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Rs 389.7 mn spent on resolving 2,389 public complaints relating to iRoad in SP

July 14, 2019, 9:07 pm



Jennifer

Text and pic

by PRIYAN DE SILVA

The Road Development Authority (RDA) has spent a colossal Rs 389.7 million (Rs 389,700,175) to resolve the 2,389 public complaints and requests received while implementing the Asian Development Bank (ADB) funded Integrated Road Investment Program (iRoad) in the Southern Province, according to figures released by the Ministry of Highways, Road Development and Petroleum Resources Development.

The funds were spent on the construction of house accesses, retaining walls, culverts, concrete drains, service ducts, earth drains, property damages, cover slabs, curbs and channels. The RDA did not have to pay compensation for lands because the people voluntarily signed MoUs to hand over their land for the iRoad project.

The most complaints were received from the Galle District (1227) followed by Hambanthota (616) and Matara (546). "Of the 2,389 public complaints 1,692 were requests while 72 were suggestions" said Jennifer Weerakoon, Project Director of the iRoad Programme. Of these, 2385 have been resolved while solutions were being evolved as regards four issues in the Neluwa area in the Galle District.

The Project Director said that the most amount of money (Rs 160,473,933) had been spent to resolve the issues in the Hambanthota District followed by Matara (Rs 122,456,495) and Galle District (Rs106,769,747)

"Comprehensive public awareness and partnership feeling ensured efficient implementation" said Somathilake Kindelpitiya, the Social, Gender and Resettlement Specialist of the program highlighting the performance of Social Safeguards. The key was to making the public aware of what was going to take place and create an ownership feeling. Complaint boxes were placed at the Grama Niladhari's offices, Divisional Secretaries, contractors offices, Project Directors Office, Team Leaders Office and via electronic media.

Grievance Redress Committees were established at Grama Niladhari level where 1,378 complaints were taken up while 271 were taken up at Divisional Secretaries level.

The iRoad programme which commenced in 2014 and ending in 2027 is being implemented in all nine provinces of the island. The Asian Development Bank is providing a loan facility of US\$ 1.7 billion while the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) is contributing US\$ 290.6 million and under 'iRoad' 6,530 km of rural roads and 750 km of national roads have been selected for improvement.

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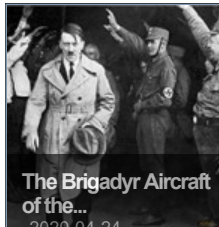
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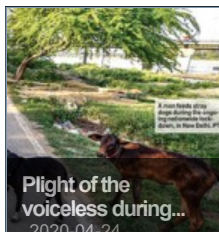
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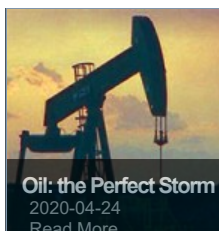
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