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03.04.2024

Media Statement

By Most Ven. Dr. Waskaduwe Mahindawansa Mahanayake Thero of Sri Lanka

For several years, we have held a strong intention to offer a precious Buddha relic to His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet, who is a symbol of peace, kindness and compassion in this world.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama has accomplished more for Buddhism than anyone in history. Recognising His Holiness the Dalai Lama's revered status as a living Bodhisattva and a cherished spiritual leader in the global Buddhist community, it is with great honour and reverence that these unique and rare authentic relics, discovered during the British reign in India in the Piprahwa excavations, are being offered to him. His Holiness the Dalai Lama explicitly exhibits the core Buddhist teachings such as compassion, wisdom, and peace, making him the most eligible recipient of this sacred offering.

His Holiness embodies the teachings of the Buddha through his actions, teachings and way of life. We have always felt the strong need to reciprocate His Holiness the Dalai Lama's boundless kindness. Hence, we have fervently wished and prayed to present this precious relic as a token of my immeasurable gratitude and admiration. I gift this valuable relic to His Holiness on behalf the entire Sangha community in Sri Lanka. Dr. Damenda Porage, Founder President of the Sri Lanka-Tibetan Buddhist Brotherhood in Sri Lanka, approached me back in 2017 with the idea of presenting a Kapilavastu relic to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. After six years of planning and preparation, we have finally been able to fulfill this request.

During His Eminence Ling Rinpoche's inaugural visit to Sri Lanka in 2022, I conveyed my earnest desire to make this offering and sought His Eminence's guidance on liaising with the office of His Holiness and organizing the event. His Eminence graciously accepted my request and offered his invaluable assistance.

These sacred relics, discovered during the British reign in India in the Piprahwa excavations, hold profound significance for millions of Buddhists worldwide. British official William Peppe gifted the authentic and sacred relics to the erudite Sri Lankan monk, Most Venerable Waskaduwe Sri Subhuthi Mahanayake Thero in 1898. These relics of the Buddha had been enshrined in Piprahwa by Shakyas relatives of the Buddha in Kapilavastu.

It is with the utmost joy and a deep sense of fulfilment that I announce this long-awaited and cherished occasion today. After many years of unwavering effort and a profound desire, our wish to offer this precious relic of Lord Shakyamuni Buddha to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama is finally fulfilled.

I am delighted and humbled to take this opportunity to thank His Holiness the Dalai Lama for his unparalleled service to the Buddha Dharma, to this world, and to all of its beings. Words cannot express His Holiness's exalted qualities, like the rays of the sun bringing light, warmth, and life giving sustenance as far as they reach, in all directions, without limits or discrimination.

May all those who have selflessly assisted us in fulfilling this great and blessed endeavour, including His Eminence Ling Rinpoche, may attain the merits of this. Their invaluable guidance and support have made this offering a reality.

‘Sabbe satta bhavantu sukhitatta’

Most Ven. Dr. Waskaduwe Mahindawansa Mahanayake Thero
Mahanayake Thero of Sri Sambuddha Sasanodaya Sangha Sabha of Sri Lanka Amarapura Maha Nikaya

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