

Press release – Alumni Association University of Peradeniya (AAUP)

URGENT NEED TO RESOLVE CRISIS IN EDUCATION -- AAUP

The Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya (AAUP), which is committed to the welfare of university education, is gravely concerned about the situation in the National Universities of Sri Lanka as well as the situation in the primary and secondary education sectors that prepare students for higher education.

The University of Peradeniya and the other national universities of Sri Lanka have produced, and continue to produce leaders in all fields including pure and applied sciences, social sciences, medicine, engineering, law and aesthetic studies. The system has nurtured the talents of diverse professionals who have contributed and continue to contribute with distinction, both nationally and internationally. This has been possible mainly because of the accessibility of education to all sectors of society. Sri Lanka, despite its small size and limited resources, has been a shining example of the benefits of free education to the health and living standards of its people.

The Federation of University Teachers (FUTA) has launched a trade union action, now entering its seventh week, demanding due consideration be given for increased investment in state education. The AAUP appeals to the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the Ministry of Higher Education to engage in constructive dialogue with FUTA to address these issues which are of paramount importance to the future of primary, secondary and tertiary education in Sri Lanka. Their concern over salaries and the capacity for universities to recruit and retain academics of high quality in the national university system are very valid issues.

The AAUP also appeals to the UGC and the Ministry of Higher Education to find a speedy solution to the Z-score issue, which is causing heartbreak and untold stress to hundreds of A/L students and their families.

The AAUP appeals to all those in positions of power and authority to help resolve the current crisis in education, which should be dealt with in a fair and just manner, acceptable to all parties concerned.

Prof. Savitri Kumar
President/AAUP