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Massive multi-purpose project for Kaluganga proposed

Jayasiri Munasinghe

HAMBANTOTA: President Mahinda Rajapakse is proposing to initiate a massive multi-purpose project, possibly with American Aid, to change the course of the Kaluganga by diverting it to the Ruhuna at Embilipitiya with Hambantota as its estuary.

The President made this disclosure when he addressed the ceremony to lay the foundation stone for the construction of a new Public Administration Office Complex at Hambantota, recently.

Explaining the intention of the project in view, the President said that this will be trying to solve two problems at once as it will be a remedy to the constant recurrence of floods in the Ratnapura while being a remedy to the occurrence of severe long droughts in the Hambantota District which impedes cultivation. This imbalance of nature's providence can be overcome by the successful implementation of the intended project, he said.

The President further said that this idea had been contemplated under successive governments in the past but so far never initiated due to reasons not known.

"I intend to approach the American Millennium Trust Fund to raise funds for this purpose. I have already had preliminary talks with them on this proposal.

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Just talking at length on development activities will take us nowhere. I am determined to go ahead with this programme and for that matter I shall meet

President George Bush. I shall overcome all either by going to the USA or by inviting President Bush to Sri Lanka to discuss Foreign Aid for this project. shortcomings and implement the project to usher in a renaissance to the people of Ruhuna", assured the President.

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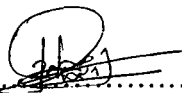
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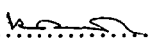
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