

**MINUTES OF THE START UP MEETING OF THE DISTRICT
LEVEL MONITORING COMMITTEE (DLMC) HELD ON
06.07.2019 AT GOVT. GUEST HOUSE, THRISSUR**

DLMC/TSR/MNTS-1/2019

Present:

1. Hon'ble Justice A.V. Ramakrishna Pillai, Chairman, SLMC.
2. Smt. Sreekala S., Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board and SLMC.
3. Sri. S. Shanavas IAS, District Collector, Thrissur.
4. Sri. Yathish Chandra IPS, Police Chief, Thrissur City
5. Sri. K.P. Vijayakumaran IPS DPC, Thrissur Rural.
6. Dr. Reena K.J., DMO (H)
7. Sri. Joy John, Deputy Director of Panchayat
8. Sri. K.P. Joy (Sub Judge) , Secretary, District Legal Service Authority.
9. Smt. Subha T.S., District Co-ordinator, Suchitwa Mission.
10. Sri. P.S. Jayakumar, District Co-ordinator, Haritha Keralam Mission.
11. Smt. Lethika, Deputy Collector (DM)
12. Sri. Kurra Srinivas, IFS, DFO, Thrissur.
13. Sri. Ravindran S Senior Supertindent, DFO, Chalakudy
14. Smt. Suseela Nair V.A., Environmental Engineer, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Thrissur

Participants:

1. Sri. M.C. Devasia, Additional DCP (DPO) Thrissur city.
2. Smt. Haritha Devi T.A., District Education Media Officer, DMO (H), Thrissur.
3. Sri. S.V. Vinod, Divisional Forest Office, Vazhachal.
4. Sri. M.A. Baiju, Chief Environmental Engineer, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Regional Office Ernakulam.
5. Smt. Bindu V. Gopal, Environmental Engineer, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Head Office, Thiruvananthapuram.
6. Smt. V. Suchitra., Asst. Environmental Engineer, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, District Office, Thrissur

7. Smt. Shahana M.A., Asst. Environmental Engineer, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Ernakulam.
8. Smt. Sumi Manilal, Asst. Engineer, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, District Office, Thrissur.
9. Smt. Asha. A.B., Asst. Engineer, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Ernakulam.

The first meeting of the District Level Monitoring Committee (DLMC for short) commenced at 10.00 am at Govt. Guest House, Thrissur. The 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 members of the DLMC and other participants. In the introductory remarks, Chairman, SLMC explained the origin, constitution and the purpose of constitution of the State Level Monitoring Committee, (SLMC for short) and the District Level Monitoring Committee (DLMC for short).

Hon'ble Justice A.V. Ramakrishna Pillai, Chairman, SLMC:

The Chairman, SLMC 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 **Corporation of Thrissur, Kunnankulam Municipality**, as well as **Manalur, Parappukara and Perinjalam Panchayats** 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.

Sri. Yathish Chandra IPS, Police Chief, Thrissur City:

The Police Chief assured full support for initiating action against violators of Environmental Laws.

Smt. S. Sreekala, Member Secretary, KSPCB & SLMC:

It was pointed out that heavy penalty would be imposed on defaulters as per the 'Polluter Pays Principle'.

Sri. K.P. Joy (Sub Judge) , Secretary, District Legal Service Authority:

The Secretary assured full support of DLSA in conducting training programmes, awareness programmes, as well as social and performance audit.

Sri. P.S. Jayakumar, District Co-ordinator, Haritha Keralam Mission:

It was pointed out that availability of land for MCFs is a major constraint. User fee collection is also a problem. Biodegradable waste from existing hotels, restaurants are not disposed of scientifically. Though the new hotels, restaurants are equipped with biodegradable waste disposal facilities, the existing ones are not disposing the waste scientifically. Biodegradable waste disposal facilities such as bio-bin, bio-gas supplied so far are not properly maintained. Lack of coordination of Municipalities is also an issue.

Sri. S.V. Vinod, Divisional Forest Officer, Vazhachal Division:

It was informed that waste disposal in forest land is not common in Thrissur.

Smt. Subha T.S., District Suchithwa Mission Co-ordinator:

It was highlighted that disposable plates, glasses used in auditoriums are creating a havoc. She also added that in case of septage disposal, the police is not taking

necessary action on notice of violation of law. Dumping of non segregated waste along roadside is another major issue. Wastes like helmet, bags, shoes are dumped in Kuthiran area and no action has taken so far.

Sri M.C. Devassia, Additional DCP (DPO, Thrissur City):

It was opined that while issuing license, waste disposal facilities should be a primary concern, to avoid dumping of wastes along road side.

Dr. Reena K.J., DMO (H):

It was informed that disposal of biomedical waste generated from hospitals and clinics is done by IMAGE. Wastes from veterinary hospitals are not being monitored and it is within the domain of the Animal Husbandry Department.

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 slmekerala2019@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 collecting 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 devises are available to the cleaning workers.
10. Local bodies shall ensure that industrial/commercial 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 Rules, 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, Emakulam. 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, Emakulam 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 Building Divisions.
 - e. Representative of Directorate of Urban Affairs.
 - f. LSD Engineers of the Locality.

- g. The senior most officer of Animal Husbandry Department in the district.
- h. 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 (If the nodal officer of the DLMC is not appointed so far a Senior officer of the Collectorate preferably the ADM shall be appointed as nodal officer without delay) shall collect information for preparing for 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. EE, KSPCB is appointed as Assistant Nodal Officer to co-ordinate the meeting and other activities, collection and despatch of reports in consultation with LSGs and Nodal Officer.
25. The DLMC shall have link with website of SLMC (www.krsline.in) so that the reports, minutes etc. can be uploaded in the website for public information.
26. The DLMC shall oversee the progress of implementation of the directions in the action plan submitted by the KSPCB before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal for the rejuvenation of polluted river stretches of **Puzhakkal (Olarikkara – Puzhakkal), Kechery (Puliyannor – Kechery) and Karuvannur.** The Corporation of Thrissur as well as the Municipalities Wadakkancherry and Iringalakkuda, which share the banks of the aforesaid polluted river stretches shall be given strict direction to prevent the pollution of the aforesaid river stretches.
27. The issue regarding dumping of solid waste near Kuthiran pointed out by the Co-ordinator, District Suchitwa Mission shall be immediately taken up by DLMC for remedial measures.

28. 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 the copies of these minutes to the Secretaries of the local bodies in the district without fail.

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



DISTRICT COLLECTOR