

**MINUTES OF THE START UP MEETING OF THE DISTRICT LEVEL
MONITORING COMMITTEE(DLMC) HELD ON 22-06-2019
AT THOMPSON FOOD MALL BOARD ROOM, PATHANAMTHITTA**

DLMC/PTA/MNTS-1/2019

Present:

1. Hon'ble Justice A. V. Ramakrishna Pillai, Chairman, SLMC
2. Sri.Clement Lopez F, ADM, Pathanamthitta
3. Sri. Bilkul G. R., Secretary, DLSA
4. Sri. A. P. Sunil Babu IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Konni
5. Dr. Sheeja A.L. DMO (Health)
6. Sri. Alexander George, EE, KSPCB
7. Sri. Santhosh Kumar A., DySP, DCRB, Pathanamthitta
8. Sri. Ratheesh K. V, Dy. RFO, Ranni Forest Division
9. Sri. T. M. Joseph, Asst. District Co-ordinator, Suchitwa Mission
10. Sri. P.J. Rajesh Kumar, Senior Superintendent, DDP, Pathanamthitta
11. Sri. K. Radhakrishnan Nair, Harithakeralam Mission
12. Sri. Arun R. C, RFO, Konni.

(The District Collector was not present in the meeting due to official exigencies)

Participation

1. Smt. Sindhu Radhakrishnan, Chief Environmental Engineer, KSPCB, Regional Office
2. Sri. Baburajan P. K., Chief Environmental Engineer, KSPCB, Head Office
3. Smt. Bindu V. Gopal, Environmental Engineer & Nodal Officer, SLMC
4. Smt. Resmi R. Russel, AE, KSPCB, Head Office

The startup meeting of the District Level Monitoring Committee (DLMC for short) commenced at 10.00 am at Thompson Food Mall Board Room, Pathanamthitta. The meeting was Chaired by Hon'ble Mr.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 (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 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. SLMC email is as follows: slmckerala2019@gmail.com. The website of SLMC: www.krslmc.in. If the DLMC does not have website, they can have a link to SLMC website.

It was also informed by the Chairman that Aranmula, Kulanada and Thumpamon 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. As no Municipality has been identified in the District, the Pathanamthitta Municipality can also be included along with the other three model local bodies; it was suggested. 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.

Dr.Sheeja A.L, District Medical Officer:

The DMO said that there were solid waste management problems in General Hospital, Pathanamthitta.

Sri.Alexander George, Environmental Engineer, KSPCB:

The Environmental Engineer said that there were solid waste management problems in Pathanamthitta Municipality. The Pathanamthitta Municipality has stopped collection of waste stating that it was the responsibility of the waste generators to process their own waste.

Sri.T.M Joseph, Asst Co-ordinator, Suchitwa Mission:

The Asst Co-ordinator said that there was proposal for septage treatment plant under UNICEF scheme. There is strong public protest against the said project.

Sri.K. Radhakrishnan Nair, Haritha Keralam Mission:

Haritha Karma Sena has been formed in 53 panchayats and 3 Municipalities. There is no Haritha Karma Sena in Pathanamthitta Municipality. The sena is not getting any support from the panchayats. Difficulty is experienced in getting user fee. There is also question of who will pay for negative value items like CFL. Review meeting of Haritha Karma Sena is conducted every month. The support of the Police and the Health Department was vital for the smooth functioning of the Haritha Karma Sena.

Sri. A. P. Sunil Babu IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Konni:

The DFO brought attention to the waste discarded on Forest waysides. It was informed that the Forest Department was taking action in this regard.

Sri.Bilkul.G.R., the Secretary, DLSA, Pathanamthitta:

The full support of DLSA in imparting training and in conducting other awareness programs was offered by the Secretary, DLSA.

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 of 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 by the Deputy Director of Panchayat with Technical support from the Pollution Control Board, Suchitva Mission and Haritha Kerala Mission. The District Legal Services Authority shall conduct training programs on legal matters. 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. There are no hard & fast rules for training. Training may be conducted on a single day by incorporating training by DDP in the morning session and that by District Legal Service Authority in the afternoon.

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.
12. 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.
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.
15. Directorate of Panchayath and Urban Directors shall collect details with respect to status of waste handling in village and urban local bodies respectively.

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. 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 area is transmitted to forest areas.

21. 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.

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

23. The Additional District Magistrate shall be the Nodal Officer of the DLMC. The nodal officer of the DLMC 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.

24. 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.

25. 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.

26. Performance audit of all regulatory bodies shall got conducted and remedial measures to be taken with 6 months.
27. Action shall be taken by the DLMC for ensuring minimum flow of water in the Pamba River in consultation with the Irrigation Department, in the light of the order passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal on 9.8.2017 in O.A.No.498/2015 that all rivers in the country shall maintain minimum flow of 15 – 20% of average lean season flow. Directions shall be issued to the Water Resources Department, Kerala State Electricity Board and Irrigation Department to comply with the aforesaid directions in letter and spirit without pain.
28. The DLMC shall evolve a solution to the waste management problems in connection with the Valla Sadhya and other festivities of Partha Sarathy Temple, Aranmula. The administrative bodies of the religious institutions in the district shall be directed to maintain Green Protocol, especially during festivities.

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


ADDITIONAL DISTRICT MAGISTRATE
(For DISTRICT COLLECTOR)

DEPUTY COLLECTOR (GENERAL) &
ADDITIONAL DISTRICT MAGISTRATE
PATHANAMTHITTA