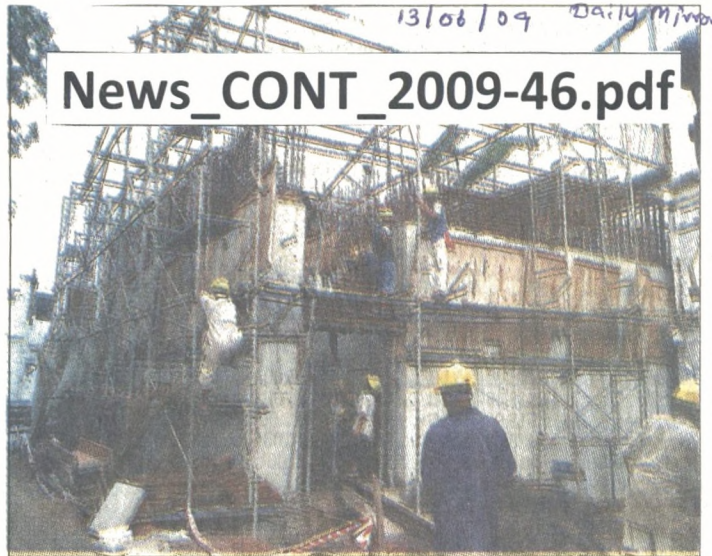




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Construction Chamber to assist in Rehabilitation of N/E

Transition from War to Peace is a complex process involving protection of the affected population, reintegrating displaced populations and refugees and rebuilding damaged infrastructure through an accelerated infrastructure development programme. Rehabilitation is the term used to describe the intermediate stage between emergency relief and development. Rehabilitation covers a multitude of very different situations and variable time spans. Rehabilitation attempts to bridge the gap between emergency assistance and long term development strategies. The biggest challenge in any rehabilitation programme is the establishment of coherent and consistent links between relief, rehabilitation and development.

Rehabilitation has been



defined as "an overall dynamic and intermediate strategy" of institutional reforms and reinforcement of reconstruction and improvement of infrastructure and services, supporting the initiatives and actions of the concerned people in the political, economic and social domains. It is focused towards resumption of sustainable development of both victims and perpetrators of conflict.

The construction chamber will organize a seminar in order to coordinate rehabilitation efforts. This will be held on June 19 at the Galadari hotel.

People, both victims and perpetrators of the violent conflict must be reintegrated into civil society covering its economic, social and political aspects. Rehabilitation actions must have a human dimension. It is vital to iden-

tify all relevant stakeholders, including community and civil society structures and to ensure that they are included in the rehabilitation and reconstruction process. Major reconstruction activities must be driven by a Statutory Agency while developing a viable institutional framework and funding mechanisms.

Good governance forms part of the infrastructure response including transparency and accountability in procurement. Within these parameters there is an urgent need to develop acceptable and logical methods of procurement. We should recognize that donor support within a post conflict context has the capacity to do harm as well as good. The implication is that infrastructure development should implicitly include

consideration relating to the conflict as part of the service provided in order to facilitate successful and more sustainable development. Rehabilitation is crucial to rebuilding Government legitimacy and should not be seen as simply

restoring the pre-conflict situation. The need for national ownership of rehabilitation efforts in the post conflict period and engagement of the private sector in reconstruction efforts is required.

Lack of capital investment capacities among those who have lived through the conflict may give external investors an advantage. Large scale presence of contractors and service providers from outside the region will cause further resentment and tension. Other major actors including NGOs have caused negative impacts by departing from traditions of impartiality and neutrality.

International donors have provided relief and reconstruction at the expense of justice and sometimes are seen undermining political accountability by substituting for the State.