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பாராளுமன்றம்
PARLIAMENT

16/06/2021

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Hon. Makinda Rajapaksha
Hon'ble Prime Minister
Prime Minister Office,
Colombo.

Request to use the decentralized funds (DCB) for the relief assistance to the affected poor families by Covid – 19 disasters

Our country has been paralyzed due to the rapidly spreading Covid – 19 epidemic and measures are being taken to prevent the spread of the epidemic. The requests of the health officials have been accepted and the weekly travel bans have been extended for more than a month. Nevertheless the pace of infection and mortality rates has not slowed down. In this situation, the poor families, the wage labourers, coolies and the economically weaker are facing starvation due to restrictions on the movement of people and they are unable to earn at least one rupee for their livelihood. The five thousand rupees financial assistance provided by the government is limited to samurdhi beneficiaries only. Families who do not receive the samurdhi assistance scheme and are eligible for samurdhi assistance have been neglected in the above five thousand rupees financial assistance. They are suffering from untold hardships and the five thousand rupees financial relief provided cannot be considered as a relief scheme to compensate for the daily rise in prices of goods. The financial relief of five thousand rupees is not enough even for five days.

Can the politicians and government officials who enact Covid laws imposing travel restrictions save their family with only five thousand rupees? Even government and non-government officials who receive a monthly salary are unable to cover the cost of living. Hence



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the plight of the poor below poverty line is deplorable. The ordinary people struggling with hunger into poverty are worst affected mentally. Those people have been facing to other side effects and diseases due to starvation. When the spread of starvation begins its side effects that nobody can control the disease and it only leaves death. Neither the government nor anyone else can be blamed for the starvation deaths.

Today the daily wage earners of a poor family do not ask a three time meal or biryani, but they expect three time porridge to survive.

Therefore I request you to use the financial allocation for my Vanni district for this year's decentralized budget to alleviate the hunger and starvation of the poor people in my district who are in a state of poverty. I humbly ask you to distribute these funds to all the three administrative districts of Vanni (electorate) constituency and rescue them from starvation and death. We can only draw if there is a wall. Although development projects are for the people, they are now asking food to eat or porridge to drink. As you are the minister of finance handling decentralize funds, not only my ten million rupees but also the funds of the other five parliamentarians in the Vanni district and all the 225 parliamentarians' decentralize funds, 2250 million rupees will be transferred to the respective districts due to the spread of poverty and famine in all the districts of the country due to the spread of this deadly Covid – 19 epidemic. I consider it a precedent set by the need of the hour. I believe this is urgent and necessary and acceptable to all. I request you to express my consent and willingness to release my funds to the three district secretariats in Vanni for disaster relief assistance to the needy and poor families and to direct the relevant authorities to make the appropriate arrangement.

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