

CONFLICT RESOLUTION BETWEEN TAMILS AND MUSLIMS FOR PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE IN THE NORTH-EAST

North-East Tamil and Muslim Peoples have realised that Peace and reconciliation are the only answer to the problems that have plagued our region for over two decades. Most have lost everything. Agriculture, Fishing and Industry in the war torn areas. The urgent needs are security, regaining of lost lands and properties, resettlement of Internally displaced people and power sharing arrangements on the basis of internal self determination.

Apart from political differences all stakeholders must be brought within the ambit of negotiation of urgent National importance for peace, tranquility and economic growth.

Civil Society groups should be able to convince the polity-at-large that the reconciliation between the Tamils, Muslims and Sinhalese are paramount to bring back Trust & Confidence. This exercise could be undertaken through joint efforts of Muslim Civil Society, Religious Leaders, Voluntary Organisations, and implemented through a system of awareness mobilizing the Electronic & Print Media. All stake holders down to grass-root level have to be mobilized.

Perhaps the second round of talks will commence after the current suspension is lifted? We have to learn the lessons from first phase of the peace process. Phase one is successful for normalization of the situation. Now, GOSL & LTTE are moving into very complicated stage of the peace process. The new group that has been set up by the LTTE leadership has started discussions in Europe on the Interim Administrative Structure proposals. GOSL also in a very difficult position and they need to reply to the LTTE proposal but it seems to be not an easy task when the Muslims demand for independent representation in the future peace talks and separate arrangements in the Interim Administrative Structure for the North-East

The resolution of the land and properties question would be of enormous significance and will establish the basis for reconciliation and co-existence. It will remove one of the worst wounds, which is at the heart of the relations between the Tamil and Muslim communities in the area of conflict.

A delegation of Sri Lanka Muslim Congress led by its leader Minister Rauff Hakeem met the LTTE delegation led by Mr. V. Pirapakaran in the Wanni on the 13th of April 2002 and discussed the Muslim land and properties question. The leader of the LTTE gave an assurance that all lands and properties belonging to the Muslims that are now being forcibly occupied by the Tamils would be returned to the Muslim owners when a Register of lands and properties in dispute is submitted.

At the second meeting of the peace talks in Thailand between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (LTTE) on 31st October to 3rd November 2002, the LTTE has announced that they would be interested in returning the lands and properties to the Muslim owners in the North-East. There are about 100,000 acres of Muslim lands and properties belonging to 35,000 Muslim families (175,000 people) which are being forcibly occupied by the Tamils in the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

Hon. Rauff Hakeem had requested the Muslim Rights Organisation to prepare the register of lands and properties that are being forcibly occupied by the Tamils in the North-East.

The Foundation for Co-existence has created the base framework providing consultancy support and strategic planning and continue monitoring and evaluating of the project and create a broader understanding for mediation and alternate disputes resolution and seek the involvement of all stakeholders.

Current Project

Registration of Muslim Lands and Properties forcibly occupied by the Tamils in the Eastern Province is assisted by USAID/OTI - commenced from 24th April 2003. Beneficiaries 20,000 families and 100,000 people. 42 field officers were employed in all the three districts in the Eastern Province – Ampara, Batticaloa and Trincomalee to collect detail informations and supporting documents from 20,000 families. Field work is over and the forms are being checked and translated to English to enter the Computers for the compilation of the preliminary register. The final register will be ready before the end of the project period on 24th November 2003. Thanks to USAID/OTI

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 committees were successful in resolving many issues and obtained the release of nearly 25% of the Muslim lands and properties registered.

LTTE – NORTH EAST MUSLIM PEACE ASSEMBLY MEETING ON 20TH SEPTEMBER 2003 FOR RECONCILIATION AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

With all what had happened in the North-East, the Muslim issues are becoming graver daily, Muslim concerns 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 genuine grievances.

When LTTE expressed their desire to consult the North-East Muslim people about our concerns, 20 Muslim resource persons from all parts of the North-East were summoned on the initiative of Dr. Kumar Rupesinhe – Chairman of Foundation for Co-existence for consultation on 06th and 07th September 2003 in Colombo. At the end of the discussion it was decided unanimously to form a Muslim Civil Organisation – North-East Muslim Peace Assembly – NEMPA, to negotiate with Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam – LTTE

In a surprise move, LTTE senior leaders of the East met Muslim civil society representatives for discussions on 20th September 2003 and announced decisions very favorable to restoring normal life and communal amity among the two communities of the tension-prone region. Significant among the decisions was to immediately hand over to the Muslims their paddy land in the LTTE controlled areas in the Batticaloa and Ampara Districts.

LTTE's Eastern Region Commander Col. Karuna Amman, Special Commander Ramesh, Political leader Kousalyan, Economic Advisor Nizam and Ampara Political leader Bawa and NEMPA representatives leader A.L.A. Jawath, Secretary General M.I.M. Mohideen, Y.M.A. Cader, U.L.M.N. Mubeen, M.H.M. Hakeem, I.M. Ibrahim, Dr. A.L. Farook, M.H.M. Munas participated in the discussion.

During the three hour meeting with representatives of the North-East Muslim Peace Assembly (NEMPA) at the guest-house "Thenagam" in Karadiyanaru, LTTE waived all hitherto-prevailing restrictions on paddy cultivation, fishing and movements in all LTTE-controlled areas in the East.

It was mutually agreed at the meeting to work in co-ordination at the village level to restore normal life, resettle displaced families in their original homes, strengthen the security of the Muslims and to work for their economic prosperity.

The LTTE also assured that it would do away with taxes on traders both Tamils and Muslims in the future when its various economic ventures in fishing and agriculture began to yield profits.

District Committee – Ampara & Batticaloa

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ealam – LTTE

Eastern Regional Commander Col. Karuna Amman
Special Commander Ramesh
Political leader Kousalyan
Economic Advisor Nizam
Ampara Political leader Bawa
Janarthanan
Senathi
Kuganesan

North-East Muslim Peace Assembly – NEMPA

A.L.A. Jawath – President
M.I.M. Mohideen - Secretary General
Y.M.A. Cader – Eravur
U.L.M.N. Mubeen – Kattankudy
M.H.M. Hakeem – Valaichenai/ Ottamavadi
I.M. Ibrahim – Sammanthurai
Dr. Farook - Kalmunai
M.H.M. Munaz – Akkaraipattu/ Addalachenai

M.I.M. Mohideen

16th October 2003

CONSTITUTION OF NORTH EAST MUSLIM PEACE ASSEMBLY - NEMPA

CHAPTER - I: NAME

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| | 1. The Organisation shall be called NORTH EAST MUSLIM PEACE ASSEMBLY - NEMPA |
| AIM | 2. THE AIMS AND OBJECTS OF THE NEMPA:
(a) Aim of the NEMPA shall be:
(i) To unite all Muslims in the North-East of Sri Lanka to actively participate in the peace process and to develop healthy relationship with Tamils and Sinhalese for peaceful co-existence. |
| OBJECTS | (b) The Objects of the NEMPA shall be:
(i) The promotion of unity, and harmony among all the people of Sri Lanka.
(ii) Establish friendly relations with the International Community.
(iii) Establish Village Unites throughout the North-East to achieve the aims and objects of the NEMPA. |

CHAPTER II: MEMBERSHIP.

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| Membership | 3. Membership of the NEMPA is limited to all Muslims above the age of 21 years who are nominated by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall nominate 3 Muslims for each of the 31 Village Unites in the schedule-I and additional 8 members for the Muslim areas give in schedule-II. These 101 members shall form the General Body. |
| Suspension or
Expulsion of
Members | 4. Any member whose conduct is found detrimental to the interests of the NEMPA or of any other organisation with which the NEMPA is in alignment or for any such other reasonable cause, shall be suspended or expelled by the Executive Committee and approved by a resolution passed to that effect by a two-third majority of members present at a Working Committee Meeting. |
| Resignation | 5. A member desirous of resigning his/her membership shall give to the Executive Committee a written notice of his/her intention to do so, and, on his/her resignation being accepted by the Working Committee, he/she shall cease to be a member. |
| Re-admission | 6. Any member who has ceased to be a member may be re-admitted by a resolution passed to that effect at a meeting of the Working Committee. |

CHAPTER - III: OFFICE - BEARERS

Office-Bearers 7. The Office Bearers of the NEMPA shall be:

- (a) A President
- (b) Four Deputy Presidents representing the District of Ampara, Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Northern Province
- (c) A Secretary-General
- (d) A Treasurer
- (e) Four Coordinating Secretary to represent the Districts of Ampara, Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Northern Province
- (f) An Assistant Secretary
- (g) An Editor of the NEMPA Publications
- (h) A Propaganda Secretary

CHAPTER IV: MANAGEMENT

Management 8. The affairs of the NEMPA shall be managed by an Executive Committee and the Working Committee acting subordinate to the Executive Committee

- Executive Committee 9. (a) There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the President, Secretary General, Treasurer, 4 Deputy Presidents, 4 Coordinating Secretaries, Assistant Secretary, Editor, Propaganda Secretary and 4 others to represent the Districts of Ampara, Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Northern Province.
- (b) Any member of the Executive Committee who fails to attend three successive ordinary meetings of the Executive Committee without sufficient cause shall cease to be a member of the Executive Committee, and shall ipso facto vacate any office of the NEMPA he or she may hold
10. The functions of the Executive Committee shall include.
- (a) The promotion of the aim and objects of the NEMPA
 - (b) The enforcement of this Constitution and its provisions.
 - (c) The convening of the Annual General Meeting, preparing the Agenda, the approving of the report of the Secretary General and the Audited Statement of Accounts of the Treasurer.
 - (d) The adjudication of disputes that may arise.
 - (e) The appointment of the Auditor.

(f) The Executive Committee may delegate any of its powers to the Working Committee for any specific purpose and in all disputes where the Working Committee is unable to arrive at a decision, the decision of the Executive Committee shall be final and conclusive.

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| Meetings of the Executive Committee | 11. The Executive Committee shall meet whenever a meeting is considered necessary either by the Working Committee or by the President or Secretary General or on a requisition of not less than 7 members of the Executive Committee or when the provision of this constitution requires such meetings. At least 48 hours notice shall be given for a meeting and 7 members shall form the quorum. |
| Working Committee | 12. There shall be a Working Committee of the NEMPA consisting of the following:
(a) The Executive Committee members of the NEMPA as defined in article 10 and
(b) Sixteen other members elected at the Annual General Meeting – 4 from each of the three districts in the Eastern Province and 4 from the Northern Province. |
| Meetings of Working Committee | 13. The Working Committee shall meet whenever it is considered necessary by the Executive Committee. 7 days notice shall be given for an ordinary meeting and fifteen members shall form the quorum.

14. The Working Committee shall be the implementing body of the decisions of the Executive Committee.

15. Any member of the Working Committee who fails to attend three successive ordinary meetings of the Working Committee without sufficient cause shall cease to be a member of the Working Committee, and shall ipso facto vacate any office of the NEMPA he or she may hold. |

CHAPTER V: ELECTIONS

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| President, Secretary General, Treasurer and the Office Bearers | 16. The President, the Secretary General and the Treasurer, shall be elected at the meeting of the Executive Committee immediately preceding the Annual General Meeting and retire at the end of the year; but shall be eligible for re-election. At the Annual General Meeting shall be elected the Office- Bearers and other Members of the Executive and Working Committees of the NEMPA other than the President, Secretary General and the Treasurer. |
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Vacancies	17. Whenever the office of the President, Secretary General or the Treasurer fall vacant, it shall be filled at a meeting of the Executive Committee specially summoned for that purpose. and any other vacancy shall be filled by the Working Committee.
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CHAPTER VI: DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS

President	18. The President shall preside over all meetings of the Executive Committee, Working Committee and the General and Special General Meeting and shall supervise the work and activities of the NEMPA and perform all other duties pertaining to that office. If for any reason the President is unable to perform his duties, one of the Deputy President named by the Executive Committee shall perform all such duties and shall have the same authority as the President.
Secretary General	19. (a) The Secretary General shall be the Chief Executive Officer responsible for carrying out all decisions and promoting healthy relation between the affiliated bodies and other related organisations.
Calling	<p>(b) He shall keep proper records of all the proceedings of meetings of the Executive Committee, Working Committee the Annual and Special General Meetings, and shall maintain records important each celebrations and other matters connected with NEMPA.</p> <p>(c) He shall prepare an annual report of the activities of the NEMPA and shall submit the same for adoption at the Annual General Meeting, after the Working Committee and the Executive Committee had approved of it.</p> <p>(d) He shall be the custodian of all records, documents, correspondence and properties of the NEMPA.</p> <p>(e) He shall be responsible for the upkeep, maintenance and proper working of the NEMPA premises and all properties therein and he shall exercise control of the NEMPA.</p>
Treasure	<p>20. (a) The Treasurer shall be in charge of all the funds of the NEMPA, accounts bank-book and everything pertaining to the finances of the NEMPA.</p> <p>(b) He shall be responsible for the collections of all the subscriptions donation and other income for the NEMPA.</p> <p>(c) He shall obtain prior sanction of the Executive Committee before releasing any funds for any expenditure other than normal routine expenses He may, however, in case of an emergency release an amount not exceeding</p>

Rupees Five Thousand (Rs. 5000/=) without such prior sanction; but shall at the earliest opportunity obtain covering sanction.

- (d) He shall submit an audited statement of account together with his observation thereon for adoption at the Annual General Meeting, after such statement and observations have been approved by the Executive Committee and Working Committee

Coordinating Secretary 21, The Coordinating Secretaries and the Assistant Treasurer, shall assist the Secretaries General in the performance of his duties.

Propaganda Secretary 22. The propaganda Secretary will be responsible for all propaganda work approved by the Executive Committee.

CHAPTER VII: FUNDS OF THE NORTH EAST MUSLIM PEACE ASSEMBLY

- Funds 23. All donations and other income shall constitute the funds of the NEMPA.
- Deposits of Funds 24. The funds of the NEMPA shall be deposited in the name of the NEMPA in any Bank or Banks in Sri Lanka, in accordance with the decisions of the Working Committee
- Cheques 25. The Bank Account shall be operated jointly any two of the following:
(a) President
(b) Secretary General
(c) Treasurer

CHAPTER VIII: MEETINGS

- Annual or General Meeting 26. The Annual General Meeting of the North East Muslim Peace Assembly shall be held on or before the 30th September each year or any such date thereafter as may be decided by the Executive Committee. The business to be transacted at such meetings shall be mainly:
(a) The adoption of the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting and the Annual Reports of the Secretary General and the Treasurer.
(b) Adoption of Audited Statements of Accounts.
(c) Election of Office because other than the, President, Secretary General, Treasurer, other Muslims of Executive and Working Committee.
(d) Any other business approved by the Executive Committee.
- Notice 27. Members shall be given at least two weeks notice of the Annual General Meeting and Twenty Five members shall form the quorum.

- Special General Meeting 28. A Special General Meeting may be summoned for any purpose considered necessary by the Executive Committee or at the request of the President or the Secretary General or at the written request of at-least fifteen members of the NEMPA The Executive Committee shall arrange the agenda, and the provisions of article 36 shall apply.

CHAPTER IX: VILLAGE UNITES AND AFFILIATED BODIES

- Establishment of Village Unites 29. The Working Committee shall take all steps necessary for the establishment of Village Unites of the North East Muslim Peace Assembly and for the affiliation of Muslim Organisations that confirm to the aims, objects and policies of the NEMPA.
30. All Village Unites and affiliated bodies should be registered with the North East Muslim Peace Assembly. Each of the Village Unites and affiliated bodies shall pay to the NEMPA Rupees One thousand (Rs. 1000/- as Registration fee and an annual fee of Rupees hundred (Rs. 100/-) but the Executive Committee shall have power to exempt any such body from payment.
- Operation 31. The Working Committee shall maintain close contact with the Village Unites and affiliated bodies of the NEMPA and give them all possible assistance and advice
- Dis-affiliation 32. Any Village Unites of the NEMPA or Body affiliated to the NEMPA acting contrary to the policy or inimical to the decision of the NEMPA may be dis-affiliated by a resolution passed to that effect by two-third majority of the members present at a meeting of the Executive Committee.
- Branches 33. All Village Unites of NEMPA and affiliated bodies shall actively assist the North-East Muslim Assembly to achieve its aims and objects.

CHAPTER X: CONSTITUTION

- Amendments 34. The constitution of the NEMPA shall not be revoked, amended, rescinded or changed except at an Annual General Meeting of the NEMPA or any other special General Meeting of the NEMPA specially summoned for that purpose. Any decision thereof to be effective, must have received the approval of not less than two third of the members present and voting and provided that the amendment shall have received the prior sanction of the Executive Committee.
- Omissions 35. In the event of any omissions or ambiguity in the foregoing provisions, the decision of the Executive Committee and in the case of an emergency the decision of the President or the Secretary General for the time being shall be final.

DECLARATION 36. THE NORTH-EAST MUSLIM PEACE ASSEMBLY WHILE SERVING THE INTERESTS OF THE MUSLIMS IN ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, WILL CONCENTRATE ITS ACTIVITIES IN THE EASTERN AND NORTHERN PROVINCES WHERE THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY TRADITIONALLY LIVE IN LARGE NUMBERS IN THE IDENTIFIED MUSLIM AREAS OF HISTORICAL HABITATION.

	Name	Address & Telephone No.
1	M.I.M. Mohideen	57, Norris Cannel Road, Colombo - 10 Tele: 011 2696147
2	A.L. Abdul Jawath	Division No. 02, Kattankudy Tele: 065 2246246
3	Y.M. Abdul Cader	910, Macamadi Road, Eravur Tele: 065 2240455
4	M.S. Mohamed Niyas	"Neyam", Jawa Street, Kinniya Tele: 026 2236512
5	I.M. Ibrahim	Lake Road, Sammanthurai Tele: 067 2260698
6	U.L.M.N. Mubeen	Central Lane, Off Old Road, Kattankudy - 04 Tele: 065 2246743, 0777142254
7	M.A. Mohamed Anver	24, Central Mosque Lane, Kinniya - 02 Tele: 026 2236398
8	B.A.S. Sufyan	37, Madagissa Road, Heriduwewa, Kesalwattha Tele: 011 2649431
9	M.H.M. Hakeem	210A, Hisbulla Road, Semmanodai, Valaichanai Tele: 065 2257123
10	N.M.M. Naseer	33, Masjid Road, Puttalam Tele: 032 2266656
11	M.A.G.M. Safeer	Division No. 04, Toppur Tele: 026 2226839

16th October 2003

VILLAGE UNITES OF NORTH-EAST MUSLIM PEACE ASSEMBLY – NEMPA

SCHEDULE – I

Eastern Province

Ampara:

	Members
1. Pottuvil	3
2. Akkaraipattu	3
3. Addalachenai	3
4. Ninthavur	3
5. Sainthamaruthu	3
6. Kalmunai	3
7. Sammanthurai	3
8. Irakkamam	3
9. Oluvil/ Palamunai	3
10. Maruthankuli/ Natpittimunai	3
	30

Batticaloa:

1. Kattankudy	3
2. Eravur	3
3. Ottamavadi	3
4. Valaichenai	3
5. Miravodai	3
	15

Trincomalee:

1. Kuchchaveli	3
2. Thambalagamam	3
3. Kinniya	3
4. Muthur	3
5. Pudavakkattu	3
6. Kanthalai	3
7. Thopur	3
	21

Northern Province

1. Jaffna	3
2. Kilinochchi	3
3. Mullaitheevu	3
4. Vavuniya	3
5. Mannar	3
6. Musali	3
7. Erikkalampitti	3
8. Tharapuram	3
9. Periyamadu	3
	27

31 Units

93

SCHEDULE – II

	Members
1. Akkaraipattu	1
2. Sammanthurai	1
3. Kattankudi	1
4. Valaichenai	1
5. Eravur	1
6. Kinniya	1
7. Muthur	1
8. Trincomalee-Town	1
	8

Total Members

101

PROJECT PLAN

Activities

1. Mobilizing Muslim Resource Persons in the North-East
2. Establishing Village Unites in the North-East
3. Organising Seminars And Workshops on Land and Property rights, security and Resettlement of the internally displaced Muslims

Publication of Reports

1. Monthly Situation Report
2. Annual Report
3. Annual Audited Statement

Internationalization

1. Briefing Diplomats and International Organisation in Sri Lanka
2. Visits – Representation to the International working group on Minority and Human Rights Commission and Peace Organisation

ANNUAL BUDGET

Capital Expenditure	<u>1st Year</u>	<u>2nd Year</u>	<u>3rd Year</u>	<u>4th Year</u>
Office Tables & Chairs 2 @ 25,000/-	50,000.00	-	-	-
Telephone line & Fax	50,000.00	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>100,000.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Recurrent Expenditure				
<u>Establishment:</u>				
Rent - 20,000/-	240,000.00	240,000.00	240,000.00	240,000.00
Electricity - 4,000/-	48,000.00	48,000.00	48,000.00	48,000.00
Water - 1,000/-	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
Telephone & Fax - 5,000/-	60,000.00	60,000.00	60,000.00	60,000.00
Transport - 25,000/-	300,000.00	300,000.00	300,000.00	300,000.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>600,000.00</u>	<u>600,000.00</u>	<u>600,000.00</u>	<u>600,000.00</u>
<u>Salaries:</u>				
Administrative Secretary - @ 15,000/-	180,000.00	240,000.00	240,000.00	240,000.00
Office Assist/ Accountant- @ 10,000/-	120,000.00	120,000.00	120,000.00	120,000.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>300,000.00</u>	<u>300,000.00</u>	<u>300,000.00</u>	<u>300,000.00</u>
<u>Grant Total</u>	<u>1,000,000.00</u>	<u>900,000.00</u>	<u>900,000.00</u>	<u>900,000.00</u>
	US\$ 10,000/-	US\$ 9,000/-	US\$ 9,000/-	US\$ 9,000/-

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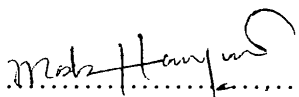
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