

An invincible government or a haplessly weak opposition? Verdict is yours!

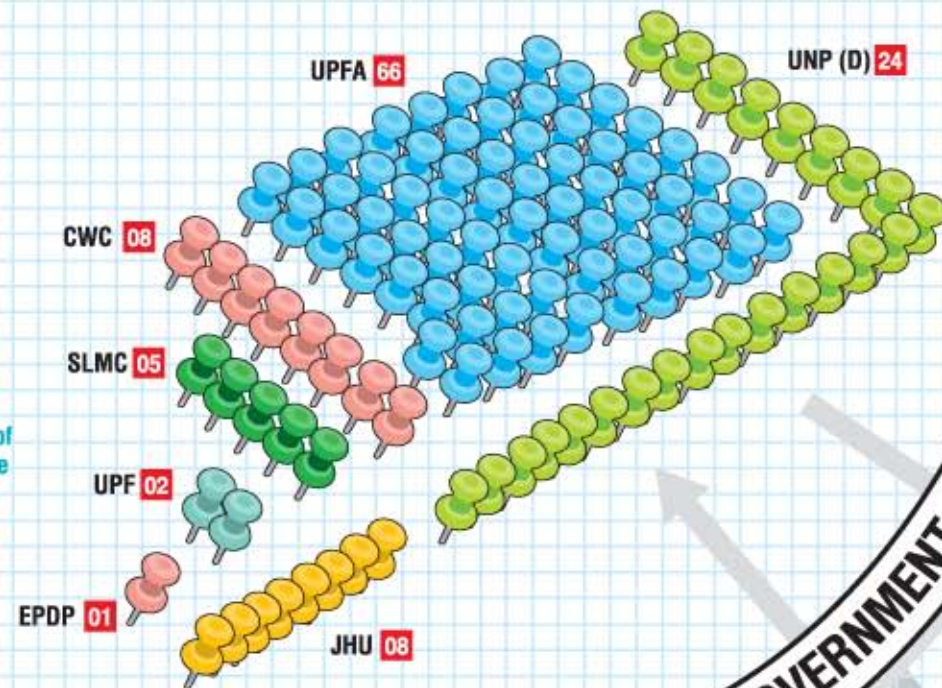
GOVERNMENT MPs = 114

Government was able to achieve their majority in Parliament, with the crossover of 31 opposition MPs between 2005 and 2007. Government launched successful military operation against the LTTE and liberated East and Madhu church.

STRONG 2008 June

Perhaps no government has demonstrated the adage "United we stand; divided we fall" as well as the incumbent administration. Beginning with a minority government of a mere 81 MPs, the UPFA government, under the steering of President Mahinda Rajapaksa has bloated its numbers in the House to a healthy 114. The government has succeeded not only in winning over disgruntled members of the opposition, but by hanging on to them no matter what – an effective if dishonourable game plan. A much divided opposition, battling not only government heavy handedness but also internal party strife, has been reduced from a combined strength of 143 in 2004 to a minority of 110 in the current parliament. Amidst myriad allegations, the close knit government continues to thrive, largely because an opposition in tatters has failed to bring burning issues home. So here we are; the politics of the day in a nutshell – which of the factions has contributed to the sorry state of the legislature today – an invincible government or a haplessly weak opposition?

GOVERNMENT MPs = 81
Government lost their majority in Parliament, due to the crossover of 39 JVP MPs to the opposition. They were against the signing PTOMS, by the CBK government.



WEAK 2005 June

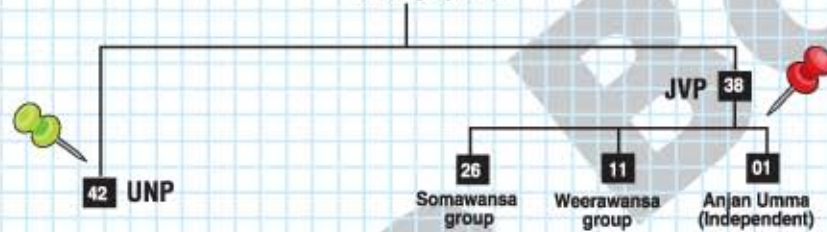
STRONG 2005 June

Allegations against the government

- A jumbo cabinet, for which the government has to spend billions of rupees
- Unable to control the rising Cost of Living
- Unable to take any disciplinary action against unruly ministers
- Violations against journalists and media institutions
- Corruption in government institutions
- Mismanaging the economy with high inflation, interests rates
- Pinning all hopes on the war

Allegations against and issues facing the opposition

Two major parties



- Party is divided into several groups due to a leadership crisis
- Lost every election due to weak election campaigns
- Announcing that they would launch major strikes, protest campaigns, but later they are postponed or cancelled
- Always demanding that, the government should go home, but takes no proper measures to defeat the government
- Launched protest campaigns (bullet cart protest, toot the horn protest, dashing kitchen pots protest) but without much success
- Party split into several groups
- Attacked, kidnapped, dissident party members and hijacked their vehicles.
- Some party members live in secret places or safe houses, due to threats from Party members
- Only verbally threaten the government against price hikes, corruption and rising Cost of Living
- Threaten the government that, they would launch major strikes, protests, but unable to carry out any of those

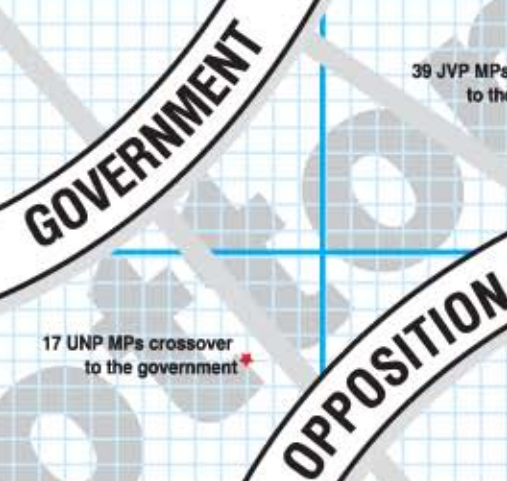
There are 110 MPs in the opposition, but, they are divided as several groups, within their parties. Opposition has failed to launch any campaign, to force the Government, to change their current policies.

WEAK 2008 June

OPPOSITION MPs = 110

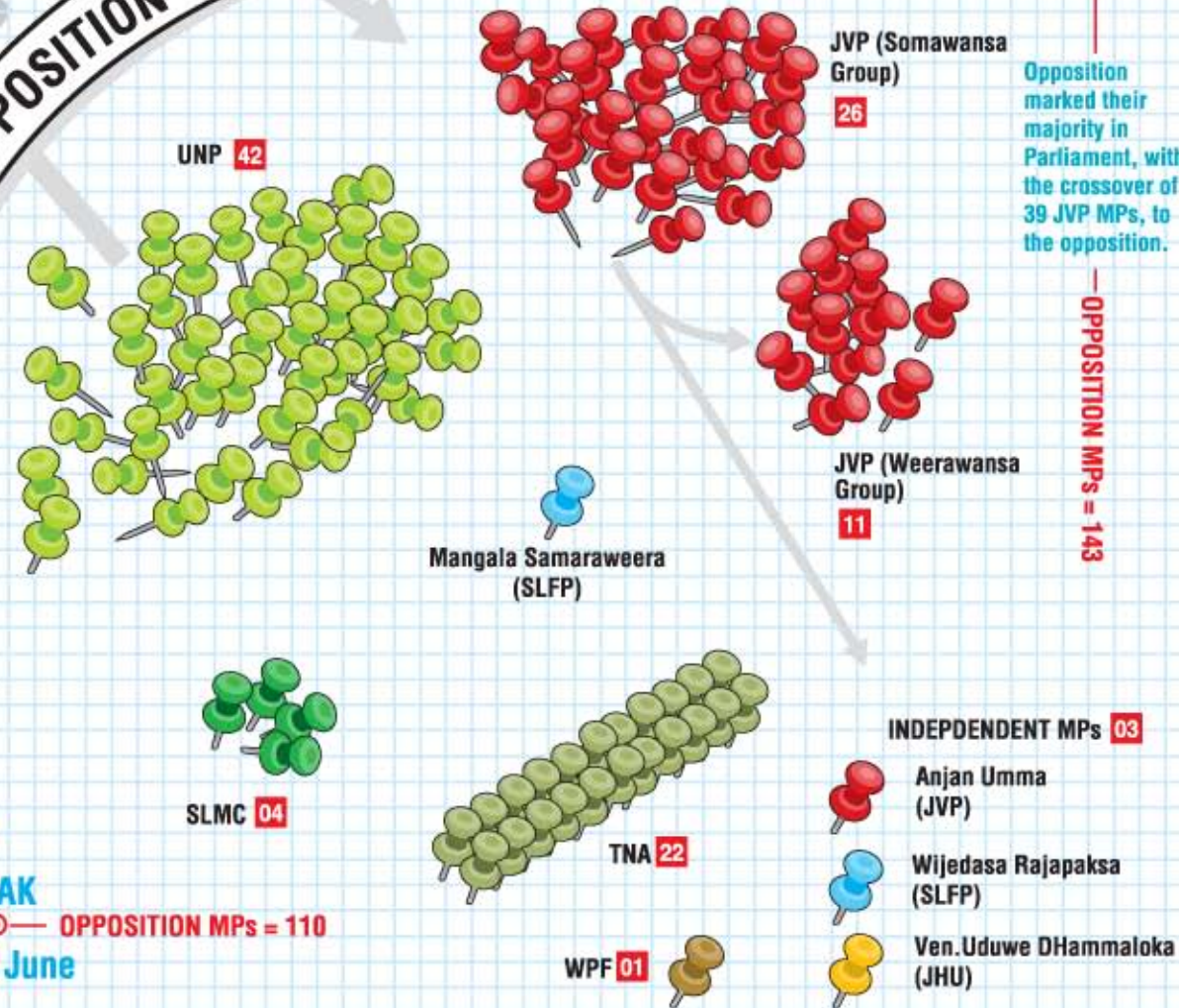
STRONG 2005 June
Opposition marked their majority in Parliament, with the crossover of 39 JVP MPs, to the opposition.

OPPOSITION MPs = 143



39 JVP MPs crossover to the opposition

17 UNP MPs crossover to the government



* Only showing major crossovers