Press Release

<u>Sri Lankan Embassy in Kuwait Hosts Christmas Celebration Promoting</u> <u>Unity and Harmony</u>

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Kuwait hosted a vibrant and heartwarming Christmas celebration, bringing together Sri Lankans of all faiths and backgrounds. The event, held under the patronage of CDA a.i., showcased the values of harmony, inclusivity, and solidarity that lie at the heart of Sri Lankan society.

The celebration was graced by Reverend Father Jude Chanaka from Kuwait Cathedral, along with distinguished leaders of the Sri Lankan community in Kuwait. Over 250 members of the Sri Lankan diaspora, representing various faiths, gathered at the Embassy to mark this joyous occasion, reflecting the spirit of unity in diversity.

In his address to the gathering, CDA emphasized the importance of social harmony, mutual respect, and collective solidarity, drawing inspiration from the Christmas messages of His Excellency the President and the Honorable Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka. He reiterated the Sri Lankan government's commitment to fostering national cohesion and unity: "Sri Lanka is a rainbow society, enriched by its diversity and strengthened by its resilience. Events like this remind us of the power of togetherness."

The CDA expressed gratitude to the Sri Lankan community in Kuwait for their invaluable contributions to Sri Lanka's economy. "Your remittances are vital in strengthening our national coffers and supporting countless families back home. For this, we are deeply grateful," he said.

Highlighting the privileges of Sri Lanka's free healthcare and education systems, the CDA a.i. encouraged the community to reflect on their shared responsibility to the nation. "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country. As Sri Lankans, let us strive to give back to our motherland and contribute meaningfully to its progress," he stated.

He also urged the community to serve as honorary Aambassadors for Sri Lanka, promoting trade, investment, and tourism. He noted the significant milestone of Sri Lanka welcoming over two million tourists this year, underscoring the global appeal of Sri Lanka's natural beauty and cultural richness.

The event featured cultural performances by members of the Sri Lankan community, showcasing the festive spirit and the diverse traditions of Sri Lanka. The Embassy also reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding the welfare of all Sri Lankans in Kuwait, regardless of ethnicity, religion, or background.

The celebration concluded with a call for collective action, with the CDA urging the community to join hands in building a stronger, more inclusive Sri Lanka. "Together, we can achieve great things for our beloved motherland. Let us embrace the spirit of Christmas and work for the betterment of our nation," he said.

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Kuwait expresses its gratitude to all who participated in making this event a memorable and inspiring celebration of unity and harmony.

SLEMB/Kuwait 28.12.2024