

Post-Tsunami Operational Management Structure (P-TOMS, 2005)

The 2005 joint mechanism between the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE to coordinate tsunami reconstruction aid in the North-East. Struck down within weeks by the Supreme Court on the application of the JVP.

P-TOMS is the case file's clearest demonstration that even a humanitarian, non-political joint mechanism — designed only to distribute reconstruction money equitably to tsunami victims of all communities — could not survive Sinhala-majority constitutional politics in the unitary state. The narrowing here is not a Tamil withdrawal; it is a Sinhala-majority constitutional veto on power-sharing of any kind, however limited.

§1 What P-TOMS was, and what happened

After the 26 December 2004 tsunami devastated coastal districts, the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE agreed a joint operational structure (P-TOMS) to channel international reconstruction funding into the North-East. The JVP, a coalition partner, filed a Supreme Court challenge. The Court suspended key provisions in July 2005. The mechanism never operated.

Sources

- ICG — coverage of the P-TOMS collapse and its political consequences.

What this is not

- This article does not assign blame to tsunami victims or affected communities.
- This article does not glorify or endorse the LTTE as a party to the agreement; the agreement is recorded because the case file is about what was attempted and what failed.