



யாழ். மாவட்ட
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Situation Report – July 2005

1.0 GENERAL SITUATION

Prisoners in the Jaffna prison are without basic necessities. They are undergoing hazards due to lack of electricity supply and health amenities. The prison is housed in a private building and sufficient space is not available for the prisoners and others under detention due to the lack basic facilities. Action has to be taken to build a prison with basic necessities that are available in other parts of the island.

Mr. Sooriyakumar, Secretary, Federation of Fishermen Society, Vadamarachchy emphasised the failure on the part of the Government to implement the Joint Mechanism as signed by the Government and the LTTE. This maybe an indication that solution to the ethnic conflict is at a distance and not possible by peaceful means.

A mammoth meeting “Tamil National Resurgence Convention” comprising Educationists, Members of Government, Non – Government and Cooperative Sectors, Civil Societies, Inter Religious Leaders and Tamil Parliamentarians was held in Vavuniya on 27th July, 2005. The Meeting lasted the full day in which discussion centred “Self Determination of the Tamils in Sri Lanka”. A number of papers were read by Educationists and Resource Persons. The climax of the meeting was a proclamation “We proclaim that an environment must be created to enable us to decide our destiny and our people are continuing to rise as a force to procure the goal of a sacred and higher life of freedom”.

Swiss Peace Foundation, UNICEF, UNDP and UNESCO have recommended that Ms. Saila Ithayaraj of Jaffna, founder of Tharaka Center be considered for Nobel Prize, 2005.

Centre for Performing Arts, Jaffna has planned a line up of events for the next six months to promote peace and confidence building among the communities in the country informed Rev. Fr. Mariya Xavier, Director of the Centre.

2.0 HEALTH

Mr. Tyerrone Fernando, Governor NEPC was present for the official ceremonial opening of the cancer unit at Tellipalai Hospital (located in the High Security Zone) on 16th July. He said that 25% of the cancer patients in Sri Lanka are from North and East.

Mr. C. Rangarajan, Chief Secretary, NEPC announced that Commander, Secretary Forces, Jaffna has agreed for the opening of a separate road exclusively to the hospital

to facilitate the patients and staff of the hospital who will be allowed to use the road without any checking and hindrance.

Dr. A. Keetheswaran, DPDHS, Jaffna informed that the Governor NEPC has approved the reemployed health officers could work till the age of 79 considering the acute shortage of health officers both medical and paramedical in the Jaffna hospitals.

Dr. C.J. Jamunanathan of Jaffna Chest Clinic informed that 59 patients have been identified during the last six months of TB infection and another 222 person are suspected of TB infection as per details below.

DS Division	Infected with TB nos.	Suspected TB infection nos.
Point Pedro	09	53
Jaffna Town	15	57
Tellipalai	04	29
Kopay	08	16
Chankanai	13	26
Kayts	03	27
Chavakachcheri	07	14
Total	59	222

A patient from Puthukudierupu was admitted in the Kilinochchi hospital and transferred to the Jaffna Teaching Hospital on 28th June, 2005 while he was taken upstairs for examination lost his sense, fell and sustained injuries in the head and later died. This fatal mishap could have been avoided if there had been a lift to take patients upstairs.

Humedica with a view to organise a boat ambulance service in the islands has made arrangements to build a boat ambulance in Colombo. The people of the islands will be much benefited by this service which is a long felt need.

3.0 EDUCATION

In the Jaffna District, Valigamam Education Zone has a fairly large number of schools. 90% of the schools function with limited furniture and the students are compelled to sit on the floor and study and this affect them psychologically. The pathetic situation was pointed out to the authorities and nothing tangible has been done. Rs. 30.0 million is required to meet the shortage of furniture in this zone lament Mr. P. Vigneswaran, Director of the zone.

Acute shortage of teachers is found in the Tamil areas. Out of 11,093 vacancies in the Island, there are 9,286 vacancies in the Tamil areas. Details depicted below. This reflects the discrimination.

1. Jaffna - 1,037
2. Killinochchi - 446
3. Mannar - 382

4. Mullaithivu	-	424
5. Vavuniya	-	560
6. Batticaloa	-	1,087
7. Amparai	-	571
8. Trincomalee	-	691
9. Upcountry	-	4,088

Deputy Head of the College of Education, Jaffna observed that 50% of the nurseries are functioning without basic facilities. For the future life of these students, nursery education should have the facilities available in developed countries. Unfortunately in our District, the nursery schools lack in this respect and every endeavour must be taken by the authorities and other interested in this sector to remedy this lapse.

4.0 AGRICULTURE

Occupation of traditional farmlands and not allowing the farmers to cultivate these lands in the Palaly High Security Zone by the security forces is a violation of Fundamental Human Rights and the farmers have filed action in the High Court seeking order to allow them to do cultivation in their farmland.

Sprinkler irrigation system has been introduced in the District and 40 farmers have been provided with necessary installation and another 50 farmers receiving equipment shortly. The cost to install this system for ¼ acre is Rs. 30,000.00. UNDP provided 50% of the cost and the balance to be met by the beneficiaries. The benefits from this system are;

1. More yield
2. Less fuel consumption
3. Requirement of water will be reduced to 1/3
4. Less irrigation time – reduced to 1/3
5. Soil will be soft and weeding easy
6. No need of water channels
7. Less infection

Farmers are confronted with the problem of marketing their produce as they have to compete with the traders who bring vegetables etc. to the district from the South.

5.0 ELECTRICITY

Electricity failure has become very frequent. This hinders the activities in the hospitals, offices (both government and non government), industries and also disturbs the studies of the children.

6.0 FISHING

In the district mechanised boats are being used for fishing now. In order to effect repairs and to maintain the boats in good condition the services of a permanent

engineer is necessary according to the President of the Fisheries Cooperative Federation.

7.0 HISTORICAL VALUE

In Nallur, walls of the Jamuna Tank which was built by King Pararasasekaran about 500 years ago is on the verge of collapse due to erosion and passage of time. The wall on one side of the tank is on the boundary of the Education Department, Jaffna zone. There is a risk of the tank water inundating into the Education Department and adjoining houses and lands. Authorities concerned should take timely action to see that the tank which is of historical importance is repaired.

8.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Within the Jaffna Municipality area, refuse is being dumped along the roads and abandoned lands. This will help spread infectious diseases in addition to spreading a pungent odour.

Further refuse from the Jaffna Teaching Hospital is dumped in Pommaiveli, Kalundai. Failure to destroy the refuse by burning will result in the waster leeching into the nearby fields and into the sea causing much damage to the surrounding environment. Urgent action should be taken by the Municipality to destroy the refuse completely.

The municipality has informed that there are only seven tractors to remove refuse and waste. It is only with these seven tractors the refuse etc. have to be removed from sea/beach, hospital, markets, roads and private lands. As a result the refuse cannot be cleared in due time. In retrospect, the municipality owned more than 21 vehicles for clearing refuse in 1981.

The Government Agent, Jaffna observed that excess use of agro chemicals is polluting the soil and water and advised the farmers resort to alternate insecticide and fertiliser.

9.0 SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN

Of the 15 Divisions in the District, there are only three divisions with Probation and Child Care Services Officers. The Government Agent, Jaffna has apprised the authorities concerned to appoint Probation and Child Care Services Officers to the other Divisions as well to take necessary legal action against the offenders of sexual abuse of children in the District.

10.0 ROAD ACCIDENTS

The examiner of motor vehicles observed that road accidents are now very common in Jaffna. Most of these road accidents could be averted if traffic signals are put up and one way traffic is enforced strictly by the police. Further, there should be speed bumps where there is heavy traffic especially within the city limits.

At a meeting held at the office of the Supdt. of Police, Jaffna, the Supdt. said as of 1st August, 2005 changes are to be introduced in regard to traffic flow. In Jaffna town, traffic signals will be erected at five junctions that include:

1. Windsor Junction
2. Ariyakulam Junction
3. Sathirasanthi Junction
4. Vembadi Junction
5. Front of Jaffna Central Bus Stand

11.0 SECURITY CONCERN

A young fisherman from Gurunagar died to electrocution while returning after fishing and got accidently entagled on an electric fence erected by the security forces.

As a protest against this incident the Fishermen Cooperative Union staged a picket on 4th July, 2005 demanding the removal of the security fence. District Coordinator, HRC, Jaffna made an adverse remark on the irresponsible action of the security forces and said that compensation should be paid to the victim's family.

12.0 VISITS

Mr. Mano Tittawela, Chairman, TAFREN, visited Jaffna on 27th June and attended a meeting at the Jaffna Secretariat. The participants were Government officials, Security forces, NGOs and LTTE. He also visited the Tsunami affected areas.

T. Thevananth
Hony. Secretary