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'Loss of democratic rights led to violence'

By Dayasena Abeylath

Leader of the Eksath Lanka Janatha Party, Rukman Senanayake said on Sunday that loss of democratic rights has led to violence.

The former Dedigama MP was speaking at his party's first May Day rally which was held at Vystwyke Park in Mattakullaya.

He said that during the time of the late Premier D. S. Senanayake there were leftist revolutionary parties. However he added that Mr. Senanayake did not ban those parties but held elections to let them try to gain power through the democratic process. Today he pointed out that parties were banned.

Continuing, Mr. Senanayake compared the present violence to a man who is forced to break open the door to his house because it is locked and the key missing.

He also said: "Never in its history had the UNP votes been reduced so much as at the Provincial Council elections".

He added that the people of this country are disgruntled with the UNP. The Provincial Councils he pointed out were started because India wanted



Rukman Senanayake

them to be set up. As a result of this he said the people of our country have become enslaved.

Mr. Senanayake questioned as to what development there could be if a person couldn't live on his own income.

The meeting was presided over by W. G. de Silva, Secretary of the SLJP Dr. Gamini Wijsekera, and several others spoke.