

MINUTES OF THE START OF MEETING OF THE DISTRICT LEVEL
MONITORING COMMITTEE (DLMC) HELD ON 11-07-2019 AT GOVT.

GUEST HOUSE, PALAKKAD

PLKD/DLMC/MNTS-1/2019

Present:

1. Hon'ble Justice A. V. Ramakrishna Pillai, Chairman, SLMC
2. Smt. Sreekala S., Member Secretary, SLMC (Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board)
3. Sri. D. Balamurali IAS, District Collector (District Magistrate), Palakkad
4. Sri. Ashique Ali U., Range Forest Officer, Mannarkkad
5. Sri. Thushar M., Secretary, District Legal Service Authority, Palakkad
6. Sri. J. Kalyanakrishnan, DMC, Haritha Keralam Mission, Palakkad
7. Sri. K. Salim, Additional Superintendent of Police, Palakkad
8. Smt. Renu R., Revenue Divisional Officer, Palakkad
9. Dr. Anupkumar T. N., Deputy District Medical Officer, Palakkad
10. Sri. C. Shereef, Range Forest Officer, Palakkad Forest Division
11. Sri. Benila Bruno, District Co-ordinator, Suchitwa Mission, Palakkad
12. Sri. K. R. Krishnadas, Range Forest Officer, Nellyampathy Range, Nenmara Forest Division
13. Sri. Ramankutty M., District Deputy Director of Panchayath, Palakkad
14. Sri. Krishnan M. N., Environmental Engineer, District Office, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Palakkad

Participants:

1. Smt. Sheeba M.S, Chief Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Kozhikode
2. Smt. Bindu V. Gopal, Environmental Engineer, Head Office, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Thiruvananthapuram
3. Smt. Soumya, Assistant Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Kozhikode
4. Sri. Ravikumar K. M., Assistant Environmental Engineer, District Office, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Palakkad
5. Sri. Haroon Ali P., Suchitwa Mission, Palakkad
6. Smt. Suprabha K. P., Secretary, Muthuthala Grama Panchayath
7. Smt. Juhee Maria Tom, Secretary, Mannarkkad Municipality
8. Smt. Seena H., Secretary, Ottapalam Municipality

9. Sri. Pramod K., Municipal Secretary, Shoranur Municipality
10. Sri. Krishnaraj N. P., Municipal Secretary, Pattambi Municipality
11. Sri. Kunhamed Kutty M. C., Secretary, Sreekrishnapuram Panchayath and Secretary in-charge, Vellinezhi Grama Panchayath
12. Sri. Vinod Kumar K. T., Junior Health Inspector, Cherpulassery Municipality
13. Sri. Babu Louees, Health Inspector, Chittur Thathamangalam Municipality
14. Sri. Padmarajan K. P., Health Inspector, Palakkad Municipality

The start up meeting of the District Level Monitoring Committee (DLMC for short) commenced at 10.00 am at Government Guest House, Palakkad. Meeting was Chaired by Hon'ble Justice A.V. Ramakrishna Pillai, (former Judge, High Court of Kerala) Chairman, State Level Monitoring Committee (SLMC for short). The Chairman, SLMC welcomed all the members of the DLMC and other participants. In the introductory remarks the Chairman, SLMC explained the origin, constitution and the purpose of constitution of the State Level Monitoring Committee and the District Level Monitoring Committee (DLMC for short).

Hon'ble Justice A.V. Ramakrishnapillai, Chairman, SLMC:

The Chairman brought the attention of the Members of the DLMC to the following directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in the order dated 25.4.2019 in O.A.No.606/2018 and insisted the need for circulating those directions among all the officials concerned, especially to the Secretaries of the various local bodies in the District for the implementation of those directions as well as the various provisions of the Environmental legislations in letter and spirit in a time bound manner. The directions are as under.

- i. At least three cities and three towns in the State and at least three Villages in every District of the State may be identified within two weeks and earnest and demonstrable endeavor be made to make them fully compliant in respect of environmental norms within six months. Remaining State may be made fully compliant within one year.
- ii. A quarterly report be furnished by the Chief Secretary, every three months. First such report shall be furnished by July 30, 2019.
- iii. The Chief Secretary may personally monitor the progress, at least once in a month, with all the District Magistrates.
- iv. The District Magistrates may monitor the status of compliance of environmental norms, at least once in two weeks.
- v. The District Magistrates or other Officers may be imparted requisite training.

- vi. Estimate of value of environmental degradation and cost of restoration be prepared and compensation be planned and recovered from polluters for environmental restoration and restitution on that basis.
- vii. Performance audit of functioning of all regulatory bodies may be got conducted and remedial measures be taken, within six months.
- viii. Introduction of a policy of giving ranking, based on performance on the subject of environment and giving of rewards or other incentives on that basis to individual areas, localities, institutions or individuals may be considered. This may also include encouraging students or other citizens significantly contributing to the cause of environment. The best practices may be evolved, if necessary, in the light of experiences on the subject. This may help in educating and involving public at large which may help in enhancing of environmental laws.
- ix. The Chief Secretary may remain present in person before the Tribunal with the status of compliance in respect of various issues mentioned in para 22 as well as any other issues discussed in the above order on 06.11.2019. It is made clear that Chief Secretary may not delegate the above function and the further requirement of appearance before this Tribunal to anyone else. However, it will be open to him to change the date, by advance intimation by e-mail at ngt.filing@gmail.com to adjust their convenience.

It was also informed by the Chairman that the villages of *Muthuthala, Vellinezhi* and *Sreekrishnapuram* are identified as Model Local Bodies which are to be made fully compliant in respect of environmental norms within six months and other local bodies within one year from the date of the aforesaid order. It was also informed that lethargy of local bodies in complying with the directions would be viewed seriously and the Secretary of such local bodies would be held liable for violations. The Chairman observed that the Palakkad District Administration has already taken some initiatives by conducting a meeting of DLMC and giving training. The Chairman congratulated the District Collector for this and instructed to continue the good work.

Sri. D. Balamurali IAS, District Collector: The District Collector informed that a preliminary meeting of the DLMC has been already conducted. A workshop on the relevant Rules and NGT orders has been conducted for the members of DLMC.

Smt. S. Sreekala, Member Secretary, KSPCB & SLMC: Member Secretary explained about the formation and responsibilities of DLMC. It was made clear that implementation of all Environmental Laws in the entire district was the purpose of the committee. The Board has evolved guidelines for identifying site for municipal solid waste treatment plant and has made available the same to all District Collectors. It was

also pointed out that all Health Care Facilities should obtain authorisation of the Board under Bio Medical Waste Rules, failing which they would be held liable to pay environmental compensation.

Sri. K. Salim, Additional SP, Palakkad: Additional SP agreed that the Police Department will actively co-operate in implementing the decisions of the Committee.

Dr. Anupkumar T. N., Deputy District Medical Officer, Palakkad: The Deputy DMO informed that there are problems in segregation of solid waste in Hospitals.

Sri. Ramankutty M., Deputy Director of Panchayath, Palakkad: It was assured that the decisions of the meeting and the guidelines prepared by the SLMC would be circulated to all the Grama Panchayaths in the District.

Sri. Y. Kalyanakrishnan, DMC, Haritha Kerala Mission, Palakkad: It was informed that the common problem faced by the local bodies is the public protest against establishing MCF/RRF.

Smt. Benila Bruno, District Co-ordinator, Suchitwa Mission, Palakkad: Reported that Suchitwa Mission is actively co-operating and giving necessary advices to local bodies in technical matters related to solid waste management.

The following resolutions were taken in the meeting.

1. The District Collector (District Magistrate) shall monitor the progress and status of compliance of environmental norms by all concerned especially the local bodies in the district at least once in two weeks. The District Collector has to personally oversee the waste management activities in the district.
2. After collecting data through the aforesaid monitoring, the DLMC shall be convened once in three weeks for reviewing the progress and for suggesting remedial measures to achieve better results.
3. Monthly progress report on the basis of the above shall be prepared and the same shall be forwarded to the Chief Secretary with a copy to SLMC in the e-mail ID slmckerala2019@gmail.com, so that the details in the said report could be made use of for preparing the quarterly report to be submitted before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.
4. Training programs shall be arranged for the Secretaries of the Local Bodies in the District on environmental laws with special references to their powers and duties as well as the technical aspects on the subject. The training programs shall be arranged jointly by the District Legal Services Authority, Pollution Control

Board, Suchithwa Mission and Haritha Keralam Mission. The copy of presentation included in the notes circulated by the Chairman, SLMC among the Members of the Committee can be made use of for guidance in the matter.

5. Awareness programs shall be arranged in educational institutions in the district by the District Legal Services Authority with the assistance of Education Department, Haritha Keralam Mission and Suchithwa Mission.
6. The District Legal Services Authority shall conduct social audit for assessing the problems faced by the public on issues of environmental protection and also for assessing the final result of each activity undertaken by the DLMC.
7. Cleaning programs shall be undertaken by the local authority not only during pre-monsoon season but also throughout the year.
8. Door to door collection of segregated waste shall be arranged by the local bodies within their limit. The local bodies can insist for payment of user fee by the waste generators. The possibility of realizing user fee along with property tax from those who are refusing to pay the same can be explored. However, people below poverty line may be exempted from paying user fee.
9. Local bodies shall install waste segregation plants within their local limits. They have to make sure that proper working condition and personal protective devices are available to the cleaning workers.
10. Local bodies shall ensure that industrial waste as well wastes from hotels and restaurants are not being dumped into drains and water bodies.
11. Local bodies shall install cameras to identify persons dumping waste in public places and water bodies. Environmental degradation shall be assessed and compensation shall be levied from culprits.
12. As plastic wastes from industrial units are more or less homogeneous in nature, they shall be collected separately and sent to units for shredding or recycling.
13. Major commercial establishment/industrial units shall be directed to have their own plastic shredding units as it requires only a small area for operation.
14. The land for providing common treatment facility for bio-medical and solid waste as well as the land for a common rendering plant for poultry waste shall be identified by the District Administration with the help of local authority. District administration shall provide high priority for indentifying land for establishing common treatment facilities for solid waste management, waste water treatment, bio-medical waste as well as a common rendering plant for animal poultry waste.
15. Directorate of Panchayath and Urban Directors shall collect details with respect to status of waste handling in village and urban local bodies respectively. An

action plan for faster improvement and strict compliance of Solid Waste Management Rule, 2016 shall be prepared.

16. The Police Department shall line the department in action, in the event of report of unauthorized waste dumping. In such cases, the copy of the FIR shall be forwarded to the District Legal Services Authority and the Kerala State Pollution Control Board so as to facilitate realization of compensation from the violators on 'polluter pays' principle.
17. The value of environmental degradation on account of violation of environmental laws shall be estimated and cost of restoration shall be assessed and compensation shall be fixed by the Pollution Control Board and the same shall be recovered from the violators for restoration and restitution. The District Legal Services Authority shall render necessary assistance in assessing the damage and fixing the compensation.
18. Sanitation facilities are to be improved in hospital premises. The handling and disposal of food waste in hospitals can be improved if the sources of generation of wastes are controlled. If arrangements are made in the hospital itself for the preparation of food for patients and bystanders according to specified standards with the help of public support, food from outside can be curtailed gradually as experienced in District Hospital, Ernakulam. However, proper preparation and distribution of food to the patients and bystanders as well as the continuity of the same shall be ensured before enforcing total ban on food from outside.
19. Successful models like Taluk Head Quarters Hospital, Punalur, Primary Health Centre, Kadirur, Community Health Centre, Keechery, Primary Health Centre, Thrikkakkara as well as District Hospital, Ernakulam can be adopted by similar institutions in the district.
20. The Forest Department shall ensure that concrete wastes, electronic wastes, liquor bottles, etc., are not dumped or littered in forest areas. Necessary surveillance shall be arranged for this purpose. If any such dumping in forest areas are noticed it shall be informed to the DLMC so that immediate remedial measures can be taken.
21. All the forest check posts in the District shall be directed to closely monitor the loaded heavy vehicles coming to the forest area from outside, to ensure that no waste from outside is transmitted to forest area.
22. For the proper implementation of various activities the DLMC shall be expanded adding the following.
 - a) Deputy Director of Education
 - b) Representative of Irrigation Department

- c) Representative of Kerala Water Authority
 - d) Representatives of PWD Roads as well as Buildings Divisions
 - e) Representative of Directorate of Urban Affairs
 - f) LSGD Engineers of the Locality
 - g) Senior most officer of Animal Husbandry Department in the District
 - h) Representative of Southern Railways
 - i) Any other authority or person who, in the opinion of the District Collector, is necessary for the proper implementation of the activities of the DLMC can also be included in the Committee
23. The District Legal Services Authority shall render necessary assistances for coordinating the activities of the DLMC to avoid stumbling blocks.
24. The nodal officer of the DLMC (The District Collector informed that Revenue Divisional Officer, Palakkad has been designated at the nodal officer) shall collect information for preparing progress report, arrange meetings of the DLMC as per the schedule, forward the copies of the report to the SLMC and Chief Secretary and bring the communications from the Government and SLMC in the matter to the knowledge of the District Collector without fail.
25. The DLMC shall have link with website of SLMC (www.krslmc.in) so that the reports, minutes etc. can be uploaded in the website for public information.
26. Copies of these minutes signed by the Chairman, DLMC shall be circulated among all the members for future guidance. The representative of the District Panchayath shall circulate of the copies of these minutes to the Secretaries of the local bodies in the district without fail.
27. The action plan prepared for cleaning of polluted stretch of Bharathapuzha River at Pattambi shall be implemented by all concerned departments. Shornur Railway Station and Shornur Municipality, which are on the banks of Bharathapuzha, must be specifically addressed to implement measures to protect the river.
28. Green Protocol Policy shall be implemented strictly during religious festivals. Awareness programs shall be arranged among devotees for promoting green practices by Suchitwa Mission.
29. The DLMC shall pay special attention to solve the problems of waste management in and around Shornur Junction Railway Station.

In the meeting the Secretaries of the three selected Model Villages and all the seven Municipalities in the district also participated as invitees. The Chairman invited these officials to explain their achievements as well as problems faced in waste management.

The officials of the local bodies reported as follows:

Secretary, Sreekrishnapuram Panchayath (Model Village)

Material Collection Facilities are in operation. Shredded plastic waste has been handed over to agencies. Green Protocol is insisted in all public places, auditoriums, festivals etc. Difficulty is being faced in disposing the plastic waste properly. The plastic waste is not removed by the contractors in time and the same is not being properly utilized in road construction. Reluctance on the part of people in paying user fee is another serious problem. Dumping of waste by unidentified persons on the sides of the road stretch passing through forest area as well as near the walls of Govt. Engineering College, Sreekrishnapuram were reported.

The Chairman, SLMC suggested that the Public Works Department (PWD) which is being included in the DLMC, will have to ensure that plastic waste is properly utilized in road tarring.

Secretary, Vellinezhi Grama Panchayath (Model Village)

Implementation of Material Collection Facility, framing of bye-law, organizing Grama Sabhas and arrangements of collection of e-waste are progressing.

Secretary, Muthuthala Grama Panchayath (Model Village)

Plastic shredding and material collection facility are yet to be started. Difficulties are experienced in collecting user fee. Grama Sabhas will be convened soon for explaining the implementation of Environmental laws.

The Member Secretary added that the Model Local Bodies shall implement not only Solid Waste Management Rules but also all Environmental laws fully within the time specified by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

Secretary, Cherpulassery Municipality

Reported 70% to 80% achievement in implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules.

Secretary, Chittur-Thathamangalam Municipality

Reported 80% achievement in implementation. Door to door collection, waste processing facility, material collection and resource recovery facilities are implemented. Ban on plastic carry bags has been achieved.

Secretary, Mannarkkad Municipality

Reported that steps for acquiring land for solid waste processing facility are in progress.

Secretary, Ottapalam Municipality

Reported 60% achievement in implementation.

Secretary, Palakkad Municipality

Reported that central processing facility including MCF and decentralized processing facilities in selected regions, door to door collection are implemented.

Secretary, Shornur Municipality

Reported that the management of solid and liquid waste from Shornur Junction railway station is posing problems.

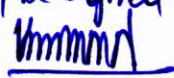
Secretary, Pattambi Municipality

Reported that door to door collection will commence soon. Formation of Haritha karma sena has been completed.

The Chairman thanked all participants and the meeting concluded at 11.30 am.



DISTRICT COLLECTOR

may be signed

Krishnan MN
ER, PCB