



RESETTLEMENT

MINISTRY OF RESETTLEMENT AND DISASTER RELIEF SERVICES

THE VOICE OF THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE

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Inside this issue: Page

Fort Compensation	2
Funds released since January 2008	2
UN Assistance for Resettlement	3
Launch of a New Book	3
Rs. 7.1 Million for those marooned by torrential rain	4
Condolence Message on the Demise of Hon. Jeyaraj Fernandopilla	4
Resettlement Progress	5
Meeting with Qatari Labour Minister	6

“Let Us Resolve To Create A People Friendly Public Service” – Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen



Delivering his New Year message, Minister Rishad Bathiudeen stated, “IDPs and Refugees who have been displaced from their birth places have to be resettled with safety and dignity in their birth places or in an alternative habitat.” “By providing a comprehensive solution to this problem they could enter into the mainstream of the fabric of the society enjoying equal rights.” He further stated that it is also the mandate of this Ministry to provide relief to those affected due to natural disasters like floods, earth slips, fire etc. Addressing his Ministry staff he urged the need for teamwork and dedication in the discharge of their duties.

Commenting further, he stated that all government servants should be committed to realize the goal of achieving the 8 precepts enunciated by the government. All should resolve to view the IDPs with a humanitarian angle, in providing services to the displaced due to war as well as other natural disasters. In providing humanitarian services, one cannot confine his office work for only 8 hours.

Massive development projects have been initiated under the leadership of His Excellency the President Mahinda Rajapakse. All should cooperate in the government’s effort to make this a success.

Out of the IDPs who were rendered homeless due to the war in Batticaloa and Trincomalee Districts, already 170,479 persons have been resettled up to last year. Due to the torrential rain during the past few days in several districts more than 200,000 people were affected. This Ministry was able to provide timely relief services to those affected. Minister conveyed his appreciation to all his staff for enabling him to carry out his work efficiently and effectively by cooperating with him.

He remarked that all government servants should make it a point to provide a better and people friendly service to the general public by way of changing their attitudes. This way we could create a peoples’ friendly public service.

Hon.Ameer Ali, Minister of Disaster Relief Services, Mr.A.C.M.Razik, Secretary and host of Senior Officials and Ministry staff participated at this function.

Compensation paid to victims of the bomb blast at 3rd mile post in Buttala, Okkampitiya

“I am shocked to learn about this gruesome bomb blast targeting innocent passengers traveling by a bus in Buttala at Okkampitiya. I convey my condolences to the aggrieved family members of those who died as a result of this cowardly act and I pray for speedy recovery of the injured”. “With the concurrence of H.E. the President Mahinda Rajapakse, arrangements are already underway to effect payment of compensation to those killed and wounded in the bomb blast targeting civilians in Buttala, at Okkampitiya, Weliara 3 rd Mile Post”, said Minister Rishad Bathiudeen.

In this bomb explosion 25 persons have succumbed to their injuries and 64 persons have been injured. Minister said that already Rs.30 Lakhs has been set apart by the Ministry of Resettlement and Disaster Relief Services for payment of compensation to victims of this bomb blast through the District Secretary, Moneragala. It is the policy of the government to pay a maximum of Rs.100,000/- per person killed to the next of kin and Rs.50,000/- per person injured.

Initially as an immediate relief measure, Rs.25,000/- each will be paid to the next of kin of an each unmarried person killed and Rs.50,000/- to the next of kin of a married person killed due to the blast. In addition to these payments a sum of Rs.15,000/- is to be paid to the immediate family members as funeral expenses to each person killed. Each injured person will receive a sum of Rs.10,000/- . Instructions have already been issued to the District Secretary, Moneragala, to effect the balance compensation payments immediately on receipt of death certificates of those victims who succumbed to their injuries, the Minister said.



Incessant heavy rainfall during the past few days created havoc in 10 districts causing immense hardships to people in the area. As a result of this natural calamity, 8 persons have been recorded dead and 6 persons have sustained injuries. 2 persons each from Bibile and Passara, 01 person from Haputhale and 03 persons from Divulapitiya have died. 03 persons from Badulla and 03 persons from Divulapitiya have been reported injured. Presently 91194 families comprising 381460 persons have been affected. Minister Rishad Bathiudeen stated that his Ministry is in the front lines providing relief and standing by continuously monitoring the situation. He further indicated that he has allocated a sum of Rs. 7.1Mln to the respective District Secretaries for provision of relief to those persons presently affected.

Hon Minister of Resettlement & Disaster Relief Services remarked that his Ministry has spared no effort in providing immediate relief measures to the flood vic-

tims. According to the data available, 43846 families comprising 198218 persons in Ampara District, 385 families comprising 1622 persons in Badulla District, 33465 families comprising 130614 in Batticaloa District, 2036 families comprising 7781 persons in Gampaha District, 72 families comprising 301 persons in Jaffna District, 11033 families comprising 41320 persons in Mannar District, 27 families comprising 135 persons in Moneragala District, 92 families comprising 382 persons in Puttalam District, 26 families comprising 92 persons in Rathnapura District and 212 families comprising 995 persons in Trincomalee District have been identified for provision of immediate relief.

Minister Bathiudeen said that as an immediate measure, already 06 welfare centers have been established in Hali-ela, Eravur Town, and in Manmunai South to accommodate the flood victims.

It is estimated that already 1870 families have moved into these centers for shelter. Heavy showers

during the recent past have even not spared the damages to property. Reports reaching this Ministry reveal that in Badulla District 14 houses, Batticaloa District 187 houses, Moneragala District 19 houses and in Rathnapura District 8 houses, bringing a total of 228 houses have been totally damaged. Number of Partially damaged houses is 637. Badulla district 139 houses, Batticaloa District 410 houses, Jaffna District 72 houses, Moneragala District 7 houses, Rathnapura District 9 houses have been partially damaged.

Minister Bathiudeen added that the following allocations have been granted to meet the present contingency in providing immediate relief services to the victims. Ampara District Secretary: Rs. 650000.00, Badulla District Secretary: Rs. 1102500.00, Batticaloa District Secretary: Rs. 837692.00, Gampaha District Secretary: Rs. 300000.00, Moneragala District Secretary: Rs. 1170950.00, Puttalam District Secretary: Rs.84610.00, Mannar District Secretary: Rs.2000000.00, Rathnapura District Secretary: Rs. 976000.00, Trincomalee District Secretary: Rs. 11287.00

Condolence Message on the Demise of Hon. Jeyaraj Fernandopulle

"I am shocked and grieved to learn about the sudden tragic demise of Highways and Road Development Minister Hon. Jeyaraj Fernandopulle. At a time, when his services are needed most, untimely death of a leader of his caliber is an impediment and a great loss to the nation." said Hon Rishad Bathiudeen Minister of Resettlement and Disaster Relief Services and Leader of All Ceylon Muslim Congress issuing a condolence message.

Adding further he stated that "He was a people friendly person and always respected people from all walks of life irrespective of their caste, creed and religion. He always stood for the wellbeing of the poor masses. As an experienced politician he always resolved problems with foresight, tact and knowledge. It is no secret

that as a senior politician Late Minister had always been a mentor to me in the field of politics. Well versed in Sinhala, Tamil and English languages, Late Minister was an eloquent orator capable of delivering mesmerizing speeches on any given topic in Parliament as well as out side Parliament. He worked tirelessly and had a desire to accelerate the ongoing development work in Sri Lanka. Despite being a reputed Lawyer by profession, he had a knack for politics and was therefore highly involved in active politics. His sudden demise has brought about a lacuna in the minds of many and considered an irreparable loss specifically to the peace loving minority communities in Sri Lanka as he spared no effort in looking into their genuine grievances".

"Late Minister was popular among his peers and got along equally well

with his own party members as well as with the opposition members of parliament. He passed away at a time when he was rendering yeomen service to the masses in the best interest of the country as the Minister of Highways and Road Development and spearheading the development work under "Mahinda Chintanaya Concept". As a member of the ruling party, he has held various high posts during his life time and had been an exemplary leader through out. He had a genuine desire to bring about peace and amity among all ethnic groups."

Whilst paying my humble tribute to this great late leader, at this moment of grief, in my capacity as the Minister of Resettlement and Disaster Relief Services and Leader of All Ceylon Muslim Congress, I wish to extend my condolences to the immediate family members of the late Minister.



"He was a people friendly person and always respected people from all walks of life irrespective of their caste, creed and religion. He always stood for the wellbeing of the poor masses. As an experienced politician he always resolved problems with foresight, tact and knowledge. It is no secret that as a senior politician Late Minister had always been a mentor to me in the field of politics."



A meeting was held at the Ministry on 13th March 2008 to look into the difficulties encountered by the IDPs on the eve of and after resettlement.



Batticaloa, Vavuniya, Mannar, Mullaitivu, Polonaruwa, Trincomalee and Anuradapura.

Matters relating to delay in the distribution of dry rations and the performance of cooperative societies were also discussed at this meeting.

Relief measures to be taken at the time of natural disasters were also considered.

The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Resettlement and Disaster Relief Services Hon.Rishad Bathiudeen and attended by several Government Agents. The

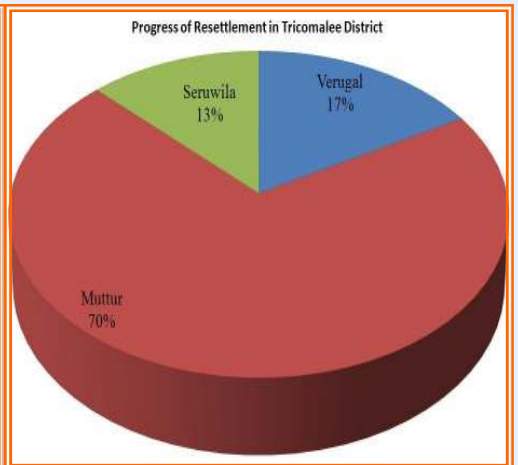
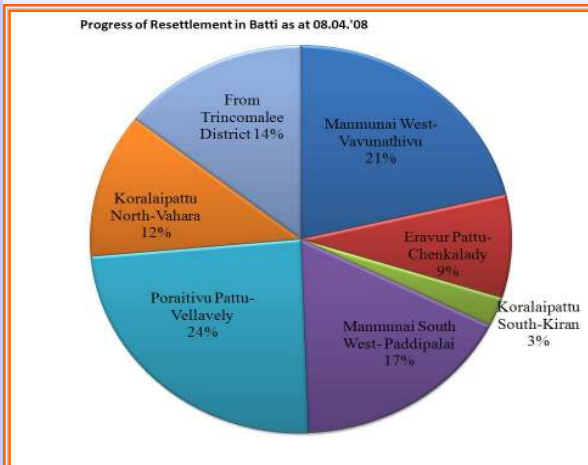
development programmes initiated by the Ministry at District levels were well explained at the meeting attended by Government Agents of Puttalam, Amparai,

Mr.M.Vamadevan, Advisor to the Ministry, Mrs.S.M.Mohamed, Additional Secretary and several other officials participated in this meeting.

Resettlement Progress in the Districts of Batticaloa and Trincomalee



“Matters relating to delay in the distribution of dry ration and the performance of cooperative societies were also discussed at this meeting.”



Note: 14 % People who displaced from Trincomalee to Batticaloa have been resettled in Trincomalee

Progress of Resettlement in Batticaloa District as at 08.04.2008

No	Place of Resettlement (DS Division)	Resettled	To be Resettled
		Families	Families
1	Manmunai West-Vavunathivu	8,028	0
2	Eravur Pattu-Chenkalady	3,235	1,017
3	Koralaipattu South-Kiran	922	2,513
4	Manmunai South West- Paddipalai	6,437	0
5	Poraitivu Pattu-Vellavelly	9,098	0
6	Koralaipattu North-Vahara	4,545	0
Total		32,265	3,530
Outside the District			
1	From Trincomalee District *	5,408	2,110
Grand Total		37,673	5,640

*5,408 families with 15,710 persons were resettled in Trincomalee District



Progress of Resettlement in Trincomalee District

No	Place of Resettlement (DS Division)	Resettled	To be Resettled
		Families	Families
1	Verugal	3,021	0
2	Muttur	12,698	3,822
3	Seruwila	2,269	0
Total		17,988	3,822
In Batticaloa District		5,408	2,110
Total (Net)		12,580	1,712

Data Source- District Secretary/Government Agent

Hon.Rishad Bathiudeen M.P Minister of Resettlement & Disaster Relief Services meets Labour Minister of Qatar



Dr.Sultan Bin Hassan Al Dhabith Al Doosary, Minister of Labour and Social Welfare of State of Qatar who was on a visit to Sri Lanka heading a high level delegation called on Hon.Rishad Bathiudeen Minister of Disaster Relief Services in his Ministry on 09th January 2008. During

this meeting both the Ministers discussed many issues concerning both countries including cultural relations, resettlement

“Further they exchanged views on ways of increasing the employment opportunities in Qatar for the Sri Lankan educated skilled youths by which to provide them a reasonable standard of living.”

of Internally Displaced Persons and providing them with more social welfare benefits.

Further they exchanged views on ways of increasing employment opportunities in Qatar for Sri Lankan educated skilled youth to provide them a reasonable standard of living.

During this meeting Mr.A.C.M.Razik, Secretary to the Ministry of Resettlement & Disaster Relief Services and the Ambassador of the State of Qatar in Sri Lanka Ali Hamad Mubarak Al Marri also participated in the discussion.



“The killing of Maheswaren, while he was worshipping in a temple must be condemned and I, on behalf of the All Ceylon Muslim Congress and the Muslims of Northern Province convey deepest sympathy to his grieving family: the Minister said in his message”.

T.Maheswaren - A man with good heart who can speak in and outside Parliament without fear



Hon.Rishad Bathiudeen in his condolence message condemned the brutal assassination of T.Maheswaren, Member of Parliament stating that the country has lost a good hearted man who always

raised his voice for the rights of the Tamil Community, whom he represented respecting the rights of other communities. Late Mr. Maheswaren was of the firm view that all communities living in this country should have equal rights and there should be no discrimination. He was a kind hearted man and when I went with him to Jaffna, he invited me to his home and served me food with his own hands. He had such a high quality of hospitality. The background of this killing should be brought to light, he added in his mes-

sage. “The killing of Maheswaren, while he was worshipping in a temple must be condemned and I, on behalf of the All Ceylon Muslim Congress and the Muslims of Northern Province convey deepest sympathy to his grieving family” the Minister said in his message.

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Compensation to victims of Fort Railway Station bomb blast

On the instructions of H.E. the President Mahinda Rajapakse, payment of compensation was made to 14 bereaved families whose loved ones succumbed to their injuries due to the bomb blast. Injured persons numbering 103 in the same incident were also paid compensation by Hon.Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Resettlement and Disaster Relief Services.

A sum of Rupees One Hundred thousand and a sum of Rupees Fifty thousand will be the ceiling on payment for those killed and injured respectively. Over and above this, a sum of Rupees Fifteen thousand is being paid to the

next of kin of those killed in the incident as funeral expenses. These payments are made through the Rehabilitation Authority functioning under the Ministry of Resettlement and Disaster Relief Services.

Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen made it a point to visit Colombo National Hospital on 06th February 2008 to look into the condition of the injured. As an immediate relief measure, a sum of Rupees Fifty thousand and a sum of Rupees Ten thousand for medical treatment was paid by Hon. Minister to next of

kin of those killed and injured persons respectively. Speaking at this occasion, Hon. Minister said that the balance payment is to be effected to the victims on receipt of formal documents including medical reports.

Dr.Hector Weerasinghe, Director, Colombo National Hospital, Mr.A.C.M.Razik, Secretary, Ministry of Resettlement and Disaster Relief Services, Mr.I.A.Hameed, Chairman, Rehabilitation Authority accompanied Hon.Minister during his visit to the Hospital.

Funds released by Ministry of Resettlement & Disaster Relief Services since January 2008 up to date

The Ministry of Resettlement and Disaster Relief Services has released totally Rs.107,371,619 to the following Districts to provide relief services to the families affected by natural disasters and calamities and development from January to April 2008.

S.No	District	Disaster (Rs)	Development(Rs)
1	Ampara	10,866,680	-
2	Anuradapura	648,222	-
3	Badulla	3,397,399	-
4	Batticaloa	11,354,665	-
5	Colombo	4,224,500	-
6	Galle	380,000	-
7	Gampaha	318,000	-
8	Hambantota	250,000	-
9	Jaffna	8,918,875	-
10	Kalutara	3,887,000	-
11	Kandy	389,600	-
12	Kegalle	143,000	-
13	Kurunagala	78,131	-
14	Mannar	2,000,000	2,481,186
15	Matale	1,258,673	-
16	Matara	873,000	-
17	Monaragala	2,773,950	-
18	Nuwara-Eliya	14,551,014	-
19	Polonnaruwa	790,343	13,900,992
20	Puttalam	583,319	15,229,640
21	Ratnapura	2,286,962	-
22	Trincomalee	873,987	2,910,000
23	Vavuniya	-	2,002,481

“As an immediate relief measure, a sum of Rupees Fifty thousand and a sum of Rupees Ten thousand for medical treatment was paid by Hon. Minister to next of kin of those killed and injured persons respectively”



UN Assistance for resettlement of IDPs

During a meeting with Hon Rishad Bathiudeen on 26th February at the Ministry of Resettlement & Disaster Relief Services, UN Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs, Ms Angela Kane has expressed her willingness to provide assistance for the resettlement effort of IDPs as well as for the returnees who are now in their native places. Expressing her satisfaction over the resettlement activities of the Government, she has remarked that the resettlement process of IDPs is in line with the international protection standards. Elaborating on this, she has made a request to speedily resettle remaining IDPs still languishing in welfare centers and has

indicated her willingness to provide UN assistance and cooperation in this regard. 48861 families comprising of 171089 persons displaced due to terrorist activities after June 2006 from Batticaloa & Trincomalee districts respectively have been resettled in their original birth places in 8 Divisional Secretariat areas.

6927 families comprising 26135 persons in Batticaloa district & 1750 families comprising 5985 persons in Trincomalee Districts remain yet to be resettled. Minister Rishad Bathiudeen addressing the special envoy stated that right now, mine clearance by the Sri Lanka Army is in progress. This he said is a painstaking effort and has to be done with utmost care before

the onset of resettlement process to guarantee safe return for the IDPs. On completion of mine clearance by Army and quality assurance by UNDP Mine Action Team, IDPs will be resettled in their respective areas said Hon. Minister.

People displaced from the North have been languishing in welfare centers under trying conditions in various districts including Puttalam. Minister expressed his desire to expeditiously resettle all these IDPs in their original places of birth. He made a humble request to the visiting envoy to come forward and provide relief and assistance to the IDPs until such time they are safely resettled.

Mr. A.C.M. Razik, Ministry Secretary and Ministry Advisor, Mr. M. Vamadevan were present at this meeting.



“Ms Angela Kane, UN Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs, has made a request to speedily resettle remaining IDPs still languishing in welfare centers and has indicated her willingness to provide UN assistance and cooperation in this regard.”

Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen at the launch of a new book

The glossary compiled by an academic hailing from the North for the benefit of the young educational fraternity, is a commendable effort at a time when there are several good books being published in the interest of the learning public said Minister Rishad Bathiudeen who was Chief Guest at the launch of a glossary at Sasakawa Hall, Colombo, on 06th Feb, 2008.

The launch of the glossary compiled by Dr. M. S. Anees, Lecturer, Political Science, Colombo University, took place under the Chairmanship of Mr. M. Ameen, Deputy Chairman, Resettlement Authority.

Prof. V. T. Thamilmaran of the Colombo Law Faculty made a discourse reviewing the glos-

sary. Mr. A. H. M. Azwer, Media Ombudsman and former Minister Imtiaz Bakeer Markar, attended as Guests of Honour at this function. Minister Rishad Bathiudeen thanked Dr. Anees for having compiled the glossary and said that the glossary would be of great use to the student community.

Speaking further, the Minister said being a representative of people who are languishing in refugee camps, he has been rendering assistance to them in numerous ways. Dr. Anees has been helping him in many ways. Dr. Anees who takes keen interest in the welfare of the people is doing yeoman service for the educational upliftment of future generations, the Minister said.

Dr. Anees has devoted his book to his mentor the late Professor Ambalavanar Sivarajah, who encouraged and persuaded him to continue his studies when he wanted to give up his studies halfway due to some unforeseen difficulties. It shows how he respects his teachers. Publication of this glossary by a displaced Muslim academic gives credit to the displaced Muslims from North as well, the Minister said.

Dr. Anees presented the first copy of his book to Minister Rishad Bathiudeen. Deputy Director Treasury, Malar Gangatharan, received a copy from Minister Bathiudeen.

The glossary contains about 6,500 words in English with Tamil translations.

