



யாழ். மாவட்ட  
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COUNCIL OF NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS  
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## *SITUATION REPORT - JUNE 2005*

### **1.0 GENERAL SITUATION**

At the last monthly meeting between the LTTE Political Wing leader and the SLMM office in Jaffna, the Political Wing leader protested against the collection of details of the staff working in the commercial sector in the Jaffna town by the security forces. He expressed his concern that this action is a violation of ceasefire agreement.

A survey carried out by the Centre for Policy Alternatives in the District revealed the following information.

1. 190 sq. kilometres of the District are yet under HSZ.
2. 18 locations in the District are under HSZ.
3. 30,388 families whose places of abode are within the HSZ and displaced are living in IDPs camps, with relations and friends.
4. Even now 81.5 sq. kilometres in the sea is banned for fishing under the cover of security.
5. 12,259 acres of agricultural land are in the HSZ and not under plough.
6. Females own major percentage of the private lands in the District.

Consequent to the instalation of a Buddha statue in the heart of the Trinco town and protests by other religious sectors, security forces were deployed in full strength to guard the statue. The TNA members took strong objection to the deployment of security forces and an agreement reached that the strength of the security forces will be reduced stage by stage. Non compliance of this by the Government sparked a hartal on 3re June, 2005 in the North and East. The harlal in the Jaffna District was a complete success and paralysed the activities, both public and private.

In order to respond to the malicious and vociferous propaganda by the Southern Extremists against the Tamils, a meeting entitled “The Voice of Tamil Nationalism” was held at the University of Jaffna on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2005 attended to by a large gathering. The meeting was organised by the C.H.A. Jaffna embracing the public and civil society. An abstract of the resolution moved at the meeting and sent to Her Excellency the President and others is given below.

“Southern Extremists have today revealed its brutal and cruel nature by refusing to accept even a small mechanism designed to provide a measure of relief to people adversely affected by the Tsunami.

From the time Ceylon is said to have attained independence, the stand taken by Southern Extremists is that the whole of Ceylon belongs to them, and only.

Southern Extremists have taken several measures to make the Tamils second class citizens completely ignoring the fact that the Tamils have ruled themselves for a long period in Ceylon.

The Tamil people are being opposed not only with regards to citizenship, land, language and education but also militarily.

History testifies that the North and East of Ceylon have been the homeland of the Tamils.

The Tamil people's firm stand is that they wish to rid themselves of the oppression of Southern Extremists and lead a life of freedom.

Tamils thirst for freedom is the consequence of their experience of the last fifty years.”

## **2.0 HEALTH**

The Base Hospital, Point Pedro is the second largest hospital in the District. It serves a sizeable population of the District and situated 35 kilometres away from the Jaffna Teaching Hospital.

During the years 1970 to 1980 there were consultants and sufficient medical officers. With the war conditions the services have deteriorated and it is now manned by a retired medical officer. Now the conditions are somewhat improving and the people wish that the service should be restored to the standard prevailed earlier.

For specialist medical care, the patients are compelled to go to the Jaffna Teaching Hospital undergoing lot of inconveniences and constraints.

The newly formed HDS considering the need of the people of Point Pedro and adjoining villages is anxious that the hospital should be upgraded to the level of District General Hospitals and has sent a memorandum to the DGHS Colombo with copies to relevant authorities enumerating the reasons why the hospital should be elevated to the status of a District General Hospital.

It is reported that in the Jaffna Teaching Hospital 14 Medical Specialists are working whereas there is provision for 32 medical specialists. Likewise there is shortage of medical officers and para medical officers. The cadre of both medical officers and para medical officers should be filled to provide satisfactory service to the public.

The Tellipalai Cancer Unit which ceased to function from 1990 was activated and reopened on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2005 for treatment with the installation of a cobalt unit. Under the supervision of Professor S. Suntharalingam, Radiologist who has come from America local radiologists are engaged in radiotherapy treatment of the cancer patients. The reactivation of the cancer unit at Tellipalai is a boon and great relief to the cancer patients as they need not go to Maharagama undergoing lot of inconveniences.

Four X – ray technicians from India have been contracted by WHO and their salary is paid by WHO. Two of them are posted to Jaffna Teaching Hospital and the other two have been posted to Tellipalai and Point Pedro hospitals.

The Delft hospital which is far away from Jaffna and in an Island is functioning without basic requirements - such as food items for patients, drugs, fuel, etc. It is reported that on 17<sup>th</sup> June a child died on delivery and the child could have been saved if oxygen and electricity were available.

The Jaffna Municipality General Health Unit reported that 1045 stray dogs were caught and destroyed during the last five months.

January	-	160
February	-	195
March	-	120
April	-	212
May	-	358

### **3.0 AGRICULTURE**

Rehabilitation of three small tanks in the Kopay DS Division is nearing completion. This work under the NEIAP Project is undertaken by the Agrarian Services Department.

i)	Vatharawatha Periyakulam	-	Rs. 1,700,000.00
ii)	Puttur Koonickuli Kulam	-	Rs. 700,000.00
iii)	Kopay Uchchuvil kulam	-	Rs. 400,000.00

### **4.0 EDUCATION**

More than 100 students living in the coastal areas, Pasaiyoor, Gurunagar, Navanthurai, Kakaithivu and Columbuturai have become drop outs at the beginning of this year. Of these students those within the age group of 8 – 15 are of both sex. The reason for the drop out is poverty and the atmosphere in the homes is not conducive for studies. As a first stage 50 such students have been admitted in their schools informs Social Development Foundation, Jaffna an NGO.

The newly published books such as geography, history and social studies for 7<sup>th</sup> standard students have not been sent to the District by the Education Development up to date despite the fact the errors in the editions were corrected and given by educationists and Tamil Teachers Union. The Tamil Teachers Union alleges that this is utter discrimination shown to the Tamil Students.

### **5.0 ELECTRICITY**

Electricity has not been supplied to Madduvil North, Sarasalai and Madduvil East in the Chavakachchery area. Electrical posts were erected a month back and no action taken thereafter.

It is seven years since IDPs resettled in Melinchimunai in the Kayts AGAs division and action has not been taken by the CEB to electrify this village. It is essential to supply electricity early as there is thick growth of shrubs and plants and will serve as a hiding place for robbers.

Failure of power supply has become a common feature and the CEB has to take remedial action for an uninterrupted supply.

## **6.0 TRANSPORT**

The Vallai Bridge which was reconstructed at a cost of Rs. 30, 070, 000 was opened for traffic on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2005.

To ease the expanding traffic congestion in the Jaffna town it is imperative to open for traffic the Power House road, Clock Tower road and Victoria road which are HSZ. Jaffna Brigade 512 is occupying two big hotels in the midst of the town, Gnanams hotel facing the Clock Tower road and Subhas hotel facing the Victoria road. At a meeting of the Jaffna Town Development Committee of the Jaffna Municipality it was decided to meet the Head of the Security Forces, Jaffna and to impress the need to open the three roads so that the traffic flow could be regularised.

## **7.0 ROADS**

In Vali West DS Division initial work has been started to rehabilitate six roads under the NECORD Project.

i)	Moolai second road	-	Rs. 700,000.00
ii)	Chankanai Anthiran second road	-	Rs. 620,000.00
iii)	Vaddukodai North road	-	Rs. 700,000.00
iv)	Chankanai old post office road	-	Rs. 500,000.00
v)	Araly East Kaladdy road	-	Rs. 2,000,000.00
vi)	Araly West Panaveddy road	-	Rs. 700,000.00

## **8.0 RESETTLEMENT, REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION**

Under the North – East Housing Rehabilitation Programme funded by World Bank, 1000 houses are to be reconstructed in the 14 DS Divisions of the District this year at the cost of Rs. 250,000.00 each. At the meeting held at the Jaffna Secretariat on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2005 chaired by GA the 1<sup>st</sup> payment was made to the beneficiaries.

The numbers of selected beneficiaries in the Divisions are as follows;

i)	Jaffna	-	90 houses
ii)	Nallur	-	90 houses
iii)	Kopay	-	125 houses
iv)	Sandilipay	-	85 houses
v)	Uduvil	-	85 houses
vi)	Tellipalai	-	65 houses
vii)	Point Pedro	-	70 houses
viii)	Chankanai	-	70 houses
ix)	Chavakachchery	-	125 houses
x)	Kayts	-	40 houses
xi)	Karainagar	-	15 houses
xii)	Velanai	-	40 houses
xiii)	Karaveddy	-	70 houses
xiv)	Delft	-	30 houses

For the selected beneficiaries payment will be in stages;

i)	Advance for purchasing building materials	-	Rs. 50,000.00
ii)	After the completion of foundation	-	Rs. 60,000.00
iii)	Completion for roof and construction	-	Rs. 80,000.00
iv)	Completion of all construction works	-	Rs. 60,000.00

**Note:** The policy of the Government to make payment to rebuild the houses damaged during the conflict and payment to rebuild the houses damaged by Tsunami is discriminatory. The payment to the former category is Rs. 250,000.00 whereas the payment to the latter is Rs. 500,000.00. The Council is of the opinion, that the payment should be the same irrespective of the damage caused whether during conflict or Tsunami.

The federation of the IDPs organisations has planned to stage a series of protest campaigns commencing from July, 10<sup>th</sup> to instil on the government the grave conditions under which they live in the welfare camps and their urgent demand to allow them to resettle in their own lands. It is now two decades since they vacated their lands due to the conflict and declaration of these areas as HSZ.

## **9.0 SECURITY CONCERN**

On 4<sup>th</sup> June, Rajathurai Thangarajah, aged 60 from Komanthurai, Valvetithurai while going with his sister was waylaid at a lonely spot at Malanthari, Udupidy by two persons who came in a motor bike and shot him and escaped. The victim died on the spot.

On 5<sup>th</sup> June, Asok aged 32 from Kayts was shot dead by unidentified person at Annaicoddai. The victim was three wheeler driver stationed at Kannathiddy Jaffna,

On 21<sup>st</sup> June, Nainathivu Amman car festival day, a NRTB bus knocked a mini bus proceeding in front of it at Velanai and both the vehicles fell into the sea. Of the persons travelled in the busses, a female died and 25 others got injured.

## **10.0 MINE ACTION**

Kandasamy Kandeepan aged 24 succumbed to death and Apputhurai Prateepan aged 20, Sabanayakam Sankar aged 20 and Kulasegeram Rasika aged 07 all from Kachchai South, injured and admitted to Jaffna Teaching Hospital due to the explosion of an UXO on 31<sup>st</sup> May.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> of June, S. Sutharsan aged 18 of Madduvil severely injured when he stepped on a mine near his house.

Sinnathurai Krishanthan aged 27 of Madduvil West got injured on 10<sup>th</sup> June due to an UXO explosion while he was tilling his land for cultivation.

S. Kunaraj aged 41 of Madduvil South was seriously injured on 17<sup>th</sup> June when he stepped on a mine near his house.

In Kopya Divisional Secretary's Division "Halo Trust" undertook demining in two places and document certifying the completion of the task was handed over to the District Mine Action Office, Jaffna Secretariat on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2005.

<b>Place</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Mines</b>	<b>Unexploded Bombs</b>
Sirupiddy	2,775 sq.	286	02
Irupalai	3,722 sq.	405	01

### **11.0 VISITS**

Two members of the European Commission, Marian Homayoon and Gilles Bertrand visited the Council on 3<sup>rd</sup>, June 2005 and had a discussion. The President informed that the Council does not implement projects and that the member organisations only implement the projects. They were also briefed of the activities of the Council after 1995. Report on RRR in 1998, World Bank Workshops and report on NEIAP projects in 2002. It was suggested that the emergency relief assistance provided through the Agencies should be transformed to support sustainable development and local NGOs should be incorporated as partners.



Two lecturers from the University of New South Wales paid a visit to the Council on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2005. Their main purpose of the visit to the Council was to apprise themselves of the conditions prevail in the Health sector, the drawbacks and the needs.

T. Thevananth  
Hony. Secretary