

PRESS RELEASE

Sri Lanka Embassy in Rome celebrates the 69th Anniversary of Independence

The 69th Anniversary of the Independence of Sri Lanka was held on Saturday, 4th February 2017 at the Embassy premises in Rome. The commemorative event which was organized by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Rome was held amidst a large gathering of Sri Lankan expatriates in Italy.



Caption: H.E Daya Pelpola, Ambassador lights the oil lamp at the Independence Day Celebrations

The Independence Day celebrations commenced with the hoisting of the National Flag by H.E. Daya Pelpola, Ambassador and rendering of the National Anthem in Sinhala and Tamil with the participation of Sri Lankan children residing in Italy. Religious observances were conducted by Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and Christian clergy followed by the reading of Independence Day messages of His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena, the President, Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister and Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, Minister of Foreign Affairs in all three languages.



Caption: H.E Daya Pelpola, Ambassador addresses the gathering at the Independence Day celebrations



Caption: Religious observances conducted by Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and Christian clergy.

H.E. the Ambassador, in addressing the gathering highlighted that all members of the community should stay united and participate in all events despite their different ethnicities; this will ensure stronger links among the Sri Lankan expatriates. He thanked the Sri Lankan community in Italy for their contribution towards Sri Lanka's economic, cultural and political advancement. H.E the Ambassador acknowledged the steps taken by past leaders to obtain social, political and economic freedom for the nation and stressed that the aim of the Government is to bring about a political culture of good governance with equal opportunity for all Sri Lankans.

Following the official function, Dana was offered to the Maha Sangha together with other religious clergy by the Embassy staff. The Sri Lankan community present at the Independence Day celebrations participated in a breakfast reception which included traditional milk rice and Sri Lankan sweets.

***Embassy of Sri Lanka
Rome***