



**THE EMBASSY OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
TO BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG AND THE EUROPEAN UNION
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Sri Lanka Embassy in Brussels celebrates 62nd Anniversary of the National Day of Sri Lanka

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Brussels together with Sri Lankan expatriates of Belgium and Luxembourg celebrated the 62nd Anniversary of the National Day of Sri Lanka on 7 February 2010, at the Sri Lanka Residence in Brussels..

The proceedings commenced with the recital of the National Anthem. One minutes silence was observed honoring the heroes who sacrificed their lives for the country.

Ambassador Ravinatha Aryasinha, the Religious dignitaries, Hony. Consul of Sri Lanka Ms. Monique de Decker and representatives among the Sri Lankans in Belgium later lit the traditional oil lamp. This was followed by Buddhist, Hindu, Islam and Christian religious observances. Ven. Murungasyaye Gnanissara Thero conducted the Buddhist religious observances, Rev. Uruthuananthan Kurukkal performed the Hindu rites. Maulavi Mustafa and Maulavi Kamal performed the Islamic prayers and Ms. Geetani Peiris conducted Christian prayers.

The Independence Day messages of H.E the President, Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs were read in all three languages by the Embassy officials.

Ambassador Aryasinha addressing the gathering said this Independence Day is unique as it comes at a time when Sri Lanka had overcome the gravest threat of terrorism it faced over the past 30 years, had achieved significant stability in the political, economic and social spheres and has a “better story to tell”. While commenting on the ongoing post–conflict development activities in Sri Lanka, he appealed to the members of the community to ask themselves whether there was more they could do for the country of their birth and to urge that they

contribute to the current development efforts in whatever way possible. He encouraged the community members to visit Sri Lanka and become active and engaged in the nation's rebuilding process. He appreciated that the Sri Lankan community in Belgium is united and had participated in various activities throughout the past year and expressed hope that they will become even more involved over the coming months to lend their support to carrying forward the message of Sri Lanka in their adopted communities.

The ceremony was followed by a lunch hosted by the Ambassador and Mrs. Aryasinha.