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Date. } 18.08.2026

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கிலங்கை மனித உரிமைகள் ஆணைக்குழு
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

Hon. K. V. Samantha Vidyaratna
Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure
11th Floor,
Sethsiripaya 2nd Stage,
Battaramulla.

Dear Hon. Minister,

**Statement by the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka on Recent Incidents Involving
the Management and Officers of Regional Plantation Companies**

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) expresses its serious concern regarding the recent incidents and allegations involving the Estate management and officers of several Regional Plantation Companies (RPCs), which have adversely affected Plantation workers specially Malayaha Tamil community. The HRCSL emphasizes that all persons living and working in plantation areas are citizens of Sri Lanka and are equally entitled to the protection and guarantees afforded under the Constitution of Sri Lanka and applicable international human rights standards. The Commission further underscores that plantation communities must be treated with dignity and respect, and protected from all forms of inhuman, degrading, or discriminatory treatment.

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) has gathered information through media reports, discussions with civil society organizations, and complaints received concerning several incidents involving alleged violations of the rights of plantation workers. The HRCSL further observes with concern that such incidents appear to have increased in the aftermath of the Ditwa Cyclone.

The HRCSL noted certain reported incidents include as follows :

- Alleged intimidation and threats directed at plantation workers and community members by certain estate management officials and officers.
- Incidents involving the destruction or removal of home gardens, vegetable cultivations, fruit trees, and small-scale crops maintained by estate residents for their day-to-day livelihood and food security.
- Restrictions imposed on access to lands, pathways, water resources, or common facilities traditionally used by plantation communities.

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- Allegations of harassment and verbal abuse against workers specially female workers and residents who raised concerns regarding housing, wages, land use, or labour conditions.
- Complaints from estate residents in certain plantation areas regarding attempts to evict or pressure families occupying line rooms or lands without proper consultation or lawful procedures.
- Reports of arbitrary actions affecting the livelihood activities of estate families without adequate notice, consultation, or alternative arrangements.
- Alleged discriminatory treatment and denial of equal protection affecting plantation communities despite being citizens of Sri Lanka entitled to equal rights under the Constitution.
- Situations where women, elderly persons, and children were adversely affected due to actions impacting housing, sanitation, access to water, and livelihood resources.
- Complaints regarding fear, insecurity, and psychological distress experienced by plantation residents due to repeated threats or hostile conduct within estate areas.
- The imposition of false allegations and criminal charges against plantation workers who raise concerns regarding estate management malpractices, labour law violations, and abuses, reportedly with the assistance or involvement of certain police officers.

The HRCSL stresses that all disputes relating to estate administration, housing, land use or labour matters must be addressed through lawful, humane and rights-respecting processes consistent with the Constitution of Sri Lanka, national laws and international human rights standards.

The HRCSL notes with concern reports relating to intimidation, threats, harassment, destruction of home gardens and livelihood resources, restrictions on freedom of movement and other actions that may undermine the dignity, security, and socio-economic rights of plantation workers and their families. The destruction of home gardens and small-scale cultivation directly affects the day-to-day livelihood and food security of vulnerable families within the plantation sector.

The HRCSL further reiterates that employers and management authorities have a responsibility to ensure that all actions taken within plantation estates comply with the principles of human rights, non-discrimination, fairness and the rule of law. Any disputes or administrative matters should be addressed through lawful, transparent and humane processes without resorting to intimidation or coercive practices.

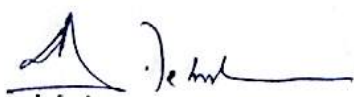
The HRCSL calls upon the relevant authorities, including the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Plantation, law enforcement authorities, and Regional Plantation Companies to conduct prompt and impartial inquiries into the reported incidents and to take necessary measures to prevent the recurrence of such situations.

The HRCSL also urges all stakeholders to engage constructively to ensure the protection and promotion of the rights, welfare, dignity, and livelihood of plantation communities, who continue to contribute significantly to the social and economic development of Sri Lanka.

The HRCSL recommends that the Government of Sri Lanka and relevant authorities adopt the following measures to ensure the respect for and protection of the Plantation workers in full compliance with the Sri Lankan Constitution and relevant international human rights law:

Recommendations

1. The Plantation Ministry should issue a directive to the Human Resource Divisions of the Regional Plantation Companies (RPCs) that they should ensure the conduct of prompt, impartial, and transparent internal inquiries into allegations of misconduct, abuse, intimidation or other human rights violations involving estate management, supervisory staff, security personnel or any other responsible officers within the estates.
2. The Plantation Ministry should issue a directive to all Regional Plantation Companies that they should establish accessible, confidential and effective employee grievance and complaint mechanisms within their Human Resource Divisions with particular attention to the protection of plantation workers and vulnerable communities. Such mechanisms should ensure non-retaliation, timely redress, and accountability.
3. The Ministry of Labour should strengthen monitoring, inspection and oversight mechanisms within plantation estates to prevent the recurrence of human rights violations, labour rights abuses, intimidation and unsuitable working condition affecting plantation workers and their families.
4. The Plantation Ministry and Ministry of Labour should issue directives to Regional Plantation Companies that they should ensure that estate management authorities, supervisory staff, and security personnel receive regular training and awareness programmes on human rights standards, labour rights, equality and non-discrimination and the lawful and dignified treatment of plantation communities in line with national laws and international human rights laws and principles.
5. The Ministry of Plantation Industries should engage in meaningful dialogue and consultations with Regional Plantation Companies to ensure that plantation workers carryout home gardening and small-scale livelihood activities necessary for their food security and dignified standard of living.
6. The Sri Lanka Police should conduct prompt, independent, effective, and impartial investigations into reported incidents involving threats, violence, destruction of property, intimidation, or violations of the rights of plantation communities, and take appropriate legal action against all persons found responsible in accordance with the law.



Justice L.T.B. Dehideniya
Chairman
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

Justice L.T.B. Dehideniya
Judge of the Supreme Court (Retired)
Chairman
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka