

# 1. SRI LANKA MUSLIMS

Sri Lanka is a multi ethnic and multi lingual plural society consisting inter-alia of Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims, Malays and Burghers. Each ethnic group has a distinct religious, and cultural identity which has to be carefully nurtured.

The Muslims of Sri Lanka are a peaceful and law abiding people with strong religious conviction. They came to this country thousands of years ago whose arrival was not accompanied by military subjugation. Therefore, there was no bitterness or animosity between the natives and the Muslims.

Arabia in Sanskrit is “Yavana” in Pali “Yonna” and in Tamil “Sonaham”. The Arab settlers who were the ancestors of Ceylon Muslims were called by the Sinhalese and Tamils, by the names given by their respective languages “Yonaka” and “Sonakar” respectively

When the Portuguese landed in Colombo in 1505 it had a large Muslim Population. They called the Muslims “Moors”, a name which denoted the Muslim inhabitants of Mauritania in North Africa.

Portuguese considered the Muslims their sworn enemy, not only because of business rivalry but also they found that it was almost impossible to convert them to Christianity while some leading members of the other communities readily embraced the new religion. Therefore, to expel them from the Portuguese territories was patriotic and to deny them the right to live in this world was service to God.

The Muslims of Sri Lanka are second to none in their allegiance and loyalty to the country. The position of the Muslims towards the land of their birth is not a political phenomenon of the recent times. It is reflected in the entire freedom struggle of the country through the ages.

When the Portuguese expelled the Muslims, King Mayadunna of Sitawaka and King Senarath of Kandy gave them asylum in their territories. Four Thousand Muslims expelled by Constantine de Saa were re-settled by Senarath in the East coast of Ceylon and the decedents of these refugees have since merged with those of the original Arab settlers in and around Kalmunai whose ancient colony is described as “Arabiththa Civitas” in the 15<sup>th</sup> century Vatican manuscript of Ptolemy’s map. They now occupy the East coast of Sri Lanka, where they have established a sturdy rural tradition as industrious farmers.

The process of Muslim penetration into the interior and their subsequent integration with the Sinhalese and Tamil communities was not caused entirely by the “Push” from the colonial territories. It was also the result of a simultaneous “pull” from the independent Kandyan Kingdom. Although the Kandyan Kingdom had its own natural protection in the form of impenetrable central hills, it also had its strategic weaknesses. The most vulnerable part of the kingdom especially in case of a foreign attack were its few outlets to the sea like the port of Kalpitiya, Trincomalee, Kottiyar and Batticaloa. By capturing and controlling these harbours one could strangle this kingdom economically as it was

through these ports that the Kandyan produce found its way to the outside world and the Kandyan imports found their way to the local consumer. Therefore, to lose these ports to the enemy was tantamount to political suicide. The Kandyan Kings have realized this danger especially in view of their hostile attitude towards the Portuguese.

The four thousand or so Muslims who were expelled by the Portuguese were accommodated by King Senarath and were allowed to settle down at various strategic areas along the Eastern sea coast between Trincomalee and Pottuvil. These settlement grew so strong that later when the Dutch in order to “contain the Kingdom of Kandy within land-locked boundaries and seek to divest it of its outlets to the sea and to the outer world” wanted to “root out” the Muslims from the coastal areas, the latter resistance proved formidable.

The Muslims of Sri Lanka formed a well integrated community at the time of the arrival of the Dutch to the shores of Ceylon. There were long established settlements of Muslims all along the coasts of the Island as well as inland. Even the Portuguese persecution did not seem to have succeeded in driving away the coastal Muslim settlements as evidenced in Dutch records indicate the presence of these communities in the low-land in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Muslim settlements in the Kandyan area were much older than 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Gopala Muslims of the Kegalla district which formerly belong to the Kingdom of Kandy, seem to have settled there much earlier.

Muslims have not demanded separation nor are we terrorists. We have always stood with the people in the fight to protect the independence and sovereignty of the country. We did not change our religion to receive honours or land. We are proud of our loyalty. This loyalty we carried to the last when Dr. T.B. Jayah, in Parliament, on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1945 speaking on the Sri Lanka Dominion Status Bill, said “When the question of Independence arises, we the Muslims will put aside our differences and stand as one with the Sinhalese” It was in appreciation of this sentiment, the late Mr. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike said “the Sinhalese will stand for ever indebted to the Muslims for the unselfish stand they took on the question of Independence.”

In the last fifty or sixty years, during which Sri Lanka mounted a Constitutional struggle, you will not come across one solitary Muslim voice against the aspirations of the majority Sinhalese people. Muslim representatives did not go before Royal Commissions, nor have they gone before the International Community with accusation and sought to blacken the image of the Sinhalese people. In fact, if there is one community that could legitimately complain of being discriminated in the field of Education, Land Alienation, Colonization etc. which come under the purview of the State, it could be the Muslims of Sri Lanka.

Nearly two-third of the Muslims live in the Sinhalese speaking areas and the one-third in the Tamil speaking areas in the Northern and the Eastern Provinces. More than half the Community depend on Trade and the rest depend on land for cultivation.

Registered Muslim Voters in the Eastern Province according to District and Electorates - 2004

1. Electoral District No.13 Digamadulla

<b>Electorate</b>	<b>District M.P.</b>	<b>Total Voters</b>	<b>Muslims %</b>	<b>Muslim Voters</b>
A. Ampara	1	132,371	0.08	1,058
B. Sammanthurai	1	63,166	74.8	47,248
C. Kalmunai	1	60,456	69.6	42,077
D. Pottuvil	2	123,051	50.6	62,263
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>379,044</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>152,646</b>

2. Electoral District No.12 Batticaloa

<b>Electorate</b>	<b>District M.P.</b>	<b>Total Voters</b>	<b>Muslims %</b>	<b>Muslim Voters</b>
A. Kalkuda	1	86,626	29.3	25,381
B. Batticaloa	2	141,190	34.2	48,286
C. Pattiruppu	1	76,112	0.7	532
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>303,928</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>74,199</b>

3. Electoral District No.14 Trincomalee

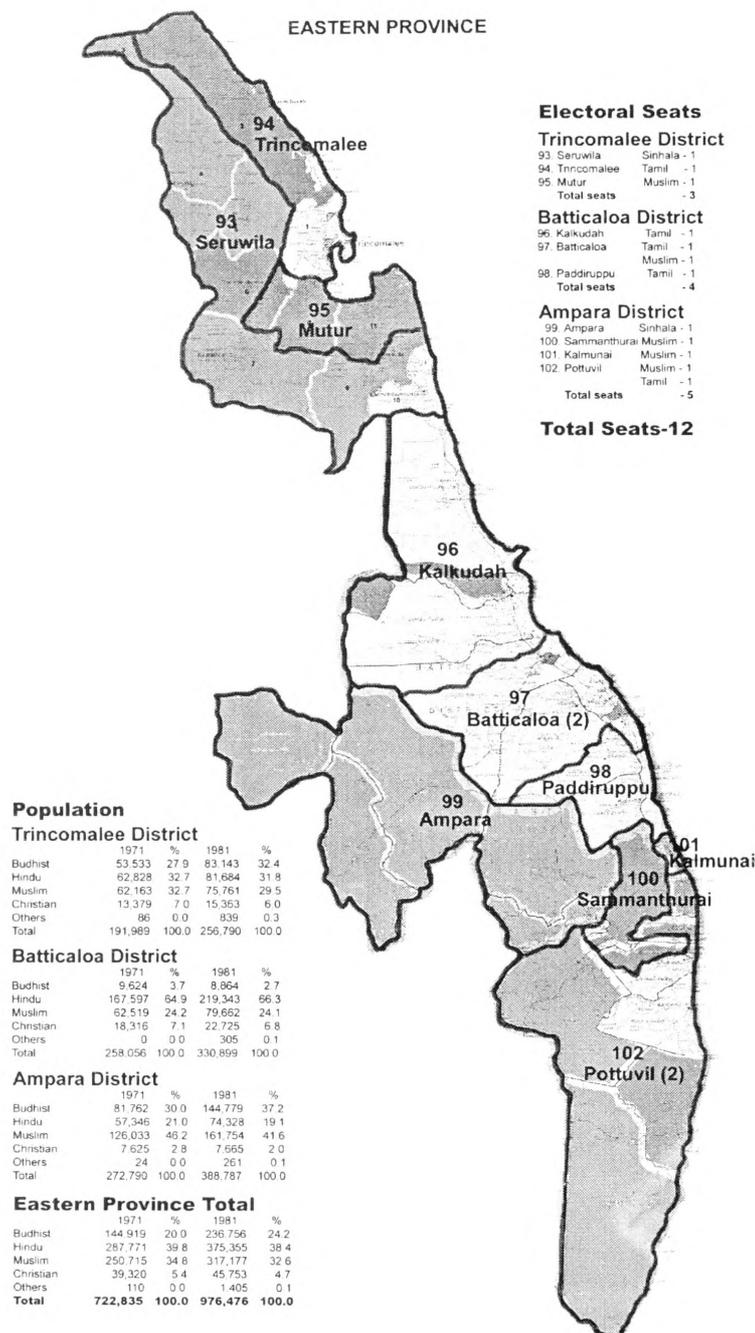
<b>Electorate</b>	<b>District M.P.</b>	<b>Total Voters</b>	<b>Muslims %</b>	<b>Muslim Voters</b>
A. Seruvila	1	63,161	13.7	8,653
B. Trincomalee	1	86,277	18.7	16,133
C. Mutur	1	74,869	66.1	49,488
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>224,307</b>	<b>33.2</b>	<b>74,274</b>

Nearly a third of the Muslim population of Sri Lanka lives in the Eastern Province. It is from the Eastern Province, Muslim Representatives are elected by the Muslims for the Muslims and today we have 11 Muslim MPP – 6 elected and 5 national list in the Parliament. It is for the first time now in the history of the Eastern Province that we have 7 Muslim MPP as Ministers and Deputy Ministers.

## 2. EASTERN PROVINCE

Eastern Province is 3,839 sq. miles in extent, bounded - North-Maha Oya, East-Bay of Bengal, South-Kumbukan Oya and West-Monaragala, Badulla, Matale, Polonnaruwa and Anuradhapura Districts. Originally Trincomalee and Batticaloa were the two districts in this province. 1956 census recorded the following population:

	Trincomalee District	Batticaloa District	Eastern Province
Tamils	33,796 (46.47%)	102,264 (51.15%)	136,060 (49.90%)
Muslims	23,219 (31.93%)	85,805 (42.92%)	109,024 (40.00%)
Sinhalese	15,706 (21.60%)	11,850 (5.93%)	27,556 (10.10%)



Batticaloa District was divided into the present Ampara and Batticaloa Districts in 1961.

Detail of 1981 population in the Eastern Province

	<b>Trincomalee District</b>	<b>Batticaloa District</b>	<b>Ampara District</b>	<b>Eastern Province</b>
Tamils	93,510 (39.78%)	238,216 (72.59%)	79,725 (20.57%)	411,451 (42.42%)
Muslims	74,403 (29.26%)	79,317 (24.17%)	116,481 (41.66%)	315,201 (32.49%)
Sinhalese	89,341 (33.96%)	10,646 (3.24%)	146,371 (37.77%)	243,358 (25.09%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>245,250</b>	<b>328,170</b>	<b>387,577</b>	<b>970,010</b>

### **Population Growth in the Eastern Province from 1949 and 1981**

Tamil population increased from 136,059 to 411,451 - 302%, Muslim population increased from 109,024 to 315,358 - 289%. The Sinhalese population increased from 27,556 to 243,358 - 883%, national average increased of Sinhalese population during this period is only 238%. The sudden increase of Sinhalese population in the Eastern Province is the result of Government planned Sinhala colonization in Gal-oya, Pannal-oya, Ambalam-oya in Ampara District and Kanthalai, Allai, Morawewa, Muthelikulam, Pathavia (Pait), and Mahadiluwera schemes in the Trincomalee District.

### **Eastern Province Population – 2007**

Tamils 641,608 – 41.4%, Muslims 593,001 – 38.2%, Sinhalese 316,192 – 20.4%, Total 1,550,801 – 100%.

### **Political Representation of Eastern Province**

Parliament General Election - 2004, Elected Members – 15 MPP

#### **Electoral District 13 – Digamadulla – 7 MPP**

##### **Peoples' Alliance – PA**

1. Mrs. Ferial Asraff
2. Mr. A.L. Athaullah

##### **United National Party – UNP**

1. Mr. B. Dayaratna

##### **Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna – JVP**

1. Mr. Vasantha Piyathissa

##### **Sri Lanka Muslim Congress – SLMC**

1. Mr. Fisal Mohamed Cassim
2. Mr. Mohamed Naushad Majeed

##### **Ilankai Tamil Arasuk Katchi – TNA**

1. Mr. Kanagasabai Pathmanathan

## **Electoral District 12 – Batticaloa – 5 MPP**

### **Ilankai Tamil Arasuk Katchi – TNA**

1. Mr. Thambanpillai Kanagasabai
2. M/s. Thangeswari Kathirawan
3. Mr. S. Geyananda Moorthi
4. Mr. Kinsly Irasanayagam

### **Sri Lanka Muslim Congress – SLMC**

1. Mr. Amir Ali Sihabdeen

## **Electoral District 14 – Trincomalee – 3 MPP**

### **Ilankai Tamil Arasuk Katchi – TNA**

1. Mr. Ira Sambanthan
2. Mr. K. Thurairatnasingam

### **Sri Lanka Muslim Congress – SLMC**

1. Mr. Najeeb A. Majeed

## **Eastern Province National List – 7 MPP**

1. Mr. Rauff Hackeem
2. Mr. Hassan Ali
3. Mr. Segu Issadeen
4. Mr. Mohamed Mustaffa
5. Mr. Nijamudeen
6. Mr. Basil Rajapakse
7. Mr. Vinayakamoorthi Muralitharan

## **Present Position of Eastern Province MPP in Parliament**

### **Ruling United Peoples' Freedom Alliance – UPFA – 10 MPP**

1. Mrs. Ferial Ashraff
2. Mr. Athaullah
3. Mr. Segu Issadeen
4. Mr. Mohamed Mustaffa – Crossed-over from UNP
5. Mr. Basil Rajapakse
6. Mr. Nijamudeen – Crossed-over from SLMC
7. Mr. Amir Ali – Crossed-over from SLMC
8. Mr. Najeeb A. Majeed – Crossed-over from SLMC
9. Mr. Dayaratne – Crossed-over from UNP
10. Mr. Vinayakamoorthi Muralitharan

## Opposition

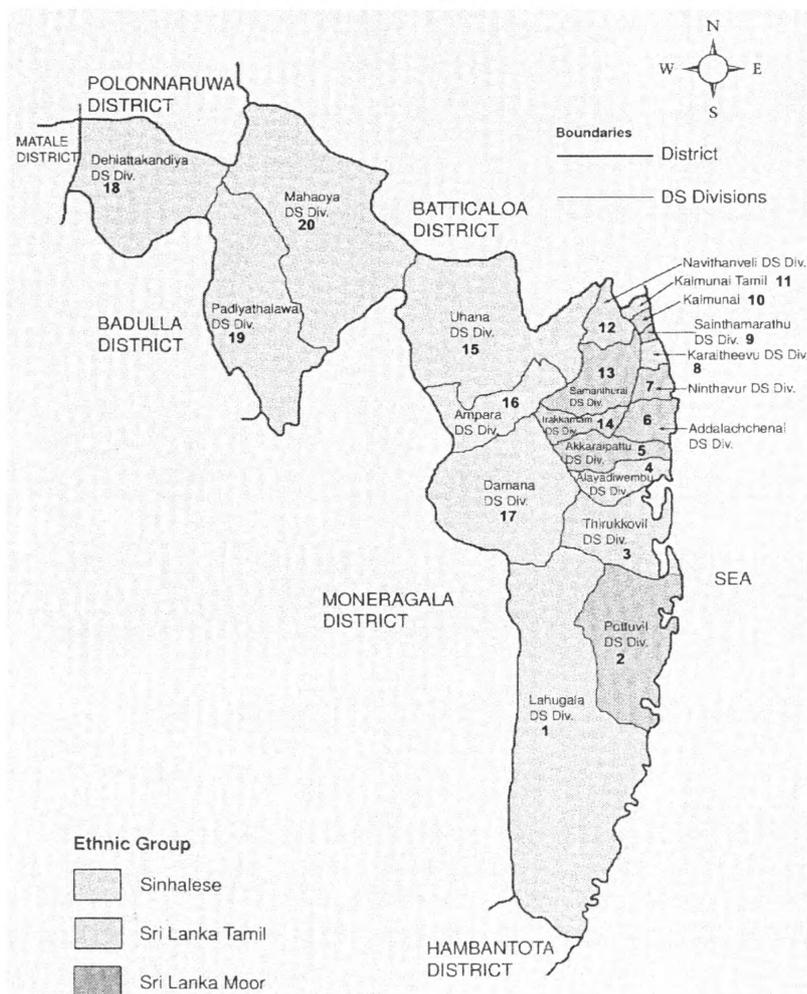
1. Mr. Rauff Hackeem – SLMC
2. Mr. Hassan Ali – SLMC
3. Mr. Faizal Casim – SLMC
4. Mr. Naushad Majeed – SLMC
5. Mr. Ira Sambanthan – TNA
6. Mr. K. Thurairatnasingam – TNA
7. Mr. Kanagasabai Pathmanathan – TNA
8. Mr. Thambanpillai Kanagasabai – TNA
9. M/s. Thangeswari Kathirawan – TNA
10. Mr. S. Geyananda Moorthi – TNA
11. Mr. Kinsly Irasanayagam – TNA
12. Mr. Vasantha Piyathissa – JVP

## Ampara District

### Population in 2007

Muslims 268,793 - 44%, Tamils 112,935 - 18%, and Sinhalese 228,938 - 38%, Total 610,666 - 100%. Tamils speaking people 381,728 - 63%, and Sinhala speaking people 228,938 - 37%

## Ampara District Divisional Secretariat Divisions Land Area and Population - 2007



No.	D.S. Division	Total Popula. 2007	District %	Land Available sq. km	Land Eligible sq. km	Sinhalese		Muslims		Tamils	
						2007	%	2007	%	2007	%
<b>Panamapattu</b>											
01	Lahugala	8259	1.35	616.87	59.95	7500	90.8	-	-	758	9.2
02	Pottuvil	33625	5.51	367.50	244.09	667	2.0	26493	78.8	6444	19.2
<b>Akkaraipattu</b>											
03	Thirukkovil	24972	4.09	190.65	181.28	27	0.1	-	-	24934	99.8
04	Alayadiwembu	22289	3.65	127.50	161.80	142	0.6	42	0.2	22085	99.1
05	Akkaraipattu	37070	6.07	102.18	269.10	119	0.3	36864	99.4	79	0.2
06	Addalanchena	39721	6.50	52.50	288.35	1967	5.0	37349	94.0	404	1.0
<b>Ninthavur-Karawahupattu</b>											
07	Ninthavur	25652	4.20	55.62	186.22	9	0.0	24506	95.5	1129	4.4
08	Karathieevu	16656	2.73	31.25	120.91	23	0.1	6534	39.2	10098	60.6
09	Sainthamaruthu	25147	4.12			3	0.0	25144	100.0	-	-
10	Kalmunai	42652	7.02	66.87	704.46	48	0.1	42689	99.6	115	0.3
11	Kalmunai Tamil	29025	4.75			248	0.9	1957	6.7	26818	92.4
<b>Sammanthuraipattu</b>											
12	Navithanveli	18436	3.02			61	0.3	6026	32.7	12349	67.0
13	Sammanthurai	55592	9.10	256.70	631.67	81	0.1	48566	87.4	6939	12.5
14	Irakkamam	13006	2.13			759	5.8	11948	91.9	296	2.3
<b>Wewagampattu</b>											
15	Uhana	53262	8.72	415.62	386.64	53222	99.9	13	0.0	19	0.0
16	Ampara	39268	6.43	225.00	285.06	38668	98.5	317	0.8	245	0.6
17	Damana	35705	5.85	426.25	259.19	35560	99.6	116	0.3	16	0.0
<b>Birthanapattu</b>											
18	Dehiyattakandya	55930	9.16	432.50	406.01	55716	99.6	116	0.2	87	0.2
19	Pathiyathalawa	16451	2.69	466.37	119.42	16365	99.5	50	0.3	28	0.2
20	Maha-Oya	17801	2.91	600.00	129.22	17753	99.7	36	0.2	12	0.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>610719</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>4433.38</b>	<b>4433.38</b>	<b>228938</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>268766</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>112855</b>	<b>18.5</b>

### Political Representation

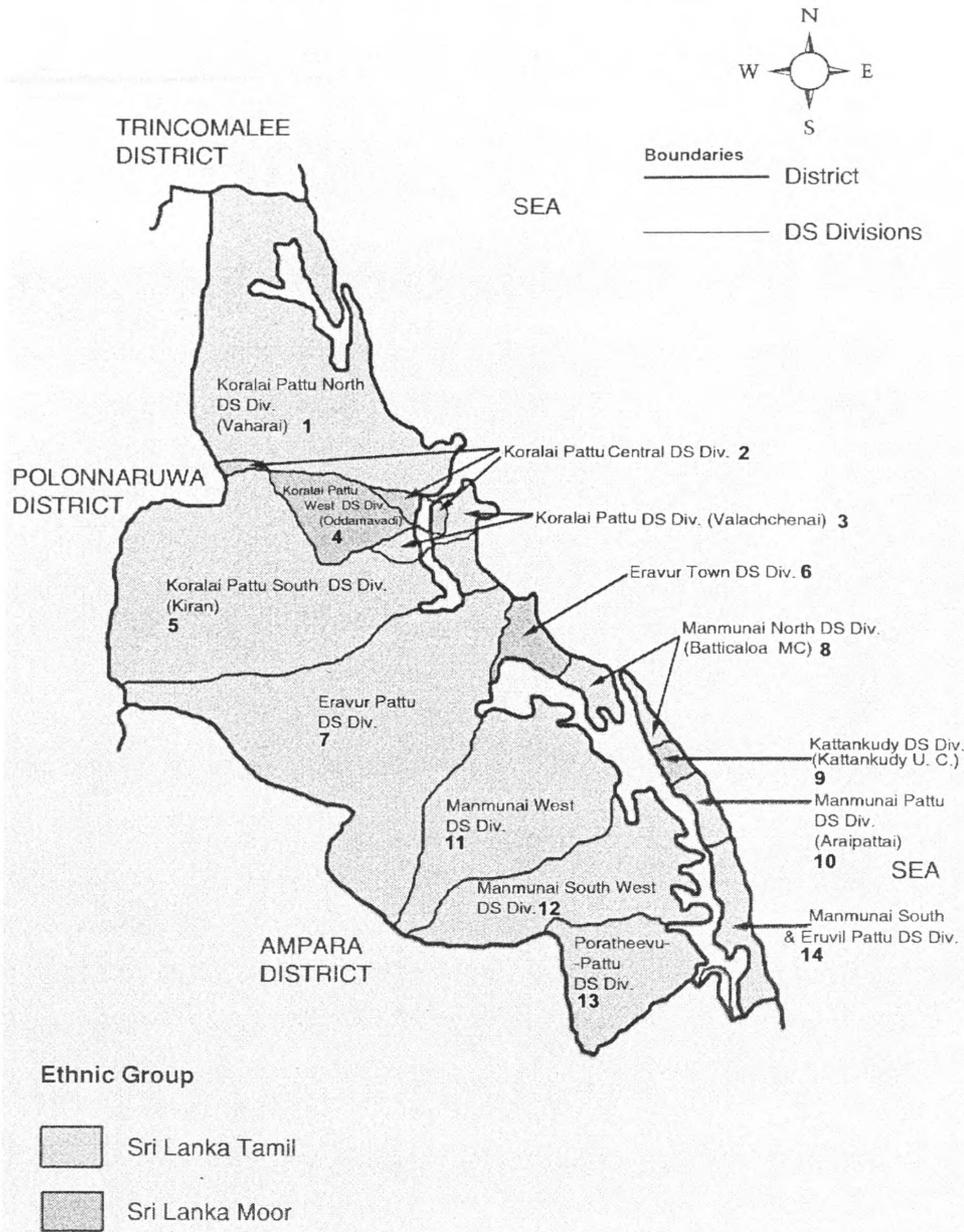
Parliament Members elected 13 - Muslims 9 - 69%, Tamil 1 - 8%, and Sinhalese 3 - 23%. Government Group 7 - Muslims 5, Tamil 0, and Sinhalese 2 and Opposition Group 6 - Muslims 4, Tamil 1, and Sinhalese 1. Tamil speaking 10 - 77%, and Sinhala speaking 3 - 23%

Provincial Council Members elected 14 - Muslim 7 - 50%, Tamils 3 - 21%, Sinhalese 4 - 29%. Government Group 8 - Muslims 3, Tamils 3, and Sinhalese 2. Opposition Group 6 - Muslims 4, Tamils 0, and Sinhalese 2. Tamil speaking 10 - 71%, and Sinhala speaking 4 - 29%

Divisional Secretariats 20 - Muslims 8, Tamils 5, and Sinhalese 7 and Sinhala speaking 7 - 35%. Tamil speaking 13 - 65%.

District Secretary - GA - Sinhalese. Main Language of Administration - Sinhala.

## Batticaloa District Divisional Secretariat Divisions Land Area and Population - 2007



No.	D.S. Division	Total Popula. 2007	District %	Land Available sq. km	Land Eligible sq. km	Sinhalese		Muslims		Tamils	
						2007	%	2007	%	2007	%
<b>Koralaipattu</b>											
01	Koralaipattu North	21263	3.80	550.00	100.01	1	0.0	-	-	21262	100.0
02	Koralaipattu Centre	24510	4.38		115.33	84	0.3	23421	95.6	1005	4.1
03	Koralaipattu	44226	7.90	484.50	208.01	76	0.2	35	0.1	44115	99.7
04	Koralaipattu West	45495	8.12	176.00	213.98	87	0.2	44253	97.3	1155	2.5
05	Koralaipattu West (Kiran)	19659	3.51		92.41	7	0.0	18639	99.9	18639	99.9
<b>Eravurpattu</b>											
06	Eravur Town	25024	4.47	3.74	117.69	4	0.0	21447	85.7	3116	12.5
07	Eravurpattu	75886	13.55	634.10	356.91	1430	1.9	13333	17.6	61116	80.5
<b>Manmunai</b>											
08	Manmunai North	88459	15.80	75.90	416.05	226	0.3	3925	4.4	84228	95.2
09	Kattankudy	39523	7.06	3.89	185.89	-	-	39517	100.0	5	0.0
10	Manmunai	30747	5.49	31.72	144.61	1	0.0	6541	21.3	24202	78.7
<b>Manmunai West</b>											
11	Manmunai West	25025	4.47	292.70	117.70	1	0.0	-	-	25024	100.0
12	Manmunai South-West	23988	4.28	161.60	112.82	199	0.8	-	-	23789	99.2
<b>Manmunai Eruvilpattu</b>											
13	Poraitheevupattu	38282	6.84	167.20	180.05	354	0.9	-	-	37927	99.1
14	Manmunai South Eruvilpattu	57917	10.34	52.50	272.40	18	0.0	3	0.0	57855	99.9
<b>Total</b>		<b>560004</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>2633.85</b>	<b>2633.85</b>	<b>2488</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>172114</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>384799</b>	<b>68.7</b>

### **Population in 2007**

Tamils 404,434 - 72%, Muslims 152,485 - 27%, Sinhalese 2,397 - 0.4%, and Burgers 2,412 - 0.4%, Total 561,728. Tamil speaking people 559,331 - 99.6%, and Sinhala speaking people 2,397 - 0.4%

### **Political Representation**

Parliament Members elected 5 – Tamils 4 - 80%, Muslims 1 - 20%. Government Group 1 – Muslims 1. Opposition Group 4 – Tamils 4. Tamil speaking people 5 - 100%.

Provincial Council Members elected 11 – Tamils 6 - 55%, Muslims 5 - 45%. Government Group 6 – Tamils 3, and Muslims 3. Opposition Group 5 – Tamils 3, and Muslims 2. Tamils speaking people 11 - 100%.

Divisional Secretariats 14 – Tamils 10, and Muslims 4. Tamils speaking people 14 - 100%.

District Secretary - GA – Tamil. Language of Administration – Tamil.

### **Trincomalee District**

#### **Population in 2007**

Muslims 152,064 - 44%, Tamils 112,874 - 32%, and Sinhalese 84,766 - 24%, Total 349,704 - 100%. Tamils speaking people 264,938 - 76%, and Sinhala speaking people 84,766 - 24%

#### **Political Representation**

Parliament Members elected 3 – Tamils 2 - 67%, and Muslims 1 - 33%. Government Group 1 – Muslims 1. Opposition Group 2 – Tamils 2. Tamil speaking people 3 - 100%.

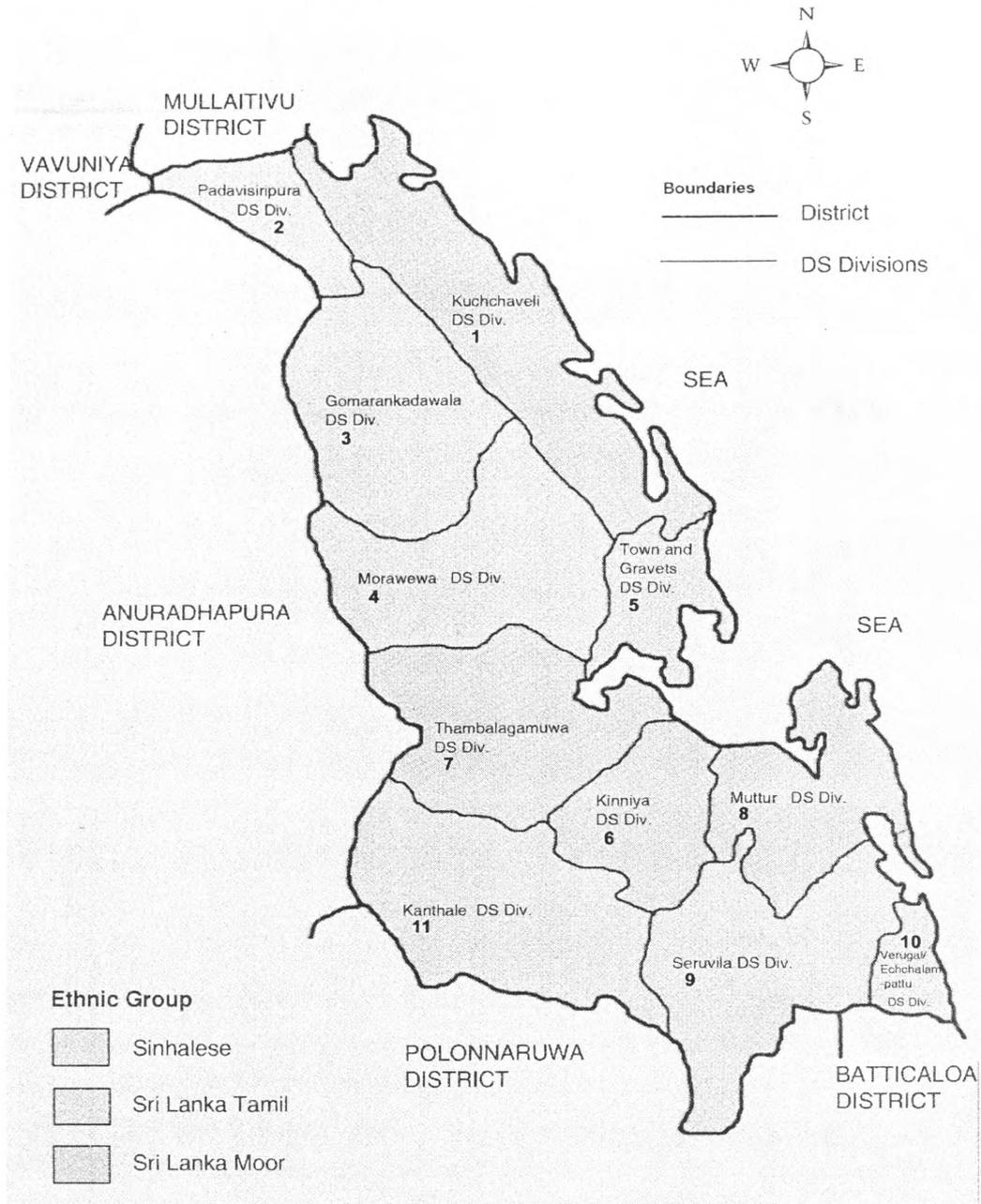
Provincial Council Members elected 10 - 100%. Muslims 5 - 50%, Sinhalese 3 - 30%, and Tamils 2 - 20%. Government Group 4 – Muslims 2, and Sinhalese 2. Opposition Group 6 – Muslims 3, Tamils 2, and Sinhalese 1. Tamil speaking people 7 - 70%, and Sinhala speaking people 3 - 30%

Divisional Secretariats 11 – Sinhalese 5, Muslims 4, and Tamils 2. Tamils speaking people 6 - 55%, and Sinhala speaking people 5 - 45%

District Secretary - GA – Sinhalese. Language of Administration – Sinhala.

# Trincomalee District Divisional Secretariat Divisions

## Land Area and Population – 2007



No.	D.S. Division	Total Popula. 2007	District %	Land Available sq. km	Land Eligible sq. km	Sinhalese		Muslims		Tamils	
						2007	%	2007	%	2007	%
<b>Kattukulampattu East</b>											
01	Kuchchaveli	26327	7.87	313.30	207.14	412	1.6	18971	72.1	6935	26.3
02	Padavisiripura	10666	3.19	217.10	83.92	10664	100.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
<b>Kattukulampattu West</b>											
03	Gomarankadawala	5879	1.76	285.00	46.26	5855	99.6	0	0.0	22	0.4
04	Morawewa	5563	1.66	322.40	43.77	4065	73.1	954	17.1	544	9.8
<b>Town and Gravette</b>											
05	Town and Gravette	89046	26.63	148.00	700.62	16837	18.9	12483	14.0	59633	67.0
<b>Kinniya Division</b>											
06	Kinniya	61558	18.41	146.90	484.34	0	0.0	59055	95.9	2503	4.1
07	Thambalagamam	27572	8.25	244.40	216.94	6005	21.8	16802	60.9	4352	15.8
<b>Kottiyarpattu</b>											
08	Muttur	47132	14.10	179.40	370.84	146	0.3	34080	72.3	12531	26.6
09	Seruvila	11142	3.33	279.00	87.67	7152	64.2	2079	18.7	1876	16.8
10	Echchilampattu	6617	1.98	98.00	52.06	0	0.0	0	0.0	6617	100.0
<b>Kandalai Division</b>											
11	Kandalai	42861	12.82	397.30	337.23	33630	78.5	7595	17.7	1605	3.7
<b>Total</b>		<b>334363</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>2630.80</b>	<b>2630.80</b>	<b>84766</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>152019</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>96619</b>	<b>28.9</b>

### 3. DISCRIMINATION IN THE ALLOCATION OF LAND AREAS TO MUSLIM LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

According to 1971 censers, the population of Ampara District - 47% Muslims, 30% Sinhalese, and 23% Tamils. The Ampara Electorate created for the newly settled Sinhalese under the Gal Oya state aided colonisation is 880 sq. miles. With the 370 sq. miles allocated for the Lahugala and Damana AGA Division the 30% Sinhalese were given 1,250 sq. miles - 70% Land area, where as the 70% Tamils and Muslims are left with only 30% of Land area - 525 sq. miles.

Former Muslim Majority Panamapattu DRO Division, 472 sq. miles, population 26,916. When redemarcating the new Administrative Divisions 19,831 - 74% Muslim Majority Pottuvil AGA Division was given only 22% - 103.9 sq. miles and the balance 78% - 368.2 sq. miles land area was allocated for the 7,085 - 26% Sinhala Majority Lahugala AGA Division.

In the Sammanthurai Muslim Majority DRO Division, nearly 65 sq. miles of land area covering the Hendy Institute, Ampara Tank and the Town area was separated and added with the Wewagampattu South - Uhana AGA Division.

When compared the land area of Sinhala Majority Lahugala AGA Division with the Muslim Majority Kalmunai AGA Division, the Sinhalese are having 208 times more than the land area of the Muslims. When compared the land areas for the Sinhalese with the land area for the Muslims in the Muslim Majority Ampara District, the Sinhalese land area is 13 times more than the Muslim land area.

Ampara District is 1,775 square miles in extent. According to the census of 1981, the Sinhalese who are 37.2% are eligible for 660 square miles. But they have 76% or 1,340 square miles in the predominant Sinhalese areas. Muslims are 41.6% and eligible for 728 square miles. But the Muslims in their area have only 263 square miles which is less than 15% of the land in Ampara District.

However, the political authority of the previous government and the District Minister were very keen to grab the developed and ready made paddy fields of the Muslims and settle Sinhalese relatives brought from other districts. These are the illegal politically aided settlements of Sinhalese in Muslim areas which is over and above the 38 settlements of Sinhalese under the Gal Oya scheme 1960-63. This maneuver has very seriously affected the economy and the political strength of the Indigenous Muslim population of Ampara District.

#### **4. MUSLIM LANDS FORCIBLY TAKEN OVER IN THE NAME OF BUDDHIST RELIGION AND CULTURE**

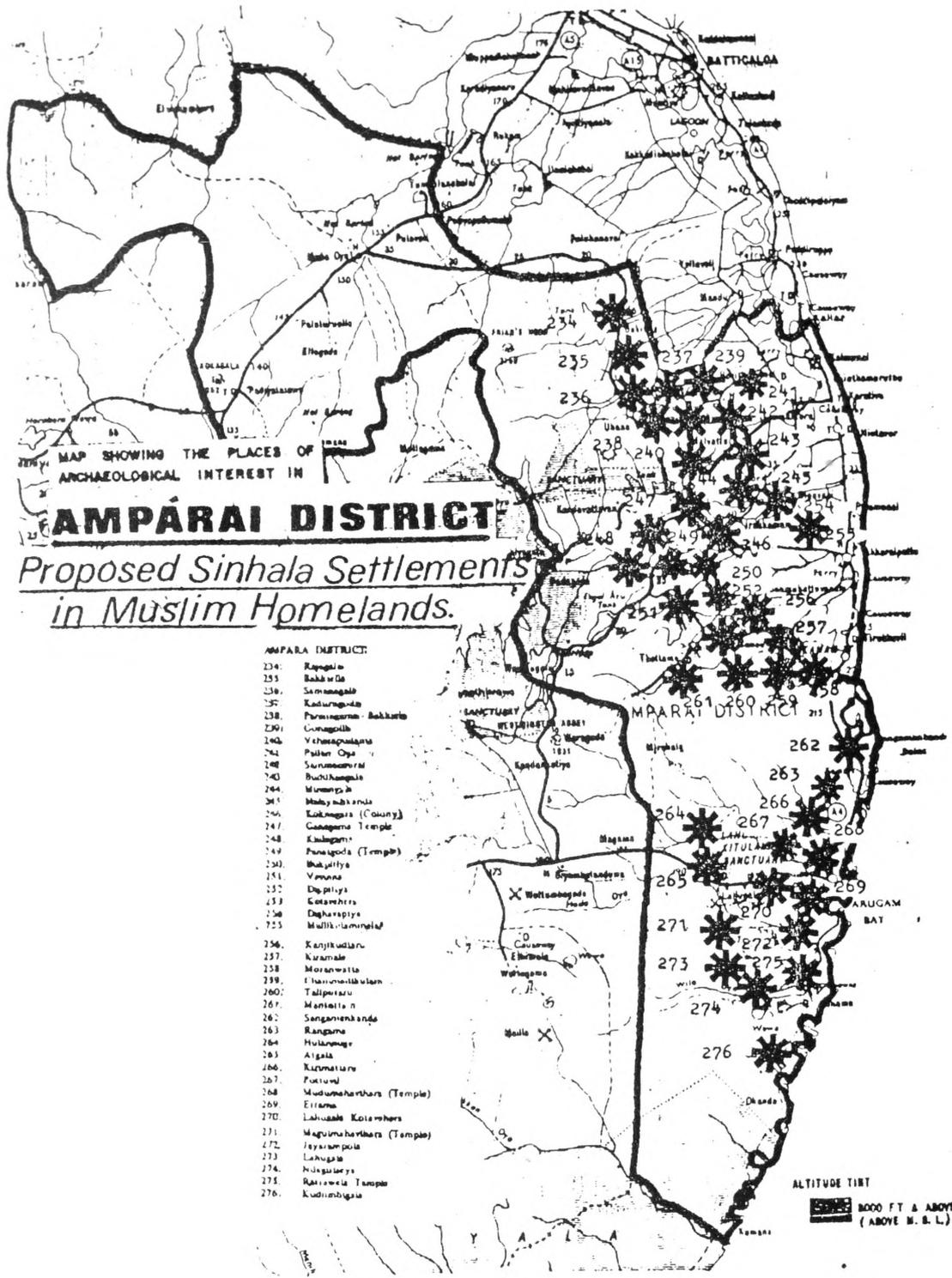
Adding insult to injury action are still continued to deprive the Muslims from even the 15% of the land holdings in Ampara District. It is sad to observe that these actions are being contemplated in the name of religion ad culture. Certain areas where Muslims have been living traditionally have been already earmarked as places of Archeological Interest. The Commissioner of Archeology has stated in the "Silumina" on the 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1984 that 273 sites in the North and East have been excavated and Buddhist Priests and Buddhist Sinhalese are to be settled in these places. According to Hansard Volume 25 No. 10 of Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 1983, there are 43 places of Archeological Interest in the predominantly Muslim areas of Ampara District.

In the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement of July 29, 1987, the Northern and Eastern province have been recognized as the area of historical habitation of Sri Lanka Tamil speaking peoples. However, some of the Buddhist Priests and Sinhalese have tried to make out that even the Northern & Eastern Provinces were peopled by Sinhalese several centuries ago. They referred to the presence of Buddhist ruins as proof of this fact. They should remember the fact that the whole of South India and the majority of the Tamils in the North East were Buddhists in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. The well known Tamil Literary epic Manimekalai and several other Tamil literary works of this period bear ample testimony to this. These ruins in the North and East were places worshiped by Tamil speaking Buddhists.

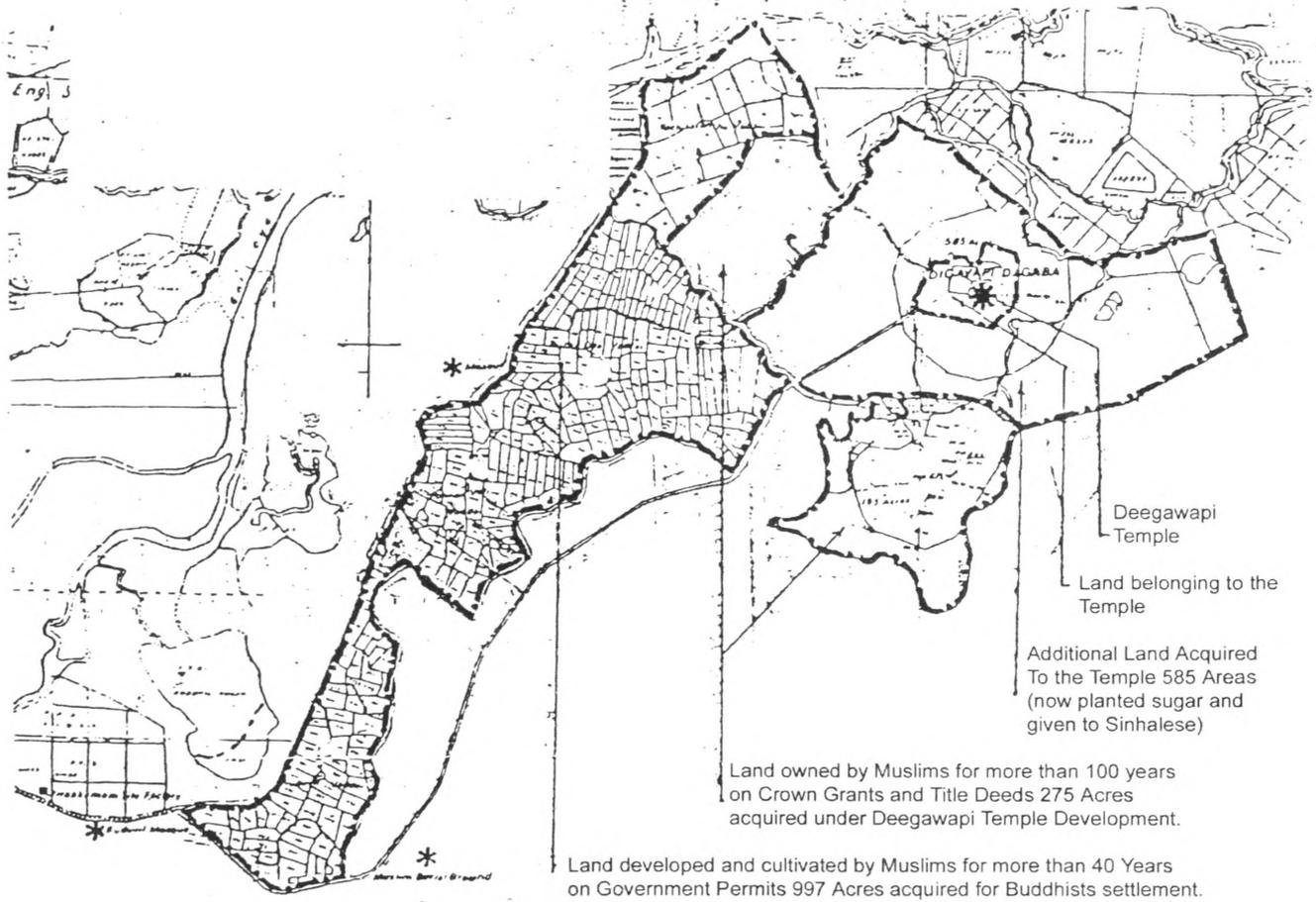
The claims that are being made to the Northern and Eastern Provinces now as Sinhalese territory are on par with the claims of the Jews in Palestine.

Successive governments have pursued the same policies as the Jews are pursuing in Palestine in dispossessing the Arabs of their land and driving them away from their homes. Today we find a frantic search for Buddhist shrines, not for the love of Buddhism but to chase away the Muslims from their lands.

Land acquisition and ejection of Muslims in Digawapi area in Ampara District is a very good example. It was around 1940 that a Buddhist priest came to reside at the site of the Chaitiya. There were no Buddhist to give Dana. The Muslims in this area helped the priest. The land around the Chaitiya was planted with coconut by the Muslims of the area for the priest. Suddenly in 1960 some Buddhist wanted all the land around the Chaitiya to be taken over by the government for Buddhist purpose.



The Government, in 1968 appointed a committee headed by Mr. Ratnethunge, the former Surveyor General, to investigate and submit a report. Number of Buddhist Organisations made representations and finally the Committee recommended to take over 500 acres around the Chaitiya. It was agreed with the Muslims that no more land would be taken. Quite contrary to this agreement and promise by the Sinhala Buddhists, there was a sudden move to acquire another 1,000 acres of paddy land belonging to the Muslims. The Government, without any regard for Law and Order send the bulldozers destroying 185 acres of paddy cultivation in the Periyavisaraikandam owned by the Muslims on Crown Grant Title Deeds. What is happening in the Ampara District is deliberate discrimination against the Muslims.



Spain was ruled by the Muslims for over 700 years. All Muslim Mosques and shrines were left behind. Can we now claim to restore all Mosques and shrines and settle Muslims? Let us all restore our ancient shrines.

## 5. LANDS DEVELOPED BY MUSLIMS ON LDO PERMITS FORCIBLY TAKEN OVER FOR SINHALESE COLONIZATION

When the country began the Grow More Food Campaign before the Independence, the Muslims of Kalmunai, Ninthavur, Akkaraipattu, Sammanthurai and Pottuvil DRO's Division in the former Batticaloa District, were forced to open up jungles to cultivate paddy. The policy of the Government at that time was to clear as much land as possible to grow more food. They were given LDO Permits to do so. The landless Muslims of the Eastern Province, cleared thick jungle at great expense in order to cultivate paddy by themselves and their dependents. Some of the areas opened out on permits under LDO.

Noraicholai Kandam	1,400 acres
Valemarathuveli Kandam	200 acres
Ambalatharu – Senaikandam	300 acres
Periyavisarai Kandam – Digawapi - I	585 acres
Digawapi – II	275 acres
Digawapi – III	997 acres
Vikkalmadu	400 acres
Siyathrewaddai	200 acres
Vellakalthottam	320 acres
Kondavettuwan	400 acres
Mahakandiya & Kandian Kattu	1,400 acres
Arugambai – Ullai	<u>520 acres</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>6,997 acres</u></b>

When Gal Oya Development Scheme was inaugurated, the late Hon. D.S. Senanayake promised that the new lands that were to become cultivatable under the Gal Oya development scheme would be distributed on a 50-50 basis between the local citizens of the Batticaloa district and the would be colonists from outside.

Trusting this promise and the policy of the Government at that time, the local Muslims who were noted for their fearlessness and ability for opening thick jungles, risked their lives and came forward to work under the Gal Oya Scheme. The successive Governments, whether they are UNP or SLFP, not only failed to implement the so called policy and the promise of 50-50 distribution of land but also adopted various methods to ensure the economic and political weakening of the Muslims in the Gal Oya valley.

Opening of the Gal Oya Scheme was a great boon to the Sinhala people, but this has been used as a device to deprive the Muslims to live and own lands under this scheme.

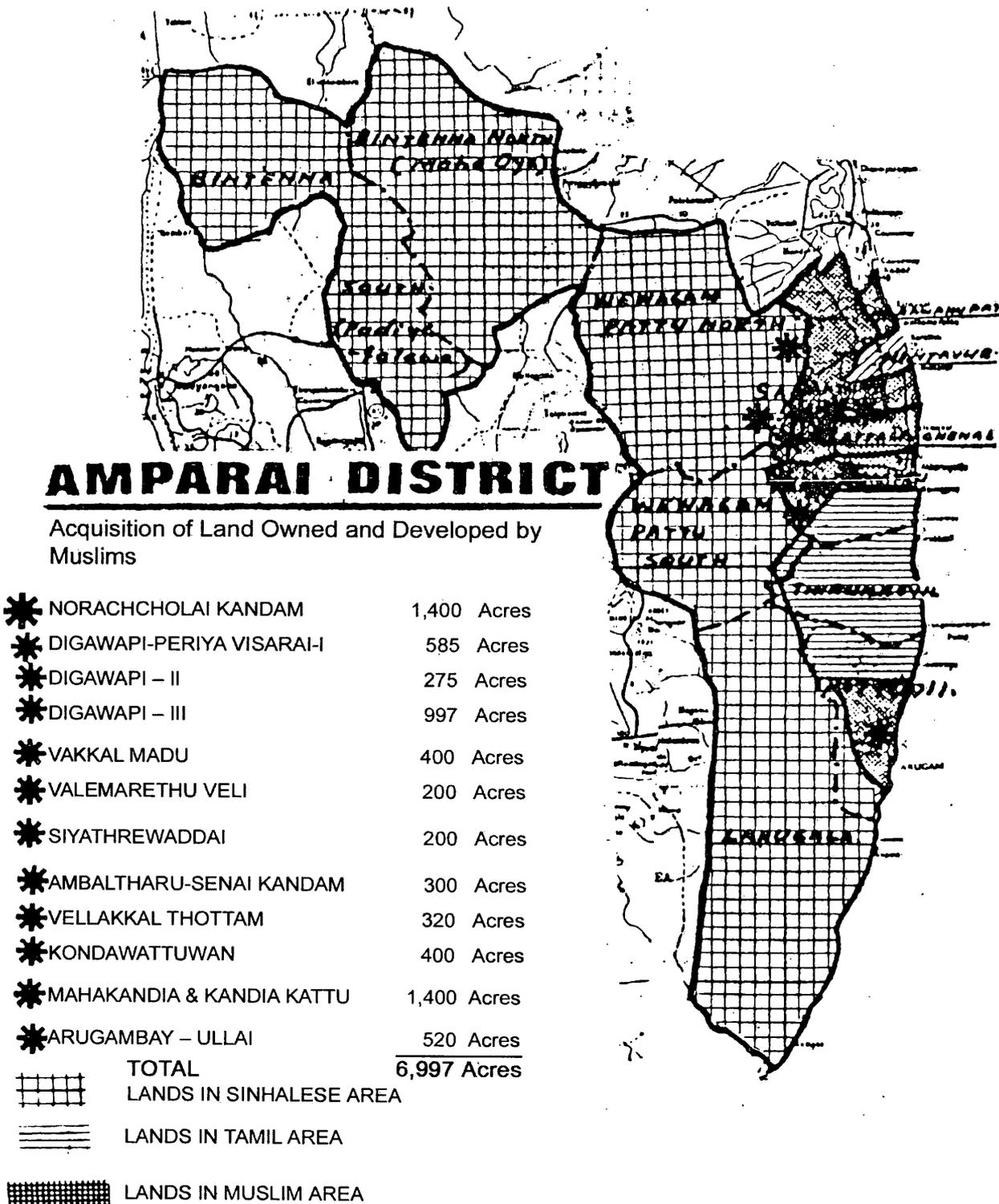
The River Valley Development Board the successor to the Gal Oya Board, without any Land Kachcheri or compensation to those Muslim cultivators on LDO Permits, handed over the whole area

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Grievances of Eastern Muslims in the Areas of Historical Habitation of Tamil Speaking Peoples

to the Sugar Corporation. They sent Bull-dozers to destroy the fertile paddy fields developed by the Muslims and took over the land for sugar cultivation. Hundreds of Muslims were thrown out on the road denying their livelihood.

The land taken over chasing the Muslims proved a dismal failure for sugar cultivation. 1400 acres of fertile paddy fields in Norachcholai Kandam were reduced to shrub jungle. Subsequently the Government has settled the Sinhalese without any land kachcheri brought from outside instead of giving the land back to the Muslims who developed these lands on LDO Permits or to their dependants.



Similarly Muslims who developed nearly 7000 acres of State land with LDO Permits have been chased out from Velamarethuveli Kandam – Plan 819 Village 9A; Ambaltharu Colony and Ambalam Oya Kandam – Lot 124 & 125 in Plan 293; Chennai Kandam Lot 122 & 123 in Plan 293, and these developed lands were given to Sinhalese brought from outside without any Land Kachcheri.

The Sri Lanka Sugar Corporation at Ingurana, Gal Oya, Tile Factory under Ministry of Industries at Irrakkamam, the River Valley Development Board – the successor to the Gal Oya Development Board, forcibly took over the developed paddy fields of the Muslims without any regards to the provisions of the law relating to Land Acquisition and Development.

It is a different story altogether in the Sevanagala Sugar Development Project in the Uda Walawa Scheme in Sinhalese area - Embilipitiya. Thousands of unauthorized squatters who did not have even the LDO Permits were given first the compensation and a subsistence of Rs. 550/- per month, till the land illegally occupied by them is fully developed for sugar cultivation and given back to them at the rate of three to five acres. They are also given a developed plot of one acre high land and a free house. No one is displaced on account of Sugar cultivation project as happened in Gal Oya and not a single Muslim or Tamil is brought from outside the area. What happened in Gal Oya Development Scheme is a deliberate discrimination against the Muslims.

## 6. SINHALA SETTLEMENTS IN AMPARA DISTRICT

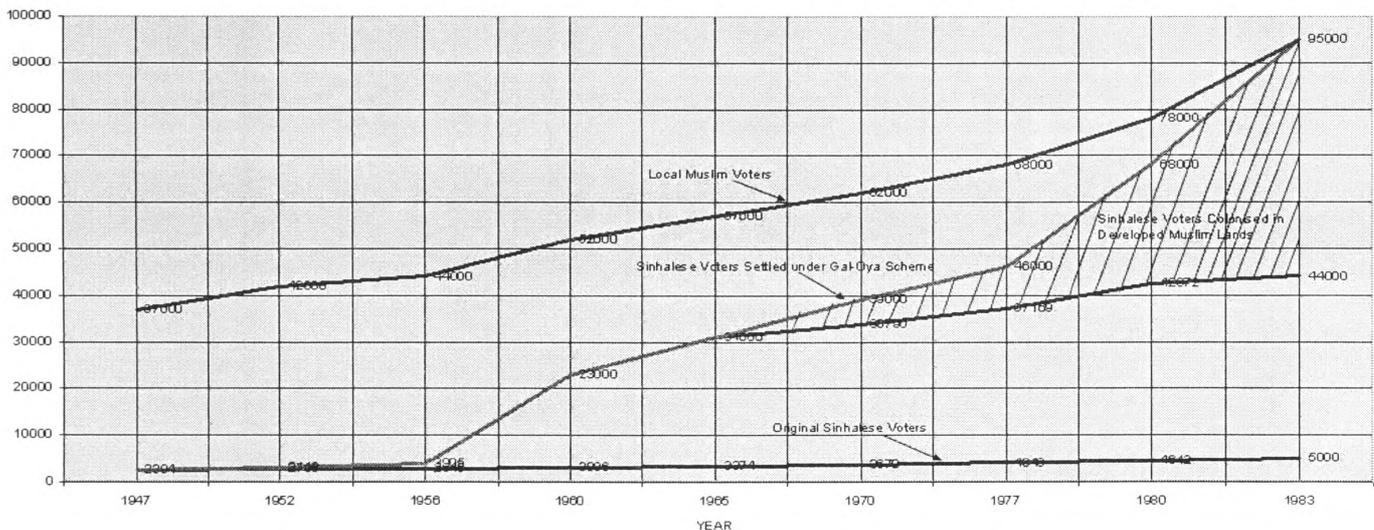
In the census of 1921, the Sinhalese population of the combined Ampara and Batticaloa Districts was less than 5%. After the Gal Oya settlements, the 1971 census recorded that Ampara had 126,033 Muslims out of the total population of 272,605 – that is, the Muslims constituted 46.2% of the population of Ampara District. The same census showed that the Sinhalese population was 82,868 or 30.39% of the total population. By the process of the natural increase at 2% per annum, one would expect the number to rise to 101,015 in 1981. But their number according to the census of 1981 is 146,371. That is to say 45,356 Sinhalese have been brought in to Ampara, after the Gal Oya Settlements without any land kachcheri and this exercise has reduced the Muslim ethnic strength from 46.2% to 41.6% and increased the Sinhalese strength from 30.39% to 37.6%.

Batticaloa District was divided into the present Ampara and Batticaloa Districts in 1961.

### Detail of 1981 population in the Eastern Province

DISTRICTS	All Races Total	Sinhalese Total	%	Ceylon Tamil Total	%	Indian Tamil Total	%	Tamils Total	%	Moors Total	%	Burghers Total	%	Malays Total	%
EAST. PROV.	974,127	242,358	24.88	399,406	41.00	12,045	1.24	411,451	42.24	315,201	32.36	4,154	0.43	963	0.10
BATTICALOA	330,528	10,646	3.22	234,348	70.90	3,868	1.17	238,216	72.07	79,317	24.00	2,300	0.70	49	0.01
AMPARA	388,399	146,371	37.69	78,315	20.16	1,410	0.36	79,725	20.53	161,481	41.58	643	0.17	179	0.05
TRINCOMALEE	255,200	85,341	33.44	86,743	33.99	6,767	2.65	93,510	36.64	74,403	29.15	1,211	0.47	735	0.29

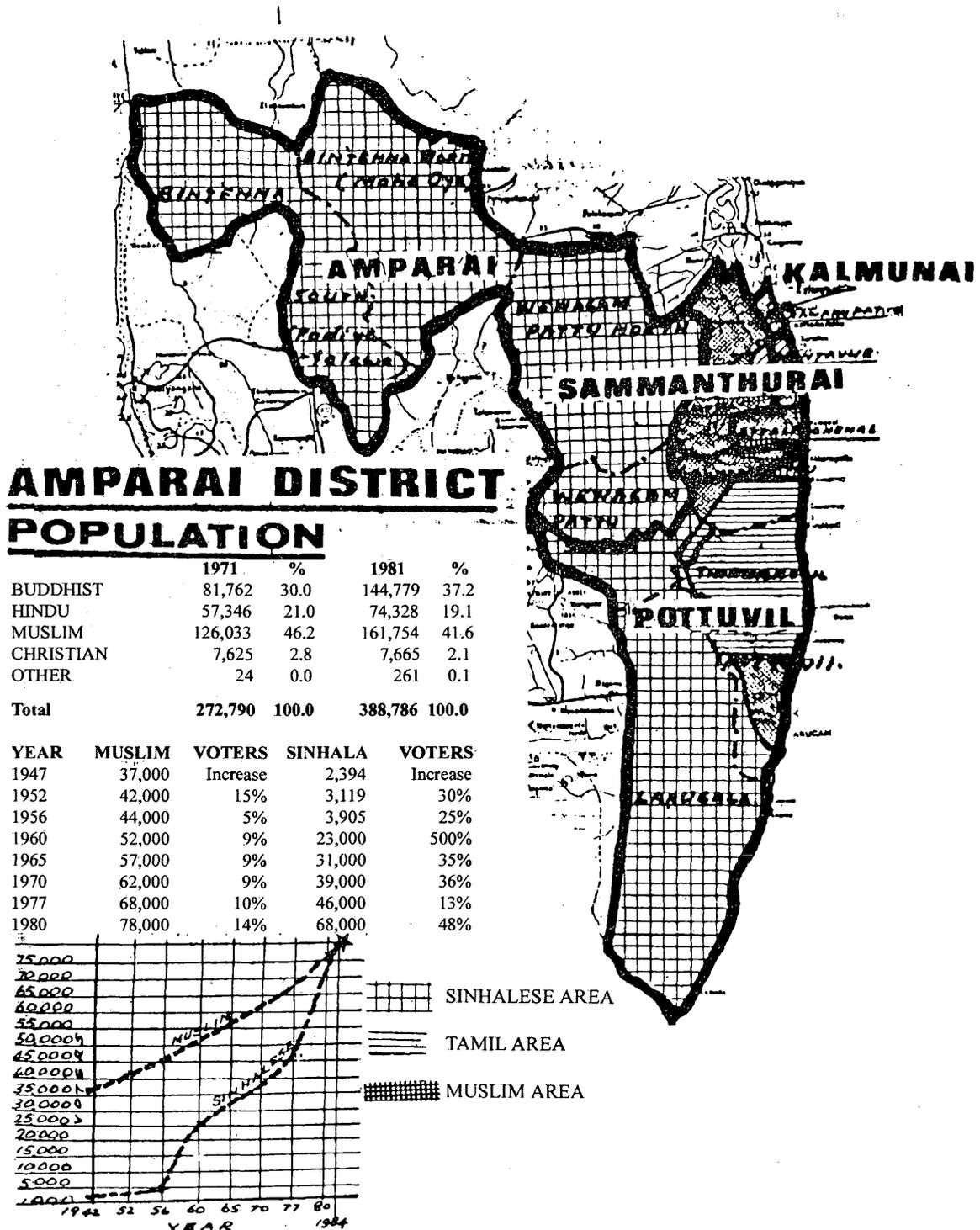
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT	ELECTORATE	PARTY	YEAR
M.S. Kariappa	Kaimurai	1947 UNP	1947
M.S. Ibrahim	Pottuvil	Ind.	1949
			1950
			1951
M.S. Mersa	Kaimurai	1952 Ind.	1952
M.S. Ibrahim	Pottuvil	1953 UNP	1953
			1954
			1955
M.S. Kariappa	Kaimurai	1956 FP, LPP	1956
M.M. Mustafia	Pottuvil	1957 FP, SLFP	1957
			1958
			1959
M.S. Kariappa	Kaimurai	1960 LPP	1960
M.C. Ahmed	Kaimurai	SLFP	1961
M.A. Abdul Majeed	Pottuvil	Ind.	1961
M.A. Abdul Majeed	Pottuvil	Ind.	1961
M.I. Abdul Majeed	Ninthavur	Ind.	1961
M.I. Abdul Majeed	Ninthavur	Ind.	1962
Wijewebahu Wijayasena	Ampara	SLFP	1963
Indrasena De Soysa	Ampara	SLFP	1964
M.S. Kariappa	Kaimurai	1965 Ind.	1965
M.C. Ahmed	Kaimurai	1966 SLFP	1966
M.A. Abdul Majeed	Pottuvil	UNP	1967
M.M. Mustafia	Ninthavur	1967 UNP	1967
Somarathne	Ampara	1968 SLFP	1968
			1969
M.C. Ahmed	Kaimurai	1970 SLFP	1970
N.A. Abdul Majeed	Pottuvil	1971 UNP	1971
M.M. Mustafia	Ninthavur	1972 UNP	1972
Somarathne	Ampara	SLFP	1973
			1974
			1975
			1976
A.R. M. Mansoor	Kaimurai	1977 UNP	1977
M.A. Abdul Maja	Semmanthurai	1978 UNP	1978
M.A. Jalaludeen	Pottuvil	1979 UNP	1979
C. Kanaharathnam	Pottuvil	TULF	1980
C. Kanaharathnam	Pottuvil	1980 UNP	1980
P. Dayaratne	Ampara	1981 UNP	1981
Renkanyaki	Pottuvil	UNP	1982
M.I. Uthumalebbe	Pottuvil	1982 UNP	1982
			1983



Tamil population increased between 1949 and 1981 from 136,059 to 411,451 – 302%, Muslim population increased from 109,024 to 315,201 – 289%, Sinhalese population increased from 27,556 to 243,358 – 883%. The National average increase of Sinhalese during this period is only 238%. The sudden increase of Sinhala population is the result of Government planed Sinhala Colonization in Gal-oya, Pannala-oya, and Ambalam-oya in Ampara District, and Kanthalai, Allai, Morawewa, Muthalikkulam, Pathaviya (Part), and Mahadiuluwewa schemes in Trincomalee District without land kachcheri.

### State Aided Sinhala Colonizations

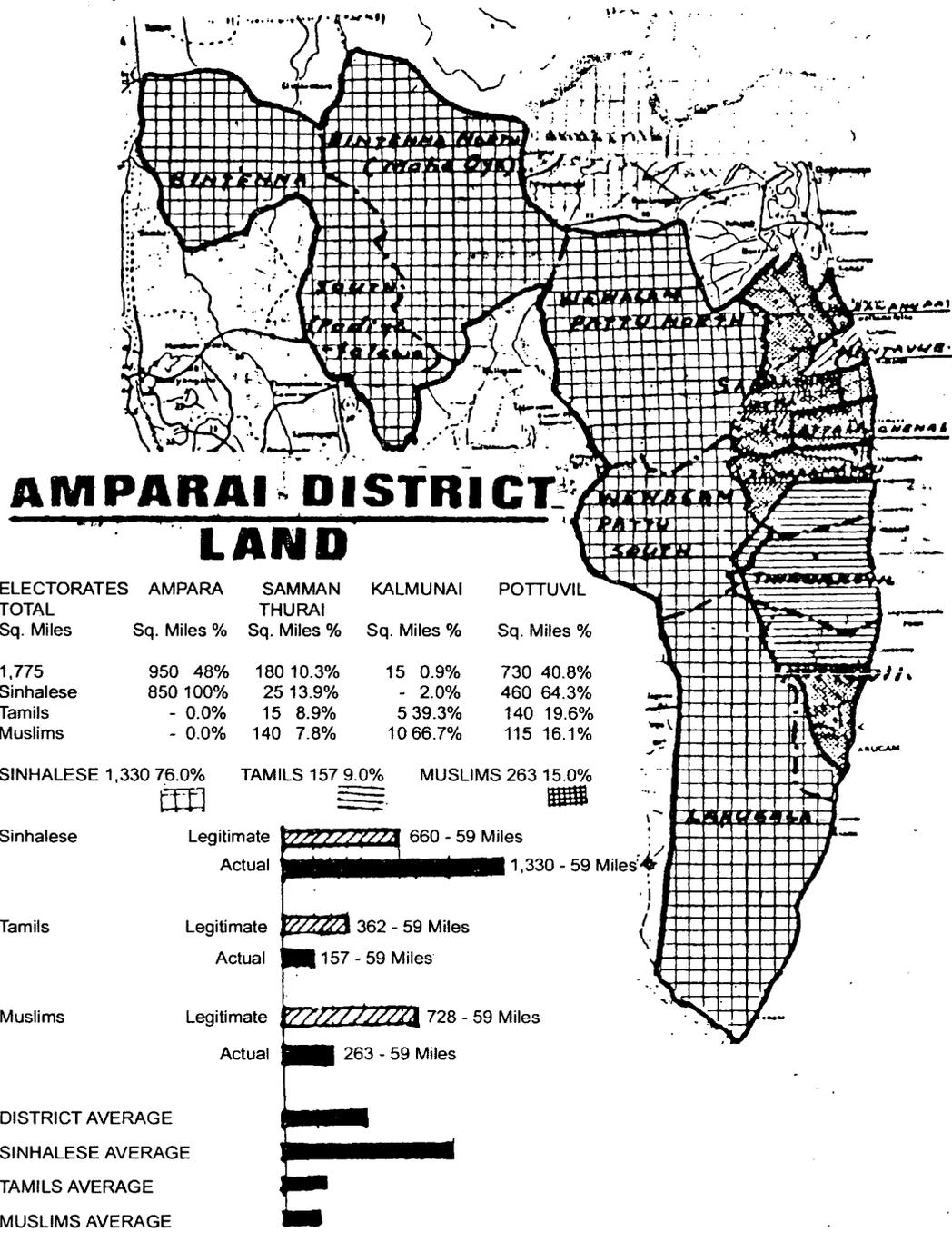
The Land Policies pursued hitherto by successive Governments after the Independence have had their far reaching adverse effects.



1. The Minorities have been denied their legitimate share of Developed State Land.
2. Deprivation of Land, more particularly developed land, to landless people in the Districts of Land alienation.
3. Substantial alteration in the Ethnic composition of the Districts in which State Land have been alienated.

This has contributed to the growth of tension and hostilities among different communities resulting in Ethnic Violence. The victims of such violence have always been the Tamils and Muslims.

State aided colonization have proved catastrophic as far as the Muslims are concerned. The Muslims have become sick of the maneuvers and manipulations of Government Ministers and Public Officials entrusted with land alienation.



## 7. MUSLIM LANDS FORCIBLY COLONIZED WITH THE SINHALESE IN TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT

Before the introduction of the Kantalai and Allai Colonisation Schemes, Kantalai was predominantly a Muslim Village. During this time Muslims cultivated about 4,000 acres of paddy land at a place called Pottanai in Thampalakamam Pattu. When Kantalai Colonisation Scheme came in 1952 the promise and the Policy of the Government was 50% for the locals and 50% for others. Quite contrary to this, the Muslim cultivators who had been in the land for more than 30 years were chased away without any compensation. These lands were given to the Sinhalese in 1954.

The Battukachchi area which is presently called Akbarpura was the pasture land of the people of the area. Here also they chased the Muslims and colonized with Sinhalese. Even now there is a Mosque and a Muslim school. When Kanthalai Sugar Corporation was established in 1958, more Sinhalese came in and occupied the land along Alakantalai Road, depriving the lands of the Muslims. Kantalai, Pottanaikadu, Peraru are few of the purana Villages of the Muslims and Tamils which are now being occupied by the Sinhalese.

Kinniya which is the largest Muslim Village in Trincomalee has a population of 40,000. The poor landless farmers who lost their purana lands to the Sinhalese under Kantalai Colonisation Scheme, started clearing their immediate neighboring jungle at a place called Vanaru. About 10,000 acres of land had been occupied by more than 3,000 Muslim Farmers from the villages in the area – Vanaru, Sundiaru, Maniarasankulam, Savaru, Kalaruppu, Valamadu, Vannathipalam, Katukuli, Naduluthu etc. In 1967, the Government introduced a scheme called Kusumangada Vanala Scheme and started chasing the Muslims who were in occupation of the land at Vanaru. It was during this time that a Police Station was opened at the heart of the jungle called Van-Ela Police Station to chase away the Muslims and help the Sinhalese to take possession of the lands developed by the Muslims.

The land available between Kinniya-Thampalakamam Road and Alaikanthalai Road was originally reserved for the village expansion of Kinniya, Kurunjankerney Alankerney and Thampalakamam. When the Tobacco Corporation came in at a place called Chondankadu area, closer to Mudalaimadu, the employees of the corporation started encroaching into these areas.

In the Padavia Colonisation Scheme of the land that falls within the Trincomalee District in the Eastern Province, the entirety of the land was alienated to the Sinhalese. Needless to say that the entirety of the land under the Padavia Scheme that fell within the North Central Province was also given to the Sinhalese. Today, the Tamil Speaking people, Tamils and Muslims who held land on State Permits within the Trincomalee District very much before the implementation of Padavia, Allai and Kantalai colonization schemes, on the boundary of such schemes are being compelled to vacate such lands.

## **8. ALTERNATE LAND FOR THE DISPLACED MUSLIM FARMERS IN THE EASTERN PROVINCE**

### **Ampara District**

If Sri Lanka was known to be the granary of the East in the ancient times, we could call Batticaloa – the Pattipola Aru Basin, the present Ampara – the granary of Sri Lanka. Muslims of Ampara were experts in opening out thick jungles and establishing paddy fields. It is this that prompted Hon. D.S. Senanayake to call upon Gate Mudaliyar M.S. Kariapper to send Muslims to open out jungles of Polonnaruwa for settlement.

When the country began the ‘grow more food campaign’ before the independence, the Muslims in Ampara - the former Batticaloa District were almost forced to open more jungles to cultivate paddy. They were issued LDO permits to do so. The Policy of the Government at that time was to clear as much land as possible to grow more food. The landless Muslims of the Eastern province, cleared thick jungle at greater expense in order to cultivate paddy by themselves and their dependents.

When the Gal Oya Scheme was inaugurated, the late Hon. D.S. Senanayake stated that the lands that were to become arable be distributed under the Gal Oya development scheme on a 50 - 50 basis between the local citizens of the Ampara district and the would be colonists from outside Ampara district.

It was on the strength of this promise the local Muslims who were noted for their fearlessness and ability to opening thick jungles, risks their lives and came forward to work under the Gal Oya scheme. The successive Governments, whether they are UNP or SLFP, not only failed to implement the so called policy of 50 - 50 distribution, but also adopted various methods to ensure the economic and political weakening of the Muslims in the Gal Oya Valley.

Opening of Gal Oya scheme was a great boon to the people of Sri Lanka. However, this has been used as a device to deprive the Muslims to live and own lands in Ampara District.

This area is about 5 miles from the predominant Muslim village of Akkaraipattu. 1,400 acres was given to the Muslims under the LDO permit to open up the jungle and cultivate paddy. The Muslims developed this area at great expense even at the loss of life and limbs.

The River Valleys Development Board, the successor to the Gal Oya Board, without any notice or compensation to these Muslim cultivators with LDO permits handed over the whole area to the Sugar Corporation. They sent the bulldozers to destroy the paddy fields and took over the land for sugar cultivation. Hundreds of Muslims were thrown out on the road without compensation or alternate land.

The land taken over chasing the Muslims proved a dismal failure for sugar cultivation. 1,400 acres of fertilized paddy fields were reduced to shrub jungle. Later the Government had settled Sinhalese

brought from outside instead of giving the land back to the Muslims who developed these lands on LDO permits or to their dependents.

Similarly, Muslims who developed the state land with LDO permits have been chased out from Velamarathuweli Kadam - Plan 814 Village 9A, Ambalath Aru Colony and Ambalam Oya Kadam - Lots 124 and 125 in Plan 293, Chennai Kadam Lots - 122 and 123 in Plan 293. Total land from which Muslims have been chased away with the LDO permits amounts to more than 7,000 acres.

The Sri Lanka Sugar Corporation at Hingurana - Gal Oya, Tile factory under Ministry of Industries at Irakkamam, The River Valleys Development Board - the successor to the Gal Oya Development Board took over the fertile paddy fields of the Muslims without due regards to the provisions of the Law relating to acquisition of land. This has resulted in Muslims not getting alternate land or compensation.

It is a different story altogether, in the Sevenagala Sugar Development Project in the Uda Valawe Scheme in Embilipitiya. Thousands of unauthorized squatters who did not have even the LDO permits were given first the compensation and a subsistence allowance of Rs. 550/- per month, till the land illegally occupied by them is fully developed for sugar cultivation and given back to them at the rate of 3 - 5 acres. They are also given a developed plot of 1 acre high land and a free house. No one is displaced on account of sugar cultivation project as happened in Gal Oya and not a single Muslim or Tamil is brought from outside the area. What happened in Gal Oya scheme is a deliberate discrimination against the Muslims.

### **Trincomalee District**

Before the introduction of the Kanthele and Allai colonization scheme, Kanthele was predominantly a Muslim village with a small Tamil population. During this time Muslims cultivated about 4,000 acres of paddy land at a place called Pottanai in Thambalagamam. When Kanthale Colonization came in 1953, the promise and the policy of the Government was 50% for the local and 50% for others. Quite contrary to this, the Muslim cultivators who had been in the land for more than 30 years were chased away without any compensation. These lands were given to the Sinhalese in 1954.

The Battukachchi area which is presently called Akbar Puram were earlier pasture land of the people of the area. Here also they chased the Muslims and colonized with the Sinhalese. Even now there is a Mosque and a Muslim school. When Kanthale Sugar Corporation was established in 1958, more Sinhalese came in and occupied the land along Ale Kanthele Road, depriving the land to the Muslims. Kanthele, Poththanekadu, Peraru are few of the purane villages of the Muslims and Tamils which are now being occupied by the Sinhalese. Prior to 1965 the Local Government Village Council Chairman was a Muslim.

Kinniya which is the largest Muslim village in Trincomalee has a population of nearly 89,000. The poor landless farmers who lost their purane lands to the Sinhalese under Kanthele colonization schemes started clearing the immediate neighboring jungle at a place called Vanaru.

About 10,000 acres of land had been occupied by more than 3,000 Muslim farmers from the villages in the area - Vanaru, Sundiyaru, Maniarsenkulam, Savaru, Kalaruppu, Valamadu, Vannathipalam, Kattukuli, Naduluthu etc. In 1967 the Government introduced a Scheme called Kusmankada Vanale Scheme and started chasing the Muslims who were in occupation of the land at Vanaru. It was during this time that a police station was opened at the heart of the jungle called Van-Ela police station to chase away the Muslims who were in occupation of the land and to help the Sinhalese to take possession of the land developed by the Muslims.

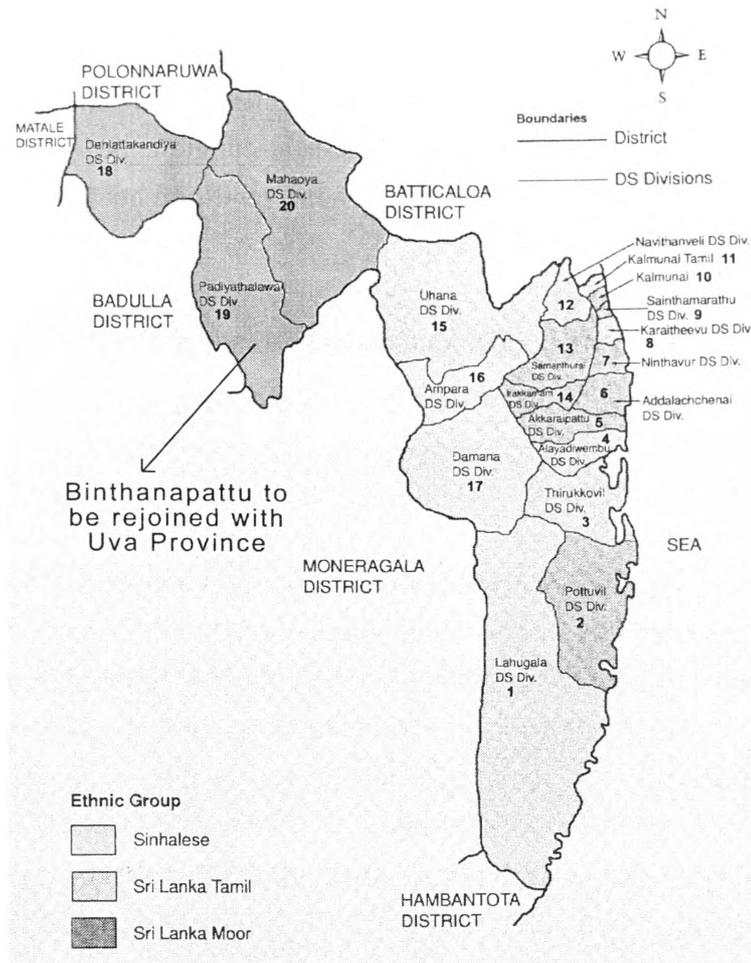
The land available between Kinniya and Thambalagamam road Alae Kanthele road was originally reserved for the village expansion of Kinniya, Kurunjankeni, Alankeni and Thambalagamam. When the Tobacco Corporation came in a place called Chondankadu area, closer to Mudalaimadu, the employees of the Corporation started encroaching into these areas.

The land owned by the Muslims are now forcibly being occupied by the Sinhalese. There is serious discrimination in the Trincomalee Kachcheri. Annual temporary LDO permits were not renewed for the lands cleared and cultivated by the Muslims. But new permits are issued to the Sinhalese who suddenly come and occupy the developed lands of the Muslims. Muslims are thrown out without any compensation or alternate land.

In the Padeviya colonization scheme in that portion of the land that falls within the Trincomalee district in the Eastern Province, the entirety of the land was alienated to the Sinhalese. Needless to say the entirety of the land under Padeviya scheme that fell within the North Central Province was also given to the Sinhalese. Today, the Tamil speaking people, the Tamils and Muslims who held land on Government Permits within the Trincomalee District very much before the implementation of Padeviya, Allai and Kanthale colonization schemes, are compelled to vacate these lands.

In a nutshell the Muslim Community has lost about 14,000 and 7,000 acres of paddy field in Trincomalee and Ampara Districts respectively. The Government will go on record which put right this historic injustice to the Muslims by providing them alternate lands from the un-alienated state lands of Ampara and Trincomalee Districts.

# 9. KALMUNAI ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT FOR AMPARA COASTAL AREA



No.	D.S. Division	Total Popula. 2007	District %	Land Available sq. km	Land Eligible sq. km	Sinhalese		Muslims		Tamils	
						2007	%	2007	%	2007	%
<b>Panamapattu</b>											
01	Lahugala	8259	1.59	616.87	46.56	7500	90.8	-	-	758	9.2
02	Pottuvil	33625	6.46	367.50	189.56	667	2.0	26493	78.8	6444	19.2
<b>Akkaraipattu</b>											
03	Thirukkivil	24972	4.80	190.65	140.78	27	0.1	-	-	24934	99.8
04	Alayadiwembu	22289	4.28	127.50	125.65	142	0.6	42	0.2	22085	99.1
05	Akkaraipattu	37070	7.12	102.18	208.98	119	0.3	36864	99.4	79	0.2
06	Addalachchenai	39721	7.63	52.50	223.93	1967	5.0	37349	94.0	404	1.0
<b>Ninthavur-Karawahupattu</b>											
07	Ninthavur	25652	4.93	55.62	144.61	9	0.0	24506	95.5	1129	4.4
08	Karaitheevu	16656	3.20	31.25	93.90	23	0.1	6534	39.2	10098	60.6
09	Sainthamaruthu	25147	4.83	66.87	546.97	3	0.0	25144	100.0	-	-
10	Kalmunai	42852	8.23			48	0.1	42689	99.6	115	0.3
11	Kalmunai Tamil	29025	5.58			248	0.9	1957	6.7	26818	92.4
<b>Sammanthurai</b>											
12	Navithanveli	18436	3.54	256.70	490.65	61	0.3	6026	32.7	12349	67.0
13	Sammanthurai	55592	10.68			81	0.1	48566	87.4	6939	12.5
14	Irakkamam	13006	2.50			759	5.8	11948	91.9	296	2.3
<b>Wewagampattu</b>											
15	Uhana	53262	10.23	415.62	300.26	53222	99.9	13	0.0	19	0.0
16	Ampara	39268	7.54	225.00	221.37	38668	98.5	317	0.8	245	0.6
17	Damana	35705	6.86	426.25	201.29	35560	99.6	116	0.3	16	0.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>520537</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>2934.51</b>	<b>2934.51</b>	<b>139104</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>268564</b>	<b>51.6</b>	<b>112728</b>	<b>21.7</b>

Prior to the establishment of the present Ampara District in 1961, Kalmunai was the center of administration for the areas South of Batticaloa including the present Ampara and Uhana DS Divisions with an Assistant Government Agent as its head. More than two third of the population of the Ampara District live in the coastal area stretching from Periyaneelavanai to Kumana. The Kachcheri and all activities of civil administration operates from Ampara resulting in the aforesaid two thirds of the population who are Tamil speaking having to travel to Ampara in the Sinhalese area to transact all official business.

In addition to the transport difficulties, they also undergo untold communication difficulties as the prime language of Administration of the Ampara Kachcheri is Sinhala.

According to 1971 census the ethnic composition of the Ampara District was 47% Muslims, 30% Sinhalese and 23% Tamils. Although the land eligibility of the Sinhalese is only 675 sq. miles the new electorate carved out in 1976 for the Sinhalese colonized under Gal Oya scheme is about 850 sq. miles. The land in the present Sinhalese areas amounts to 1,330 sq. miles which is 76% of the total land area of the present Ampara District which is 1,775 sq. miles. The 62% indigenious people - the Muslims and the Tamils are left with only 24% of land - 425 sq. miles.

In the old DRO system, Muslims were the majority in Panamapattu, Akkaraipattu, Ninthavur - Karawavupattu and Sammanthuraipattu while the Sinhalese were the majority in Wewagampattu and Binthannepattu in Ampara District. After the independence, when re-demarcating the Administrative areas as AGA Divisions, the land areas of the Muslims and Tamils were restricted to residential pockets only. Most of the land for agriculture, cattle-farming, inland fishing, etc. were first taken out and attached with the residential areas of the Sinhalese, and the Sinhalese majority AGA Divisions were created. Thereafter maps were prepared to establish these areas as being within Sinhala Divisions.

The present Lahugala Sinhalese majority AGA division was part of the former Muslim majority Panamapattu DRO's Division. In 1981, the population of the new Sinhalese majority Lahugala AGA Division was 6,252 and the land area is 380 sq. miles, whereas the population of the Muslim majority Pottuvil AGA Division in the balance area was 20,152 and the land area is only 116 sq. miles.

The original Sammanthuraipattu DRO's Division included Kondavettuwan beyond Hardy Institute, Ampara Kulam and the entire Ampara U C area. The present Muslim majority Sammanthurai AGA Division is left with only 99 sq. miles. Nearly 65 sq. miles have been taken away from the Muslim Majority DRO's Division and attached with the Sinhalese majority Wawegampattu Uhana AGA Division extent 260 sq. miles.

There is wide disparity in the proportion of land holdings between the Muslims and Sinhalese in the Ampara District. For e.g. the extent of the land held by the Sinhalese in the Lahugala AGA Division is 208 times more than the land held by the Muslims in the Kalmunai AGA Division. The average

land holding per person in the Sinhalese majority area is 13 times more than the average land holding per person in the Muslim majority areas.

It is pertinent at this juncture to note that with the enactment of the administrative district Act No. 22 of 1955, the 20 administrative Districts listed below were created and each of those districts were brought under a government Agent.

“Colombo, Kaluthara, Kandy, Matale, Nuwara Eliya, Galle, Matara, Hambantota, Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Kurunegala, Puttalam, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Badulla, ratnapura and Kegalle.”

During the past few decades Monaragala (1959), Ampara (1961), Gampaha (1978), Mullaithivu (1979), and Kilinochchi (1984) have been added to the above list by re-demarcating the district boundaries.

It is thus clear that precedent does exist to re-demarcate district boundaries and create new administrative districts. Such actions would go a long way to correct the great injustice caused by the arbitrary carving out of the land areas at various times since independence.

Under the circumstances we urge the Government, to consider the following which would result in the removal of the grievances caused to the Tamil speaking public of the Ampara coastal area and correct the injustices caused to the Muslims and Tamils of this area.

1. Create a separate administrative district in the coastal area of present Ampara District comprising the former DRO's Divisions of Panamapattu, Akkaraipattu, Karavahu – Ninthavurpattu, Sammanthuraipattu and Wewagampattu, covering the Kalmunai, Sammanthurai, Pottuvil electorates and Wewagampattu. This new district will cover a land area of 2,934.51 sq. km. and population – 518,537, Muslims 268,564 – 51.7%, Tamils 112,729 – 21.6%, Sinhalese 139,104 – 26.7%.
2. In order to ensure fair distribution of land, land and national resources, re-demarcate the areas of the Divisional Secretariats including the land and natural resources according to ethnic proportions of the different communities within each area.
3. Declare each of the newly carved out DS Area as a Pradeshiya Sabha for the purpose of Local Government.

## **10. UNLAWFUL OCCUPATION OF MUSLIM LANDS BY THE TAMILS IN THE EAST**

Muslim villages in the North East are interspersed with a Tamil village and vice versa. Substantial share of agricultural lands owned by the Muslims are adjacent to the Tamil villages.

There have been intermittent clashes over the years on comparatively trivial issues such as Muslim farmers being harassed by Tamils when they pass through Tamil areas, waylaying of vehicles, robbing of paddy and cattle belonging to the Muslims. After 1983 ethnic violence, it was found that the Tamils in the North have started to forcibly occupy the lands belonging to the Muslims in areas close to the Tamil villages. There are 65,000 acres of agricultural lands belonging to nearly 15,000 Muslim families in the East.

When questioned during the Media Conference which was described as the largest media event in Sri Lanka organised by the Tamil Tigers on 10th April 2002; about the forcible expulsion of tens of thousands of Muslim families by the LTTE in October 1990 from Tamil dominated areas in the North and the massacre of Muslims inside mosques in the East, LTTE Political Advisor Anton Balasingam said "It is I who made an apology to the Muslim people in public for what has happened in the past and that we are willing to talk to them and resolve these issues."

Responding to another question whether he has taken any concrete steps to allow the displaced Muslim people living in refugee camps for the last 16 years to come back to North, Mr Velupillai Pirabakaran said "proper objective conditions should be created for these people to come back. After these conditions are in place, I will make an appeal for the Muslims to come back."

Questioned about harassment of Muslims in the eastern province and the statement that the LTTE's eastern commander, Karikalan had reported to have made that the Muslims had no land rights in the Eastern province, Mr. Anton Balasingam replied, "we want to tell you that we have called the senior commanders of the eastern province to discuss the alleged harassment of Muslim people. We believe that there is no dispute as far as the LTTE leader is concerned on the issue of the Muslim people owning land in the North-East."

On an invitation from the LTTE Leader V. Pirapaharan, the Leader of the SLMC Minister Rauff Hackeem flew to the North with five of his party colleagues for a meeting on the 13th April, 2002.

Agreement was reached on important practical difficulties faced by the Muslims in the North-East. LTTE Leader Pirapaharan invited the displaced Muslims from Jaffna and Wannai to come and resettle in their own places. It was decided to establish joint committees of representative from the LTTE and SLMC to facilitate the resettlement. Similarly it was decided to create favorable conditions for the resettlement of the Muslims who were displaced from Muslims villages in the Eastern Province.

It was decided to help the Muslims to recultivate the uncultivated agricultural lands belonged to the Muslims in the North- East.

It was also agreed to appoint representatives from each district in the North East to discuss the problems faced by the Muslims with LTTE Senior Commanders and to strengthen Tamil Muslims relationship.

The resolution of the land question in the East would benefit more than 15,000 families and will establish the basis for conflict resolution and help peaceful co-existence between the Tamils and Muslims. It would certainly go a long way to heal one of the worst wounds at the heart of the relations between the two communities.

#### **Ampara District**

	<b>Predominate Muslim Areas</b>	<b>No. Cases</b>	<b>Extrent</b>		
			<b>A</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>
1	Pottuvil	730	2592	3	-
2	Akkaraipattu	660	1785	3	23
3	Addalachenai	329	1072	3	34
4	Oluvil/ Palamunai	176	559	1	30
5	Ninthavur	583	2349	-	10
6	Sammanthurai	529	2513	-	22
7	Irakkamam	428	2092	-	32
8	Kalmunai	280	1433	1	33
9	Maruthamunai	496	2365	1	30
		<b>4211</b>	<b>16764</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>

#### **Batticaloa District**

	<b>Predominate Muslim Areas</b>	<b>No. Cases</b>	<b>Extrent</b>		
			<b>A</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>
1	Kattankudy	449	4231	1	12
2	Eravur	2263	12784	3	34
3	Oddamavady	1856	8710	1	37
4	Valaichenai	907	3086	1	30
		<b>5475</b>	<b>28813</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33</b>

#### **Trincomalee District**

	<b>Predominate Muslim Areas</b>	<b>No. Cases</b>	<b>Extrent</b>		
			<b>A</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>
1	Kinniya	2252	7209	2	6
2	Mutur	992	2577	-	36
3	Thopur	912	4617	2	17
4	Pulmoddai	566	1344	3	25
5	Morawewa	464	1343	1	22
		<b>5186</b>	<b>17092</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>26</b>

<b>Eastern Province</b>		<b>No. Cases</b>	<b>Extent</b>		
<b>Total</b>			<b>A</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>
		<b>14872</b>	<b>62670</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33</b>

## **Mediation**

On a decision at the 5th session of the peace talks in Berlin on 7th & 8th of February 2003, LTTE – Muslim District Committees were established in all the three districts in the Eastern Province by the Government Peace Secretariat under the Prime Minister, to mediate lands and properties issues between the Tamils and Muslims.

The main reason for the present conflict between the Tamils and Muslims in the North East is the undue delay in implementing the agreements reached between the LTTE leader Pirabakaran and SLMC leader Rauff Hakeem on 13th April 2002 and the decision at the 5th Session of the peace talk held in Berlin during 7th and 8th February 2003 for the establishment of village level peace committees in the North East to mediate and resolve Tamil Muslim conflicts.

## **Confidence Building**

Confidence building between the Tamils and the Muslims in the North East was taken up as a priority item at the Peace Talks commenced on Thursday the 31st October 2002, at the Rose Garden Holiday Resort, Samoran, Nakhorn Pathong, Thailand.

It was agreed to take the following steps immediately to implement the joint agreements reached between the LTTE Leader Pirabakaran and the SLMC Leader Rauff Hakeem at the discussion held on 13th April 2002 at Vanni.

1. Establishment of Village level Tamil-Muslim Joint Committees to identify and resolve the problems faced by the Tamils and Muslims in the North East.
2. The Joint Committee to identify the lands belonging to the Muslims in the North-East unlawfully occupied by the Tamils to enable the take over by the Muslims.
3. The Joint Committee to identify the security problems faced by the Muslims in the North East in order to strengthen Muslim Security.
4. The Joint Committee to identify the administrative difficulties faced by the Muslims in the North Eastern Provincial Council, District Secretariats and the Divisional Secretariats in the North East to eliminate discrimination against the Muslims.
5. The Joint Committee to identify any other issues that would ensure the improvement of confidence building between the two communities.

## **Committees to Address Land Issues and Other Areas of Mutual Concern in the Eastern Province**

At the Fifth Session of Peace Talks held in Berlin on 7-8 February 2003 the parties agreed to establish three committees, one in each district of the Eastern Province, to address land issues and other areas of mutual concern. The committees will consist of six representatives of the Muslim population and six representatives of the LTTE. The work of the committees will start immediately. Similar committees will be appointed to address such issues relating to other communities as and when required.

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### **Muslim Trust Properties unlawfully occupied by Tamils**

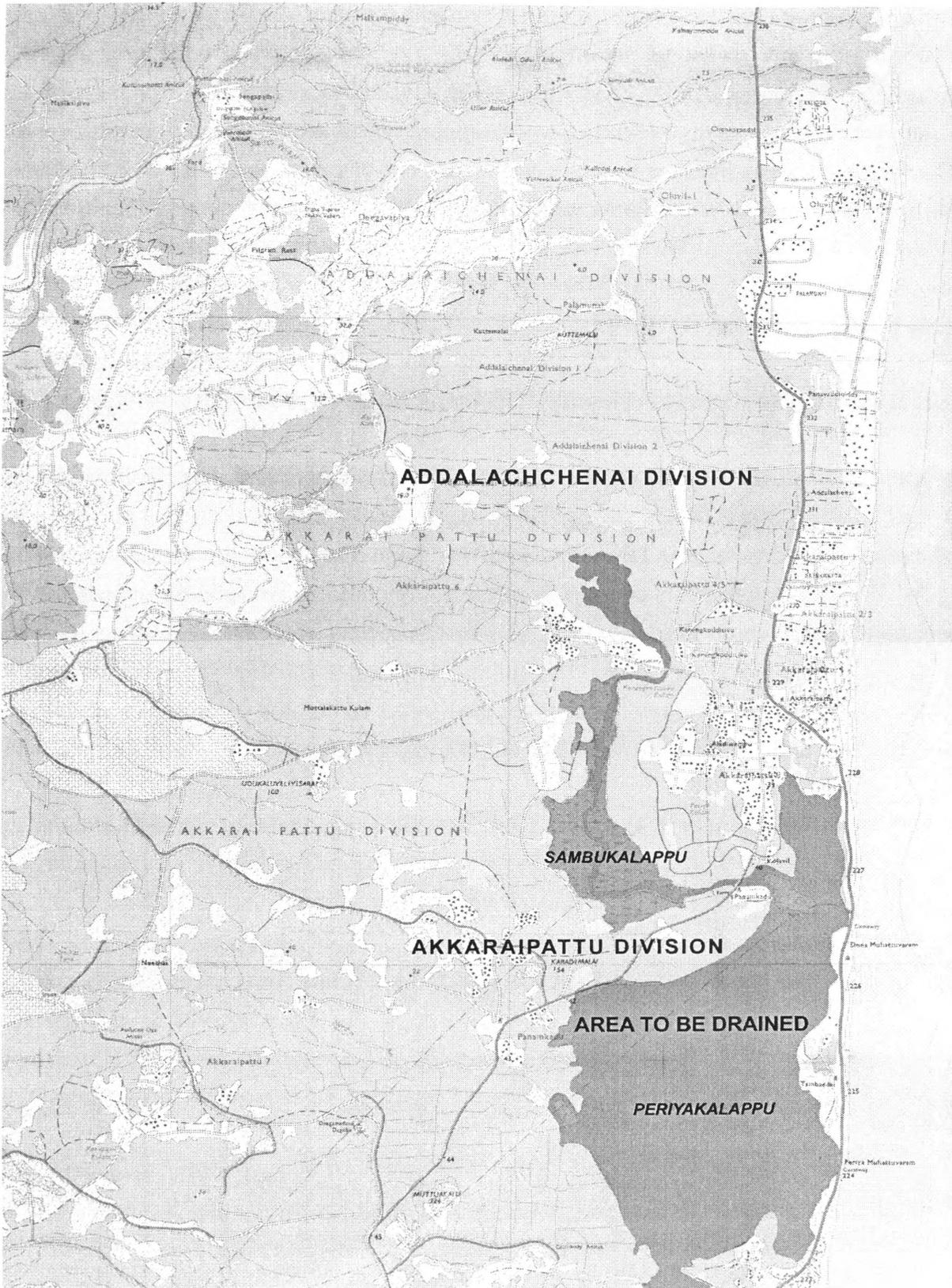
Tamils militant unlawfully occupying Rasool Estate in Thirukkovil 898 Acres and Timitar Estate in Komari 662 Acres - total 1,560 Acres are the properties in the Eastern Province, belonging to the estate of late M.I.A. Rasool and S.S. Assannalebbe administered by the Public Trustee under a Court Order in case No. 304/T. Beneficiaries of the above estates are Muslim Religious and Charitable Organizations and mosques. Tamils are settled on this property by 'World Vision Organization'.

The Public Trustee is the Official Administrator of the estate of late M.I.A. Rasool under the order of the District Court of Trincomalee in Case No. 304/T.

With all what had happened in the North-East, the Muslim issues are becoming graver daily. Muslim youths are becoming more desperate and they are agitating to take up to arms to resolve their problems if there is no favorable response to their grievances.

# 11. PERIYAKALAPPU - SAMBUKALAPPU DRAINAGE

This is one of the most urgent needs of the people of Akkaraipattu area, who have voted the PA Government to victory on the promise that the above drainage project would be commenced immediately. The job is to reduce the water level of Periyakalappu and Sambukalappu by one foot below Mean Sea Level in order to reclaim more than 2,500 acres of fertile paddy fields laying inundated for the last 45 years.



The drainage area is 7 sq. miles of Periyakalappu and 3 sq. miles of Sambukalappu total 10 sq. miles or 6,400 acres. Its catchment area is about 161 sq. miles from Kaliodai in the North to the Southern water sheds of Pannal Oya.

The total area of paddy and sugar cultivation in the above 161 sq. miles may be 40 sq. miles or 25,600 acres. The net drainage from these fields into the Kalapu pool area may be 10% or 42.7 cusecs. There may be approximately 4 monthly evaporation over the 10 sq. miles. It work out to 2,133 acre feet per month or 35 cusecs.

The sand bar at the main drainage outlet at Sinnamuhathuwaram closes usually in January and February each year. However, the Maha crops in the upper fields will be using water till first week of March. Therefore, a reasonable date for the commencement of pumping would be 15<sup>th</sup> March. It is likely that the water level of the pool area during this period to be 0.5 feet above Mean Sea Level. In order to reduce it to 1' 0" below mean sea level, nearly 9,000 acres feet of water will have to be pumped out. 90 days of pumping till 15<sup>th</sup> June requires a reasonable average of 100 acre feet per day. The capacity of the pump may be 50 cusecs or 18,000 gallons per minute. Thereby the last batch of the lower fields will be sewing 2½ months paddy by 15<sup>th</sup> June and harvesting same in September. Overall period of pumping should be 7 months. Net pumping time would be 90 - 120 days.

The pumping station will have to be cited at the left bank of Sinnamuhathuwaram cause way where the PWD road is 9' 0" above Mean Sea Level. So that it may facilitate the passage of the delivery line into the sea. High flood level in December 1957 had been 8' 0" and high tide may be 2' 0" MSL. Assuming 24" dia. delivery pipe, its take off from the pump could be between 6' - 8' MSL so that the motor itself may be above high flood level.

The project requires 4 sets of pumps directly coupled to 45 HP motor (one for the standby) Pump House, inlet channel, delivery pipe, Culvert and out fall into the sea.

The estimated cost of this project in 1960 was Rs. 130,000/- provisions was made in 1960/61 budget accordingly.

## **12. 2004 DECEMBER 26 'TSUNAMI' DESTRUCTIONS**

It is widely criticized that the government has not treated the Muslim Tsunami victims fairly. According to the Task Force to Rebuild the Nation (TAFREN), total donor commitments amounted to Rs. 178 billion (\$1.78 billion), almost the total direct cost of rehabilitation and reconstruction of tsunami damages estimated at Rs. 180 billion (US\$1.8 billion).

Muslim concerns were not given due publicity in the media. It is widely criticized that the government has not treated the 'Tsunami' affected people equally. Thousands of Muslims have been languishing in several temporary camps without sufficient food, medicines and other basic facilities. Muslims who are trying to resettle in their own land are still confronting threats from the government bureaucracy. In fact they are deprived of their fundamental human rights.

Ampara, the country's worst affected district is a glaring example of how ineffective institutions, political rivalries and misinformation can make a mockery of disaster management.

Mutur, Kinniya, Kuchchaveli Pulmoddai and Trincomalee town are the main Divisional Secretariats Division in the Trincomalee District where thousands of Muslims have been affected by the Tsunami. Political confusion has greatly contributed to the mismanagement of relief.

The situation in the South is different. In Hambantota, the need is only 1057 houses. But the donors have been allocated, 4852 houses. A recent internal memo circulated among the donor agencies said that the number of houses donors have been assigned was 11 times more than what was required within Hambantota.

### **Buffer Zone**

The government has relaxed the hotly-debated 200 metre buffer zone in the coastal areas due to the difficulties in finding alternate land to resettle the Tsunami affected people.

The buffer zone in Mutur, Kinniya, Kuchchaveli in the Trincomalee District has been relaxed to 60 metres, Kattankudy in Batticaloa District to 80 metres, Pottuvil and Arugambay to 50 metres, and Kalmunai to 65 metres in the Ampara District from the earlier 200 metres.

### **Leaving the above buffer zone, Land available in the coastal Muslim areas**

#### **Ampara District - 1,000 Acres**

Maruthamunai 120 Acres, Kalmunai 220 Acres, Sainthamaruthu 20 Acres, Ninthavur 220 Acres, Oluvil 20 Acres, Addalachchenai 50 Acres, Akkaraipattu 70 Acres and Pottuvil 280 Acres

#### **Batticaloa District - 300 Acres**

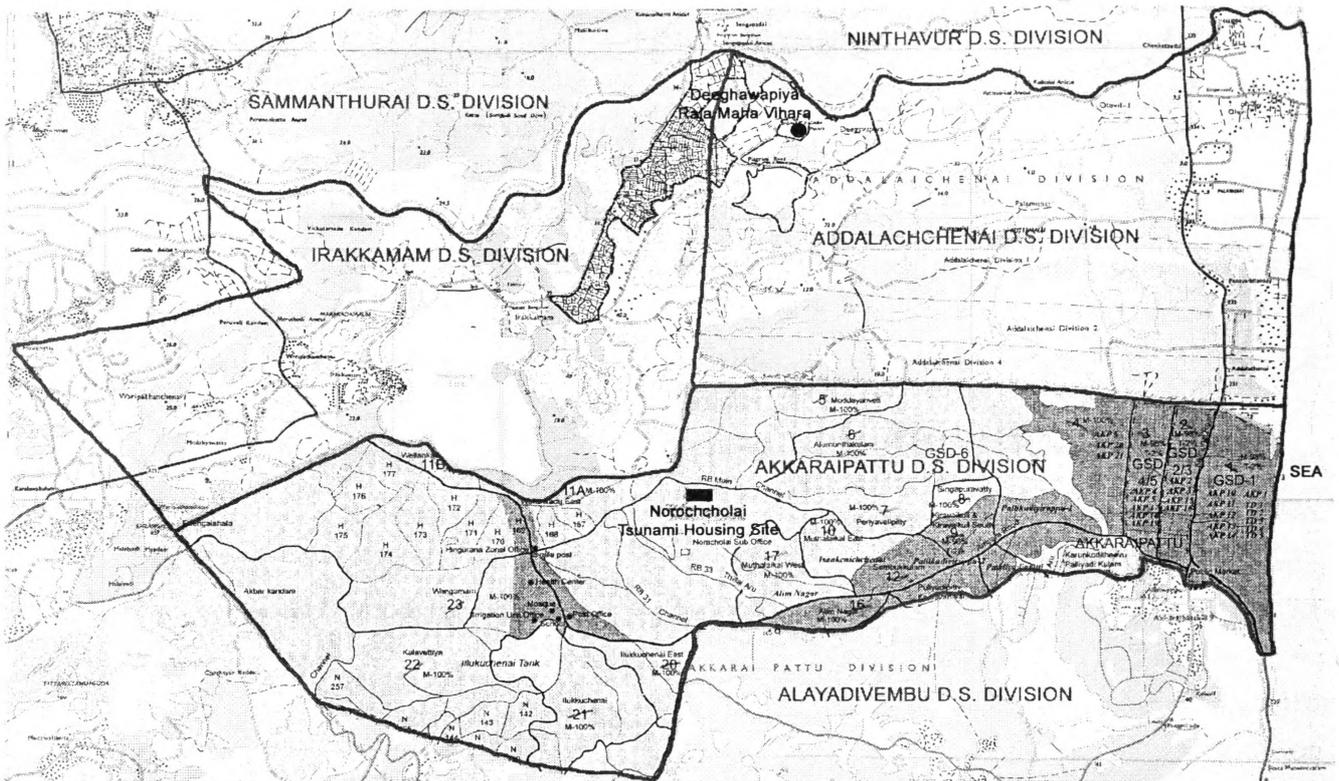
Kattankudy 240 Acres, Palamunai 40 Acres and Poonochchimunai 20 Acres

## Trincomalee District - 700 Acres

Mutur 140 Acres, Kinniya 435 Acres, Kuchchaveli 90 Acres and Trincomalee Town 35 Acres

Urban Development Ministry Secretary confirming the relaxation of the buffer zone regulations said that the revisions came after representations from various quarters seeking permission for construction purposes.

## Tsunami Housing project in Norochcholai



1. Houses to resettle the displaced Tsunami victims are built on lands identified and approved by the Government Task Force to Rebuild the Nation – TAFREN. Accordingly 40 acres of highland, in block 223 in Norochcholai owned by Hingurana Sugar Industries Ltd., which was unsuitable for sugar cultivation and abandoned for more than 30 years, was allocated to Sri Lanka Red Cross society by TAFREN to construct 500 houses for the resettlement of Muslim families displaced by the Tsunami in Akkaraipattu D.S. Division, Ampara District.
2. Funds for the construction of this 500 houses and the necessary infra-structure was donated by Saudi Arabia.
3. The housing site at Norachcholai in Akkaraipattu D.S. Division is about 5 km down south of Deegawapi Maha Chaitiya in Addalachchenai D.S. Division.
4. Population, displaced families, housing units damaged and the housing units handed over to the displaced Tsunami victims in Ampara District.

D.S. Division	Population				Displaced Families	Houses Damaged	Houses Handed Over
	Total	Sinhalese	Tamils	Muslims			
Kalmunai (Tamils)	29,025 100%	248 0.9%	26,242 90.4%	1,957 6.7%	3,061	3,259	384
Kalmunai (Muslims)	42,852 100%	48 0.1%	115 0.3%	42,689 99%	2,647	3,766	270
Sainthamaruthu	25,147 100%	3 0%	- -	25,144 100%	1,448	2,381	0
Karathivu	16,656 100%	23 0%	10,034 60.2%	6,534 39.2%	1,209	1,756	141
Nintavur	25,652 100%	9 0%	1,129 44%	24,506 95.5%	771	1,510	100
Addalaichenai	39,721 100%	1,967 50%	404 1.0%	37,349 94.0%	632	568	92
<b>Akkaraipattu</b>	<b>37,070</b> <b>100%</b>	<b>119</b> <b>0.3%</b>	<b>80</b> <b>0.2%</b>	<b>36,864</b> <b>99.4%</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>0</b>
Alayadiwembu	22,289 100%	142 0.6%	22,008 98.7%	42 0.2%	1,097	290	312
Thirukkivil	24,972 100%	27 0.1%	24,944 99.3%	- -	3,724	2,431	458
Pottuvil	33,625 100%	667 0.2%	6,448 19.2%	26,493 78.8%	1,902	1,796	653
Lahugala	8,259 100%	7,500 90.8%	758 9.2%	- -	110	51	91
Total	305,268 100%	10,753 3.52%	98,888 32.39%	201,578 66.03%	17,045	18,683	2,517

Source: Department of Census and Statistics – Special Enumeration – 2007 and Additional G.A. Ampara

5. According to the Department of Census and Statistics, there is no Sinhalese or Tamil Tsunami victims in Akkaraipattu D.S. Division.
6. Up to June 2008, 91 houses have already been handed over to the Sinhalese in Lahugala D.S. Division, because there were no Tamils or Muslim Tsunami victims. 1,295 houses have been handed over to the Tamil Tsunami victims in Kalmunai, Karathevu, Alayadivembu and Thirukkivil D.S. Divisions because there were no Muslims or Sinhalese Tsunami victims. Similarly 1,115 houses have been handed over to the Muslims in Kalmunai, Ninthavur, Addalaichenai and Pottuvil D.S. Divisions because there were no Tamils or Sinhalese victims. There is no discrimination against Sinhala, Tamil or Muslim residents of the area in the allocation of houses for the resettlement of displaced Tsunami victims.

# 13. SINHALISATION OF THE EASTERN PROVINCE

The plan for the Sinhalisation of the East has the backing right at the top and involve sections of the Buddhist clergy, security forces, bureaucrats, businessmen and politicians.

The objectives of their agenda is to make Sinhala people the single largest ethnic group in the Eastern Province. The Master plan envisage, demographic changes through state aided settlements, tourism development and Buddhist revival in Ampara and Trincomalee Districts and agro-business promotion in the Toppigala areas in Batticaloa District.

Facts and figures about population growth will help to illustrate how demography patterns have been unnaturally altered or distorted through state aided colonization, demarcation of new political and administrative units and accelerated irrigation schemes in the Eastern Province.

The Eastern Province is 3,839 sq. miles in extent. Originally Trincomalee 1,016sq. miles and, Batticaloa 2,823 sq. miles were the districts in this province. According to 1921 census, the Sinhalese were 3% of the Population in the Trincomalee District and 4.5% in the combined Batticaloa and Ampara District. The Sinhalese were less than 4% in the whole Eastern Province.

Batticaloa District was divided into the present Ampara District 1,775 sq. miles and Batticaloa District 1,048 sq. miles in 1961. Details of 1981 population in the Eastern Province

	<b>Trincomalee District</b>	<b>Batticaloa District</b>	<b>Ampara District</b>	<b>Eastern Province</b>
Tamils	93,510 (39.78%)	238,216 (72.59%)	79,725 (20.57%)	411,451 (42.42%)
Muslims	74,403 (29.26%)	79,317 (24.17%)	116,481 (41.66%)	315,201 (32.49%)
Sinhalese	89,341 (33.96%)	10,646 (3.24%)	146,371 (37.77%)	243,358 (25.09%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>245,250</b>	<b>328,170</b>	<b>387,577</b>	<b>970,010</b>

## Population Increase between 1949 and 1981

Tamil population increased from 136,059 to 411,451 - 302%, Muslim population increased from 109,024 to 315,201 - 289%, Sinhalese population increased from 27,556 to 243,358 - 883%. The National average increase of Sinhalese during this period is only 238%. The sudden increase of Sinhala population is the result of Government planed Sinhala Colonization in Gal-oya, Pannal-oya, and Ambalam-oya in Ampara District, and Kanthalai, Allai, Morawewa, Muthalikkulam, Pathaviya (Part), and Mahadiuluwewa schemes in Trincomalee District.

### **State Aided Sinhala Colonizations**

The Land Policies pursued hitherto by successive Governments after the Independence have had their far reaching adverse effects.

1. The Minorities have been denied their legitimate share of Developed State Land.
2. Deprivation of Land, more particularly developed land, to landless people in the Districts of Land alienation.
3. Substantial alteration in the Ethnic composition of the Districts in which State Land have been alienated.

This has contributed to the growth of tension and hostilities among different communities resulting in Ethnic Violence. The victims of such violence have always been the Tamils and Muslims.

When Gal Oya Development Scheme was inaugurated the late Hon. D.S. Senanayake stated that at least 50% of the new lands that were to become cultivatable under the Gal Oya Development Scheme would be distributed on a 50 – 50 basis between the local citizens of the Batticaloa district and the would be colonists from outside.

However, the opening of the Gal Oya Scheme was a great boon to the Sinhala people and this has been used as a device to deprive the Muslims to live and own lands under this Scheme.

### **No Lands for the Local Tamils and Muslims**

Ampara District is 1,775 square miles in extent. According to the census of 1981, the Sinhalese who were 37.2% eligible for 660 square miles. But they have 76% or 1,340 square miles in the predominant Sinhalese areas. Muslims 41.6% and eligible for 728 square miles. But the Muslims have only 263 square miles which is only 15% of the land in Ampara District.

The Political Authority and the District Minister in the then government were very keen to grab the already developed paddy fields of the Muslims and settle Sinhalese relatives brought from the South. These are the politically aided settlements of Sinhalese in Muslim areas which is over and above the 38 settlements of Sinhalese colonised under the Gal Oya scheme during 1960-63. This had seriously affected the economy and the political strength of the Indigenous Muslim population of Ampara District.

The extent of land available for the 42% Muslims in Ampara District is only 264 sq. miles only 14%, whereas the extent of the land available in the Sinhalese area for the 37% Sinhalese is 1,340 sq. miles in 76%. According to at 1981 census, there is already a short fall of 465 sq. miles of land for the Muslims and an excess of 680 sq. miles for the Sinhalese in the Ampara District.

### **State Aided Colonization under Accelerated Mahaweli Programme**

Under the accelerated Mahaweli programme, the land area coming under the Eastern Province is 159,000 acres - 44,312 allotments. More than 100,000 Sinhalese will be settled soon according to the

new agenda. When the operation commence in the proposed Heda Oya Scheme in Pottuvil, Ampara District, the demography of the East will be changed to 55% Sinhalese.

		AMPARA DISTRICT	BATTICALOA DISTRICT	TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT	EASTERN PROVINCE
System A	90,000 Acres 14,300 Allotments	- -	10,000 Acres 1,587 Allot.	40,000 Acres 6,349 Allot.	50,000 Acres 7,936 Allot.
System B	120,000 Acres 37,483 Allotments	4,000 Acres 1,250 Allot.	65,000 Acres 20,312 Allot.	- -	69,000 Acres 21,562 Allot.
System C	60,000 Acres 22,000 Allotments	25,000 Acres 9,259 Allot.	- -	- -	25,000 Acres 9,259 Allot.
System D	40,000 Acres 14,800 Allotments	- -	- -	15,000 Acres 5,555 Allot.	15,000 Acres 5,555 Allot.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>390,000 Acres</b> <b>101,483 Allotments</b>	<b>29,000 Acres</b> <b>10,509 Allot.</b>	<b>75,000 Acres</b> <b>21,899 Allot.</b>	<b>55,000 Acres</b> <b>11,904 Allot.</b>	<b>159,000 Acres</b> <b>44,312 Allot.</b>

#### **Allocation of Land Areas in the Demarcation of Electoral and Administrative Units**

The 1976 Delimitation Commission demarcated Seruvila Electorate for the Sinhalese covering 700 sq. miles out of the 1048 sq. miles for the 24% Sinhalese in Trincomalee District. The land area for the 76% Tamils and Muslims was the balance 348 acres.

According to 1971 censuses, the population of Ampara District - 47% Muslims, 30% Sinhalese, and 23% Tamils. The Ampara Electorate created for the newly settled Sinhalese under the Gal Oya state aided colonisation is 880 sq. miles. With the 370 sq. miles allocated for the Lahugala and Damana AGA Division the 30% Sinhalese were given 1,250 sq. miles - 70% Land area, whereas the 70% Tamils and Muslims are left with only 30% of Land area - 525 sq. miles.

Former Muslim Majority Panamapattu DRO Division, 472 sq. miles, population 26,916. When redemarcating the new Administrative Divisions 19,831 - 74% Muslim Majority Pottuvil AGA Division was given only 22% - 103.9 sq. miles and the balance 78% - 368.2 sq. miles land area was allocated for the 7,085 - 26% Sinhala Majority Lahugala AGA Division.

In the Sammanthurai Muslim Majority DRO Division, nearly 50 sq. miles of land area covering the Hendy Institute, Ampara Tank and the Town area was separated and added with the Wewagampattu South - Uhana AGA Division.

When compared the land area of Sinhala Majority Lahugala AGA Division with the Muslim Majority Kalmunai AGA Division, the Sinhalese are having 208 times more than the land area of the

Muslims. When compared the land areas for the Sinhalese with the land area for the Muslims in the Muslim Majority Ampara District, the Sinhalese land area is 13 times more than the Muslim land area.

More than 65% of the people, Tamils and Muslim living in the coastal area of the Ampara District. But the Ampara Kachcheri continues the administration in Sinhala quiet contrarily to the constitutional requirement of the language of administration in Tamil.

### **Master Plan**

There is an integrated development master plan for Trincomalee town and other surrounding areas. One of the proposed projects for Trincomalee under this plan is the special economic zone at Kappalthurai. It will be completed in 2015. There will also be a small and medium industrial zone at Kappalthurai. It will be set up in 2008.

A new administrative secretariat will be established in 2008. A new fisheries harbour is to be constructed by 2010 at Pudavaikattu. A new town development scheme for Andankulam - China Bay is to be built by 2010.

A massive road project linking Uppuvely and Eechilampattu is to be constructed by 2010. This proposed outer circular road will run through Sinhala areas of Seruwila division. This is an extension of a new road constructed in Trincomalee North. Two tourist resorts will be set up by 2010. They will be in Nilaweli and Verugal.

The other important project is the coal fired power plant to be set up with Indian assistance. Both phases of the project are expected be completed by 2012. Originally it was ear-marked for Kappalthurai but Colombo wanted to set it up later in Sampur. However, New Delhi has stood firm and it is likely to come up in Kappalthurai.

### **Systematic Planed Encroachments by Sinhalese**

The groundwork is being laid cleverly for future 'Sinhalaisation'. The Road Development Authority has begun constructing an inner ring road and an outer ring road for Trincomalee. The inner ring road links Aathimottai on the Trincomalee-Nilaweli-Pulmottai Road, Kinniya on the A12 (Puttalam-Anuradhapura-Trincomalee Road) and 189km post on A-6 (Kandy-Habarana-Trincomalee Road).

The outer ring road planned will begin at Kuchchaveli on the Trincomalee-Nilaweli-Pulmottai Road, cross A12 near Pankulam and meet A6 between Kantalai and Tamplakamam and proceed to Ilankaiturai-Muhathuvaram and to Sampur.

The construction work is being undertaken by the Sri Lanka Army (SLA). The RDA Chief Engineer in Trincomalee works very closely with the SLA. The planning and designing are done in Colombo. The Provincial Director of the RDA based in Batticaloa is completely in the dark about the two ring road projects.

Arrangements are being made for the Sinhalese 'encroachers' to move in between A-6 and A12 on this ring roads.

### **Sinhalisation of Administration in the Eastern Province**

After demerging of the East in October 2006, the Eastern Province administration is ethnically transformed. There are many Sinhalese ex-service men now in key positions. The Eastern Province Governor, the Government Agents of Ampara and Trincomalee Districts, the Rehabilitation Co-ordinator, the Governors Secretary, the Provincial Chief Secretary and the Secretary to the Eastern Province Public Service Commission are all Sinhalese.

Despite a Provincial Council had been recently installed, the devolution process in the Eastern Province is yet to get underway in real terms on account of marked reluctance by the Central Government to concede the relevant powers to the provinces. What we are seeing right now is further consolidation of the Sinhalisation process. The land Minister in the Eastern Provincial Council and the Secretary to this ministry and the land commissioner are Sinhalese. Although 80% of schools in the Eastern Province are Tamil medium schools, the Education Minister is a Sinhalese. The combination of Sinhala Administrative and Security Officials are well equipped for the rapid implementation of the 3D Sinhalisation programme.

The Army Commander has said that the Sinhalese as the majority community must enjoy the rights that are its due and the minority communities should not make any undue claims. The JHU leader Ven. Ellawal Thero says Sri Lanka is for the Buddhist and he wants the Muslims to go to Saudi Arabia. Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickremnayaka had said in Cypress recently that the country would be converted into a Buddhist State once the LTTE is defeated.

# **14. GRIEVANCES OF EASTERN MUSLIMS**

There are number of grievances seriously affecting the Muslims in the Eastern Province

## **Grievance No.1**

### **Language of Administration in the Eastern Province**

Section 22 (1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka states that the Tamil Language shall be used as the Language of Administration for the maintenance of Public Records and the transaction of all business by public institutions in the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

Tamil Speaking population in Ampara District is more than 63% and the population in the Trincomalee District 76% of the total population. But all public institutions in Ampara and Trincomalee Districts of the Eastern Province, still continue to administer and maintain public records in Sinhala and not in Tamil Language as provided in the Constitution.

## **Grievance No.2**

### **Government Agent – District Secretaries in Muslim Majority Districts**

Ampara and Trincomalee Districts are the only Muslim Majority Districts in Sri Lanka. But these Districts never had Muslim District Secretariats - GA

## **Grievance No.3**

### **Location of Kachchery in Sinhalese Area for the administration of Muslim Majority Ampara District**

Kalmunai was the administrative centre for areas down South of Batticaloa before the formation of Ampara District in 1963. More than 65% of the population of Ampara District live in the coastal area from Maruthamunai to Panama. Kalmunai is also the main town in this area.

The present location of the Kachcheri in Ampara is quite out of the way and not in the best interest of the majority of the people of the area.

## **Grievance No.4**

### **Muslim Lands unlawfully occupied by Tamil Terrorists**

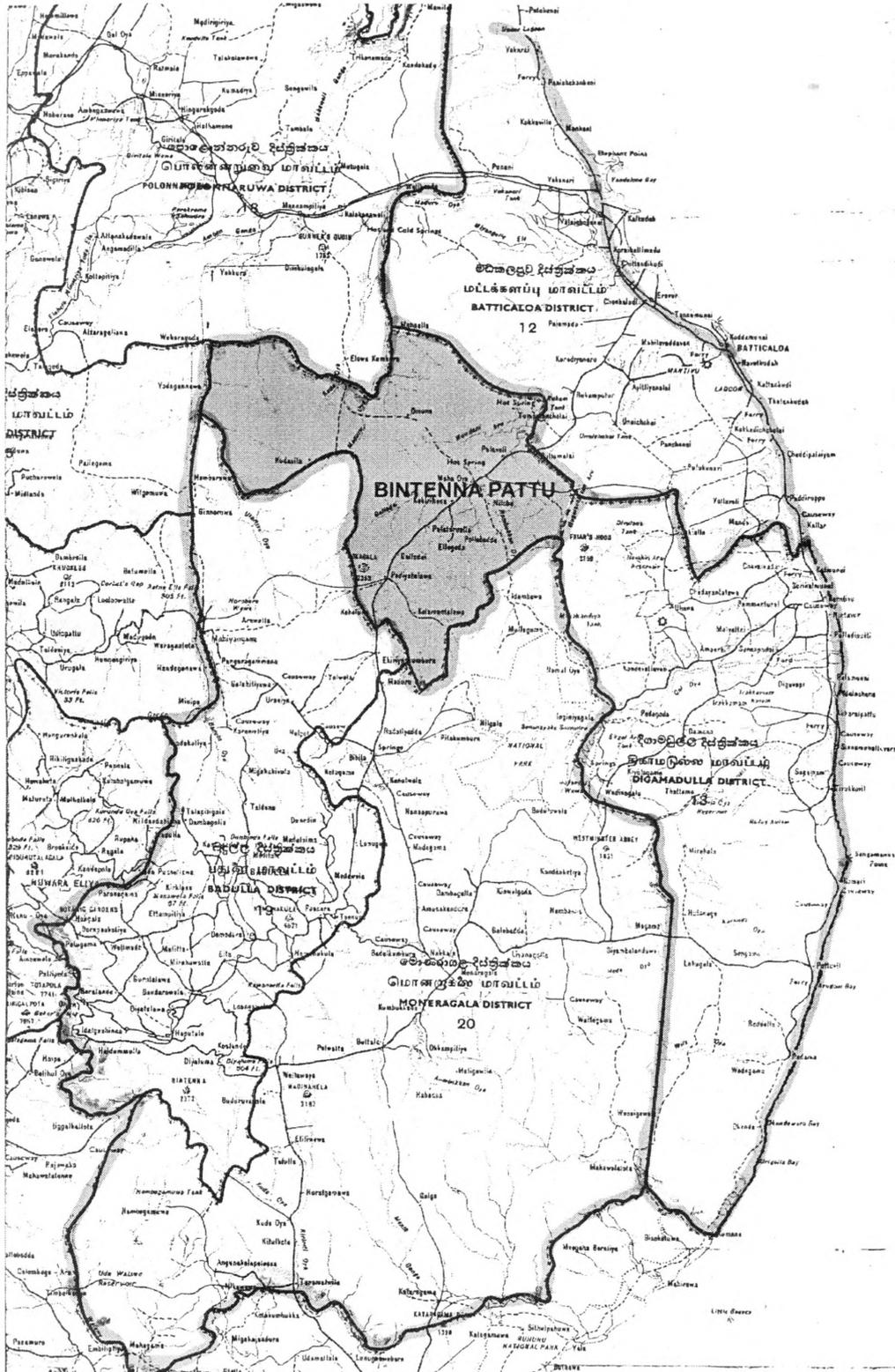
LTTE – Tamils are forcibly occupying 63,000 Acres of Agricultural Land belonging to more than 15,000 Muslim families in the East. Tamil militants are also unlawfully occupying lands belonging to Muslim religious and cultural organization – 1560 Acres in Thirukkivil and 'Timitar' Komari in Pottuvil – the properties in Rasool Estate in the custody of the Department of Public Trustee in terms of Case No. 304/T.

## Grievance No.5

### Sinhalese Areas attached to Muslim Majority Districts

Bintenna Pattu was originally in the Uva Province, later it was in the Batticaloa Electorate but administered by the Uva Province. The Delimitation Commission of 1959, it was joined with Ampara Electorate but continued to be administered from the Uva Province - Moneragala. But the Commission reported in para 109 that “The best solution for the problem of Bintenna Pattu appears to us to rejoin it to the Uva Province”.

### Bintennapattu DRO Division in Ampara District



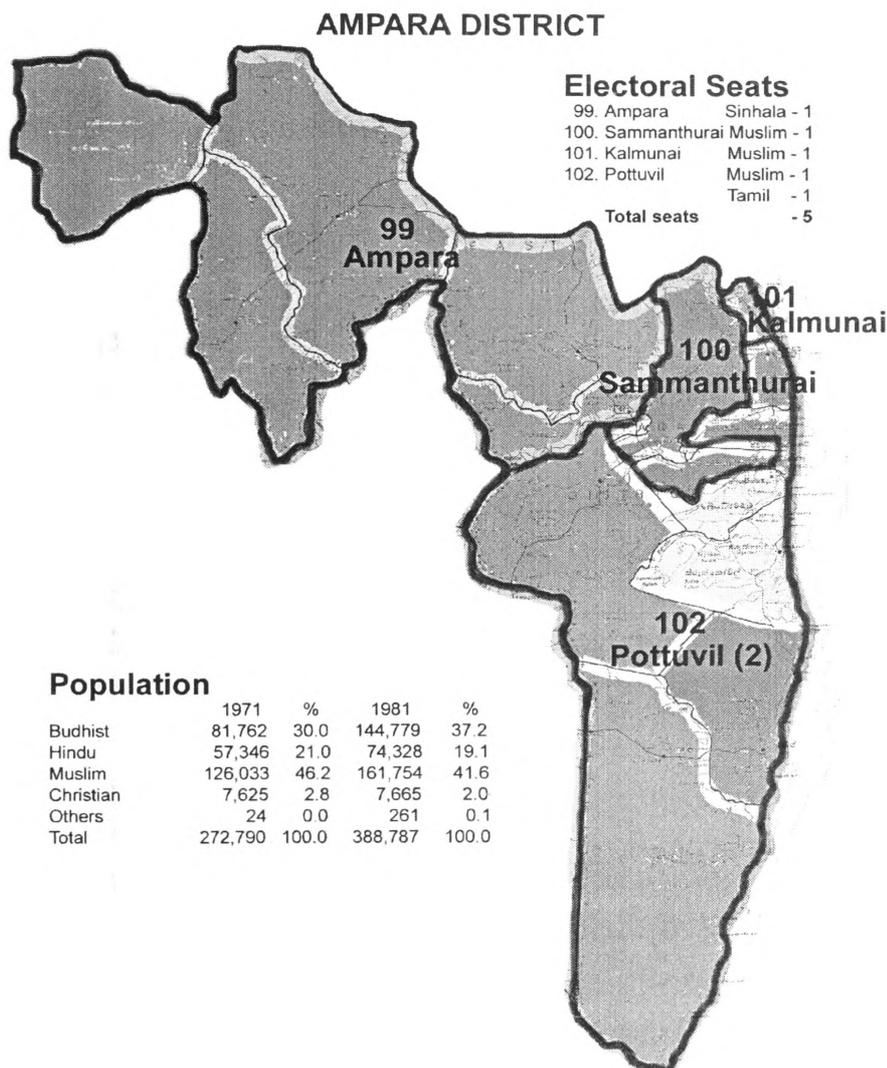
No.	D.S. Division	Total Popula. 2007	District %	Land Available sq. km	Land Eligible sq. km	Sinhalese		Muslims		Tamils	
						2007	%	2007	%	2007	%
<b>Binthanapattu</b>											
18	Dehiyattakandya	55930	9.16	432.50	406.01	55716	99.8	116	0.2	87	0.2
19	Pathiyathalawa	16451	2.69	466.37	119.42	16365	99.5	50	0.3	28	0.2
20	Maha-Oya	17801	2.91	600.00	129.22	17753	99.7	36	0.2	12	0.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>90182</b>	<b>14.7665</b>	<b>1498.87</b>	<b>654.65636</b>	<b>89834</b>	<b>99.6</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>0.1</b>

## Grievance No.6

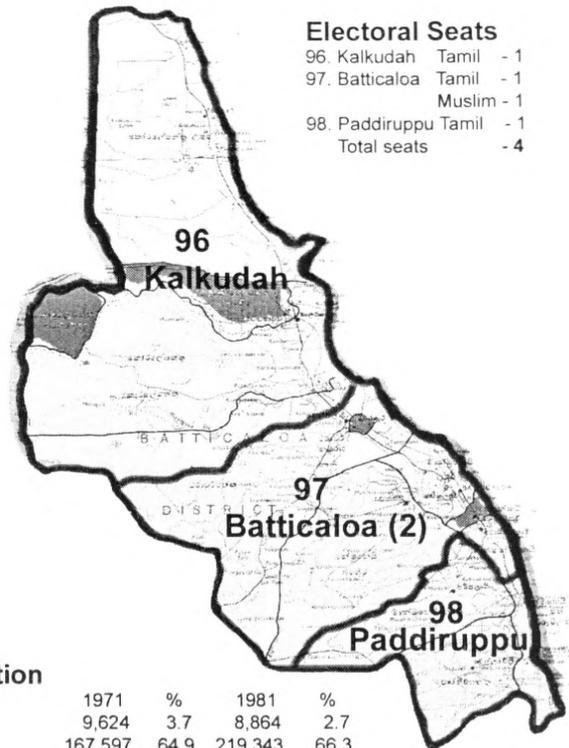
### Allocation of Land Areas in the Demarcation of Electoral and Administrative Units.

The 1976 Delimitation Commission demarcated Seruvila Electorate for the Sinhalese covering 700 sq. miles out of the 1048 sq. miles for the 24% Sinhalese in Trincomalee District. The land area for the 76% Tamils and Muslims was the balance 348 acres.

According to 1971 censers, the population of Ampara District - 47% Muslims, 30% Sinhalese, and 23% Tamils. The Ampara Electorate created for the newly settled Sinhalese under the Gal Oya state aided colonisation is 880 sq. miles. With the 370 sq. miles allocated for the Lahugala and Damana AGA Division the 30% Sinhalese were given 1,250 sq. miles - 70% Land area, where as the 70% Tamils and Muslims are left with only 30% of Land area - 525 sq. miles.



## BATTICALOA DISTRICT



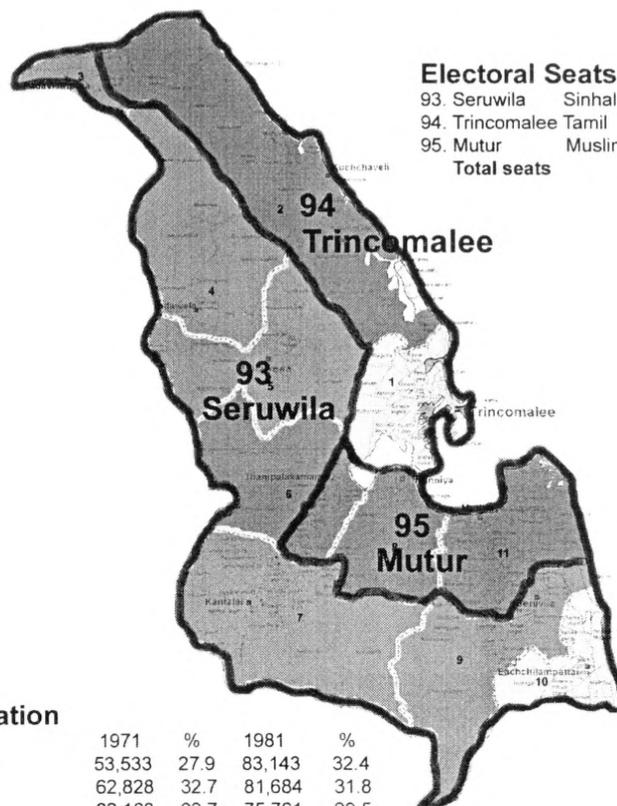
**Electoral Seats**

96 Kalkudah	Tamil	- 1
97. Batticaloa	Tamil	- 1
	Muslim	- 1
98. Paddiruppu	Tamil	- 1
<b>Total seats</b>		<b>- 4</b>

### Population

	1971	%	1981	%
Budhist	9,624	3.7	8,864	2.7
Hindu	167,597	64.9	219,343	66.3
Muslim	62,519	24.2	79,662	24.1
Christian	18,316	7.1	22,725	6.8
Others	0	0.0	305	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>258,056</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>330,899</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT



**Electoral Seats**

93. Seruwila	Sinhala	- 1
94. Trincomalee	Tamil	- 1
95. Mutur	Muslim	- 1
<b>Total seats</b>		<b>- 3</b>

### Population

	1971	%	1981	%
Budhist	53,533	27.9	83,143	32.4
Hindu	62,828	32.7	81,684	31.8
Muslim	62,163	32.7	75,761	29.5
Christian	13,379	7.0	15,363	6.0
Others	86	0.0	839	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>191,989</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>256,790</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## **Grievance No.7**

### **Tsunami Destructions**

It is widely criticized that the government has not treated the 'Tsunami' affected Muslim people equally.

Ampara, the country's worst affected district is a glaring example of how ineffective institutions, political rivalries and misinformation can make a mockery of disaster management. Kattankudy boarder villages such as New Kattankudy and Palamunai still remain untouched. Mutur, Kinniya, Kuchchaveli Pulmoddai and Trincomalee town are the main Divisional Secretariats Division in the Trincomalee District where thousands of Muslims have been affected by the Tsunami.

## **Grievance No.8**

### **Controversy over the New Flag**

Sri Lanka government has designed a new flag for the Eastern Province. This new flag has caused much misunderstanding and confusion as the flag has failed to represent all the communities living in the East in a just and faire manner.

Mr. T.D.S.A. Dissanayaka in his book – War or Peace in Sri Lanka, says that the Muslims are now the unquestioned first majority in the Eastern Province – 39.6%, Tamils – 33.2%, Sinhalese – 26.1% and Others – 1.1%.

The Muslim community which is the largest ethnic group in the East today has raised serious concern over the failure of the government to recognize this community by not printing any symbols in the flag to represent the Muslims.

## **Grievance No.9**

### **Para Military Forces harassing Muslim civilians**

Law enforcement authorities in many parts of the Eastern province are allegedly turning a 'blind eye' to the continuous complaints made against terrorists.

Apart from encroaching lands belonging to Muslims, the terrorists have commenced taking ransom. Most victims have now stopped complaining to the police because when complaints were made to the police the details of those who made the complaints were leaked. As a result these families are intimidated and harassed.

## **Grievance No.10**

### **Security**

We appeal to His Excellency the President Mahinda Rajapaksa to implement immediately his election promise to the Muslims in the Mahinda Chintanaya regarding Security for Muslims in the Eastern Province. Form Mahinda Chintanaya I Quote "I consider the need to dispel the fears of the people of the Eastern Province is of utmost importance. I am firmly of the view that no ethnic group should be reduced to being hostages of another group. I will therefore ensure that the security of the

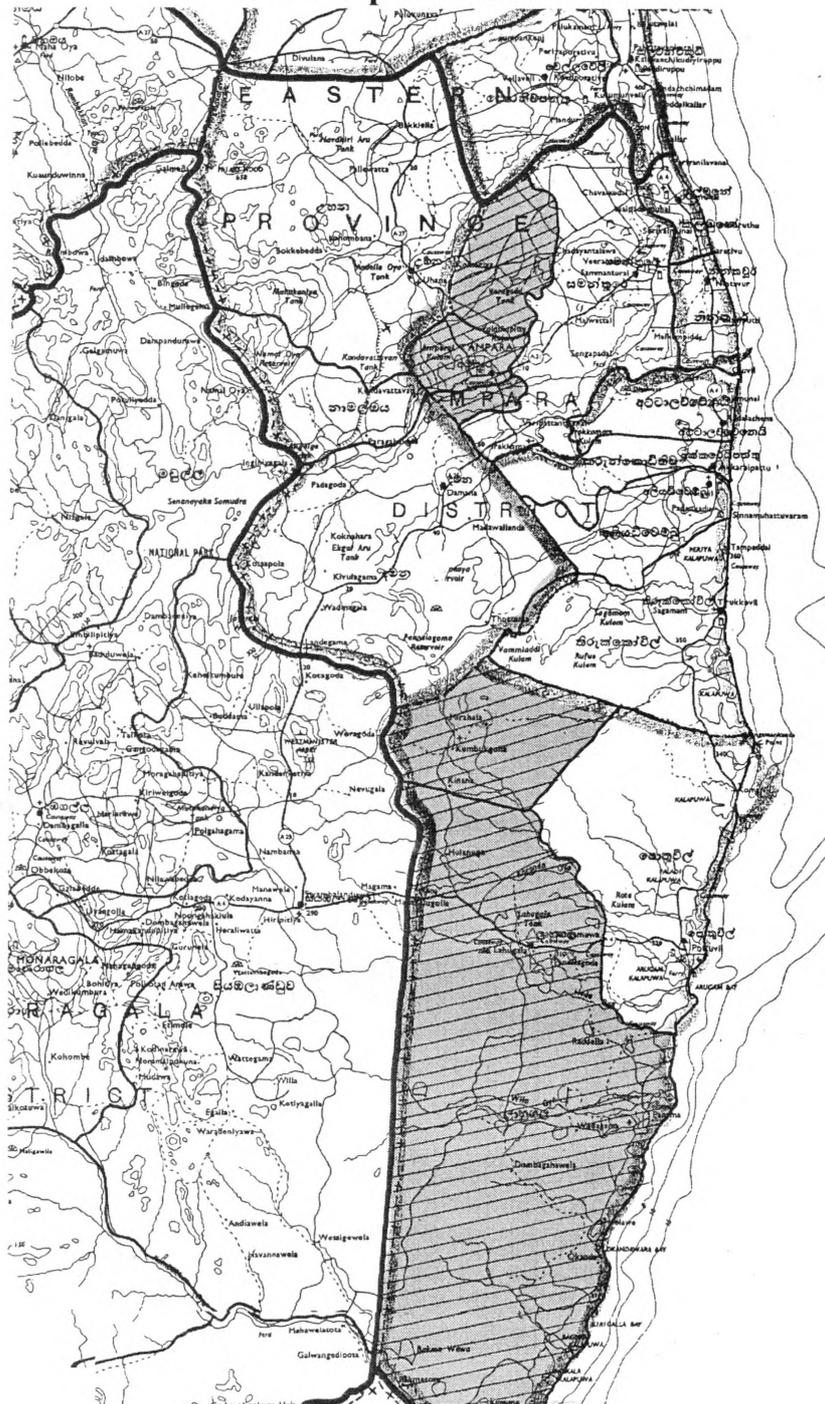
people of the Eastern Province is not threatened. I will pay special attention to the Security of the Muslim community”.

All previous governments have failed to take meaningful measures regarding Security for Muslims.

The government should at least now take necessary steps to protect the Muslims. Those who were involved in the brutal murders of Muslims in Panama - Pottuvil and Muthur - Trincomalee should be brought to book. The members of the armed forces should be made protectors of all citizen irrespective of ethnicity and religion.

## Ampara District

### Sinhalese Encroachment in Predominant Muslim DRO Divisions in Ampara District



## **Grievance No.11**

### **Pottuvil**

Former Muslim Majority Panamapattu DRO Division, 472 sq. miles, population 26,916. When redemarcating the new Administrative Divisions 19,831 - 74% Muslim Majority Pottuvil AGA Division was given only 22% - 103.9 sq. miles and the balance 78% - 368.2 sq. miles land area was allocated for the 7,085 - 26% Sinhala Majority Lahugala AGA Division.

When compared the land area of Sinhala Majority Lahugala AGA Division with the Muslim Majority Kalmunai AGA Division, the Sinhalese are having 208 times more than the land area of the Muslims. When compared the land areas for the Sinhalese with the land area for the Muslims in the Muslim Majority Ampara District, the Sinhalese land area is 13 times more than the Muslim land area.

## **Grievance No.12**

### **Akkaraipattu Livestock and Dairy Farmers Agricultural Co-operative Society Limited**

The area of operation of the Society is the DRO's Division of Akkaraipattu – present Divisional Secretaries Division of Akkaraipattu, Alayadivembu, Addalaichenai and Thirukkivil. The Society has 200 members.

According to the records in Akkaraipattu Police Station the total number of cattles lost during the insurgency in 1985 - 1997 is 12,945 and the estimated value of damages to the cattles and farm was Rs. 100 million.

Prior to the insurgency, the Society produced more than 1½ million liters of milk and 300 tons of beef annually and the members were able to get an average income of Rs. 5,000-00 per month. Presently the members of the Society have lost their cattle, farm and the income. The county had lost the much needed milk and meat.

## **Grievance No.13**

### **Akkaraipattu**

The Akkaraipattu AGA's Division had two-third Muslims and one-third Tamil population. A circuit AGA's Office was temporarily created in 1985 for the Tamils in Akkaraipattu which was later upgraded to a full fledged AGA's Office called Alayadivembu by political vested interests.

Grievances of Akkaraipattu Muslim people were further aggravated when malicious efforts were made to include the legitimate land and natural resources belonging to the Muslim people with Tamil majority Alayadivembu AGA's Division.

The Divisional Secretariat Administration was introduced in 1992. But Akkaraipattu DS Division and Alayadivembu DS Division were created without correct definition of the area of administration and the relevant Grama Sevaka Divisions falling within the respective DS Divisions. The situation continues to remain unsettled.

#### **Grievance No.14**

##### **Periyakalappu - Sambukalappu Drainage**

This is one of the most urgent needs of the people of Akkaraipattu area, who have voted the UPFA Government to victory on the promise that the above drainage project would be commenced immediately. The job is to reduce the water level of Periyakalappu and Sambukalappu by one foot below Mean Sea Level in order to reclaim more than 2,500 acres of fertile paddy fields laying inundated for the last 45 years.

The drainage area is 7 sq. miles of Periyakalappu and 3 sq. miles of Sambukalappu total 10 sq. miles or 6,400 acres.

#### **Grievance No.15**

##### **Sammanthurai**

In the Sammanthurai Muslim Majority DRO Division, nearly 65 sq. miles of land area covering the Hendy Institute, Ampara Tank and the Town area have been encroached by the Sinhalese and attached with the Wewagampattu South – Uhana AGA Division.

#### **Grievance No.16**

##### **Irakkamam**

When the original DRO's Division was divided into Addalaichenai, Thirukkivil and Alayadivembu AGA Divisions, the boundaries between Sammanthurai and Akkaraipattu AGA Divisions were not changed and continue to remain same with Irakkamam as a part of Sammanthurai AGA Division in the South.

Irakkamam was given a sub AGA's Office and now it has been upgraded as DS Office without proper demarcation of boundaries or any Gazette notification.

#### **Batticaloa District**

##### **Grievance No.17**

The Batticaloa district consists of 14 Pradesiya Sabhas and covering an extent of 2633 sq. km. There are 4 predominant Muslim DS divisions and the land area – Kattankudi 3.4 sq. km. Eravur Town 3.89 sq. km., Koralaipaththu West (Ottamavadi) 6.84 sq. km. Koralaipaththu Central 6.50 sq. km. Total extent of Muslim land area approximately 20.0 sq. km., which is less than 1.0% of the total area of Batticaloa District where the Muslim population is nearly 30% today.

Serious issues have been raised by Muslims of Batticaloa on the ongoing activities of the several international organizations assisted by the Government and the Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal (TMVP) in re-settling displaced Tamils on lands owned by Muslims.

After 1985, LTTE forcibly occupied Muslim residential, agricultural and cattle farming lands – more than 35,000 acres in areas under their control. The GOSL did nothing to restore these properties owned by the Muslims on title deeds, government permits and paddy cultivation register.

### **Grievance No.18**

#### **Koralaipaththu Central**

Although the Local Government Commission declared Koralaipaththu Central – the area of historical habitation of the Muslims, covering more than 240 sq. km., consisting of 11 Grama Sevaka Niladhari divisions, the boundaries have not yet been demarcated on ground.

### **Grievance No.19**

#### **Eravur**

Most of the Muslim agriculture and cattle farm land owned by the Muslims lie along the Chenkaladi - Badulla – A5 Road. Today the entire area along this road has come under the control of GOSL armed forces. Eravur Muslims owned more than 12,000 acres. Arrangements are being made now to bring back the Tamils who have been unlawfully occupying Muslim lands and settle them permanently by the TMVP and the Government armed forces without any consideration of the displaced Muslims.

During the ethnic conflict 1983, 1985, 1990 etc., more than 12,700 Muslim families were chased out by the LTTE and the Tamils forcibly occupied all the Muslim lands that came under LTTE control. The GOSL did nothing to provide any relief or paid compensation for the loss of livelihood of these displaced Muslims.

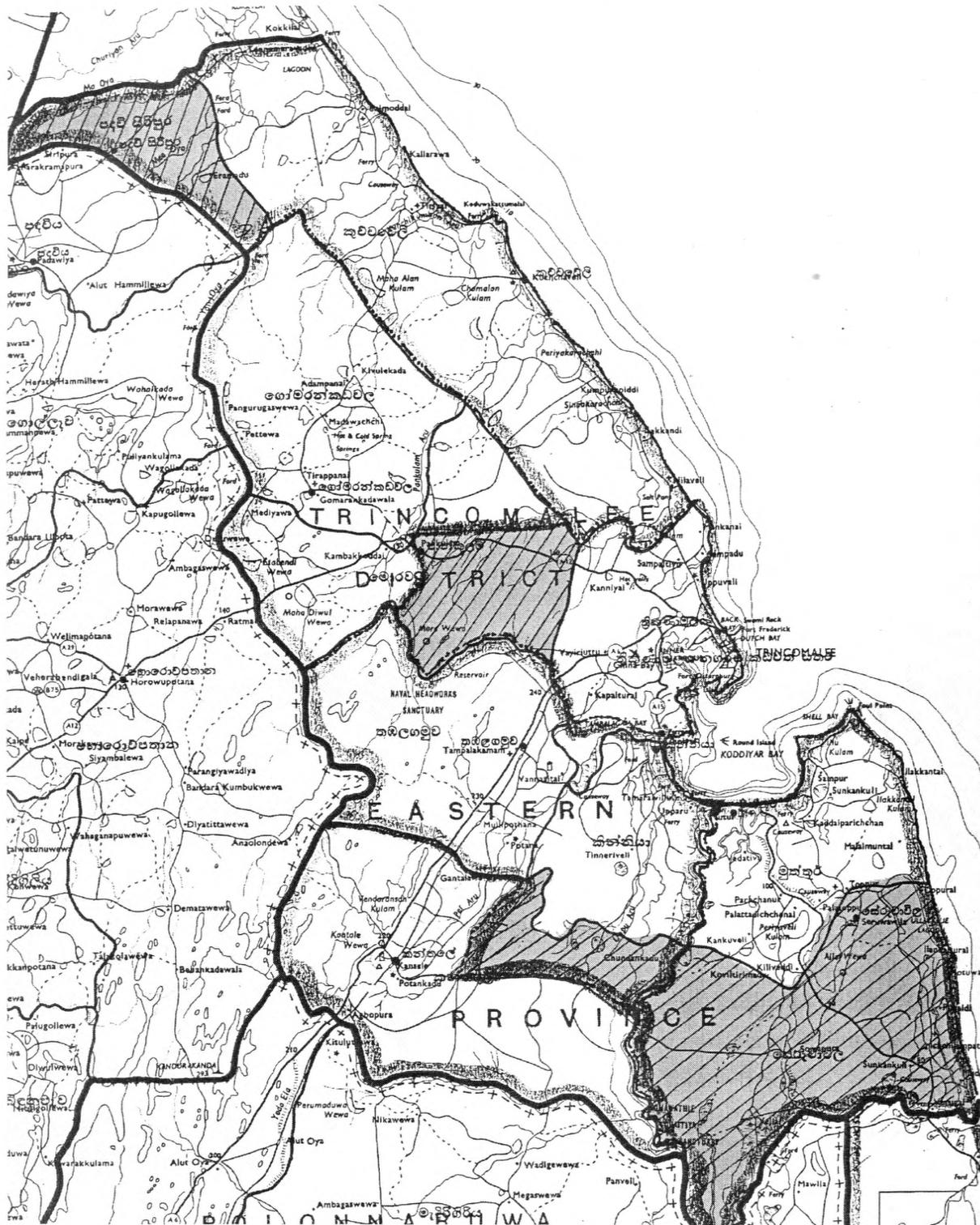
Resettlement of displaced Tamils on Muslim land in Iyankuni, Meerakerni, Mitchanagar, Hidayathanagar, Thakvanagar in and around Eravurpathu Pradeshiya Sabha would further deteriorate the peaceful co-existence of Muslims and Tamils in Eravur.

### **Grievance No.20**

#### **Kattankudy Muslim Border Villages**

Ollikulam, Sikaram, Karbela, Palamunai, Kankayan Odai, Keechampallam are the Muslim border villages of Kattankudi in Arayanipathu Pradeshiya Sabha. Displaced Tamils after the ‘Tsunami’ and GOSL military operations to flush the LTTE terrorists in the Paduvankarai Tamil villages have been temporarily settled in private lands owned by the Muslims and the Mosques. Now the TMVP with the assistance of Government Armed Forces and help from INGO’s are making arrangements to provide accommodation to settle the displaced Tamils who have come from Tamil areas, permanently on land belonging to the Muslims and the Mosques, depriving the Muslims, the lands legitimately belonging to them.

## Sinhalese Encroachment in Predominant Muslim and Tamil DRO Divisions in Trincomalee District



### Grievance No.21

#### Kuchchaveli

Kuchchaveli in Trincomalee district is a predominant Muslim area. Total population 29,967 and 8,058 families. 65% Muslims 19,443, 31% Tamils 9,282, 3% Christians 905 and 01% Sinhalese 337. Kuchchaveli Pradeshiya Sabha 9 members, Muslims 6, Tamils 3.

## **Grievance No.22**

### **Public Administration**

The Divisional Secretary is a Tamil in the predominant Muslim division. Total grama niladharies 24.65% Muslims are given only 7 GS but the balance 17 GS are given to the Tamils and others who are only 35%. Average population of a Tamil GS division is 250 people whereas the population in Muslims GS is around 1350 eg. Pulmoddai 31I and 31I divisions.

## **Grievance No.23**

### **Land Issue**

Iqbal Nagar is a Muslim area. Due to ethnic conflict the Muslims were displaced during 1984, 1990 and 1994 and settled in a place called Love Lane in Trincomalee. In 2002, the Muslim refugees came back to Iqbal Nagar and living under abject poverty.

In the 265 Muslim families identified as refugees only 45 families selected for the NERHP projects. But all the Tamil refugees were settled in the new housing projects in Konespuri, Kopalapuram, Kumpirupity, Iranaikerni and Thriyai.

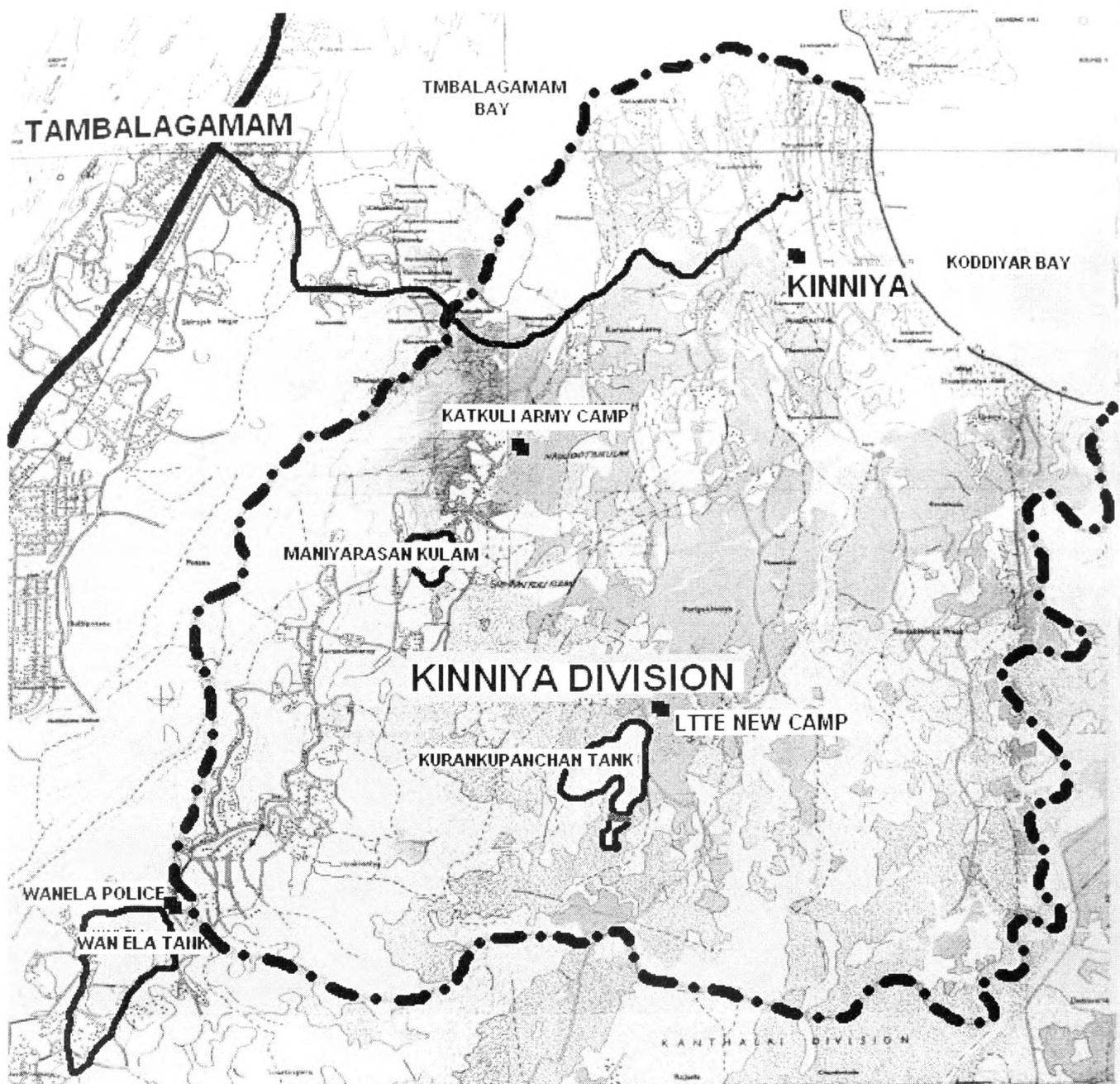
## **Grievance No.24**

### **Kinniya - Kurangupanchan Military Camp in Mosque**

The Kurangupanchan GS Division is about 20 sq. km in extent and 15 km East of Kinniya town. After the floods in 1957 the Muslims started to settle here.

More than 255 Muslims families lived in Kurangupanchan up to 1990. As a result of the ethnic violence in 1990 the Muslims in Kurangupanchan village were forcibly displaced and moved to Kinniya. Soon after the ceasefire agreement between the GOSL and LTTE in February 2002, the Muslims went back and started paddy cultivation in their fields in Kurangupanchan and started resettling in their own lands. They renovated the Mosque as decided at a meeting held on 11.06.2003, LTTE chased the Muslims families and put up a military camp in the Mosque building and the LTTE forcibly occupied the areas of historical habitation of the Muslims in the Government controlled area.

After the taking over the East by the Government Armed Forces, the military camp still remaining in the mosque and the displaced Muslims not resettled, yet.



A feeling is now developing within the Muslim community that the government is disinterested in utilizing its resources when it comes to safeguarding of Muslim interest. It is the Muslims who have been at the receiving end of atrocities committed by the Tamil Terrorist for not extending support for the creation of the separate Tamil Elam state in the North East. If the Government and the security forces too cause harm, harass and making our lives miserable, one wonders to whom can the Muslims look up to for protection.

Any number of peace talks and military operations cannot solve the problems of the minorities in Sri Lanka unless there is a change of heart and new thinking on communal harmony specially among the Sinhalese. This change must take place in all ranks immediately.

Muslims have not demanded separation nor are we terrorists. We have always stood with the people in the fight to protect the independence and sovereignty of the country. We did not change our religion to receive honours or land. We are proud of our loyalty. This loyalty we carried to the last when Dr. T.B. Jayah, in Parliament, on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1945, speaking on the Sri Lanka Dominion Status Bill, said "When the question of Independence arises, we the Muslims will put aside our differences and stand as one with the Sinhalese" It was in appreciation of this sentiment, the late Mr. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike said "the Sinhalese will stand for ever indebted to the Muslims for the unselfish stand they took on the question of Independence."

When Gal Oya Development Scheme was inaugurated, the late Hon. D.S. Senanayake promised that the new lands that were to become cultivatable under the Gal Oya development scheme would be distributed on a 50-50 basis between the local citizens of the Batticaloa district and the would be colonists from outside.

Trusting this promise and the policy of the Government at that time, the local Muslims who were noted for their fearlessness and ability for opening thick jungles, risked their lives and came forward to work under the Gal Oya Scheme. The successive Governments, whether they are UNP or SLFP, not only failed to implement the so called policy and the promise of 50-50 distribution of land but also adopted various methods to ensure the economic and political weakening of the Muslims in the Gal Oya valley.

The Government, in 1968 appointed a committee headed by Mr. Ratnethunge, the former Surveyor General, to investigate and submit a report on Digawapy land issue. Number of Buddhist Organisations made representations and finally the Committee recommended to take over 500 acres around the Chaitiya. It was agreed with the Muslims that no more land would be taken. Quite contrary to this agreement and promise by the Sinhala Buddhists, there was a sudden move to acquire another 1,000 acres of paddy land belonging to the Muslims. The Government, without any regard for Law and Order send the bulldozers destroying the paddy cultivations in the Periyavisaraikandam owned by the Muslims on Crown Grant Title Deeds. What is happening in the Ampara District is deliberate discrimination against the Muslims.

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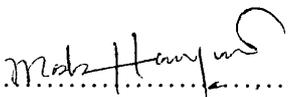
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