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At least 203 killed, 96 still missing, 63 injured, over 630,000 affected

Death toll still rising after landslides and floods in Sri Lanka

By Maheesha Mudugamuwa (Island.lk) - The death toll has risen further after recovery crews began reaching remote corners cut off during the last several days when heavy rains followed by landslides and deadly floods overwhelmed many areas of the country's southwest in the worst disaster in more than a decade. At least 203 people had died in seven districts while another 96 people were still missing with 96

injured. The overall death toll was not clear as the rescue/recovery operations were still continuing in all affected areas, however the missing 100 were feared dead. Authorities expect the number of deaths to rise accordingly. Most deaths occurred in Ratnapura, Matara and Kalutara, according to Disaster Management Centre (DMC). Flood waters receded in some places five days after heavy rains toppled concrete walls, flattened

hills and tore roofs off homes, forcing thousands of people to evacuate. Minister Senarathne placed the number of affected people at over 600,00 from 150,000 families; 1,326 houses had been destroyed while another 6,979 damaged, he added. Evacuated people have been accommodated at 383 safe places and the government has ensured that all are given enough food. Law and Order Minister Sagala Ratnayake said there was no need

for cooked meals for victims. Dr. Senarathne said the roads had been cleared in most affected areas, but the southern expressway's entrance at Godagama, Matara, still remained closed. The commuters could use the expressway from Kadawatha to Kokmaduwa, he noted. The power supply in most areas had been restored but 120,000 places were yet without power, Minister Senarathne said.



Urban Development, Water Supply and Drainage Minister Rauff Hakeem said 80 percent of water supply had been restored in affected areas and the rest would be completed soon. He assured that pipe-borne water was safe to drink as the National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB) was continuously monitoring the water quality. Highlighting the government compensation scheme for flood victims, ... CONT P2

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URGENT APPEAL - Sri Lanka Flood Relief

As a result of heavy rain prevailing in Sri Lanka over the last few days resulting in floods, a large number of people in Sri Lanka have been displaced and many lives lost. The relief and rescue operations are being conducted by the Ministry of Disaster Management with the support of the tri-forces and other agencies. The Sri Lanka High Commission kindly seeks your support in the form of cash donations to provide for urgent relief items and assist in the medium and long term recovery process. The monies collected by the Sri Lanka High Commission will be deposited with the Ministry of Disaster Management of Sri Lanka. Your donations could be sent to the High Commission by the following methods:
(1) Through electronic transfer:
To: BANK OF CEYLON (UK) LTD
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Reference: "Flood Relief & (Name of the Donor)"
Cash deposits should be made through Barclays Bank only but online transfers can be done through any UK bank. Upon receipt of funds, an official receipt with the title Contributions to Flood Relief will be issued to the contributors.
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If monies are deposited via online transfer or in person at a UK bank, please e-mail your name and address to: reliefassistance@ashc-london.co.uk so that a Confirmation Receipt can be forwarded to the Donor.
Please note that the Sri Lanka High Commission does not accept donation of goods.
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