



மகாவலி எதிர்ப்பு தமிழர் மரபுரிமைப் பேரவை Anti Mahaweli Tamils' Heritage Forum

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Chemmalai, Alampil, Mullaitivu

His Excellency President Maithripala Sirisena,
Presidential Secretariat,
Galle Face,
Colombo,

Your Excellency,

Upset over the happenings in the Mullaitivu district due to the Mahaweli Authority's interventions

1. We Anti Mahaweli Tamils' Heritage Forum, on behalf of the civil society organizations and community-based organizations of Mullaitivu District, compelled to write this letter; being very much worried and upset over the happenings in the district due to the Mahaweli Authorities interventions. We will be failing in our duty if we do not at this juncture bring to your notice.
2. It has been reported, The Welioya centred Mahaweli L Zone surrounded by North Central, Northern and Eastern Provinces is under a massive infra structural development at present. It is learnt that after the ending of the war in 2009, the expansion Mahaweli project in L Zone, 6000 Sinhala families have been colonized in the Welioya area. Over 2000 acres of livelihood lands belongs to the Tamil community, displaced in 1984 also redistributed to the colonized Sinhala families. The Mahaweli Development Authority has spent over Rs.3000 million for providing drinking water, electricity, transport, health care, self-employment opportunities and for school development work in the Welioya area. There is no single Tamil family benefited through the Mahaweli programme in the region.
3. We feel ,the Welioya division in the Mullaitivu district of the Northern Province, created for the exclusive purpose of Sinhala colonization of a strategic piece of merging Land of North and East Provinces in order to wedge the North from the East, has been carved out by joining territories of the Mullaitivu district as well as territories of the Vavuniya district to seek to permanently wedge the demographic contiguity of the northern and eastern provinces.
4. In Mullaitivu District, In the past the Mahaweli Authority limits its operations in the Welioya division, even though most of the GN divisions of the Maritimpattu DS Division are coming under Mahaweli L zone, it is not operationalized. However, by issuing the Mahaweli land permits to some illegal (convicted by the Courts) fishermen in Karunaddukerny, Kokkuthoduvai and Kokkulai GN divisions of Maritimpattu DS division, the Mahaweli Authority is intervening in the land administration of the Divisional Secretariat.
5. We suspect, the Mahaweli L and the proposed K and J zones are systematically planned to change the demographic pattern and contiguity of Tamils and accelerating Sinhala colonization in the North.
6. Further, it has been reported the archaeological department is trying to manipulate the history and declare some ancient Tamils' cultural and religious locations as Buddhist temples. The recent examples are the Nayaru hindu temple VS Buddhist temples issue and Vedukkunari Hindu temple issue in Nedunckerney.

7. Thousands of fishing families of Mullaitivu District are depending on the Nanthikkadal and Nayaru lagoons for their livelihood. However, recently both lagoons are declared as the nature reserves by the government. This will badly affect the income generation and Livelihood of the poor fishing families.
8. Your Excellency, the constrains our people have in restoring their lives back to its past glory in Mullaitivu district is very complicated. The people of Mullaitivu are undergoing untold hardships due to the unaccepted regulations.
9. We sincerely hope, as the Citizen of this country we could breath freely talk and act freely under your great leadership.

Our Demands

- 1. Considering the benefits, disbenefits, challenges and the complication of the Mahaweli project in the North, we are compelled to request you to immediately stop the Mahaweli project in Mullaitivu district and proposed plans in Northern Province.**
- 2. The recently issued land permits by the Mahaweli Authority to the illegal Sinhala fishermen in the Maritim Pattu DS division (Karunaddukerney , Kokkuthoduvai and Kokkulai GN divisions) must be withdrawn with immediate effect.**
- 3. Over 2000 acres of livelihood lands belonging to the Tamil community, displaced in 1984 distributed to the settled Sinhala families in Welioya, must be recovered and handed back to the original owners.**
- 4. Without consulting the local communities and district government officials, Archeological department is declaring the locations in order to manipulate the history and abandon the Tamils' cultural heritage. We urge you to instruct the relevant authorities not to do so.**
- 5. Sinhala colonization of a strategic piece of merging Land of North and East Providences must be stopped with immediate effect, failing which will affect the ethnic harmony in the region.**
- 6. The Declared Nanthikkadal and Nayaru lagoons Nature Reserves must be withdrawn considering the livelihood of poor fishing families with immediate effect.**

Your Excellency, in conclusion we plead with you to consider our appeal to sustain the peace and reconciliation process in the country.

Thanking you

Yours Faithfully

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Rev. Father Leo Amstrong	V. Navaneethan	Dr. K Sutharshan
Co-Chairmen	Co-Chairmen	Co-Chairmen
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