



# NEWSLETTER



## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF CARITAS SRI LANKA

### Caritas Sri Lanka officially launches much anticipated Solid Waste Management Programme at CBCSL

The Catholic Bishop's Conference in Sri Lanka (CBCSL) gave its green light and officially committed itself for the Caritas Sri Lanka – SEDEC led community level awareness campaign on the Solid Waste Management Programme.



The official launch was held at the 'Lankarama' Balcombe Place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017 amidst a large gathering of Bishops, Priests, Religious representing the

Conference of Major Religious Superiors and other invitees. His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, Archbishop of Colombo, Rt. Rev. Dr. Winston Fernando, President of the CBCSL, Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Vianney Fernando, Bishop Chairman of the Catholic National Commission of Justice, Peace and Human Development, Mr. Jayavilal Fernando, Project Director, Solid Waste Management Project, Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development, Mr. Anuradha Wijeyawardana, Community Development Officer were some of the distinguished guests who graced the occasion. In addition, Bishops representing each Diocese of Sri Lanka took part in the ceremony.

Commencing the Launch, his Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Vianney Fernando went back in memory to the tragedy at Meethotamulla garbage dump and reiterated how the Church should take leadership and intervene in solving national issues and commended the timely initiative taken by Caritas Sri Lanka SEDEC in



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### Religious Harmony for Peace and Prosperity

*Caritas Sri Lanka organized two religious symposiums in Jaffna and Batticaloa recently with the objective of creating opportunities for peace and harmony between different religious groups in the country. Several religious leaders representing Buddhist, Hindu, Islamic and Christian faiths, Diocesan level peace activists, government officers, Sri Lanka Army Officials, Diocesan and Caritas National Centre Staff participated in the 2-day programmes, held at Thalsevana Hotel in Kakesanthurai, Jaffna and the Miani Technical Institute and at the Town Hall in Batticaloa.*



*Both the programmes had around 250 participants who had the opportunity of sharing their views, deep personal experiences on inter-religious harmony, while the religious leaders shared insights as to how the respective religious teachings and precepts have framed the idea of peace, harmony and co-existence, especially as defined in each of their religions. The symposium in Jaffna was held on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of July and had participants from 4 Dioceses namely, Anuradhapura, Jaffna, Kandy and Mannar while 4 Dioceses of Badulla, Batticaloa, Galle and Rathnapura came together on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of August in Batticaloa.*

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### Caritas Sri Lanka-SEDEC GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR

November 2017 - December 2018

## **Caritas Sri Lanka assists Flood & Landslide Victims of Aranayake to rebuild their Houses**

Caritas Sri Lanka – SEDEC in coordination with Caritas Ratnapura - Sethmini will build 16 houses for the families affected by the 2016 flood and landslide in the Aranayake Divisional Secretariat Division, in the Kegalle district. Caritas Sri Lanka having considered the plight of these displaced families has established a partnership with Caritas Germany to construct 16 houses. The permanent shelter project is in the process of being planned following discussions with a consultant architect of Caritas Germany and relevant local officials of the Kegalle District Secretariat.



Complementing and adding value to the project a group of members of the Old Boys' Association of the St. Joseph's College, Colombo class of 1993 have committed to construct the toilets for the selected 16 families.

In order to kick start the construction process, Caritas Ratnapura- Sethmini together with Caritas Sri Lanka under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Sriyan Fernando, Director Sethmini, and Rev. Fr. Mahendra Gunetilleke, National Director mobilized a group of volunteers to help in

the clearing the land at the new relocation site in Doodeniya village on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2017. About 70 volunteers including 10 Catholic Priests, 3 Buddhist Priests, members of local parish groups and the beneficiaries of this project participated in this Shramadana Campaign. Representatives of the local government authority including Mr. Z.A.M. Aisally, the Divisional Secretary of Aranayake were also present at the occasion.

9 Catholic and 7 Buddhist Families will benefit from this project and the project provides opportunities for promoting inter-religious harmony, peace, tolerance and co-existence among people, while mobilizing local resources and external donor support to assist the vulnerable families.

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## **Pre-Decision Orientation Workshop on Safe Migration**

A pre-decision orientation workshop for potential migrant workers and their families was held in Anuradhapura on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2017 with the objective of enhancing the practical knowledge on currently faced legal and social issues of migrant workers.

The programme held in Ippalogama divisional secretariat had more than 60 participants comprising potential migrant workers, returnee migrants, their families and government officials such as development officers, migrant officers, grama niladhari, and women development officers etc.



Additional General Manager Ms. A. L. D. D. Lakrani of SLBFE Anuradhapura was the resource person of the programme. She also shared the privileges granted by SLBFE especially with regard to the welfare of the migrant workers and their families while answering to the concerns and clarifications raised by the participants. A scholarship was granted to a child of a migrant worker who died in service, by the Additional General Manager of SLBFE Anuradhapura.

The workshop was organized by Caritas Anuradhapura – Sethsaviya in collaboration with Caritas Sri Lanka-SEDEC under the leadership of Sethsaviya Director, Rev.Fr. Srilal Fernando.

## National Reconciliation Camp

A National Reconciliation Camp was organized by Caritas Sri Lanka in collaboration with Caritas SED-Galle under the Healing and Reconciliation Project funded by Caritas Australia/MISEREOR from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> August 2017, at the Halpathota Theological Center.



The 2-day camp, which was held under the theme "Reconciliation through Cultural Diversity", saw the participation of 120 Village Peace Committee members from all the Dioceses. The chief guest for the inaugural session of the camp was the Vicar General of the Diocese of Galle, Very Rev. Fr. Charles Hewawasam. The guests of Honor were the National Director of Caritas Sri Lanka, Rev. Fr. Mahendra Gunatilleke and the Governor of the Southern Province, Hon. Hemakumara Nanayakkara.

The participants were given an opportunity to witness and experience the uniqueness and rich values of Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim Cultures through various activities during the camp. They also took part in expressing the cultural values through performing arts.

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## Capacity Building Workshop under the Safe Migration Project

Caritas Sri Lanka organized two regional workshops recently under the Safe Migration Project in Kurunegala and Jaffna on 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2017. The main objective of the training workshop was to enhance and create awareness among the government officers, community leaders and other stakeholders who are engaged with Sri Lankan labour migrant workers and their families. The workshop also provided an opportunity for participants to discuss issues faced by Sri Lankan labour migrants and to find workable solutions for the betterment of themselves and their families.



Mr. Thavarajah Jayakaanthan, Administrative Officer, SLBFE Colombo and Mr. T.S.A. Anura Kumara, North Western Divisional Manager – SLBFE conducted the workshop held in Jaffna HUDEC Centre and Caritas Kurunegala – Janasetha Centre respectively. A total of 127 participants attended both the training workshops.

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*The two symposiums included many activities such as group discussions, religious dialogues, cultural presentations, exposure visits and a walk where the participants held the posters and placards depicting slogans of religious amity. The group discussions during the symposium saw lively discussions on several key issues that have been stumbling blocks to the creation of a conducive environment for religious amity.*

*The programmes were held under the guidance of the Caritas Jaffna – HUDEC Director, Rev. Fr. S. Eugene Francis and Caritas Batticaloa – EHED Director, Rev. Fr. Gerond De Lima.*

*Caritas Sri Lanka organized the two Regional Symposium under the project titled, "Creating a Conducive Environment for Religious Amity". This is a Caritas Norway – NORAD supported 3 year project implemented between 2015 and 2017.*

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creating community level awareness using the internationally recognized 3R concept and Takakura Composting Methodology.

Mr. Yu Hwa Li, Senior Executive Manager, Caritas Sri Lanka explaining the Caritas' Solid Waste Management Programme briefed the participants on the present context of the garbage issue in Sri Lanka. He said that Sri Lanka generated around 23,000 metric tons of waste and using the concepts such as 3R, the generation of waste could be reduced at the house hold level which is in fact the point of waste generation.



He said that Caritas led approach would be a two-fold one, focusing on advocacy for a behavioural and attitudinal change in every citizen towards acting responsibly in managing solid waste at the point of waste generation. Secondly by contributing meaningfully as a value-add service to the government's efforts in effectively managing solid waste by establishing a solid waste collection & composting centre in the Diocese of Colombo.

More elaborate demonstrations on Takakura Composting and Waste Segregation methods were given by Mr. Terrence Kodippily and Mr. Sajith Silva from Caritas National Centre Staff.

The culmination of the event marked the official launch of the Programme by all the 14 Bishops endorsing and expressing their commitment to the Caritas' 3R+ Takakura methodology as an awareness campaign with the final goal of effective Solid Waste Management throughout the island. Finally each Bishop signed off on the Commitment Pledge and endorsed the initiative of Caritas Sri Lanka-SEDEC. The entire event was organized under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Mehendra Gunatilleke, National Director, Caritas Sri Lanka-SEDEC.

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### **Caritas Sri Lanka-SEDEC conducted SWM sessions**

• **Caritas Kurunegala - Janasetha staff**



• **St. Anthony's Nursery, Borella.**



• **St. Vincent De Paul Society, Ja-Ella.**



- Aquinas University College, Borella
- Good Shepherd Balika Maha Vidyalaya, Nayakanda
- Caritas Colombo-Seth Sarana staff
- Caritas Kandy-SETIK staff
- Kandy Diocese Presbyterian
- Dhaham Sevana Seminary, Kalutara