

**MINUTES OF THE 7th MEETING OF THE HIGH POWERED COMMITTEE FOR THE
RELEASE OF PRISONERS ON BAIL/ PAROLE CHAIRED BY HIS LORDSHIP
HON'BLE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, MASLSA HELD ON 4TH DECEMBER, 2020 AT
2.30 PM THROUGH JITSI MEET**

In pursuance of the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the High Powered Committee constituted to oversee the release of prisoners on bail/ parole as a measure to avoid congestion/ overcrowding in jails in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic had earlier held six meetings, i.e. on 31.03.2020, 09.04.2020, 24.04.2020, 07.07.2020, 15.09.2020 & 06.10.2020 respectively.

Vide letter No.H-602/33/2020-HD-HD dated 3rd December, 2020, the Deputy Secretary (Home), Govt. of Manipur intimated that request has been received from the ADGP (Prisons), Manipur to convene a Meeting of the High Powered Committee so that cases of eligible convicts/UTPs may be produced for consideration for release on parole/interim bail in the wake of increase in COVID19 cases in prison.

In view of the above and as approved by the Hon'ble Executive Chairman, MASLSA, an online meeting of the High Powered Committee is held on 4th December, 2020 at 2.30 p.m., through video conferencing through Jisti Meet with His Lordship Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kh. Nobin Singh, Executive Chairman, Manipur State Legal Services Authority in the chair.

The following are present in the meeting:

1. Shri P. Doungel, Additional Director of Police (Prisons) , Manipur
2. Smt. Golmei Gaiphulshillu, Member Secretary, MASLSA.
3. Shri H. GyanPrakash, Special Secretary (Home), Govt. of Manipur
4. Shri Sorokhaibam Sadananda, Deputy Member Secretary, MASLSA.

The agenda of the Meeting is to consider the cases of UTPs/ convicts which may be release on parole/interim bail in the wake of the increase of COVID-19 cases in the prison. As per the information received from Jail Authority, the total number of COVID-19 positive inmates in the jail is 45 (6 female and 39 male) respectively.

The Jail authorities have submitted a list of **34 UTPs and 3 convicts** whose cases can be considered for release on parole/interim bail.

After detailed deliberations and upon consideration of all aspects including the situation prevailing in the state and the increasing number of COVID19 cases in the jails, the members of the Committee unanimously resolved the following-

- (1) *It is resolved by the Committee that 30 UTPs, from the list proposed by the Jail Authority whose names are enclosed as **Annexure-A**, are recommended for being considered for release on bail on PR bonds by the concerned court/ magistrate for an interim period of 3 months subject to such other conditions as may be imposed by them. The names of those 4 prisoners who are not recommended for release have been redacted in the Annexure.*
- (2) *With respect to the two convicts from Central Jail, Imphal recommended at **Annexure-B** enclosed, the competent authority is directed to consider the cases of the prisoners at Sl. No. 1 and 2, expeditiously for releasing on parole.*
- (3) *With respect to the convict lodged at Central Jail, Sajiwa (enclosed as Annexure-C), who is a chronic asthma patient and is presently hospitalized in a private hospital, and is intermittently put in ICU, the Committee resolved to defer his release for the time being to enable the jail authorities to collect the requisite information as regards to his conduct inside the prison, information of his family and their willingness to take him back as well as to check any adverse reactions from the locality as to his release.*
- (4) *It is also resolved by the Committee that if any of the above named UTPs are lying in jail, due to the non-furnishing of surety bonds only, they may be released on their personal bonds.*

- (5) *It is also resolved by the Committee that in view of the prevailing circumstances in the state, this resolution be treated as bail application of the mentioned UTPs. The release orders of the prisoners so released may be communicated to the Jail authorities in the given e-mail – dte.prisons-mn@gov.in and igprisonsmanipur@gmail.com and a digitally signed copy may be communicated for convenience. Further, the District Judges, who are also the Chairpersons of the DLSAs, to ensure that the Remand Advocates attached in each court shall provide all necessary legal aid and assistance to the recommended persons in case their services are required. They shall make themselves available for the same.*

For removing any doubts, it is clarified that-

(a) Under no circumstances, a prisoner is to be released without COVID-19 test, and if the prisoner to be released tests positive for COVID-19, he /she is to be kept in COVID Care Facility instead.

(b) Under no circumstances, a prisoner is to be released without his consent.

A copy of this Resolution be sent to:

1. The Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur, for information and necessary action;
2. The State Home Department for approaching the concerned courts/ magistrates and all other necessary action;
3. The Director General of Police for information and providing logistics and other assistance as may be prescribed;
4. All the District Judges for compliance and for necessary action;
5. To all the Chairpersons/ Secretaries, DLSAs for information;
6. Concerned courts/ magistrates and the Director of Prosecution, Govt. of Manipur for information/ compliance and providing necessary assistance;

7. Superintendent of Central Jail, Imphal and Central Jail, Sajiwa for information and necessary action;

Next meeting of the Committee is to be convened as and when the State Home Department and the jail authorities request or when the situation changes.

The meeting thus concluded with the permission from the chair.

Sd/-
(P.Doungel)
ADGP (Prisons)

Sd/-
(H. GyanPrakash)
SpecialSecretary (Home)
(Representing the Chief Secretary)

Sd/-
(Justice Kh. Nobin Singh)
Executive Chairman
MASLSA