

Minutes of Permanent Shelter Review Meeting

Date : 03rd January' 2006
Time : 6: 15 pm to 7 pm
Venue : Main Conference Hall, Collectorate, Nagapattinam.
Chaired by : Dr. J.Radhakrishnan, District Collector, Nagapattinam.

The District Collector welcomed all the participants and immediately started the meeting. Mr. Raman, Special Deputy Collector and members from NCRC – Mr. Anthony Xavier and Mr. Biju were also present in the meeting.

- The Collector expressed his disappointment over the poor status of permanent shelter construction. Its one year since tsunami hit the district but still many NGOs have not at all began the construction work.
- Mobilization of man, material and money is not effective among many NGOs which are the main cause for delay in construction work.
- He stated that TMSSS who have acquired the maximum allotment (nearly 2500 houses) for permanent shelter construction in the district have shown the least progress so far.
- The existence of temporary shelters is encouraging many fire accidents and floods that affect the people. This is leading to repeated distribution of relief by the government and repairs and maintenance by the NGOs.
- Dismantling of these 58 shelters at the earliest is very necessary to reduce the burden from everyone's shoulders, to safeguard the lives of the people and also to speed up permanent shelter work.
- The performance of SIFFS in Chinnagudi and Chinnamedu was appreciated but the fire accident in their temporary shelters in Tharangambadi is an indication of the urgent need to remove the same at the earliest.

Then, the Collector asked the NGOs about the progress and the time within which they will complete the construction work.

- Chaitanya Trust told that 25 houses will be fully completed by January last week out of the total houses allotted to them.

- Real Plan is still involved in procuring of materials required for the entire construction work allotted to them. They promise to speed up work and complete construction as soon as possible.
- In Koolaiyar, CASA is expected to complete 50 houses by the end of March this year. Due to water logging problem, CASA has not started construction in Thooduvai.
- Collector suggested all the NGOs to adopt reliable modern technologies to overcome all such hurdles and speed up the construction work as a consolidation of the entire work done in Nagapattinam district in the rehabilitation phase has to be prepared by May'2006.
- In Chavadikuppam, TMSSS has also not progressed much and hence they were suggested to rework on the number of houses acquired by them for construction according to the funds availability. Similarly, NGOs who think it is not in their capacity to complete the work allotted to them, shall withdraw without any guilt or hesitation. The government will take over the job of completing the work.

Unlike in Kanyakumari, the efforts of NGOs in Nagapattinam should get maximum appraisal and appreciation. For this, an overall progress in the permanent shelter construction should be shown to maintain name received by the NGO- Government relationship in Nagapattinam. Similarly, the community has sincere respect for both the government and NGOs working here and hence all this should be utilized effectively to bring back normalcy in the district.

- EFICOR has completed earth work for all the sites in Puliyanthurai and further work is under progress. But due to raise in water level in the river near the work area, transporting of construction materials is become difficult.
- The layout for Pudupettai is still under process. But the Collector asked them to immediately start work with the layouts prepared for similar construction areas.
- Holy Cross Society is also not progressed due to water logging problem in the construction area.
- Collector praised the remarkable progress being done by RCPDS/SPEECH and IID. The latter promises to complete the work by end of April' 2006. World Vision is also showing reasonable progress in Kallar.
- Collector requested all the NGOs not to declare or erect any hoarding that reveals the cost per house incurred. This will lead to unnecessary controversies

among the community as the cost may be higher or lower due to various factors than the standard cost prescribed by the government.

- It was decided that on every Monday and Tuesday the NGOs should do self assessment of the construction work done throughout the week, prepare a consolidated report by Thursday evening and it should be regularly given for review on Fridays.
- More delay in shelter construction will lead to antagonizing the community who in turn will pull down the image built by all of us despite many criticisms and difficulties. Also, the climatic changes will be back to interrupt work progress and hence the planning has to be effective so as to finish work on time.

Apart from all this, the Collector gave instructions to the NGOs with regard to few other important issues:

- NGOs who are still distributing relief materials to individuals like dry ration, food materials, bed sheets, etc., need to stop it. This encourages clashes between communities who received and those who did not receive.
- No more boats and nets should be distributed to the community as more than enough has already reached the community. In case, more men and women need livelihood support, intensive research should be done before any further assets are provided.
- Distribution of trolley to vendors and rickshaws to drivers shall be encouraged. But it has to be made sure that only the deserving people get any more relief or support from the NGOs.
- It was notified that it will be very difficult to catch hold of construction labourers for 10 to 15 days after the annual festival of Pongal. It will be followed by the general elections which will create more difficulty in getting cooperation from the labourers as well as the public.

From the district administration's point of view, Collector said that it was necessary to do continuous progress and development in the rehabilitation work to maintain the national and international eminence gained by the district.

List of Organisations who were present for the Permanent Shelter Review Meeting on 03.01.2006 (Tuesday) at Main Conference Hall, Collectorate, Nagapattinam

Sl. No	Organisation	Name of the Person/ Designation	Phone/Mobile	E-mail
1	Jamaat- e- islami Hind	T. Amir	98432-16790	ccchennai@rediffmail.com
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4	World Vision India	Andrews Devarajan	94431-43946	-
5	World Vision India	Ganesan	94437-12751	-
6	Real Plan	V. Krishna Kumar	94430-96607	real_trust@vsnl.com
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9	UEL CI	R. Asokan	9842585362	-
10	SIFFS	X. Joseph	98949-99361	joseph@siffs.org
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13	CST	P.V.Raj	04364-263250	-
14	EFICOR	Samuel Mannel	94439-86171	-
15	Holy Cross Society	N. Ramesh	94430-71257	
16	The Salvation Army	R. Ponsarathi	94431-86389	pon_sarathi@yahoo.co.in
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18	PDA	Ashok Raja, PR	98656-14024	
19	Jeh- CBM	Rajasekaran	94432-35636	
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22	CASA	R.K.Thambu	98409-36156	casanagai@sancharnet.in
23	YMCA Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme, National Council of YMCA of India	G. Peter, Project Coordinator	04365-225913, 94438-74627	-
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