



பிராந்திய சுகாதார சேவைகள் பணிப்பாளர்  
பணிமனை  
**Office of the Regional Director of Health Services**



முல்லைத்தீவு

Mullaitivu

எனது இல  
My No

உமது இல  
Your No

திகதி  
Date } 02.03.2009

Govt.Agent,  
Mullaitivu District.

**Re: Famine deaths among IDP's in Vanni**

You are well aware that people in Vanni have been facing the threat of losing their lives to hunger. The plight is shocking to note that bodies of 13 people who died due to starvation, including that of elders and children, have been brought to Puthumathalan hospital during past few days. The details of 05 of them whose ideates were known are listed below. Beside the acute shortage of stable food items and extreme escalation of prices of available food items, many IDPs have been forced to resort to alternate, unfamiliar food items such as strange leaves and clams 06 person belong to single family was admitted to our hospital day before yesterday in severely dehydrated, shocked condition following vomiting after ingesting some unfamiliar leaves. Their details are also given below.

**Details of deaths**

- |                         |   |     |
|-------------------------|---|-----|
| 1. Ponnaih Tharmalinagm | M | 65y |
| 2. Ponnaiah Ratneswary  | F | 65y |
| 3. S.Jeyanthini         | F | 17y |
| 4. Santhanam Visaluxmy  | F | 72y |
| 5. Arumugam Rasiah      | M | 66y |

Details of those admitted following ingestion some unfamiliar leaves.

- |                              |   |     |
|------------------------------|---|-----|
| 1. Sinnathamby Vasanthabalan | M | 46y |
| 2. V.Pathmathevi             | F | 38y |
| 3. V.Pavitharan              | M | 14y |
| 4. V.Sathya                  | F | 13y |
| 5. V.Samarventhan            | M | 06y |
| 6. V.Keerthika               | F | 06y |

We urge you to take immediate steps to reverse this diestrum situation. We propose to:

1. Introduce control prices for essential food items.
2. Decentralize the food distribution process further.
3. Create awareness on food safety to people.
4. Ensure that the regular food distribution.

Dr.T.Varatharajah,  
RDHS,  
Mullaitivu.