



President chairs emergency meeting of National Security Council

ayooob khan Monday April 22nd, 2019

Anti-terrorism clauses to be effective from midnight today

Tomorrow, National Day of Mourning

President Maithripala Sirisena presided over an emergency meeting of National Security Council today (April 22) and following decisions were taken at the meeting.

The government has decided to Gazette the anti-terrorism legal clauses to be effective with effect from midnight today. This step has been taken to empower police to take effective measures to safeguard security of the people and the country.

April 23 has been declared a National Day of Mourning.

The issues pertaining to the organizations responsible for the explosions yesterday, the arrest of terror suspects and those who assisted them and the imperative need to take effective steps to eliminate such destructive forces were discussed at the meeting and the President has instructed the police and Tri-forces to take every possible action in the future.

President Sirisena will meet the foreign ambassadors and high commissioners to brief them on the developments and seek international assistance. The intelligence agencies have reported that there were international organizations behind these acts of local terrorists. Hence, it has been decided to seek international assistance for investigations.

The President has instructed the security forces to provide additional security to all the Catholic churches.

He also instructed the police, Tri-Forces and Defence Ministry to take the current developments into serious consideration and take all the required steps.

Meanwhile, police curfew has been imposed from 8.00 p.m. today to 4.00 a.m. tomorrow.