# Tamil Canadian Food Relief Support for Amparai District

புலம்பெயர் கனடிய உறவுகளின் உதவி அம்பாறை மாவட்டம்



## **Supported By:**



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April 20, 2020

## Amparai District, Sri Lanka.

Funded By: **Tamil Canadians** through the efforts of **Canadian Tamil Congress** and **PrintFast** (**Canada**).

Implemented By: North and East Economic Development (NEED)
Centre

Food Relief Distribution Dates: April 13 - 14, 2020

Final Report Date: April 20, 2020.

## **Background**

COVID-19 pandemic has caused immense hardship for everyone globally. People in Sri Lanka, particularly the war affected regions of the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka, faces challenges due to the continued lockdown. These regions are the highest unemployment recorded in the country for many years.

The Sri Lankan government has imposed a complete island wide lockdown to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The lock down in Sri Lanka which began on March 20<sup>th</sup> with almost continues curfew has now lasted for more than a month.

The daily wage earner families have been impacted the most without any income for several weeks now. They have been struggling for their basic food needs and some are in the brink of starvation.

# North and East Economic Development (NEED) Centre https://www.needcentre.org/

The NEED Centre, established in 2017, is a platform to develop local economic development initiatives between local communities of the Northern and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka, is well positioned to execute the emergency COVID-19 food relief for the most vulnerable families in the war affected Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. It has reached out to its donors and friends inside and outside of the country for support to distribute food packages. Each package valued between LKR 1000 (US\$ 5.25) and LKR 1100 (US\$ 5.75) will consist of very basic food supplies sufficient for a family of 3 to 5 for one week. NEED Centre will implement the food relief efforts in most of the districts directly with the help of it reliable volunteers and supporters. In some other districts NEED Centre will facilitate the food relief distribution with carefully identified, reliable local district partners.

## **Canadian Tamil Congress**

http://www.canadiantamilcongress.ca/

The Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) has committed to support with emergency COVID-19 food relief for 2,500vulnerable families in total which would equal to 250 or more families in each of the 8 districts in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. CTC has approved NEED Centre to facilitate/implement and report on its food relief efforts in the North East Sri Lanka.

## **Funding**

The Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) launched its fundraising efforts among Tamil Canadian community to support the COVID-19 emergency food relief in the war affected Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka in the last week of March 2020. PrintFast — Canada supported this appeal and co-sponsored (CAD \$1000) the Amparai district (Karaitivu DS Division) food relief effort. The CTC transferred the funds to NEED Centre's bank account and food supplies were purchased. The NEED Centre also paid for operational expenses including distribution expenses such as fuel and transportation cost.

## **Amparai District**

The district's total population is 719,462(Dec.2018). Tamils – 123,028 (17.1%)

Land area is 4,415Sq. Km. It has twenty (20) DS divisions, namely Dehiyattakandiya, Padiyatalawa, Mahoya, Uhana, Ampara, Damana, Lahugala, Pottuvil, Thirukkovil, Alayadivembu, Akkaraipattu, Addalaichenai, Irakkamam, Nintavur, Karaitivu, Sainthamaruthu, Kalmunai MD, Kalmunai TD, Navithanveliand Sammanthurai

Amparai district has one of the highest poverty levels in the entire island. Amparai District Poverty % is 16.6% estimated at 119,431 people.

Public Assistance Monthly Allowance receivers: 71,606

Women Headed Families: 30637

War Widows - 1421 Disabled Women – 3251

#### Karaitivu DS Division Map



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# Beneficiary Family Identification, Food Supplies and the Distribution of Food Relief in the Mullaitivu District

Beneficiary families have been carefully identified with the help of Grama Niladari, Rural Development Societies and Women Development Societies. Emphasis was made, attention was given to ensure the families selected are the most vulnerable as differently-abled people, women headed families, family have more family members and most in needs and not receiving any other relief.

A total of 200 families in the Amparai district from the Karaitivu DS Division received the food relief packages for a total value of Sri Lankan Rupees 1002(US\$ 5.25) per package. Each food package contained the following items 5 kg Rice, 1 kg Wheat Flour, 1 kg Sugar, 1 kg Lentils, 1 pack Soya meat and 1 Bar soap.

The NEED Centre with the support of local community leaders and volunteers, implemented the packing and distribution, which was completed during the curfew times with special permission from the Police. The food package distribution for most part was done by door to door delivery and in some cases in a location very close to the beneficiary family's homes.

<b>DS</b> Division	GN Division	# of Beneficiaries	Date of Distribution
Karaitivu	Karaitivu 3	55	April 13, 2020
Karaitivu	Karaitivu 9	70	April 13, 2020
Karaitivu	Karaitivu 8	26	April 13, 2020
Karaitivu	Karaitivu 8	49	April 14, 2020
Total		200	

#### Amparai youtube video link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-wrdzKYvK2I&t=115s

## **Budget / Cost**

Food Supplies and Packing Cost for 200 families - LKR 200,400(US\$ 1,055)

Transport, Fuel and Volunteer support - LKR 10,000(US\$ 53)

NEED Centre Administration Fee - LKR 15,000(US\$ 79)

Total Cost for Amparai District distribution for 200 families LKR 225,400(US\$ 1,186)

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### **Challenges and Recommendations**

The long curfew hours presented immense challenges in purchasing the necessary food supplies and also in food packaging and distribution.

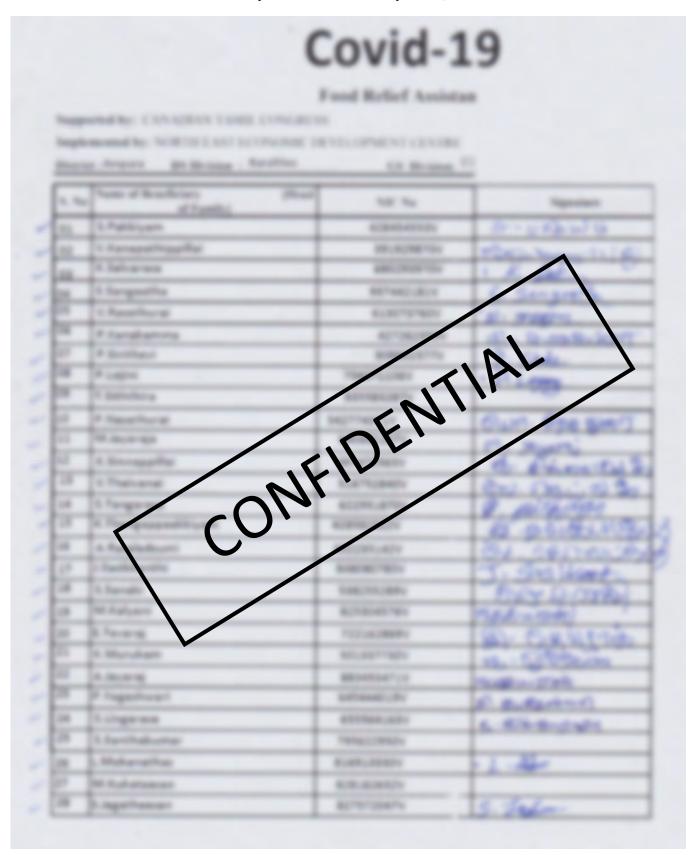
One week of the very basic food supplies in not sufficient for these struggling families. Food supplies for two weeks for these struggling families will reduce the burden on volunteers and also reduce the logistics cost and the administration costs.

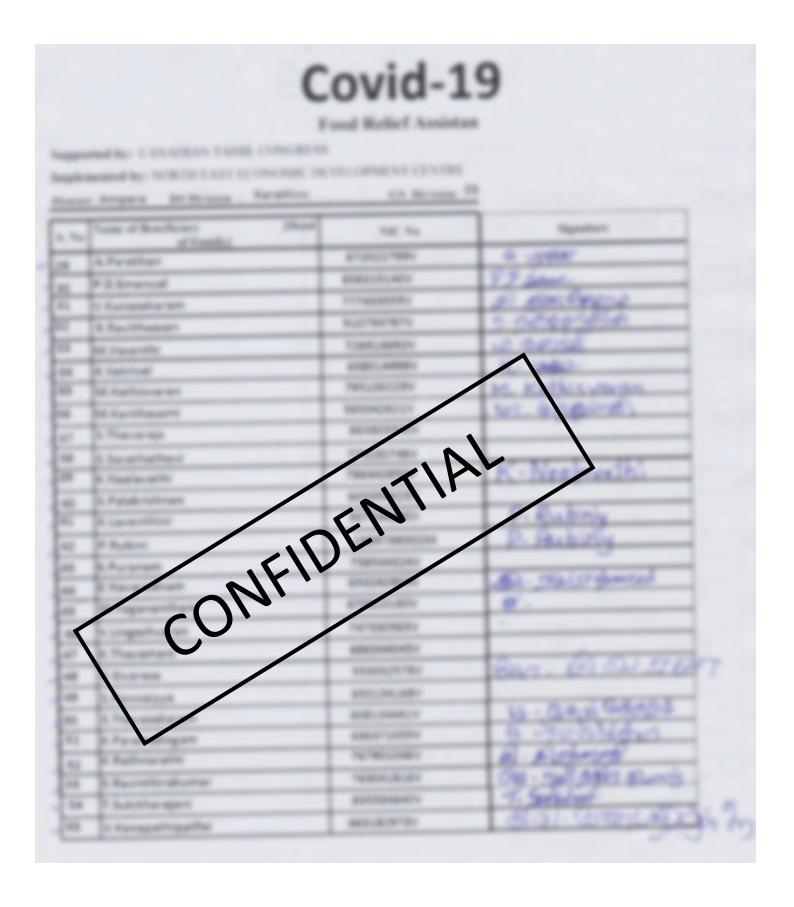
The food items supplied are very basic and not sufficient; more food items need to be considered. For example, flour, soya meat, oil, salt, tea and soap bar. An increased in the budget for a food package should be considered.

Requesting continued support for COVID-19 food relief in these most vulnerable regions. Also support for post COVID-19 recovery is very critical for this war affected region.

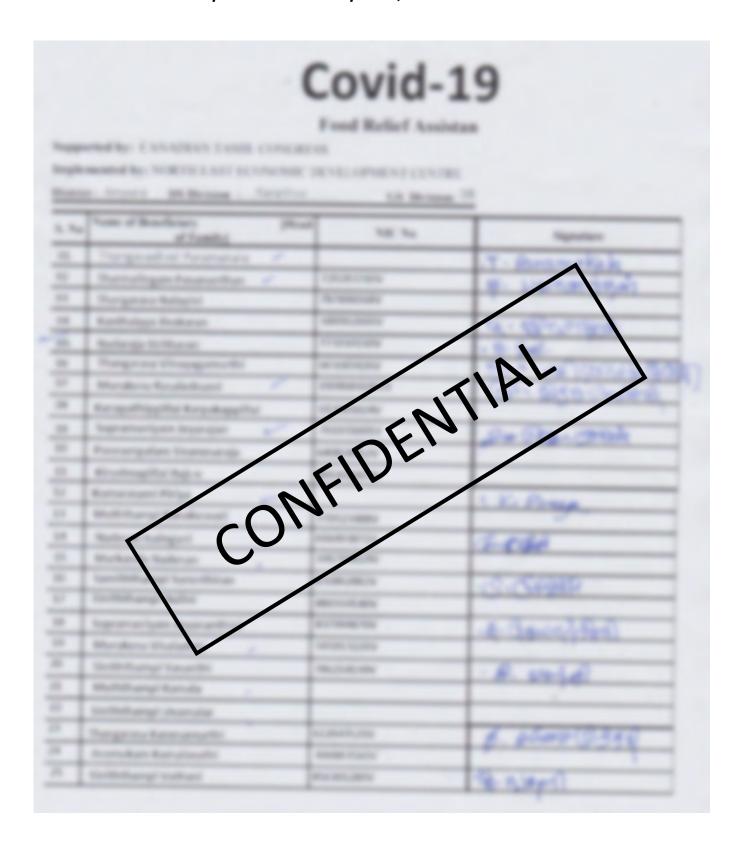
## **Beneficiary Families List**

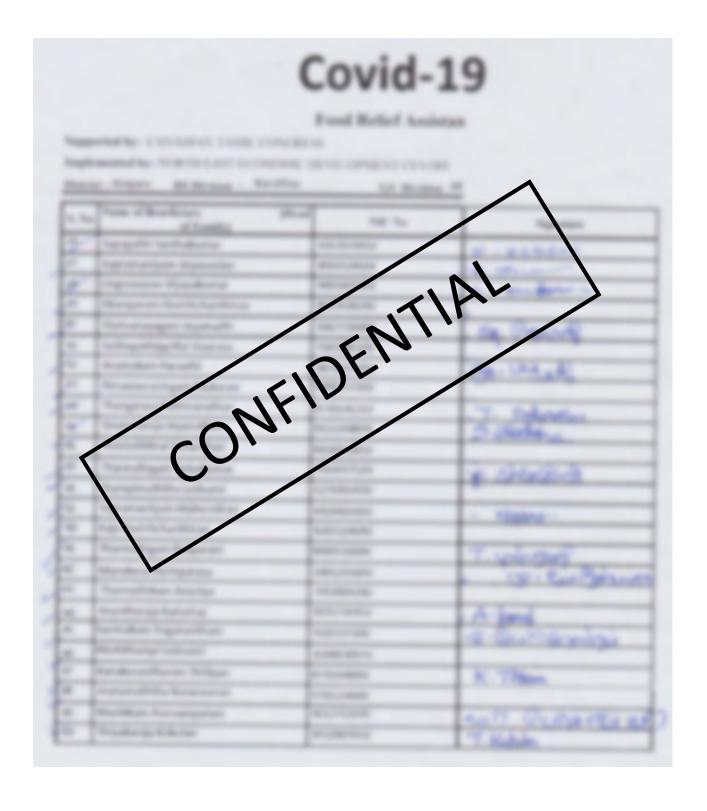
Distribution of Food Relief Packages to Sinthanaikuddypuram village in Karaitivu DS Division 3 of Amparai District on April 13, 2020.

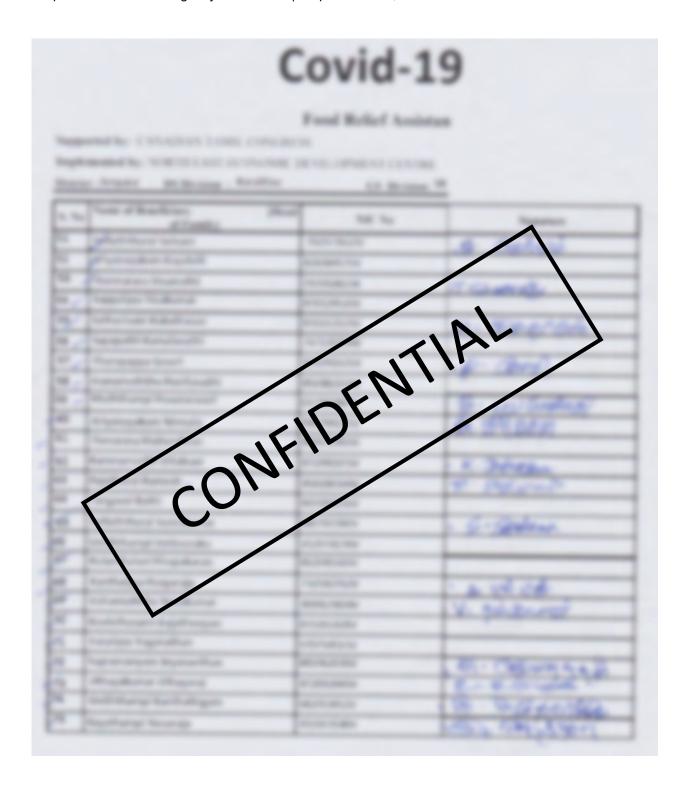




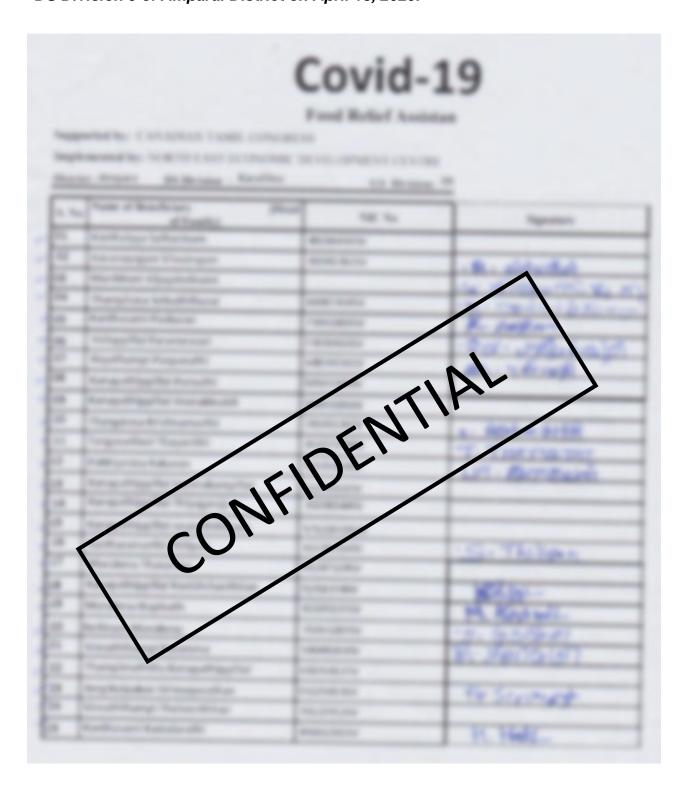
Distribution of Food Relief Packages to Tsunami Housing Scheme in Karaitivu DS Division 8 of Amparai District on April 13, 2020.

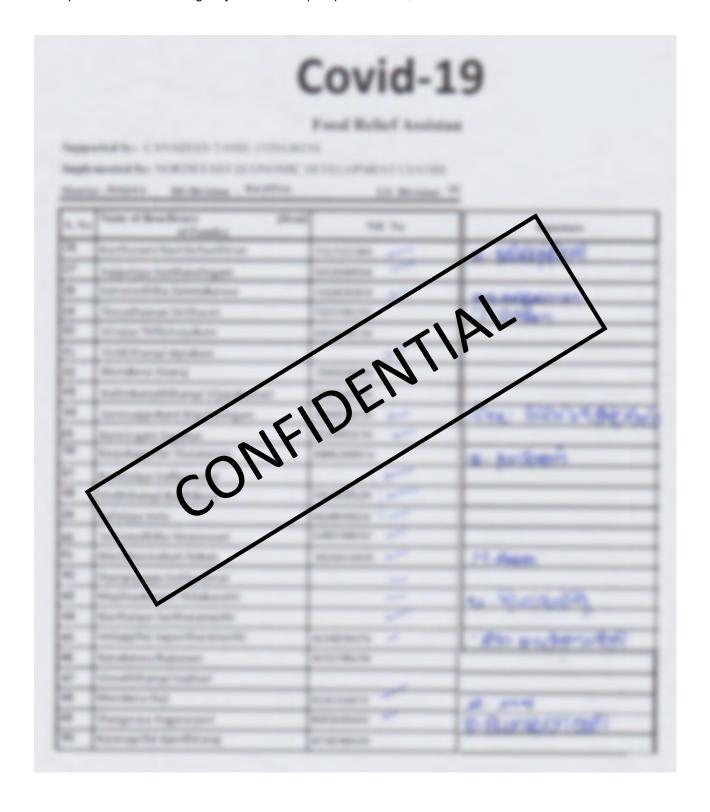


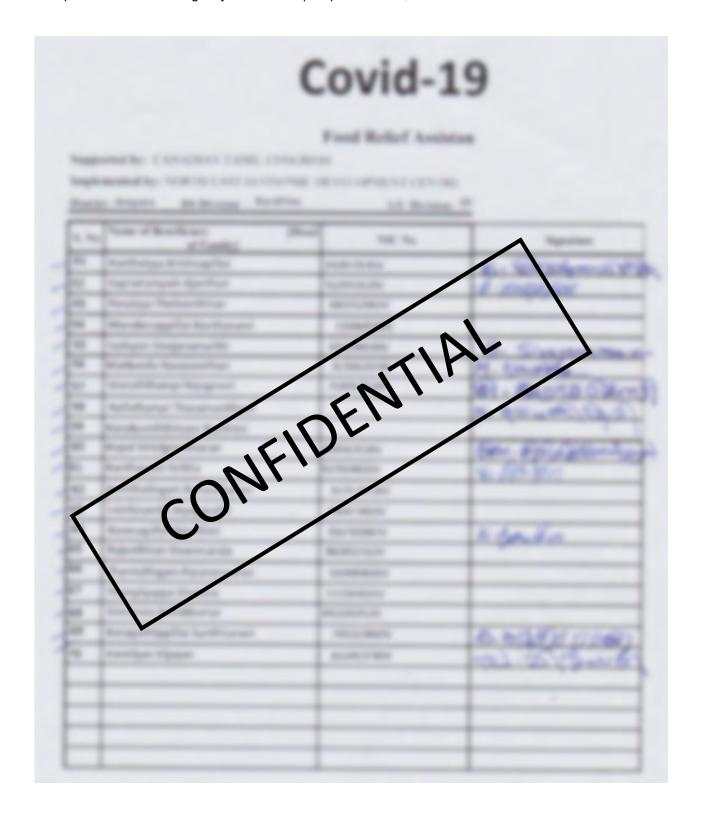




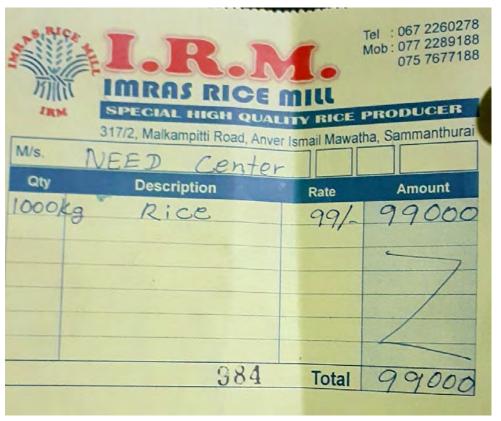
Distribution of Food Relief Packages to Kannangkiramam village in Karaitivu DS Division 9 of Amparai District on April 13, 2020.

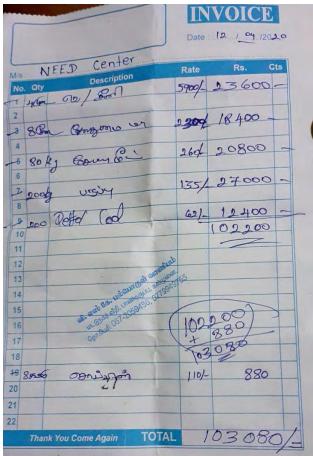






## **Food Supplier Receipts**





## Some photos of food distribution





Report: COVID-19 Emergency Food Relief | Amparai District, Sri Lanka.







## Thank you letter from Padeshiya Sabha - Karaitivu



# பிரதேச சபை ~ காரைதீவு පුාදේශිය සභාව - කාරතිවූ PRADESHIYA SABHA - KARAITIVU



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கனடிய தமிழ் பேரவை, PRINT FAST.CA பங்களிப்பில் 200000 ரூபாய் உதவி வழங்கல் அம்பாறை மாவட்டம் வறிய மக்களுக்கான உலர் உணவு பொருட்கள் வழங்கி வைப்பு

அன்பான உறவுகளே,

இன்று கனடிய தமிழ் பேரவை , PRINT FAST.CA இணை ந்து வட கிழக்கு பொருளாதார அபிவிருத்தி நடுவத்தின் ஏற்பாட்டில் இவர்களுக்கான கொடுப்பனவை வழங்கியுள்ளார்கள். தற்பொழுது தாயகத்தில் கொரோனா வைரஸ் தாக்கத்தால் ஊரடங்குச்சட்டம் அமுலில் உள்ளதால் அன்றாடம் கூலி வேலை செய்து தமது பசியை போக்குவோர் அத்துடன் வயோதிபர்கள்,வலுவிழந்தோர்,பெண் தலமைத்துவ குடும்பத்தினர் மிகவும் பாதிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளார்கள் அவர்களின் பசியை போக்கும் முகமாக கனடிய தமிழ் பேரவை , PRINT FAST.CA இணைந்து அம்பாறை மாவட்டத்தில் காரைதீவு பிரதேசத்தில் வறிய நிலையில் உள்ள 8ம்பிரிவில் 75 குடும்பங்களுக்கு,9ம்பிரிவில் 70 குடும்பங்களுக்கு,3ம்பிரிவில் 55குடும்பங்களுக்கும் மொத்தமாக 200 குடும்பங்களுக்கு 1000 ரூபாய் பெறுமதியில் உலர் உணவுப்பொதிகள் வழங்கப்பட்டது.

அத்துடன் பெரும் சிரமத்தின் மத்தியில் இவர்களுக்கான பசியை போக்குவதற்காக உதவியமைக்கு நன்றி நிறைய தேவை உள்ளமையால் மேலும் நீங்கள் உதவி செய்ய வேண்டும். உதவிய அனைவருக்கும் கோடான கோடி நன்றிகளை,வாழ்த்துக்களையும் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கின்றேன்.

இப்படிக்கு

காரைத்வு பிரதேச சபை

**தவிசாளர்** 

கி.ஜெய்சிறில்

OUNTINATO. Ton. K. Jeyasril Chairman Pradeshiya Sabha Karaitivu

காலத்தி னாற்செய்த நன்றி சிறிதெனினும் ஞாலத்தின் மாணப் பெரிது.

- திருக்குறள் 102

A timely benefit, -though thing of little worth, The gift itself, -in excellence transcends the earth.

- Thirukural 102

