

Press Notice No: HRC/P/i/E/03/10/24

## **Press Notice**

## HRCSL Launches Inquiry into Children's Rights: Dipdeen Tamil Vidyalaya - Relocation Delay

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) initiated an inquiry into the long-standing issue of relocation of Ra/Niv/Dipdeen Tamil Vidyalaya in Rakwana, which has been unresolved for almost three years following a sinking in 2021. Currently, 63 students from Grades 1 to 9 are receiving their education in a local Hindu temple pending the securing of a suitable land for the construction of a new school building.

Representatives from relevant government bodies, including the Ministry of Community Empowerment and Estate Infrastructure Development, the Ministry of Plantation Industries and the National Building Research Organization, along with members from the Kalawana Divisional Secretariat, school representatives, and community leaders, participated in the inquiry.

During the inquiry, participants agreed to finalize the allocation of suitable government land for the construction of a new school within two weeks. The Ministry of Plantation Industries undertook to spearhead the process, working with relevant institutions. Discussions were also initiated to secure funding from the Provincial Ministry of Education (Sabaragamuwa).

The HRCSL stressed the urgency of finding a sustainable solution, emphasizing also the need for all stakeholders to collaborate to ensure students have access to a proper educational environment. The commission declared that it will closely monitor the progress to ensure that this vital matter is addressed effectively and without further delay.

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