

Ranaviru Seva Authority
Amalgamated Balance Sheet as at 31/12/2002

	Note	Year 2002 Rs	Year 2001 Rs
Fixed Assets	1	4,835,009.36	5,405,525.50
Treasury Bill Investment	2	<u>22,694,335.61</u>	<u>6,993,657.82</u>
		<u>27,529,344.97</u>	<u>12,399,183.32</u>
Current Assest			63,530,363.47
Accrued Interest Income	3	915,793.87	
Receables	4	990,000.00	
Bank Balances	5	<u>73,346,961.07</u>	
		<u>75,252,754.94</u>	<u>63,530,363.47</u>
Less: Current Liabilities	6	<u>105,984.01</u>	
Net Current Assets		<u>75,146,770.93</u>	<u>63,530,363.47</u>
Total Assets		<u>102,676,115.90</u>	<u>75,929,546.79</u>
Represented by			
Accumutated Fund	7	<u>102,676,115.90</u>	<u>75,929,546.79</u>

Amalgamated Income & Expenditure For The Year Ended 31/12/2002

<u>Funds Received</u>	Note	Year 2002	Year 2001
		Rs	Rs
Government Grant		8,429,550.00	9,238,000.00
Donations	8	175,302,727.03	86,456,604.10
Treasury Bill Interst Income	9	1,915,972.06	2,238,109.38
Other Receipts	10	999,184.52	54,052.18
		186,647,433.61	97,986,765.66
<u>Less:</u>			
<u>Personal Emoluments</u>			
Salaries & Wages		3,714,097.00	3,822,422.34
E. P. F		867,767.00	751,149.17
E. T. F		166,468.00	
S. N. C			10,608.00
Over Time, Holiday		221,748.00	211,118.12
Other Expenses		45,061.00	
Honorarium		426,523.00	
<u>Supplies</u>			
Stationery & Office Requisites		262,810.00	387,200.54
Fuel & Lubricants		247,452.00	490,813.03
Entertainment & Sundry Expenses		158,289.00	498,849.64
<u>Maintenance Expenses</u>			
Vehicle Repairs & Maintenance		182,261.00	160,331.05
Building Maintenance		6,750.00	331,045.77
Furniture Maintenance		1,550.00	
Office Equipment Repair		100,104.00	
<u>Contractual Services</u>			
Telecommunication		1,257,111.03	723,529.39
Postal Charges		144,420.00	134,822.00
Electricity		354,853.58	169,147.03
Water		27,443.40	25,580.00
News Papers		33,554.00	27,702.00
Licence & Insurance		71,829.00	133,667.25
Janitorial Service		106,159.00	97,677.12
Security Service		247,508.00	
Advertiesment			541,506.56
Rent			1,461,600.00
Miscellaneous Expenses			51,036.11
Depreciation		1,047,906.14	233,581.54
<u>Education Project</u>			
Education Project Expenses		6,925,200.00	
<u>Transit Camp Project</u>			
Transit Camp Project Expenses		49,350,943.24	
<u>Skill Development Project</u>			
Skill Development Project Expenses		559,434.24	
<u>Disabled War Hero Project</u>			
Disabled War Hero Project Expenses		1,920,052.35	
<u>Housing Project</u>			
Housing Project Expenses		91,953,570.52	
Grant Payment			50,806,601.78
Total Recurrent Expenses		160,400,864.50	61,200,802.11

Rana Viru Seva Authority
No. 27, Independence Avenue,
Colombo 07.

**RANA VIRU SEVA AUTHORITY
ANNUAL REPORT - 2002**

**Dr. Narme F. Wickremesinghe, MBBS, FFOM, RCP(Lond.)
Chairperson – Rana Viru Seva Authority
19 April 2003**

FOREWORD

As the new Chairman having assumed duties on 20th May 2003 I feel that this “Annual Report 2002” is an opportunity to put on record the valuable services carried out by the Rana Viru Seva Authority (RVSA) under the guidance of my predecessor Dr. Narme F. Wickramasinghe.

Although the RVSA has its genesis in Parliamentary Act No. 54 of 1999 it commenced functions in year 2000. Since the beginning the RVSA assumed the role of a savior and benevolent friend to the families of the Killed in Action (KIA) / Missing in Action (MIA) categories of service personnel and to those disabled in action. In this role the RVSA was constantly called upon to address the grueling problems faced by them while exercising vigilance over the welfare of the serving Security Force members and their families as well.

The RVSA identified the nuclei of the problems the survivors of the dead and missing servicemen and the disabled ones were confronting and planned a number of projects oriented in eliminating them. Consequently the RVSA has designed a projects array under diverse headings to find compatibility within the vividly manifested pressing needs the beneficiaries confront. Main among the identified needs and the corresponding projects are Ranaviru Housing Development (with supervision from the Special Presidential Committee on Housing), Education, Scholarships and Foster Parent assistance, Family Skills Development, General Welfare & Psychosocial Support, Disabled War Heroes, Ranaviru Gammana (Settlements), National Remembrance Park (in cooperation with the private sector and the Armed Services) , Legal Assistance and Mobile Services.

The wide geographical scatter of its operational points and the diversity of its functions pose formidable challenges to the RVSA in its functioning. However, amidst all the challenges and difficulties the remarkable progress made in the RVSA service realms could be assessed by achievements recorded in the pages of this compilation. Among the many feats of the RVSA a most significant and colorful one has been the inauguration of the National Remembrance Park project in 2002. The establishment of this National Monument to the memory of all those who laid down their lives since independence for the country and the people is a giant stride in the RVSA’s annals. This monumental land mark bearing the inscribed names, under the respective services of 21,506 Heroes who lost their lives in the armed conflict stands at Mailapitiya on the Kandy-Nuwaraeliya road.

The assessment of RVSA performances is not possible without reference to the progress made in the ongoing projects. The performances and progress made in 2002 could be assessed by the contents of this presentation under relevant headings. In actual fact in its three years of functioning the RVSA was engaged in a Herculean task. With a small cadre the RVSA had to assess, plan implement, monitor and review the activities with large target groups. This has been made somewhat possible through the deployment of the invaluable services of the volunteers who have come forward to assist the RVSA in different projects.

To carry forward the RVSA’s responsibility to the present times Infrastructural and Project plan modifications are imminent. Towards such an end the 2003 work plans should focus on a smooth transition. This necessitates Provincial Level activities deploying permanent RVSA representatives in approved cadres and the introduction of further essential designations to augment its existing Personnel Base.

After analyzing the future and the progress of the RVSA in 2002 it has become evident that certain adjustments in the functional pattern and infrastructure are inevitable if the RVSA is to adapt to the changing environment from a turbulent to a more tranquil one, like in the present. Such adjustments should make provision for better dialogue with the affected families who are scattered Islandwide. It is important to get them grouped together in Divisional Secretariat levels facilitating their functioning under Committees represented by the family members of the affected Army, Navy, Air Force and Police personnel. These formations help in the elimination of the feeling of isolation from interactivity and lead to the emergence of coherent groups. They will also lead to innovative thinking in terms of planning, implementation and follow up of RVSA regional operations.

My task will not be complete without expressing my heartfelt gratitude to all who gathered round the RVSA in subscribing towards its mission. In this category are the donors and well-wishers here and abroad who have made contributions in money and kind besides who helped the RVSA in other ways particularly in giving publicity to it as an institution serving a great cause.

Besides, the guidance and invaluable support rendered by H.E. the President, the Hon. Minister of Defence, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Commanders of the Armed Forces, the Inspector General of Police, Officials of the Presidential Secretariat and numerous others from state and private sector organizations had the effect of giving buoyancy and radiance to the RVSA to continue unabated in its forward stride.

The Board of Management of the RVSA has always been its live wire. The supportive and advisory role played by the Board of Management has been the dynamic force behind the RVSA success story.

Special mention should be made to the (National Lotteries Board) NLB for their support in the Jayaviru Lottery programme. NLB funding and the President's Fund have been major sources of providence to the RVSA coffers.

Of Course, without the willing cooperation of the RVSA staff members the day-to-day progress in all its branches wouldn't have been possible. Hence, my acclamation of the excellent role played by them and their loyalty to the cause served.

Finally let me express my sincere hopes towards enhanced scope for the Ranaviru beneficiaries in time to come and solicit the willing cooperation of all Sri Lankans towards the great mission of the RVSA.

Major General H.N.W. (Neil) Dias RWP,RSP,VSV,USP
CHAIRMAN / RVSA

20th October 2003

MISSION STATEMENT

To empower and provide psycho-social support to the disabled in action, the families of those missing and killed in action, and those in the Armed Services and Police still serving in operational areas maintaining the writ of Government there, and to enable all these categories of people to cope with stressful and perceived hopeless situations that arise from conflict and strife, and to provide social support to mitigate its effects and boost morale to face life in a situation of a fragile peace.

Functions: The mission statement was updated with the amalgamation of the Ranaviru Surakum Ekakaya of the Presidential Secretariat with the Rana Viru Seva Authority (RVSA) by Cabinet decision and the new environment without death, disability, and destruction.

The RVSA was established by Her Excellency President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga soon after the Elephant Pass debacle in the year 2000 under the Rana Viru Seva Authority Act No. 54 of 1999.

The RVSA accomplishes its mission by Projects on donations but the administrative support services (such as wages, transport, rent for premises, utility services etc) is the responsibility of Government (-Public Finance). Although private donations grossly diminished after the signing of the peace accord, the sustainability of the work of the RVSA was ensured at its foundation by starting the Jayaviru Lottery by the National Lotteries Board.

The RVSA functions on the following Projects:

1. Ranaviru Housing Development (with supervision from the Special Presidential Committee on Housing)
2. Ranaviru Educational Scholarships and Foster Parents Scheme.
3. Ranaviru Families Skills Development
4. Ranaviru General Welfare & Psychosocial Support
5. Disabled War Heroes and Ranaviru Gammana
6. National Remembrance Park (in cooperation with the private sector and the Armed Services)
7. Legal Assistance and Mobile Service
8. Transit Camps

Housing Development Project

The project aims at alleviating a major problem of habitats faced by Service and Police personnel and their families and is the major project of the RVSA from its inception in the year 2000. Selections were done electorate wise on a strict marking scheme and the recipients given Rs. 100,000/= in 4 instalments after inspection of progress by the RVSA Field Officers. In 2002, the major donor was the Presidents Fund. Houses are built by the recipient family with community assistance on their own land, in different districts.

During the year it was discovered that the management information provided was not strictly correct and the Housing Account was frozen for four months until the files were brought upto date and proper accounting structures with approvals established. Latterly it was done district wise rather than electorate wise, and a new marking scheme introduced to give priority to the DIA, MIA, and KIA families.

For the year under review 358 houses were completed, 141 houses constructed upto the walls, and 45 houses are at foundation level. The Presidential Housing Committee cancelled further work on 23 houses due to lack of progress which was due to lack of interest by the recipient family. The total number of houses over the years where funding has been stopped amounts to 31.

A special housing project was commenced on RVSA land at Perth Estate, Horana for specially courageous personnel and their families in the Special Forces (Army), Special Boat Force (Navy), Special Task Force (Police), a killed in action family from the Air Force, and a severely disabled reserve police constable. 14 recipients were selected. On this same land, 10 houses were constructed in the previous year by MAS Bodyline Ltd.

Selections were done for construction in the following year in the following Districts: Amparai, Tissamaharama, Hiniduma, Kekirawa and Kamburupitiya, totaling 132 housing units.

In an internal audit done to verify the number of houses constructed or under construction in different Districts by the Housing Project since its inception in the last quarter of 2000, the following statistics were confirmed indicating its widespread activity in the country:

TABLE 1 - HOUSING PROJECT SO FAR

District	Electorates	Completed	Under Construction	Foundation
Kandy	Udunuwara	40	10	-
	Kundasale	20	3	1
Badulla	Haputale	34	13	3
	Welimada	24	-	1
Monaragala	Monaragala	21	-	3
	Bibile	25	-	-
Kurunegala	Wariyapola	17	14	3
	Yapahuwa	21	5	-
	Galgamuwa	31	14	3
	Nikaweratiya	38	3	5
Puttalam	Anamaduwa	22	-	-
	Chilaw	2	3	4
Matale	Matale	40	9	-
	Dambulla	34	9	2
	Laggala	05	12	2
Kegalla	Galigamuwa	29	09	9
	Dedigama	13	10	2
	Rambukkana	18	5	2
Galle	Ratgama	24	1	-
Matara	Hakmana	25	-	-
Hambantota	Mulkirigala	22	-	-
Ratnapura	Kolonne	23	2	-
Nuwara-Eliya	Nuwara-Eliya	08	9	3
Anuradhapura	Medawachchiya	24	-	-
	Mihintale	25	-	-
Polonnaruwa	Minneriya	25	-	-

	Medirigiriya	25	-	-
Kalutara	Horana	24	3	-
	(Perth Estate)	03	07	-
Gampaha	Attanagalla	25	-	-
Total		687	141	51

(Futher 31 stopped)

In the year under review Rs. 34,351,466/= was provided to 567 beneficiaries, with a further 142 selected.

Education Project

This Project too is a continuation of the one started at the inception of the RVSA in July 2000, but further expanded to include younger children of those killed in action (-called the Foster Parent Scheme). Applicants from families of service and police personnel receive Rs. 500 per month for a period of 2 years. The donor is linked to the recipient family and the principal of the school, and a new relationship established whilst also enabling monitoring by the donor and visible transparency of the transaction, which attracts donors from abroad. The project is done under the following categories covering the entire country:

- i. Children of ranaviru families in the GCE ‘O’ and ‘A’ level grades (-this is the category found to have the highest educational drop outs due to economic reasons).
- ii. Younger children of those disabled, missing or killed action (-the Foster Parent Scheme)
- iii. Younger children of serving personnel when so requested by the donor
- iv. Direct transaction between donor and family, where the RVSA only provides the linkage, and is not involved in the disbursement of funds
- v. Request by donor to provide a higher monthly donation than in the RVSA scheme, and for a longer period of time.

98% of the recipient children write appreciatively to the donors or the RVSA, supplying also their school progress reports at the end of term.

In the year under review, a further 430 recipients were added, making a total of 1430 amounting to 16.3 million Rupees, in **all** the above mentioned categories of the scheme, from 22 Districts. Children from Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim, and Burgher communities benefited from the scheme, the highest figure being from the Raja Rata Province.

TABLE 2 - PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOLARSHIPS DISTRICT WISE

District	Percentage
Anuradhapura	15

Polonnaruwa	2
Puttalam	2
Kurunegala	10
Matale	3
Kegalla	4
Kandy	9
Colombo	9
Gampaha	10
Kalutara	6
Galle	7
Matara	3
Hambantota	2
Monaragala	2
Amparai	2
Nuwara-Eliya	1
Badulla	6
Ratnapura	3
Batticaloa	1
Trincomalee	2
Vanni & Vauvniya	1

The main contributors to the RVSA education fund were expatriate Sri Lankans employed abroad, but the contributions from Sri Lanka received a boost at the end of 2001 with a massive contribution from the prisoners which has continued in 2002. Donations from Sri Lanka amounted to 57% of the total, 36% from Saudi Arabia, 3% from the U.K., and the rest from Botswana, USA, Egypt, Ireland, Philippines, Denmark, Iceland, Canada, the Netherlands, Australia, and India. The drop in scholarships from Saudi Arabia and increase from Sri Lanka during the last 3 years is shown in the following Table 3:

On a request from the Armed Services, the Grade 5 Scholarship winners from the families of the Armed Services were given an incentive prize of school books and stationary to the value of Rs. 1500/= each totaling Rs. 201,000. The funds were obtained from the prisoners contribution.

Project for the Welfare of Disabled Ex-Service Personnel

This Projects targets the medically retired disabled ex Service and Police personnel as they no longer come under the preview of the Armed Services and Police. Welfare

matters at a community level in the 21 rana Viru Gammana are also dealt with under this Project. As required by the RVSA Act, a data base is maintained of all the Disabled In Action (- total of 9335).

The Project assisted 81 disabled personnel in 13 Electorates to complete their **unfinished houses** within 2 months by providing Rs. 50,000/= each, in installments according to progress, as follows:

TABLE 4 - COMPLETING UNFINISHED HOUSES OF THE DISABLED, 2003

District	No. of Houses
Anuradhapura	14
Polonnaruwa	06
Kurunegala	12
Kandy	10
Kegalle	05
Badulla	06
Kalutara	03
Galle	10
Matara	03
Hambanthota	01
Moneragala	01
Ratnapura	03
Gampaha	<u>07</u>
	81

In addition 21 persons were recommended to be given loans for housing.

The RVSA mediates with Three-wheeler companies and Leasing Organizations to provide the disabled with **invalid carriage**. 30 such were provided, one of them being an outright donation from a sympathetic donor. Discussions were held with the Commissioner of Motor Traffic who agreed to hold examinations in the outstations, but refused hiring licences for the disabled.

Telephones and cellular phones were found to be essential to the disabled, and negotiations were held to provide it to them on easy payment terms. Sri Lanka Telecom provided 111 telephones on discount. Arrangements were done with other phone

companies to do demonstrations at ranaviru gammana and to have direct negotiations for sale.

A large number of **personal welfare** request were attended to, 50 - 70 per month. There were 32 corrections on pension and compensation.

Self employment skills training were arranged at ranaviru gammana as follows:

TABLE 5 - SELF EMPLOYMENT SKILLS AND AWARENESS TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Training	No. of Trainees	Ranaviru Gammanaya & District
Papadam & Yogurt	21	Paradisewatte, Ratnapura,
Mushroom	24	Wathupitiwela, Gampaha,
	10	Thilakapura, Ambalangoda
Candles	25	Udupila, Gampaha
	50	Salawa, Colombo
	30	Ranaviru Sevana, Ragama
Anthuriums	29	Salawa, Colombo
Agriculture	15	Mapalagama, Galle
Sewing	20	Ibbagamuwa, Kurunegala
Costume Jewellery	17	Paradisewatte, Ratnapura
Aluminium Work	22	Homagama, Colombo
Awareness on self work	All	Rambewa, Anuradhapura
Computors	03	-

The RVSA arranged the **water** supply scheme at the ranaviru gammana in Watupitiwala Giritale, Kekirawa, Haliela, and Elahara, benefiting hundreds of disabled and their families. The RVSA also intervened in the provision of public transport and telephone facilities to several ranaviru gammana. Furniture and books to the libraries of the following gammana were provided: Tilakapura, Hambantota, Mirijjawela, Kuruwita, and Salawa.

A **pension scheme** for the disabled was formulated with the Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation and the Ceylinco Insurance Company and interested persons were asked to negotiate directly with the insurers.

The ranaviru gammana were visited and links established with the welfare societies. Link is also maintained with the Association of Disabled Ex-service and police Personnel.

Remembrance Park Project

This is a concept of Her Excellency President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga. It is a joint effort of the public sector (-the RVSA leading), the Private Sector (-lead role by the Ceylon Tobacco Co.), the Armed Service and Police (- led by the Army), and the President's Fund. The Project Proposal estimated a cost of Rs. 25 million, but much remains to be done.

It is a beautiful park 5 acres in extent situated in Mailapitiya on the raja Mawatha (-16km from Kandy) on the theme 'Peace and Life comes after Death and Strife'. A valley between the hills contains the backwaters of the Victoria Reservoir.

The names of all those killed and missing in action on behalf the Motherland are etched in stone. A large steel monument depicting the honour of the Nation is situated in the midst of 4 shrines of the main religions of the country. There is also an artificial eternal flame and a real naked flame in a traditional oil lamp. Two houses for the disabled, a Police Post, 4 shops and an information centre are situated here.

Her Excellency the President formally dedicated the National Remembrance Park in honour of the lost in action since Independence Day, on 03 October 2002 in the presence of the Hon. Minister of Defence and the three Service Commanders and the Inspector General of Police and a large and representative gathering.

The local management of the NRP is done by the Central Province representatives of the Army, Police, CTC, District Secretariat, RVSA, and National Botanical Gardens, but this arrangement is awaiting a definitive basis through a Trust Deed.

Transit Camp Project

Transit camps are places where the combatants are accommodated immediately before proceeding to operational areas. Visits to the Army Transit Camps in Ratmalana (with a separate camp for women), Anuradhapura, Trincomalee revealed the physical conditions to be most atrocious and unacceptable, resulting in anger and desertions.

During the previous year with RVSA intervention, a new transit camp for women soldiers was established, new billets built in Anuradhapura, conditions in Trincomalee and Ratmalana improved, but the male transit camp in Ratmalana was beyond economic repair. However patch work repair was done and a site found to construct a new Transit Camp in Ratmalana .

During the year under review, the RVSA purchased materials for repair in the three buildings at the new site and handed it to the ESR Regiment to affect the repairs, amounting to Rs. 1 million. Meanwhile at the old continuing camp, mosquito and fly prevention programmes and anti narcotic and sexually transmitted diseases, and preventive health programmes were arranged with ADIC, Dangerous Drugs Control Board, Municipal and Military Health authorities. Donations of chairs, mattresses, pillows and pillowcases, and mosquito coils were obtained.

Tender documents for building the new Transit camp at Ratmalana were prepared free of charge by the General Manager, State Engineering Corporation on a personal basis.

Since contributions from the Jayaviru Lottery had been deposited in the Transit Camp Account, with RVSA Board authority the required funds were utilized for the rent of the new RVSA premises and for the shift. Also contributions and expenditure for the National Remembrance Park Project was also in this account and there was no separate account for the NRP.

Psycho-social & General Welfare Project

This Project commenced even before the formation of the RVSA, soon after the Elephant Pass debacle, and was then a Unit in the Presidential Secretariat called the Human Intervention Unit (- the Ranaviru Surakum Ekakaya, RSE). It consisted of an Occupational

Medicine Specialist, a Clinical Psychologist, a Social Issues Coordinator, and a Legal Officer and functioned as two projects: (1) Healing Minds and (2) Family Help. This RSE was amalgamated with the RVSA by a Cabinet Minute in 2002, and came to be known by the above name. All work of this Project was done by donations received from abroad on advertisement in a web site opened in 2000 called www.helproes.lk.

In the year under review, the RVSA completed the Provincial **Befrienders Training Programme**, where nearly 100 persons from each Province (totalling nearly 600) were sensitized into the psycho-social problems of ranaviru families and trained in listening skills. This year a further training (including problem solving) by Psychologists was given to 100 of them. The Divisional Secretaries have been notified of their contact addresses to inform all ranaviru that these trained persons are available in their respective communities. The befrienders continue to be in contact with the RVSA. The training programmes were funded by the National Integration Unit, Oxfam, and the RSE fund. The trainees were from the following organizations: Sarvodaya, Women In Need, Ruhuna Gami Kantha Organization, Womens' Development Centre, Association of Disabled Ex-service Personnel (ADEP), Uva Socio-Economic and Community Development Centre, Family Rehabilitation Centre, Wayamba Farmers Development Institute, the Health Department, Rajarata Farmers Institute, Sethsaviya, Oxfam, Swa Shakthi Kantha Samithiya, and Sanvardana Pariyashana Pasanama.

On a request by the Army, disabled Officers in the Psy-Ops Directorate were trained by the Psychologist, Specialist Doctor, Legal Officer, and the Social Issues Coordinator, to develop skills in listening and identification of ranaviru problems. They are now stationed at the '**Sebala Mithuro**' desks at the transit Camps in Ratmalana and Anuradhapura, and are in constant contact with the RVSA.

Psychological **empowerment training** programmes were also conducted for the **Disabled** In Action medically retired.

In new training programme on **empowerment of ranaviru women** was launched in 2002, in association with the Sarvodaya Economic and Enterprise Development Centre, at Provincial levels. It seeks to involve these women in trade skills development and set up micro-enterprises in addition to psychological strengthening and formation of ranaviru womens' groups in the Districts. Training was held in Gampaha, Matara, Kalutara, and Kurunegala and will be continued into the next year. This programme has been found to be of great help in overcoming the unresolved grief of MIA/KIA families and for them to now get on with life.

In association with the Army Seva Vanitha Unit, after a needs assessment, a programme on **psycho-sexual education** was launched in the camps of the Womens Corp with the assistance of Dr. Thiloma Munasinghe of the Health Ministry and will be continued into the following year.

Following the recommendation of a workshop for Service and Police Doctors organized in 2001 by the RSE, a training session for Senior Field Commanders and Directors of the Armed Services and Police were held to raise their awareness on **Post Traumatic Stress Disorders** and to take appropriate mitigating practical action in this regard.

Focus group sessions on **mitigating combat stress reactions** were also held on request for the members of the Special Forces in the Army, including at its training camp in Maduru Oya and disabled camp at Seeduwa.

At their own request, a 3 month **speaking English Course** for the **disabled** was arranged with the Academy of English and Drama. 5 of them received Encouragement Awards at the annual Prize-Giving at the Lionel Wendt Auditorium.

Large number of requests on personal welfare matters were attended to and mediated, made by letter, telephone, and visits. Analysis of these requests numbers are given below.

TABLE 6 - WELFARE REQUESTS

Nature	Number
Payment of death benefits	501
Utilities - Telephones	4013
- Water & Electricity	594
Job transfers for families	163
School admissions (-other than Gr. 1 & 6)	206
Employment / skills	90
Medical problems	86
Housing loans	148
Poverty alieviation (- for families where death was not due to terrorist action)	82
Women issues (especially legal)	43
Family Ids / Bus passes	51

Clients have **always** received a response on possibility or inability to intervene. For the last three years there have been 17321 requests.

Legal Project

At the inception of the RVSA large numbers of request on legal matters were received and these were handed over to the Free Legal Aid Scheme of the Ministry of Justice. But as the scheme was found to be ineffective a volunteer legal officer in the RSE (with a background on Naval and Land Reforms) was recruited in 2001 to attend to legal matters.

In the year under review there were around 25 personal visits per month for legal consultations. Written requests for the year were 680. Meanwhile, land alienations of ranaviru recommended to the Divisional Secretariats were 264. The Legal Project also organized the Legal and other mobile service for ranaviru families at Matugama with the Matugama Bar Council, where 22 other Institutions participated.

The Legal Project together with the Psychosocial Project look a lead role in formulating the Water Supply Scheme for the **Horana Perth Estate** Project. This was done in association with Helvetas Sri Lanka and the Sarvodaya Rural Technical Services. The joint RVSA-Helvetas-Sarvodaya-Public Trustee water supply project will commence next year. This Perth Estate Project is a special land and housing project for those engaged in very dangerous patriotic acts by those in the Special Task Force (Police), Special Forces (Army), Special Boat Force (Navy), and KIA families (Air Force).

Much funds were saved for the RVSA by the following legal agreements being prepared by the RVSA's own Legal Officer:

- 01 Contract Agreements on the Remembrance Park (- engraving granite slabs, sound system)
- 02 Licensee Agreements at the Remembrance Park (- houses, shops, and Police Post)
- 03 Transfer deeds at the Perth Estate

- 04 Trust deed of the National Remembrance Park (- initial draft with the Legal appointed Member of the Board)

Skills Development Project

In this Project the RVSA mediates in providing vocational skills to ranaviru families. Part of the work is being done by the Welfare of Disabled Persons Project and part by the Psycho-social Project for War affected women.

The main training programmes where names were forwarded was to the Vocational Training Authority (256) and the National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority (295) from all provinces. Additionally families trained by the Industrial Development Board formed a micro-enterprise called the Karuwalagaswewa Leather Products Company with financial assistance from the Samurdhi Authority. The RVSA mediated in all aspects of its business including the obtaining of an Irrigation Dept. building as the factory site and the marketing to the Armed Services.

Media Unit

The Media Consultant position was abolished due to lack of funds in the Government Budget at the end of the year. The Media **Officer** continues work on publicity. Media publicity is essential to the RVSA for

- (1) generating donations
- (2) disseminating news of its work to the ranaviru and their families, and thereby uplifting their morale.

It is essential that a full Media Unit with equipment and personnel be formed. ‘Ranaviru Jaya’ a newsheet of the RVSA was published three times in the year under review and distributed to those serving in operational areas. A souvenir was also published for a musical show ‘Sithuvily Kandavura’ in benefit of the RVSA.

Several media releases on RVSA activities were issued but only a few were published. Full-page advertisement supplements were prepared and published on Ranaviru Day (07 June) and for the Dedication of the National Remembrance Park (03 October). The Chairperson and Project Officers appeared in several TV/Radio promotional programmes.

Preparation of banners, posters, newspaper advertisements and boards for the RVSA and its events were done by the Media Unit. The Ranaviru Day cultural show and the sithuwili kandavura musical show was also organized by this unit.

Administrative & Financial Matters

Upto the end of 2002, the Chairperson also functioned in an executive capacity. The Administrative Officer who is a retired Combined Services Officer has also completed his contract. During this time the RVSA adopted new management principles to have a service approach and to be result oriented. Single graduate Projects Manager and Project Officers were encouraged to be independent and creative and to take executive decisions on Project work after wide consultations but with responsibility and accountability. As a result the need for large numbers of middle and lower grade staff was eliminated. Welfare and psychosocial projects were made to be participatory and most ventures were done jointly with the Private Sector, NGOs, and other State organizations. In order to regularize matters according to State sector administration, at the end of 2002, an SLAS Officer was appointed to be the Chief Executive Officer in addition to his duties in the Office of the President. It is hoped that in the future there will be full conformity to State regulations without loss of proper planning and with adequate consultations, quick but practicable solutions and actions, a thorough service orientation and being participatory rather than hand-outs in psycho-social welfare and correction of existing procedures rather than a witch hunt of creative workers. A position paper on the administration in the first 2 ½ years of the RVSA will soon be presented to the RVSA Board, and will show the massive amount of psycho-social work done in 2 ½ years of operation by a small RVSA staff of 27 persons, more than half being graduates.

Financial matters too thus far, was handled by a single retired Combined Services Officer, managing six separate accounts, and who suddenly resigned at the end of 2001. (Single persons handling so many accounts is never seen in State sector organizations). He was immediately replaced by a qualified Accountant with experience in the Corporation Sector. After much difficulty with the Treasury, a qualified Financial Assistant was finally appointed at the end of the year, and a Correspondence Officer also attached to a new Finance Branch of the RVSA. It is hoped that in the future there will be full compliance with all financial rules, and there should be no more accounting deficiencies.

The approved budget estimate did not make provision for the rent of the remises, and RVSA was forced to shift to a premises with a lower rent with an advance for the ensuing year as well and utilize the contribution of the Jayaviru Lottery for the rent and shift of premises with RVSA Board Authority (Board Paper No. 123). If this was not done the RVSA would not have had a premises to operate from , after September 2002. These funds were taken from the Transit Camp Project Account, as the Project was temporarily in abeyance till the Army affected repairs. Under the provisions of the contract for the previous premises the RVSA had to pay for the increased rent assessment, but as there was

no budgetary provision, this too was paid from the Jayaviru Lottery contribution deposited in the Skills Development Project Account. It is to be noted that all contributions from the Jayaviru Sampatha Lottery are paid by cheque from the General Treasury and all such payments were acknowledged. However the amount receivable are not notified to the RVSA always and could not be produced for audit. The same applies to funds received from the benefit show 'Sithuvili Kandavura'. For the ensuing year (2003), no budgetary allocation has been made for salaries of Professionals appointed by the Cabinet, increase of staff wages, and rent for premises. This was pointed out to the Treasury even before the estimates were passed by Parliament.

The RVSA staff of 27 persons have accomplished much in the service of ranaviru and their families to improve their morale inspite of the fragile peace environment. As in previous years the recurrent expenditure costs including wages is less than 10% of total operational costs, a feature hardly seen in State Sector organizations, and only this is from the Public Finances, which is hardly sufficient to accomplish its mission.

May the RVSA continue to honour and work for the psychosocial needs of the ranaviru and their families with dedication, transparency and vigour and yet conform to all laws and regulations required of a State Sector organization.

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CHAIRPERSON
RANAVIRU SEVA AUTHORITY**

Annex: Annual Accounts (In Excel Format)