

RESETTLEMENT

THE VOICE OF THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE

MINISTRY OF RESETTLEMENT & DISASTER RELIEF SERVICES

Volume 2, Issue 02

OUR VISION:

“Resettlement of internally displaced persons and refugees in their former homes or relocating them in an acceptable place in a safe and dignified manner, achieve durable solution to displacement, creation of a safe and secured society wherein all would have equal rights and freedom and effecting measures to mitigate disasters.”

OUR MISSION:

“Rehabilitation of internally displaced persons and refugees by providing them all basic and necessary facilities, absorbing them into development activities and prevention of natural disasters through creation awareness and prior preparedness thereby safeguarding the environment and human lives.”

Resettlement Programme in Trincomalee Gathers Momentum



Ministry of Resettlement and Disaster Relief Services, has initiated action to expedite the resettlement programme in Trincomalee District.

An important meeting was convened on 30.06.2008 to discuss about resettlement of displaced persons in Trincomalee District. The Meeting was held in the Divisional Secretariat, Kinniya. At this meeting it was elaborately discussed about resettling the persons in their places of origin who had been displaced from Majeed Nagar in 1990 and now living on the

borders of Kinniya Divisional Secretariat Division.

Following the meeting, in order to get first hand information, a group of Senior Ministry officials headed by Hon.Rishad Bathiudeen, visited Majeed Nagar and examined the ways and means of expediting the resettlement in Majeed Nagar.

In the past, due to abnormal situation prevailed in Majeed Nagar about 310 families fled from Majeed Nagar. Since normalcy has now been restored in the Eastern Province, steps have been taken to resettle the displaced people in their places of origin, Hon.Minister Rishad Bathiudeen, said

Hon.Minister Najeeb A.Majeed, Eastern Provincial Council Minister, Hon.M.L.A.M.Hisbulla, Provincial Council members, Hassan Moulavi and M.E.Maharoor and Kinniya Divisional Secretary, Mr.M.Mubarak took part in the visit.

Fishing communities in Mannar to get assistance for livelihood development



A special meeting co-chaired by Hon.Felix Perera, Minister of Fisheries and Hon.Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Resettlement and Disaster Relief Services, was held at the Parliamentary complex, recently. At this meeting special emphasis was laid on resolving the difficulties faced by the Fisher folk as well as to sort out their long standing necessities to continue with their livelihood. Wannu District Member of Parliament, Hon.Selvam Adaikalanathan, Hon.Sivashakthy Ananthan, Hon.Vinodaralingam, were present at the meeting to enlighten the Hon. Ministers about the hardships faced by the

fishing communities in Mannar. Special attention was focused on the difficulties hitherto encountered by Fishermen in Mannar area.

Assistant Director of Fisheries, Mannar District and the Chairman and Representatives of the Mannar District Fishermen's Association, were present at this meeting to provide first hand information and to elaborate on the prevailing difficulties faced by the Fishermen. Having given careful consideration to the problems at hand, Hon.Felix Perera, agreed to provide an interest free loan of Rs.1,000,000/- to the Mannar District Fishermen's Association. He also agreed to repair the Cold Room facility which had been rendered unusable for many years due to want of repairs. Hon.Felix Perera further agreed to make arrangements to purchase the catch of fish at a reasonable price from the Mannar District Fishermen's Association and to provide three mobile Deep Freezers to Mannar District in order to prevent spoiling during transport of fish.

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Inside this issue & Page No

Massive exercise by Government to produce intellectuals through access to higher education	2
Minister tours schools in Chilaw area	2
Funds released by Ministry of Resettlement & Disaster Relief Services up to July 2008	3
Hon.Rishad Bathiudeen meets Indian Prime Minister, H.E Mr.Manmohan Singh	4
Resettlement Progress in the Districts of Batticaloa and Trincomalee	4
180,609 Internally Displaced Persons already resettled	5
People in remote villages afforded the opportunity to reap benefits of development under Mahinda Chinthanaya concept	6

Mosque Building declared open in Hijrathnagar



Minister Rishad Bathiudeen attended a function to declare open the Mosque at Hijrathnagar, Pulichchakulam for which funds have been allocated by his Ministry. Speaking at this occasion Minister said that UPFA government under the leadership of His Excellency the President Mahinda Rajapakse,

has given priority for speedy development of the country.

At this function arranged by the Trustee Board of Hijrathnagar Mosque and the members of the All Ceylon Muslim Congress, Minister stated that discrimination based on regions and areas will always be an impediment for peace and unity among people. He further pointed out that Internally Displaced Muslims from the North do have the same needs as any other citizen of this country and are also entitled to enjoy just and equal rights.

“Due to the support extended by you to the All Ceylon Muslim Congress, today we are in a position to serve the people by this

Ministry. I am confident that the masses will be with us in strengthening the hands of his Excellency the President through good work of this Ministry”. Minister added

Minister was honored for his services by presenting him a golden shawl and a souvenir by Mr.A.L.M.Mulafer Khan, Potkerny Coordinator, to show the gratitude of the Potkerny people. Cultural performances by school children were also presented at this occasion. Mr.M.Farook, President, Masjid Noora, Moulavi Dhahlan, Member, Educational Group of All Ceylon Jamiyathul Ulama, Mr. Rubuhan, Chief Imam of Vavuniya Mosque, Mr.Alikhan Shariff, Coordinating Secretary to Minister, and many others were at this occasion.



Massive exercise by Government to produce intellectuals through access to higher education



At a function held on 28 th July 2008, on the invitation extended to Hon.Rishad Bathiudeen by school Principal Mr.M.D.M.Thahir to declare open a school building at Nazliya Madya Maha Vidyalaya, Chilaw, stated that “His Excellency the President Mahinda Rajapakse who cre-

ated a conducive environment in the East for people of all communities to live fearlessly, considers the importance of producing intellectuals through development of education”. He further stated that H.E. the President has always given priority attention to the educational sector.

This government has taken several positive measures to create an educated society by way of producing intellectuals. This would pave the way for the number of students entitled for University entrance to be increased. These students, as future citizens of tomorrow in Sri

Lanka, could be considered as the Nation's Human Capital. “At this stage we should be grateful to H.E. the President for continuing with development work as well as providing welfare measures to the people, unhindered despite the ethnic conflict in the country”. He added

Hon.Priyankara Jayaratne, Deputy Speaker, Hon.B.Anthony Victor Perera, Minister of Fisheries, Rural Industries and Rural Development, North Western Provincial Council, Chilaw, Hon.Anuruddika Fernando, Provincial Councilor, Mr.Saadikul Ameen, Councilor and Mr.A.O.Alikhan, Deputy Mayor, Puttalam, were present at this occasion.

Minister tours schools in Chilaw area



Hon.Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Resettlement and Disaster Relief Service visited schools in Chilaw area to assess the development work done so far. Hon. Minister has taken several measures to develop the schools in this area. He made it a point

to visit Nazliya Madya Maha Vidyalaya and Madampe Al Misfaak Maha Vidyalaya in the Chilaw Education Zone. He made this an occasion to exchange views on problems faced in relation to education with the school Principals, Teachers and students.

Having inspected the classrooms under construction at Madampe Al Misfaak Maha Vidyalaya, Hon. Minister made arrangements to expedite construction and handover the classrooms early for the benefit of the students. Hon. Minister

focused his attention on exploring the possibility of constructing a fully fledged play ground for this school. In this respect a special meeting was also convened by the Hon. Minister with the participation of the School Development Society.

Hon. Minister indicated that the number of students following Science and Mathematics has increased by many folds. He therefore showed his willingness to update and provide facilities to the schools for the benefit of students who pursue higher studies in science and Mathematics streams.

Funds released by Ministry of Resettlement & Disaster Relief Services up to July 2008

The Ministry of Resettlement and Disaster Relief Services has released totaling Rs. 1,375,456,495.82 to the following Districts to provide relief services to the families affected by natural disasters and calamities and for development Since January 2008 to 15 - July - 2008.

S.No	District	Disaster (Rs)	Development(Rs)	Dry Ration (Rs)
1	Ampara	27,683,202.00	500,000.00	1,456,916.00
2	Anuradapura	953,054.00	3,463,000.00	17,801,324.00
3	Badulla	4,718,205.00	-	-
4	Batticaloa	12,955,145.00	4,872,707.00	25,264,646.40
5	Colombo	11,414,000.00	-	4,883,528.00
6	Galle	9,475,000.00	-	28,224.00
7	Gampaha	15,986,110.00	318,750.00	6,780,984.00
8	Hambantota	606,300.00	-	-
9	Jaffna	10,933,875.00	4,550,000.00	168,305,684.12
10	Kalutara	26,908,390.00	-	1,647,072.00
11	Kandy	418,600.00	-	229,320.00
12	Kegalle	7,295,278.00	-	76,944.00
13	Kurunagala	362,081.00	-	2,351,344.00
14	Mannar	4,711,000.00	2,881,186.00	75,858,784.90
15	Matale	1,341,173.00	-	279,216.00
16	Matara	7,665,284.00	-	295,344.00
17	Monaragala	3,383,160.00	-	-
18	Nuwara-Eliya	17,671,879.00	-	28,224.00
19	Polonnaruwa	11,947,915.00	13,900,992.00	22,566,513.00
20	Puttalam	1,257,690.00	11,165,798.00	-
21	Ratnapura	66,168,744.00	-	71,064.00
22	Trincomalee	1,808,658.00	2,970,000.00	45,329,792.00
23	Vavuniya	1,000,000.00	3,488,714.00	162,831,901.21
24	Killinochchi	79,590.00	5,073,445.00	157,830,131.80
25	Mullaitivu	-	5,000,000.00	130,473,539.80
26	SNDM	3,470,300.00	21,203,146.00	180,706,043.70
27	Others	10,349,588.89	30,407,995.00	-
Total		260,564,221.89	109,795,733.00	1,005,096,540.93



Hon.Rishad Bathiudeen meets Indian Prime Minister, H.E Manmohan Singh



A delegation representing the All Ceylon Muslim Congress, headed by Leader of the All Ceylon Muslim Congress and Minister Rishad Bathiudeen met with Indian Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh at the Taj Samudra Hotel.

The delegation headed by Minister Rishad Bathiudeen comprised Ministers M.S.S.Ameer Ali, Najeeb A. Ma-jeed and Eastern Provincial Council Minister, M.L.A.M.Hisbullah.

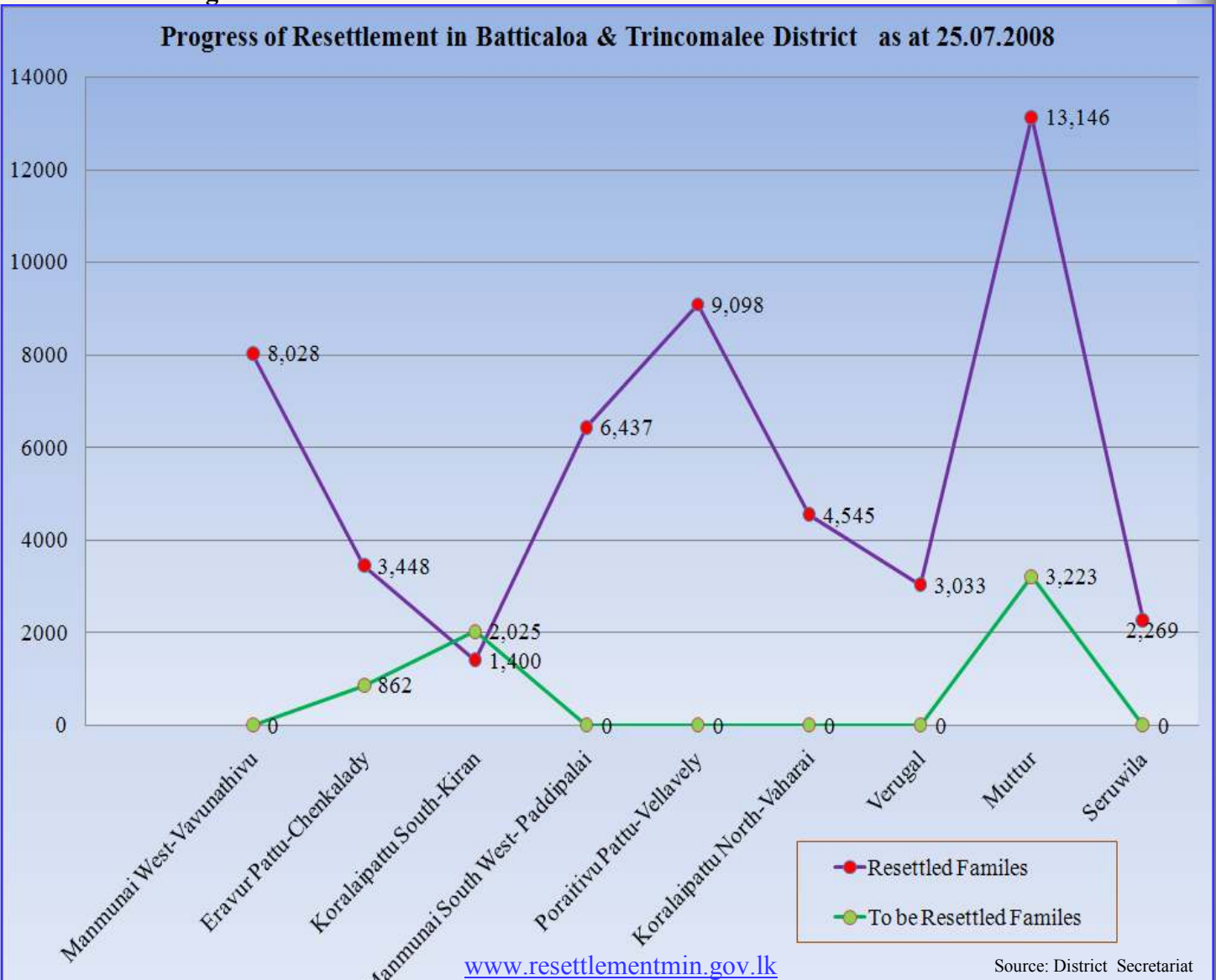
The delegation explained to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh the issues pertaining to the Muslims of North and East in the ethnic conflict including the forced eviction of Muslims from North, consequential problems confronted by them, their resettlement with dignity and protection in the future and the stance of Muslims in solving the ethnic conflict. The discussion also focused

on recently concluded Eastern Provincial Council Elections, restoration of democracy in the East, the problems faced by the Muslims especially in relation to lands owned by Muslims and encroached by others and the delegation stressed that the Muslim areas should be included in the future Indian development programmes in the East.

The delegation also pointed out that the Muslims in Sri Lanka had to live with other communities peacefully and in harmony and all communities should be treated equally.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, having listened attentively to the matters explained by the delegation agreed that the Muslims should be given their due right in the North East resolution and assured that India would act with care on this issue.

Resettlement Progress in the Districts of Batticaloa and Trincomalee



IDPs return to Weeramah Nagar in Trincomalee District



Hon. Minister's Island wide School visit and the cultural programmes of students a



39 Internally Displaced families, who are from Trincomalee district and were in Batticaloa district so far, have now been resettled in their original birth places in Trincomalee. These IDP families from Trincomalee district

Clarion call to help the displaced Muslims

Making a clarion call to the forces who are obstructing the flow of benefits to the displaced, Minister Rishad Bathiudeen urged the Muslims to come forward disregarding the vicious designs of the opponents to serve the public or give way to others who endeavour to do so.

This appeal was made by the Hon. Minister at the meeting held under the chairmanship of former Principal, Mr.M.S.Amanulla, to distribute dry ration cards and funds to provide bathroom facilities, to the resettled people of Erukalampiddy.

Hon. Minister addressing further said, the Muslim people

180,609 Internally Displaced Persons already resettled

51,404 families comprising 180,609 persons have already been resettled in the Eastern Province. In Batticaloa District 38,788 families consisting of 128,750 persons and in Trincomalee District 12,616 families comprising 51,859 persons were resettled.

At present, in Eravurpattu and in Chenkalady areas in the district of Batticaloa 862 families comprising 3,441 persons and in Korale Pattu Kiran 2,025 families comprising 8,046 persons are to be resettled. In Muttur Divisional Secretariat area 3,223 families comprising 10,904 persons in Trincomalee District are to be resettled. This includes 1,606 families comprising 5,478 persons presently living in Batticaloa District but belonging to Trincomalee District, who are to be resettled.

6,110 families comprising 22,391 persons are to be resettled. This will be done on completion of mine clearance and removal of other improvised explosive devices by the Security forces from the area earmarked for resettlement. In the meantime, Ministry officials stated that all other preliminary activities with regard to resettlement are underway.

Divisional Secretariat Areas of Batticaloa.

Ministry of Resettlement and Disaster Relief Services has made necessary arrangements to provide all basic facilities for resettlement to the returnees from the East, said Minister Rishad Bathiudeen. 39 families consisting 129 persons were taken by five busses belonging to the SLTB to their birth places at Weeramah Nagar and resettled. 04 Water wells cleaned to provide pure drinking water for the benefit of the IDPs. Further, Water Bowsers were also provided. These arrangements are being carried out by the Muttur Divisional Secretariat.

who were evicted from their homeland within two hours still continue to live as refugees, undergoing untold hardships and difficulties. Being the Member of Parliament, representing the displaced Northern Muslim community and realizing that he was entrusted with bounden duty of promoting the welfare of his people and the fear that he was answerable to the Almighty one day had made him render his services to the people, added Hon. Minister.

It was hurting that a few people with the assistance of some unscrupulous persons were doing things to wound the minds of intelligentsia of Nagavillu. It was disheartening to see that

some educated people were trying to put the stamp 'traitors' on people who were trying to do some good to the people. All should pray to God to get those innocent people freed from the influence of those wicked people, stressed Hon. Minister.

A large gathering was present at the meeting including Commissioner of Secretariat for Northern Muslims, Mr.M.K.Muhais, Kalpitiya Pradeshia Sabha, Secretary, Mr.M.G.Thajudeen, Minister's Coordinator, Mr.S.H.M.Niyas, Deputy Director of Planning, Mr.M.Nouzad, Prison Officer, Mr.Mohamed Mubeen, Teacher, Hizbulla and business personalities, Mr.Jatheer, Mr.Mazaki and Mr.Siyath.



As a result of on-going development work under the Mahinda Chinthanaya concept, people even in remote villages have started reaping the benefits of development, said Minister Rishad Bathiudeen participating recently as the Chief Guest, in a ceremony at Karaitivu to declare open a public hospital built at a cost of Rs.2,500,000/-. This hospital, constructed in the north boundary of Puttalam, was a long-standing need of the area.

Speaking at this ceremony Minister Rishad Bathiudeen said "Puttalam District is a place where people belonging to all ethnic groups live in peace and harmony irrespective of their religion, caste or creed. Most of the people are engaged in agriculture and fishing as their livelihood. This ceremony was organized by Mr.R.N.Asana Marikkar, Chairman, Vanathavillu Pradeshiya Sabha. Anyone traveling through Karaitivu area which is the gateway along Mannar Puttalam road, would see to himself that there are signs of development and prosperity to a great extent in Karaitivu area. The pioneer of this development who gave the vision for this is His Excellency the President Mahinda Rajapakse, for whom we should extend

our gratitude. Karaitivu village has a long history. Peoples' representatives should work hard with commitment to uplift the living standards of the people of this village. The people of this village went to the town spending their meager earnings to the township for purchasing their daily needs. But today with the on-going development of this village, it has been made easy for the people to lead a happy life due to availability of

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essential facilities in the village. Minister said "I convey my special thanks to Mr.R.N.Asana Marikkar, Chairman, Vanathavillu Pradeshiya Sabha for his exemplary gesture by generously donating an acre from his own land for the construction the hospital."

Hon.Neomal Perera, M.P, Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources speaking at

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this occasion said that Sri Lanka being a Buddhist country, people belonging to different communities have been afforded the freedom to observe their religious rites according to their beliefs. Until recent times people were unable to think about traveling to Northern areas. His Excellency the President Mahinda Rajapakse has made it possible for the people to live devoid of fear and suspicion. Only the government headed by H.E. the President is capable of saving the country by wiping out terrorism from Sri Lanka. Thousands of people have got displaced as a result of this cruel war. Today we see victims of this war spending their lives as internally displaced people. Minister Rishad Bathiudeen was able to break historical record in Sri Lanka. Within a short period he was able to resettle approximately 200,000 IDPs in the East, which effort has been acclaimed by the international community. It should also be noted that the reason behind the speedy development in this area, was due to the effort of Minister Rishad Bathiudeen. Therefore, we should extend our sincere gratitude to Minister Rishad Bathiudeen, said Hon. Neomal Perera.



The above pictures depict participation of Hon.Minister in various functions during the period May—August 2008

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