

**FIRE DAMAGE – ROBGILL ESTATE BONNACCORD DIVISION**  
**Twin Cottage NO.1**

**A fire broke out in Robgill Estate on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 at 10.00 am in the Bonnaccord division.**

**I give below the details of above.**

Twin Cottage	No 1
No. of Houses	12 Rooms
Affected families	13

Workers	Male	6
	Female	8

Non Workers	Male	9
	Female	6

School Children	11
Pre School children	02
Total	13

## **KVPL intervention and initiatives in order to overcome the situation.**

- 1) The DGM of Robgill estate Mr. Indra Gallearachchi went to the spot within 5 minutes and evacuated all the people with the support of the estate staff/workers ( ed photographs attached).
- 2) The DGM of Robgill estate informed all the relevant authorities about the incidents to get their immediate support in this regard.
  - **Police Station – Hatton and Bogawantalawa**
  - **Fire Brigade- Hatton**
  - **Assistant Government Agent, Ginigathena**
  - **Plantation Human Development Trust, Hatton**
  - **Kelani Valley Plantations PLC, Hatton and the Head Office in Colombo**
  - **Sri Lanka Red Cross Society –Nuwara-Eliya**
  - **World Vision Disaster Management unit Hatton and Colombo Head Office**
  - **Grama Niladhari**
  - **Ceylon Electricity Board.**
- 3) All the Kelani Valley Plantations PLC Estate Managers (Hatton Region) gathered to the spot within half an hour to support the Estate Management and the affected people.

***The Estate Managers and the teams who arrived at the spot are given below:***

<b>Estate Name</b>	<b>Name of the Managers</b>
Annfield	Mr. Budhdhika Attanayake, Estate Group Manager, with his team
Invery	Mr. Rajith Gnanasekeram, Manager, with his team
Battalgalla	Mr. E. Charles, Manager, with his team
Fordyce	Mr. D. Priyantha, Manager, Mr. T. Karthik, Assistant Estate Manager, with his team
Ingestre	Mr. S. Abilash and Mr. S. Karunanayake, both Assistant Estate Managers and the medical team
Tillyrie	Mr. U. Tennakoon, Estate Group Manager and his team

- 4) The Dy. GM, Robgill Estate has stopped the work of all other divisions and got down all the staff to the spot to help settle the affected people in the Kovil, Community Centre and Child Development Centre on a temporary basis.
- 5) The Dy. GM Robgill has arranged with the support of the HR Manager Mr. Subramaniam Ram, and the Regional Medical Team to conduct a counseling session to the affected people to calm their fears and to build their trust and confidence that the Management is with them to re-start their lives.
- 6) The Dy. GM of Robgill has provided all assistance to the Fire Brigade, and the Police Officers to douse the fire and assisted them with the inquiries and investigations that followed after the incident.
- 7) The Dy. GM of Robgill estate made immediate arrangements to have a discussion with the local Politicians who arrived at the site and briefed them of the immediate arrangements made by the Estate Management and requested them to assist the affected people. The Chairman of the Pradesheeya Sabawa Norwood, a member of the Pradesheeya Saba and a former Provincial Council member, Mr. K. Kanagaraj were among the local Politicians who came to the location.
- 8) The Estate Management has formulated a Committee to provide meals to the workers and this Committee comprises the following Staff Members. Mrs. S. Kalyani- Welfare Officer, three Child Development Officers, Field Officer and Asst. Factory Officer. The Estate provided meals (four to five days) to the affected workers until they started cooking their own meals in the temporary accommodation.
- 9) The Estate Management has provided sanitary items, feeding bottles and all other immediate requirements which were needed for the people on the first day itself on estate account.
- 10) The Community Centres, Kovil, Church and Child Development Centres in which the affected people were temporarily settled were provided with electricity and water facilities immediately.
- 11) The Dy. GM Robgill had made requests to the Assistant Government Agent, Ginigathena and the Red Cross Society - Nuwara-Eliya and these organizations provided the basic requirements such as bed sheets, mats, pillows, plates, jugs and sanitary items which resulted from discussions with them from the beginning of the incident.
- 12) The Dy. GM- Robgill estate has contacted the Director General of PHDT Mr. Lal Perera, Chairman of PHDT Mr. Puththirasigamany and the Regional Director of PHDT Mr. Narada Wijeratne to get the required

roofing sheets from the Trust and Robgill Estate management had sent estate lorries to Kandy and Nuwara Eliya to collect the under-mentioned roofing sheets.

- **224 Nos. Plain Sheets 8 x 3**
- **144 Nos. Plain Sheets 7 feet**

13) The Estate Management had requested all the Regional Managers to provide the timber requirements from the estate stock for the temporary houses and estate Management had responded immediately by providing the following required items.

- **780 L. Fts from Fordyce Estate**
- **121 L.Fts from Ingestre Estate**

14) The Estate Management started the construction of temporary houses on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day and around 60 workers were engaged for this work on estate account. In addition to above, the estate has incurred expenditure in purchasing the materials to build the temporary houses.

15) On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day evening the estate Management had been able to complete the temporary houses, which consists of a separate kitchen, a separate toilet for each house and provided the cooking utensils, such as a Gas Cooker, a Gas Cylinder, dry rations, bed sheets, clothes mats, plates mosquito nets and carpets(tarpolin sheets).

16) On the 4<sup>th</sup> day the affected people were re-settled in the temporary houses, after conducting a Hindu Religious ceremony with the participation with the community members, Estate Management and the staff.

17) The Dy. GM of Robgill estate has promised the affected people at the time of settling them in the temporary houses that they will be given permanent new houses and he will coordinate with the Government Ministries and authorities to get the houses, as Kelani Valley Plantations PLC has already released the required land to build the houses and work is in progress.

18) The estate Management was able to send all the affected children to school and the workers to return to their normal work from 5<sup>th</sup> day onwards, which is the result of the quick attention given by the estate Management with the assistance of the Company HR division.

DGM of Robgill estate taken a leadership on after incidence settlements and he thanked the MD, CEO and the DGM-HR of KVPL for assisting and guiding him and thank the Manager HR, Regional Managers of Hatton region and their estate teams, local politicians, Trade Unions, religious leaders, neighboring estates ,NGOs and well wishers who have contributed to assist the Estate Management and the affected people to turn their life to normalcy.