



## **The official statement of Sinhala Bloggers' Union concerning bestweb.lk and myblog.lk**

Few weeks ago [.LK Domain Registry of Sri Lanka](#) started a competition called [The Most Favorite Sri Lankan Website](#). Websites that are under .LK domains were eligible to enter 3 competition categories under Sinhala, Tamil and English languages. The best websites under each category was elected by viewer's votes. This is about the absurd part that is going to happen in the latter stage of this competition.

We at Sinhala Bloggers Union who runs the free blogging serving called [Myblog.lk](#) registered to the above mentioned competition under Sinhala category. We were informed that **myblog.lk blog has made it to the top 5 websites** in the category as the voting period ended.

Afterwards the organizers of the competition sent us an email under the name Sasika Ranasinghe saying that the prize giving ceremony will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at Waters Edge hotel, Battaramulla. The letter further says that those who attend to the ceremony should purchase tickets, each priced at Rs. 3,500/= and it also contains details about methods of purchasing tickets.

We have never heard of a competition that charges money from its own winners.

The winners of BestWeb.lk are presented certificates and the personnel who attend representing these sites to the ceremony should buy tickets. As publicized in the competitions official website (<http://www.bestweb.lk>), many institutions and companies (ICTA, Dialog, Sirasa, MTV, Sunday Times, Daily Mirror) are sponsoring the event; In fact it is financial sponsoring. Hence, is it fair and reasonable to charge sums from the winners (not viewers) of this competition?

We consider this as an insult to the Sinhala Bloggers Union. We would also like to stress out the fact that we do not have any requirement of acquiring a certificate paying money. Moreover had we knew that this competition was such a one, we wouldn't have even entered it in the first place (Since this competition was organized by .LK domain registry and sponsored by responsible agencies such as ICTA, we thought it was a dignified and a significant event).

We, Sinhala Bloggers Union are withdrawing MyBlog.lk from **The Most Favorite Sri Lankan Website – 2009 – Sinhala Category** to express our displeasure due to the insult done to us by the organizers of the event.

We sincerely hope that this kind of award ceremonies will not happen again as those will definitely de-motivates site owners.

**Sinhala Bloggers Union**