

ABSTRACT

Over the past few decades, disaster losses in Sri Lanka have increased substantially. The country is prone to Natural disasters caused by floods, cyclones, Landslides, droughts, Tsunami and coastal erosions with increasing instances of environmental pollution, related hazards. These natural disasters have clearly shown that the present available disaster Management of Sri Lanka is unable to carryout its primary role of statergic planing, prevention, Miligation, response and recovery. During the resent Tsunami it was clearly evident the need of coordination of various government agencies and the non government organizations as well as the aid and support given by the internation community and Agencies.

The crisis situations faced by Sri Lanka are generally of minor magnatude where as there are other crisis situations that can create a greater disaster and distruction to the whole nation as a whole. The Country must be geared to face and react for such situation in advance. Crisis situations could be catagorized under the following main headings.

- a. Natural Crisis Situations
- b. Military Crisis Situations
- c. Social Crisis Situations

The existing crisis Management system in Sri Lanka is more of a politicized Mechanism which does not address the root causers of disaster management. At present the available mechanism caters for only post/rehabilitation stages of a disaster. An ideal crisis management mechanism should address the pre, situational (present) and post stagers of a disaster. The present crisis management mechanism has neglected the importance and role played by the General Public, response teams and the involvement of agencies. Therefore it is of paramount importance that action be initiated inregard to awareness program for the General Public, responsibilities and involvements of first response teams and the involvement and contribution of other agencies.

Taking into consideration the aforesaid facts it is of the opinion that the unavailability of a proper and permanent structure is the main cause for the failure of the present available system. Therefore it is felt that a structure which is permanent and free of political influence which is given the required authority to carryout the necessary requirements, could be an ideal solution.

Hence a new structure comprising a three tier structure with Deputy Director General and Directors handling each specific areas that include Research and Development, Training, Geological Analysis, Budgeting, Finance Controlling, Coordination of Government Agencies and Resources, Military Agencies and Resources, Other Local Agencies and Resources, NGO's Local and Foreign, Inter Government Organizations, Local Private Sector and General Auditing. This has been proposed to overcome all the negatives aspects of above nature. Therefore the structure is capable of holding responsibilities of its actions and also maintains transparencies of its doings. From the time of making appointments of professionals for various appointments, carrying out comprehensive audits with regard to financiers and being transparant in all actions, there by not paving way for any unhealthy environments to occure within the Organization.

The proposed new structure will not burden the Government for its implementation. The restructuring is necessary to ensure the organization to understand its responsibilities, goals and targets to be achieved to ensure a successful disaster management plan for Sri Lanka. Thus it will ensure effective and efficient handling of various disaster situations in the future.