New Year festivities should further unite hearts and minds – President

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It is my belief that these New Year festivities should seek to further unite our people in heart and mind, stated President Mahinda Rajapaksa in his message for the Sinhala and Tamil New Year. The New Year celebrations by Sinhalese and Tamils alike are most appropriate in recognizing the kinship among us. This is the continuance of strong cultural traditions that strengthen the bonds among the people of our land, he said. I trust that this Sinhala and Tamil New Year which reflects the unity and pride of our nation will be celebrated by all in the spirit of joy, peace, sharing and contentment which will lead us to a future of prosperity, the President emphasized. Following is the full text of the message :

This is the first New Year being celebrated in harmony and contentment since the motherland was unified. It is my belief that these New Year festivities should seek to further unite our people in heart and mind. The New Year celebrations by Sinhalese and Tamils alike are most appropriate in recognizing the kinship among us. This is the continuance of strong cultural traditions that strengthen the bonds among the people of our land. The government has carried out all necessary measures to bring the joy and meaning of the New Year closer to the people. To this end we have sought to bring prosperity to the nation through agricultural development and encouraging an ethical way of life. The true spirit of the New Year should be felt most by our children who make up the future generation. It is our responsibility as a nation to teach them the best values and traditions preserved through thousands of years and bestow upon them the cultural heritage that has enriched our nation. Towards this end, it is my wish that every household will carryout the New Year traditions with hope of auspicious beginnings for the future. I trust that this Sinhala and Tamil New Year which reflects the unity and pride of our nation will be celebrated by all in the spirit of joy, peace, sharing and contentment which will lead us to a future of prosperity. I wish you all a Happy New Year!Courtesy: Presidential Secretariat