

30/12/2000 Island
Coal power plant

The above plant is an urgent necessity. None disputes that. The portended power cuts are ominous. A policy decision determined that the Norochcholai site as having been revoked. Possibly, Mawella, the alternate site in South is safer from terrorist attack, despite the ludicrous negative argument that no place is safe. Mawella has a deep bay for unloading coal with a shorter pier. Even the geographical location to Mawella is such that it is less prone to coal dust-blow into the country either on account of the North East or the South West monsoons. In addition, the South requires more development infrastructure.

From the letters that often appear the opposition to the decision to relocate stems more from the fact that a Christian Bishop was strongly advocating and supporting the shift from Norochcholai. Why ignore the security risks the plant would be so close to Kalpitiya and the required unloading pier would have to extend far into the sea? Why are we attempting to widen the security cordon

from Mannar far down to Chilaw? Is it to dilute the security effort? Who are those who are hell-bent to offer our vital installations on a platter for terrorist attacks? What are their ulterior motives? Are they supporting sabotage and carry out eternal repairs at tremendous costs of equipment, men, material, money and other? The terrorist are attacking our vital power distribution centres, transformers, the national grid, etc. Many relish the disregard to financial and other ethics of procedure for restoration work in crises. Reasons are plainly obvious with bribery and corruption insulated from penal action. Mawella is further away from Colombo than Norochcholai-another cause.

Those who oppose the relocation of the power plant obviously cannot see the wood for the trees. Petty minded extremist views have fogged the vision of even some professional academics. How sad?

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