

**MINUTES OF THE STARTUP MEETING OF THE DISTRICT LEVEL
MONITORING COMMITTEE (DLMC) CONSTITUTED BY THE
HONORABLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL HELD ON 22ND JUNE 2019
AT PWD REST HOUSE ALAPPUZHA.**

DLMC/ALPY/MNTS-1/2019

Present:

1. Hon'ble Justice A.V. Ramakrishna Pillai, Chairman, SLMC
2. Dr. Adeela Abdulla IAS, District Collector, Alappuzha.
3. Sri.V. Udayakumar, Sub Judge, DLSA, Alappuzha.
4. Sri. Abdul Salam, ADM, Alappuzha
5. Smt. O. Meenakumari Amma, Deputy Director of Panchayat, Alappuzha.
6. Sri. P. V. Baby, DySP, Alappuzha.
7. Sri. K.S.Rajesh, District Coordinator, Haritha Keralam Mission
8. Sri Biju .B. Environmental Engineer, KSPCB, DO-Alappuzha
9. Smt. Dr.Jamuna Varghese, Deputy DMO
10. Sri. Binz C Thomas, District Coordinator, Suchithwa Mission.
11. Sri.Fen Antony, Assistant Conservator of Forest, Social Forestry.

Participation:

- 1) Sri Babu Rajan P K, CEE, KSPCB, HO.
- 2) Smt. Sindhu Radhakrishnan KSPCB, RO, Thiruvananthapuram
- 3) Sri. Bindu. V. Gopal, Environmental Engineer, KSPCB & Nodal Officer, SLMC
- 4) Sri Anikar K R Assistant Engineer, KSPCB, DO Alappuzha
- 5) Sri.Abdul Razak S, Assistant Engineer, KSPCB, Alappuzha
- 6) Smt. Resmi R.Russel, Assistant Engineer, HO.
- 7) Smt. Preethi Gopinath, Assistant Engineer, KSPCB Alappuzha.
- 8) Smt.Suraiya.M.Iqbal, Assistant Engineer, KSPCB, Alappuzha.
- 9) Smt. Angel Mary P.N. Commercial Apprentice, KSPCB Alappuzha

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

The startup meeting of the District Level Monitoring Committee (DLMC for short) commenced at 3.00 pm at PWD Rest House Alappuzha. 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).

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 Alappuzha Municipality as well as Thamarakkulam, Aryad and Mararikkulam 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. K.S. Rajesh, District Coordinator - Haritha Keralam Mission: Informed that the disposal of solid and liquid waste seized by Police is facing severe difficulties.

Krishnapuram panchayat is facing severe pollution problems due to indiscriminate solid and liquid waste discharge from Ochira Para Brahma Temple. Temple trust is ignoring directions and continuing the violations by polluting Malayan canal.

Sri Biju.B. Environmental Engineer, Alappuzha has reported the major environmental issues in the district.

1. The water bodies of Thrikkunnappuzha, Arattupuzha area has been getting polluted with untreated waste water generated from soaking of coconut fiber.
2. The waste from houseboats is causing severe water pollution in Vembanad lake. Even though a common effluent treatment plant controlled by DTPC exists at H-Block, it has been remaining in dilapidated condition for a long time.
3. The disposal of untreated (high BOD) waste water from peeling sheds. The Kappithodu in Ambalappuzha and Chanthiroor thodu in Aroor are badly contaminated mainly due to the waste water discharge from peeling sheds. These streams need to be rejuvenated urgently.

4. The illegal disposal of poultry and animal slaughtering waste in water bodies and public road is creating severe public nuisance and environmental damage.
5. The wide spread littering and dumping of solid waste by LSGIs due to the lack of interest and absence of adequate waste management infrastructure facilities.
6. Disposal of untreated waste water from major government hospitals due to the lack of waste water treatment plants. The threat of water pollution and contamination due to pathogen, antibiotic resistant strains are very high.
7. Widespread dumping of septage and other waste water by the illegal septage collection tanker in water bodies as well as on public roads.

Sri.V.Udayakumar, Secretary, DLSA:

Full support of the DLSA in arranging training as well as awareness programs was offered.

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.
9. Local bodies shall install waste segregation and processing 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 vacant compound's roads, 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 commercial establishments 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.

District Administration shall provide high priority for identifying land for establishing common treatment facilities like solid waste treatment, waste water treatment, bio-medical waste as well as common rendering plant (for animal/poultry waste).

15. Directorate of Panchayat 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 the strict compliance to the 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 especially in government hospitals including district/ taluk level hospitals and PHCs. DMO shall pay attention to install proper waste management infrastructure facilities and the safety of sanitary workers. 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. 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.

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

22. 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.

23. The District Legal Services Authority, in association with the Deputy Director of Education, Haritha Keralam Mission and other departments shall arrange proper sanitation and waste management awareness training to the students in the district. The objective of the training is to ensure the percolation of the sanitation message to the grass root level.

24. Regarding the specific environmental issues of the district, respective LSGI secretaries have to address the issue prevailing in their area by bringing it in to the agenda. The LSGI secretaries shall be made aware of their responsibilities and powers as per various environmental rules and panchayat/municipal rules. DLMC shall arrange adequate number of trainings in this regard. Stake holding departments can also act independently for resolving the issues by using their own powers. The unsolved issues as well as issues that require interdepartmental assistance shall be brought to DLMC for resolving at the district level. Major cases which cannot be settled at the district level can be referred to the SLMC.

25. House Boat sector shall be regularized for proper waste management. DTPC Secretary shall ensure the proper functioning of common effluent treatment plant at H- block. The issue shall be brought to the notice of District Collector.
26. The District Collector, Alappuzha in consultation with the District Collector, Kollam shall try to resolve the pollution problem in connection with the Annadanam in Sree Para Brahma Temple, Oachira. The administrative bodies of the religious institutions in the district can be directed to maintain Green Protocol especially during festivities.
27. The green rule book prepared by the Haritha Keralam Mission shall be circulated to all stake holding officials.
28. Before issuing the licenses to institutions and commercial establishments, local bodies shall ensure that these units have proper waste management facilities.
29. 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.
30. Copies of these minutes signed by the Chairman, DLMC shall be circulated among all the members for future guidance. The representative of the District Panchayat shall circulate of the copies of these minutes to the Secretaries of the local bodies in the district without fail.
31. Performance audit of all regulatory body shall be got conduct and remedial measures be taken within six months.

The Chairman thanked all participants and the meeting concluded at 3.55 pm.


DISTRICT COLLECTOR