

Faith, reason and Norochcholai

Readers will recall the letter written by me, titled "Norochcholai to be Aborted?", wherein I pointed out that the article in the *"Catholic Messenger"* of 4.11.01 was incorrect and misleading as it stated that the Denmark Consultants had not recommended setting up of the Coal Plant at Norochcholai. I pointed out that M/s. Ramball, the Denmark Consultancy firm, had recommended transshipment barge transfer with a harbour jetty and did not recommend the cancellation of the project or the site. They said that this recommendation is financially viable, environmental friendly and operationally advantageous. My letter has been handsomely supported by Dr. Tilak Siyambalapitiya in a subsequent article of 4.1.2002, giving verbatim reproduction of the report.

Strangely, the Editor of the *'Catholic Messenger'* nor the Bishop of Chilaw had so far not refuted my correction, although I sent a detailed letter to the Editor of *'Catholic Messenger'* to be published in his paper. A month has passed, and I am still awaiting a response. This amounts to CHI TACE CONFESSA (Italian) - who keeps silence, confesses.

It is now left for the government to take a firm decision, after going through all reports from Consultants, CEB officials and the advice of the internationally renowned Energy Expert Dr. Mohan Munasinghe, who has volunteered to advise the government, who the nation expects to advise and guide the government without playing politics.

It should be earnestly stated that the credibility of the newly elected government to govern this country without fear or favour, rests entirely on this vital issue - Coal Plant at Norochcholai, for economic, social and national growth. As a layman, I see, there should be no hesitation on the part of the government to order the CEB to go ahead, which they are anxiously waiting for.

My final plea and the plea of every person in this country, to the Catholic Church, is please do not hold this island to ransom with a senseless demand and make the country suffer; instead lend a helping hand to this government which came to power by popular vote, to right the wrongs.

**S. Gardiarachchi
Boralesgamuwa**

17th Jan: 2002 Island.