After the death of King Nissankamalla, the Polonnaruwa kingdom was weakened by many ineffective rulers.

Due to the weak leadership, Kalingas and Pandyas of India gained influence over the Polonnaruwa kingdom.

As a result, in 1214 A.D. the Kalinga King Magha took control of the Polonnaruwa kingdom.
King Magha ruled Rajarata for over 40 years. But it was a time of terror which ruined the kingdom. Local traditions were disregarded and Buddhist temples and Buddhist scriptures were destroyed.

Some chieftains and senior monks who could not bear to see this devastation, took whatever they could and fled to Ruhuna and other safe areas.

With this began the shift of the kingdom from Polonnaruwa to the South-West.