition argues that the scheme is unconstitutional.

Accountant says new bill violates UN resolution

An accountant has argued that the new amnesty bill violates a UN resolution. This is a significant challenge to the government's actions.

Inland Revenue Bill case listed for hearing

The Inland Revenue Bill case has been listed for hearing in the Supreme Court. This is a landmark case that will have a major impact on the amnesty scheme.

UNF tax amnesty was to safeguard cronies and friends

The UNF has accused the government of using the amnesty scheme to protect cronies and friends. This is a serious allegation that will have a major impact on the government's reputation.

Why did Sri Lanka PM lose votes?

The Prime Minister's loss of votes is attributed to the amnesty scheme. This is a significant political setback for the government.

Rule of Law counts - President

President Mahinda Rajapaksa has emphasized the importance of the rule of law. This is a call for accountability and transparency in the government's actions.

Let's Hear It For Choksy!

A satirical piece about Finance Minister Choksy. The piece highlights the government's mismanagement and the impact of the amnesty scheme.



That Customs amnesty: They pay nothing; K. N. Choksy

Finance Minister K. N. Choksy has defended the amnesty scheme. He claims that the scheme is necessary to raise revenue and boost economic growth.

Amnesty Law controversial - Exporters Association Chairman

The Exporters Association has expressed its concerns about the amnesty scheme. The association argues that the scheme will harm the export sector.

Unprecedented response to tax amnesty

The response to the amnesty scheme has been unprecedented. This is a reflection of the public's anger and frustration with the government's actions.

Alleged tax fraud: National crime and shame

The alleged tax fraud has been described as a national crime and shame. This is a serious allegation that will have a major impact on the government's reputation.

President explodes over amnesty

President Mahinda Rajapaksa has exploded over the amnesty scheme. He has accused the government of mismanagement and corruption.

Tax dodgers declare hidden loot

Tax dodgers have declared their hidden loot. This is a significant revelation that will have a major impact on the amnesty scheme.

Export proceeds: Facts on leakage/mismanagement

The facts on the leakage and mismanagement of export proceeds have been revealed. This is a serious issue that will have a major impact on the government's revenue.

Amnesty deadline to be extended

The deadline for the amnesty scheme has been extended. This is a significant development that will have a major impact on the scheme's success.

Cabinet extends Tax Amnesty to Aug. 15

The Cabinet has decided to extend the amnesty scheme to August 15. This is a significant decision that will have a major impact on the scheme's success.

President proposes Cabinet action to suspend Inland Revenue (Special Provisions) Act

President Mahinda Rajapaksa has proposed that the Cabinet take action to suspend the Inland Revenue (Special Provisions) Act. This is a significant proposal that will have a major impact on the amnesty scheme.

CBK wants Cabinet to suspend controversial Inland Revenue Act

Should it ever be approved, the Inland Revenue Act 2003 would be subject to a referendum. The President has also stated that the Act should be subject to a referendum.

SC reserves judgement on Inland Revenue Bill

The Supreme Court has reserved its judgement on the Inland Revenue Bill, which is the subject of a referendum.

30,000 declarations so far under Tax Amnesty - Choksy

Choksy says that 30,000 declarations have been made under the Tax Amnesty Act, which allows taxpayers to declare their assets and liabilities.

Supreme Court report on Inland Revenue (Special Provisions) Act next week

The Supreme Court is expected to release its report on the Inland Revenue (Special Provisions) Act next week.

Supreme Court to submit opinion on Tax Amnesty Act within ten days

The Supreme Court is expected to submit its opinion on the Tax Amnesty Act within ten days.

Cabinet rejects CBK's demand Inland Revenue special provisions Act will not be repealed

The Cabinet has rejected the Central Bank's demand to repeal the Inland Revenue special provisions Act.

Supreme Court takes up Government to repeal new Tax Amnesty Bill

The Supreme Court has taken up the Government's request to repeal the new Tax Amnesty Bill.

Controversial Tax Bill up for change

The controversial Tax Bill is up for change, with the Government considering amendments.

Repeal of Tax Amnesty Bill stirs hornet's nest

The proposal to repeal the Tax Amnesty Bill has stirred a hornet's nest of controversy.

Tax Amnesty Act Reference to Supreme Court by President

The President has referred the Tax Amnesty Act to the Supreme Court for its opinion.

SC compelled to decline to exercise jurisdiction

The Supreme Court is compelled to decline to exercise its jurisdiction over the Tax Amnesty Act.

Supreme Court has no jurisdiction: CJ

The Chief Justice has stated that the Supreme Court has no jurisdiction over the Tax Amnesty Act.

Tax Amnesty a resounding success

The Tax Amnesty Act is considered a resounding success, with many taxpayers declaring their assets.

Amnesty Amnesia

There has been much talk of amnesty, but the government is showing signs of amnesia.

Supreme Court to seek opinion from the Attorney General

The Supreme Court is expected to seek the opinion of the Attorney General on the Tax Amnesty Act.

2003 Tax Act

The 2003 Tax Act is a significant piece of legislation that will impact many taxpayers.

UNF tax amnesty was to safeguard cronies and friends

The UNF tax amnesty was intended to safeguard the interests of cronies and friends.

New Gov's first vote Tax Amnesty Reform Bill passed by majority of 50 votes

The Tax Amnesty Reform Bill was passed by a majority of 50 votes in the new government.

Reflections on Anti-Corruption Day

Reflections on Anti-Corruption Day, a day dedicated to fighting corruption in the public sector.



Minister making the presentation of the Anti-Corruption Day award to the winners of the competition.

Don't worry! Make your amnesty declaration before Aug. 15

Don't worry! Make your amnesty declaration before August 15, the deadline for the Tax Amnesty Act.

New challenge before 5-member SC bench

A new challenge is presented before the 5-member Supreme Court bench.

Officials discuss Inland Revenue Act with Opposition

Government officials have discussed the Inland Revenue Act with members of the opposition.

Crooks will go scot-free if Inland Revenue amendment is passed - PC

Opposition parties claim that if the Inland Revenue amendment is passed, crooks will go scot-free.

Amnesty avalanche thrills Choksy

The avalanche of amnesty declarations has thrilled Choksy, who is in charge of the process.

Tax Amnesty yields record 51,500 declarations

The Tax Amnesty Act has yielded a record 51,500 declarations from taxpayers.

CPA wants opinion on Tax Amnesty conveyed to President after polls

The Chartered Accountants' Association wants its opinion on the Tax Amnesty Act conveyed to the President after the polls.

Misappropriation of public funds and defrauding public revenue

The misuse of public funds and defrauding of public revenue are major concerns.

Govt. disagrees with Supreme Court opinion on tax amnesty

The government disagrees with the Supreme Court's opinion on the tax amnesty.

Some thoughts on tax amnesties

Some thoughts on tax amnesties, including their benefits and drawbacks.

UPFA glows in tax bill triumph

The UPFA glows in a tax bill triumph, with the government celebrating the success.

Ceylon Chamber raps UPFA over changes to tax amnesty

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce raps the UPFA over changes to the tax amnesty.

Changing positions affecting business confidence

Changing positions in the government are affecting business confidence.

Govt boosts investor confidence by repealing Tax Amnesty Bill

The government has boosted investor confidence by repealing the Tax Amnesty Bill...

'Income Tax Amnesty' or baptism of fraud and crime?

The Income Tax Amnesty Bill is a baptism of fraud and crime...

Nihal Sri writes to Hakeem on VAT fraud

With regard to the Public Accounts Commission report on the VAT Fraud that was tabled to the Parliament...

Govt revenue can be increased with Auditor General's independence

The Auditor General's independence is crucial for increasing government revenue...

Govt boosts investor confidence by repealing Tax Amnesty Bill not brought back - PERC

The government has boosted investor confidence by repealing the Tax Amnesty Bill...

UNF Government's 'Tax' Amnesty

The UNF Government's 'Tax' Amnesty is a controversial move...

Hot debate over foreign exchange earnings

There is a hot debate over foreign exchange earnings and the impact of the tax amnesty...

'Hidden Agenda' in Default Taxes Bill?

The 'Hidden Agenda' in the Default Taxes Bill is a subject of concern...

Few top officials disgracing public sector

Few top officials are disgracing the public sector through their actions...

Auditor General slams Treasury

The Auditor General has slammed the Treasury for its handling of the tax amnesty...

Extracts from the opinion of the Supreme Court

Extracts from the opinion of the Supreme Court regarding the tax amnesty...

Tax Amnesty - unanimous decision by Supreme Court

The Supreme Court has issued a unanimous decision regarding the tax amnesty...

The Amnesty Syndrome

The Amnesty Syndrome is a recurring issue in the country's history...

Govt. gets bullish on tax revenue

The government is getting bullish on tax revenue after the Supreme Court decision...

Central Bank says monitoring in place

The Central Bank says monitoring is in place for the tax amnesty...

UNF Government's 'Tax Amnesty' defrauded public revenue causing extensive loss to the State - Supreme Court

The Supreme Court has ruled that the UNF Government's 'Tax Amnesty' defrauded public revenue...

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Nihal Sri questions Government's fiscal transparency and accountability

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Income tax amnesty or Baptism of fraud and crime?

The Income Tax Amnesty is a baptism of fraud and crime...

'Income Tax Amnesty or baptism of fraud and crime? - part 2

This is part 2 of the article on 'Income Tax Amnesty or baptism of fraud and crime'...

Call for fresh tax amnesty applications causes outcry

The call for fresh tax amnesty applications has caused an outcry...

Tax net widens

The tax net is widening as more people are being included in the amnesty...

13,482 new tax files to boost revenue this year

13,482 new tax files are expected to boost revenue this year...

Indirect exporters allowed to maintain Foreign Currency account

Indirect exporters are allowed to maintain Foreign Currency accounts...

Export proceeds and exchange leakage

Export proceeds and exchange leakage are a concern for the government...

'Economy will never improve with PB'

The economy will never improve with the current policies...

Government vows to widen income tax net

The government vows to widen the income tax net to increase revenue...



Nihal Sri



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THE NATION - Sunday October 18, 2003

FINANCIAL TIMES - WEDNESDAY MARCH 11, 2004

THE NATION - Sunday December 2, 2007

THE NATION - Saturday March 11, 2004

THE NATION - Sunday October 18, 2003

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Appropriation Bill challenged

No guidelines on how to raise or allocate loans • **Parliament's role over finance** • **Other funds of the government remain unaccounted** • **Government has arrogated power to transfer money in Capital Account**

Interestingly enough, in Clause 2 (1) (b) when the Bill speaks of proceeds of loans "which are hereby authorized to be raised," no guidelines are given or even attempted as to how they are to be raised, in what circumstances they should be raised, at whose discretion, what should be the guidelines in entering into such loan agreements; whether it should be on commercial rates or otherwise - pertinent details that are conspicuous by their absence.



App. Bill runs into legal snag

Speaker announces Supreme Court ruling: **App. Bill runs into legal snag**

THE SUPREME COURT has ruled that the Appropriation Bill 2007 is unconstitutional. The court held that the government has arrogated power to transfer money in the Capital Account without the approval of Parliament.

P.B.'s seat turns hotter

Pressure to step down mounting from all quarters

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION has received a letter from the Public Accounts Commission (PAC) asking the President to step down from his office. The letter is a result of the President's alleged involvement in the VAT scam.

Export proceeds and foreign exchange leakage

Impact on C/D, exchange rates, and the need for US\$ 500 million bonds

THE EXPORT PROCEEDS and foreign exchange leakage have become a major concern for the government. The leakage of foreign exchange is estimated to be around US\$ 500 million per annum.

Govt. loses Rs. 359 bn. due to tax corruption

THE GOVERNMENT has lost Rs. 359 billion due to tax corruption. This is a significant loss for the government and a major concern for the public.

IR Dept. head apologises to VAT Commission

The Commissioner General of the Inland Revenue Department, who appeared before the Presidential Commission on the VAT scam, apologized for an unacceptable and that

Exporters describe Inland Revenue chief as hilarious

Exporters describe the Inland Revenue chief as hilarious. They are angry at the way the Inland Revenue Department has handled the VAT scam.

Overclaimed VAT refunds exceeding Rs. 300 m mark

Overclaimed VAT refunds exceeding Rs. 300 m mark. This is a major issue for the government and a major concern for the public.

Delay in VAT refunds: Vat case: Trial begins

Delay in VAT refunds: Vat case: Trial begins. The trial of the VAT scam is set to begin in the near future.

Names of top dogs in VAT fraud and their political masters out

Names of top dogs in VAT fraud and their political masters out. This is a major revelation and a major concern for the public.

Customs has no jurisdiction to recover VAT, PAL: Court

Customs has no jurisdiction to recover VAT, PAL: Court. The court has ruled that the Customs Department does not have jurisdiction to recover VAT.

VAT SCAM ACCUSED SAYS HE CANNOT BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE

VAT SCAM ACCUSED SAYS HE CANNOT BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE. The accused in the VAT scam says that he cannot be held accountable for his actions.

ALLEGED VAT SCAM: OFFICIAL TELLS OF UNUSUAL MEETINGS

ALLEGED VAT SCAM: OFFICIAL TELLS OF UNUSUAL MEETINGS. An official has revealed details of unusual meetings related to the VAT scam.

CHOKSY EXPLAINS VAT, CALLS FOR RE-EXAMINATION OF RATES

CHOKSY EXPLAINS VAT, CALLS FOR RE-EXAMINATION OF RATES. Choksy has explained the VAT system and called for a re-examination of the rates.

FRAUDULENT DEALINGS STILL CONTINUE: CID

FRAUDULENT DEALINGS STILL CONTINUE: CID. The CID has reported that fraudulent dealings related to the VAT scam are still continuing.

Transfer of funds should be disclosed - Supreme Court

The Supreme Court, in granting sanction to the Appropriation Bill, enforced a condition on the Secretary to the Treasury to specifically disclose any transfer of funds under Clause 6 of the Appropriation Bill in terms of the Fiscal Management (Responsibility) Act.

Director State Accounts audits and certifies his own accounts?

Director State Accounts audits and certifies his own accounts? This is a major concern for the public and a major issue for the government.

TREASURY SEC. DID NOT TAKE OUR ADVICE SERIOUSLY: AG

TREASURY SEC. DID NOT TAKE OUR ADVICE SERIOUSLY: AG. The Auditor General has expressed his disappointment that the Treasury Secretary did not take his advice seriously.

How they rob billions from state coffers

How they rob billions from state coffers. This is a major concern for the public and a major issue for the government.

WAT scam a colossal Rs. 288 billion

WAT scam a colossal Rs. 288 billion. This is a major revelation and a major concern for the public.

VAT fraud case suspect remanded

VAT fraud case suspect remanded. A suspect in the VAT fraud case has been remanded in custody.

Deal with VAT scam culprits under Public Property Act, says Amarasikera

Deal with VAT scam culprits under Public Property Act, says Amarasikera. Amarasikera has called for a deal with the culprits of the VAT scam under the Public Property Act.

Inland Revenue gets tough with VAT defaulters

Inland Revenue gets tough with VAT defaulters. The Inland Revenue Department has become tougher in dealing with VAT defaulters.

Ex IR boss made fraudster Deputy VAT Commissioner

Ex IR boss made fraudster Deputy VAT Commissioner. A former boss of the Inland Revenue Department has been appointed as the Deputy VAT Commissioner.

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Budget Bill challenged in Supreme Court

The Budget Bill has been challenged in the Supreme Court. This is a major concern for the public and a major issue for the government.

Does the Appropriation Bill mislead parliament and public?

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Maintaining clarity is not rocket science

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The Budget and the reality

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Budget Bill unconstitutional rules SC

Budget Bill unconstitutional rules SC. The Supreme Court has ruled that the Budget Bill is unconstitutional.

Debt servicing was hidden from state expenditure, court holds

Debt servicing was hidden from state expenditure, court holds. The court has ruled that debt servicing was hidden from the state expenditure.

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