

**MINUTES OF THE 5<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020 AT 3.00 PM AT THE OFFICE OF MASLSA, ADR BUILDING, LAMPHEL COURT COMPLEX**

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 have held four meetings till date, i.e. on 31.03.2020, 09.04.2020, 24.04.2020 & 07.07.2020 respectively.

As per the decision of the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India to utilize the services of the High Powered Committee to assess the additional requirement of equipment for video conferencing to the jails in their respective States and to share the same with eCommittee, the Hon'ble High Court of Manipur also directed the High Powered Committee to assess the requirement of VC equipment in the jails of the state.

In view of the above, the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the High Powered Committee is held on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 at 3.00 pm, at the office of the MASLSA, ADR Building, Lamphel Court Complex, 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. P. DOUNGEL, Additional Director of Police (Prisons) , Manipur
2. Golmei Gaiphulshillu, Member Secretary, MASLSA.
3. H. Gyanprakash, Special Secretary (Home), Govt. of Manipur
4. Dr. Th. Charanjeet Singh, Deputy Secretary (Home). Govt of Manipur
5. Sorokhaibam Sadananda, Deputy Member Secretary, MASLSA.

The agenda of the Meeting is mainly concentrated on additional requirement of equipment for video conferencing to the jails of the state. The Addl. Director General of Police (Prisons), Manipur and the Special Secretary (Home) stated that physical inspection of both the prisons are required for installation of VC infrastructure as well as to ascertain the additional equipment requirements.

The Committee also discussed the need for declaration of “Quarantine facility” for the CCLs staying at Observation Homes. It is to be mentioned here that as per the resolution of the High Powered Committee, the State Home Department had earlier notified the premises of “Ideal Teacher Training Academy, Sajiwa Jail Lamkhai” as Quarantine prison. Likewise, designation of quarantine facility for the CCLs staying at the Observation Homes is required urgently. Here, it was placed by the Special Secretary (Home) that, with the changing SOPs, it will be more proper to designate as “COVID Care Facility” in place of quarantine prisons.

*After detailed deliberations and upon consideration of all aspects including the situation prevailing in the state, the members of the Committee unanimously resolved the following-*

- (1) It has been resolved that physical verification of the equipment requirements for arranging VC facilities for both the jails has to be conducted by the Committee Members.
- (2) In view of the urgency of the matter, it has been resolved that the said physical verification will be conducted tomorrow, i.e., 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020, from 13.30 hours onwards.

The verification will first be conducted for Sajiwa Jail and then for Imphal Jail. Registrar General, High Court of Manipur is directed to depute System Analyst/ Court Manager while inspecting the jails.

- (3) It has also been resolved that the State Home Department shall take the necessary steps to designate a COVID Care Facility for CCL, in co-ordination with the Department of Social Welfare to avoid any unforeseen exigencies.

A copy of this Resolution be also sent to:

1. The Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur, for information and necessary action;
2. The State Home Department for 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 information and for such assistance wherever applicable;
5. To all the Chairpersons/ Secretaries, DLSAs for information and instruction to all Remand Lawyers and Retainer Lawyers;
6. Superintendent of Central Jail, Imphal and Central Jail, Sajiwa for information and necessary action;
7. Principal Magistrates, for information
8. Director (Social Welfare) 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. Dounel)**  
**ADGP (Prisons)**

**Sd/-**  
**(H. Gyanprakash)**  
**Special Secretary (Home)**  
**(Representing the Chief**  
**Secretary)**

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