

**MINUTES OF THE START UP MEETING OF THE DISTRICT LEVEL
MONITORING COMMITTEE(DLMC) HELD ON 29.06.2019
AT GOVT. GUEST HOUSE, PAINAV, IDUKKI**

DLMC/IDK/MNTS-1/2019



Present:

1. Hon'ble Justice A.V. Ramakrishna Pillai, Chairman, SLMC
2. Sri. H. Dineshan IAS, District Collector, Idukki
3. Sri. Antony Scaria, Deputy Collector, Idukki
4. Sri. Dinesh M Pillai, Secretary, DLSA, Idukki
5. Dr. Priya N., District Medical Officer, Idukki
6. Sri. Eby Varghese, EE, DO, KSPCB, Idukki
7. Sri. K. V Kuriakose, SSP, Idukki, for Assistant Director of Panchayaths
8. Sri. S. Vikramdas, Deputy Ranger, for Munnar DFO
9. Sri. Saju Sebastian, District Co-ordinator, Suchitwa Mission
10. Dr. G. S Madhu, District Co-ordinator, Haritha Keralam Mission

(The District Police Chief remained absent. He did not opt to depute any senior competent officer to attend the meeting; either)

Participants:

1. Sri. Baburajan P. K, CEE, KSPCB, HO
2. Sri. M A Baiju, CEE, KSPCB RO EKM
3. Smt. Bindu V. Gopal, FE, Head Office, Thiruvananthapuram
4. Smt. Shahana, AEE, RO, KSPCB, Emakulam
5. Smt. Reshma Rajendran, AE, DO, KSPCB, Idukki
6. Sri. Varghese Joshua James Kunnathu, AE, DO, KSPCB, Idukki
7. Sri. C.A Sajeevan, Haritha Keralam Mission
8. Smt. Lolit Punnackal, Sub Editor I & PRD

The startup meeting of the District Level Monitoring Committee (DLMC for short) commenced at 10.00 A.M at Govt. Guest House Painavu, Idukki. The meeting was chaired by Hon'ble Justice A.V. Ramakrishna Pillai, Chairman, State Level Monitoring Committee (SLMC for short). The Chairman SLMC welcomed all the members of 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 experience 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 Kumily Grama Panchayat, Adimaly Grama panchayat as well as Nedumkandam Grama Panchayat 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. H. Dineshan, District Collector: District Collector informed that, a new Waste to Energy project for solid waste treatment is coming up in Munnar panchayath.

Sri. Dinesh M Pillai, Secretary, District Legal Service Authority: The secretary suggested that strict verification has to be enforced in the check post near forest areas to ensure that the vehicles containing wastes do not enter the forest.

Sri. K V Kuriakose, Assistant Director of Panchayath: The DDP informed that the Clean Kerala Company was not willing to take up waste collected from Panchayath as a part of pre-monsoon cleaning programme. There is no proper facility for disposing the collected waste. It was also informed that they had conducted a meeting for the secretaries of LSGDs and directed them to prepare an action plan for solid waste treatment. It was also suggested that user fee can be collected along with the property tax.

Sri. Saju Sebastian, District Co-Ordinator, Suchitwa Mission: The District Co-ordinator, Suchitwa Mission suggested that the monitoring of Forest Department in the check post near forest area should be strengthened.

Sri M A Baiju, Chief Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, KSPCB: Chief Environmental Engineer, informed that based on the basis of the order of the Hon'ble Green Tribunal in O A.No.585/2018, the Pollution Control Board had filed reports along with compensation assessment of identified 66 hospitals and 54 Local Self Government Department in Idukki District.

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 email 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 institutional/commercial waste as well as wastes from hotels and restaurants are not being dumped into drains and water bodies.

11. Local bodies shall install cameras to identify person 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 identifying 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 Service 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 Headquarters 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) 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 office without delay) shall collect informations for preparing the progress report, arrange meetings of the DLMC as per the schedule, forward the copies of the report to the SLMC and the 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 Chariman, DLMC shall be circulated among all the members of 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 failure of the District Police Chief to attend the meeting or to depute a competent senior police officer is viewed seriously by the Chairman. The District Police Chief shall be informed by the District Collector that such failure in future would be visited with consequences.

The Chairman thanked all participants and the meeting concluded at 11 am.


DISTRICT COLLECTOR