

**MINUTES OF THE START UP MEETING OF THE DISTRICT LEVEL
MONITORING COMMITTEE(DLMC) HELD ON 15-06-2019
AT GOVT. GUEST HOUSE, THYCAUD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

DLMC/TVPM/MNTS-1/2019

Present :

1. Hon'ble Justice A.V. Ramakrishna Pillai, Chairman, SLMC
2. Smt. Sreekala. S, Member Secretary, SLMC (Member Secretary, KSPCB)
3. Sri. P.T. Abraham, ADM, DC (i/c)
4. Sri. Dhinaraj V.S ,DYSP, Trivandrum Rural
5. Sri. Hilkraj R.A, Deputy Director of Panchayath, Thiruvananthapuram
6. Smt. Jubiya.A, Secretary, DLSA
7. Dr. Neena Ravi.G, Addl. DMO
8. Sri. K.Raju Thomas, Divisional Forest Officer, Thiruvananthapuram
9. Sri. D.Humayun, District Cordinator - Haritha Keralam Mission
10. Smt. Sheeba Pyarelal, Assistant Cordinator – Suchithwa Mission
11. Smt. Ramya.G, Environmental Engineer – Kerala State Pollution Control Board, District Office, Trivandrum

Participants:

1. Dr. Sheela A.M, Senior Environmental Engineer, KSPCB, Head Office
2. Sri. M.P.Thrideep Kumar, Environmental Engineer, KSPCB, Head Office
3. Smt. Saba Naseemudheen, Assistant Environmental Engineer, KSPCB, Regionanl Office
4. Smt. Resmi R.Russel, Assistant Engineer, KSPCB, Head Office
5. Smt. Seena S.N, Assistant Engineer, KSPCB, District Office

The startup meeting of the District Level Monitoring Committee (DLMC for short) commenced at 10.00 am at Govt. Guest House Thycaud.

The meeting was Chaired by Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.V. Ramakrishnapillai, (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 (SLMC for short) and the District Level Monitoring Committee (DLMC for short).

Hon'ble Justice A.V. Ramakrishna Pillai, 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 atleast 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, atleast 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 Thiruvananthapuram, the Attingal Municipality as well as Karakulam, Poovachal and Parassala villages 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.

Smt. S. Sreekala, Member Secretary, KSPCB & SLMC : The Member Secretary pointed out that heavy penalty will be imposed on defaulters as per the 'Polluter Pays Principle'.

Sri. P.T.Abraham, ADM (DC i/c): The ADM said that site identification will be done as soon as possible.

Sri. Dinaraj V.S., DySP Thiruvananthapuram Rural: The DySP, Thiruvananthapuram Rural informed that the disposal of waste seized by Police is a major problem usually faced by the Police Department.

Sri. Hilk Raj R.A., Deputy Director of Panchayaths: The Dy. Director of Panchayaths informed that it is the primary responsibility of the Local body to dispose waste in proper way without causing public nuisance. He also opined that awareness program on Polluter Pays Principle and responsibility of Local bodies shall be arranged on a priority basis. The minutes of the meeting may also be sent to all Local bodies.

Sri. K. Raju Thomas , Divisional Forest Officer: The Divisional Forest Officer pointed out the need for focusing on the issues like dumping of Electronic Waste, Construction waste and Beer bottles in the forest area. He opined that Polluted Pays Principle (PPP) will be an effective mechanism.

Sri. D Humayun, District Coordinator - Haritha Kerala Mission
The District Coordinator, Haritha Keralam Mission (Thiruvananthapuram) informed about blockage of drains.

Dr. Neena Rani, Addl. DMO: Additional DMO explained the untoward incidence of death of some cleaning workers during the cleaning process of Parvathy Puthanar due to contagious diseases.

Smt.Jubiya.A, Secretary, DLSA invited the attention of the SLMC to the environmental pollution caused by Acasia trees grown on the sides of public roads and insisted for remedial measures.

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.
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 Kerala 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 Kerala 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. The DLMC shall oversee the progress of implementation of the directions in the action plan submitted by the SLMC before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal for the rejuvenation of polluted stretches of Karamana and Killiyar rivers (The said report is uploaded in the webstie of SLMC viz., www.krslmc.in)
8. The district administration shall look into the alleged unauthorized reclamation of Akkulam Lake on the side of the road leading from Kovalam NH Bye pass to Ulloor Junction and appropriate action be taken, if the reclamation is unauthorized.
9. Cleaning programs shall be undertaken by the local authority not only during pre-monsoon season but also throughout the year.
10. 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.

11. Local bodies shall install waste segregation plants within their local limits.
12. Local bodies shall ensure that industrial waste as well as wastes from hotels and restaurants are not being dumped into drains and water bodies.
13. Local bodies shall install cameras to identify persons dumping waste in public places and water bodies.
14. As plastic wastes from industrial units are more or less homogenous in nature, they shall be collected separately and sent to units for shredding or recycling.
15. Major commercial establishment/industrial units shall be directed to have their own plastic shredding units as it requires only a small area for operation.
16. 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.
17. Directorate of Panchayath and urban directors shall collect details with respect to status of waste handling in village and urban local bodies respectively.
18. 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.
19. 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.

20. 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.

21. 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.

22. 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.

23. 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 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.

24. The District Legal Services Authority shall render necessary assistances for coordinating the activities of the DLMC to avoid stumbling blocks.

25. 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 informations 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.

26. 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.

27. 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.

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

ADM (District Collector In Charge)

