

Tuesday, 19 May 2009

[News Bar » the Motherland' ...](#)
[Security: Megalomaniac terrorist Prabhakaran Killed ...](#)
[Business: Marke](#)
[HOME](#)
[DAILYNEWS](#)
[ONLINE](#)
[SHARE MARKET](#) | [EXCHANGE RATE](#) | [TRADING](#) | [SUPPLEMENTS](#) | [PICTURE GALLERY](#) | [ARCHIVES](#) | [Google](#)
[News](#)
[Editorial](#)
[Business](#)
[Features](#)
[Political](#)
[Security](#)
[Sport](#)
[World](#)
[Letters](#)
[Obituaries](#)
[OTHER PUBLICATIONS](#)
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[Marriage Proposals](#)
[Classifieds](#)
[GOVERNMENT GAZETTE](#)

Mission accomplished

WIJITHA NAKKAWITA



Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, Chief of Defence Staff Air Chief Marshall Donald Perera, Army Commander General Sarath Fonseka, Navy Commander Admiral Wasantha Karannagoda, Air Force Commander Air Chief Marshall Roshan Gunatilaka, Inspector General of Police Jayantha Wickremaratne and Director General Civil Security Department Rear Admiral Sarath Weerasekera reported to Commander-in-Chief President Mahinda Rajapaksa that the mission of wiping out terrorism was successfully accomplished. Pictures by Sudath Silva and AFP

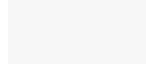
The Service Chiefs formally informed President Mahinda Rajapaksa yesterday that the country had regained its full independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty after the defeat of the LTTE terrorist group.

At a solemn ceremony held at Temple Trees yesterday the Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, Chief of Defence Staff Air Chief Marshall Donald Perera, Army Commander Lt Gen Sarath Fonseka, Air Force Commander Air Marshall Roshan Gunatilaka, Navy Commander Vice Admiral Wasantha Karannagoda the Inspector General of Police Jayantha Wickremaratne and Director General Civil Security Department Rear Admiral Sarath Weerasekera officially informed the President that the military operations in the country had come to a conclusion.

At 6.35 in the evening Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa who led the commanders of the three forces informed President Mahinda Rajapaksa that the final military operation against the LTTE terrorist group had reached its conclusion with the defeat of the LTTE. The service commanders, also reported the completion of their mission..

Present at the solemn occasion were Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka, President's Secretary Lalith Weeratunga, Senior Presidential Advisor Basil Rajapaksa MP, and several ministers, Member of Parliament and Government officials.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa will address the nation today on the liberation of the country from terrorism after more than thirty years.

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