



ශ්‍රී ලංකා අනුමාතය  
இலங்கையின் பிரதம அமைச்சர்  
Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

### **Hon. Prime Minister's Condolence Message**

Muthuvel Karunanidhi was a respected politician who served Tamil Nadu in India as the Chief Minister and as the long-standing leader of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam party. Throughout his political career that spanned over eight decades, M. Karunanidhi won the hearts of people both in Tamil Nadu and in India.

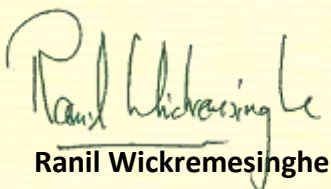
M. Karunanidhi also played a leading role in strengthening social and people-to- people relations between South India and Sri Lanka. The cooperation he rendered in widening diplomatic relations between the two countries should be remembered.

His role in society and politics started at a young age. At only 14 years old he was involved in the social movement against the caste system in Hinduism and he later gave a voice to the movement through his contributions in the official newspaper of the Justice Party.

In addition to politics, he made a significant contribution to Tamil literature and the Tamil film industry, displaying his skills and interests in these fields.

He is a person who valued religious and communal harmony and I would like to mention an important statement he made that outlined his interest in Buddhism at the occasion of his swearing in as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2006. Most of his supporters encouraged him to change the date of taking oaths for the belief that 13<sup>th</sup> is an inauspicious day. The Vesak procession organised by the Maha Bodhi Society Chennai was to be held on the same day but he was firm in his decision to take his oath on the 13<sup>th</sup> May mentioning that if the Vesak procession was to be held on that day, it would not be an inauspicious day for him to take his oath.

M. Karunanidhi will be remembered forever by the people in Tamil Nadu for his immeasurable service. I convey my deepest sympathies on behalf of all Sri Lankans for the bereaved, on his passing.

  
Ranil Wickremesinghe

Prime Minister

August 09<sup>th</sup> 2018