

## **MINUTES OF MEETING OF HIGH POWERED COMMITTEE FOR THE STATE OF MIZORAM**

Venue : Residence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Michael Zothankhuma,  
Judge, Gauhati High Court at Chaltlang, Aizawl.

Time : 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 (Thursday) at 01:00 P.M

**Chairman** : Hon'ble Mr. Justice Michael Zothankhuma,  
Judge, Gauhati High Court & Executive Chairman,  
Mizoram State Legal Services Authority.

### **Members Present:**

1. Mrs. Lalbiaksangi, Secretary to the Government of Mizoram, Home Department.
2. Mr. Lalnunhlua, Inspector General of Prisons, Mizoram.
3. Mr. R. Vanlalena, Member Secretary, Mizoram State Legal Services Authority.

### **Special Invitees:**

1. Mr. R. Lalramnghaka, Special Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Govt. of Mizoram
2. Mr. John Laldina, DIG (Hqrs.)

1. The Chairman welcomed the members/Special Invitees and set the tone for the meeting by referring to the directions of the Supreme Court in Suo Moto Writ Petition (C) No. 1/2020, wherein effort was to be made for de-congesting prisons by releasing UTPs/convicts by way of parole, remission and bail, due to the surge in Covid-19 cases.

2. The Committee was made aware of the Official capacity, actual capacity as per livable infrastructure and present inmate occupancy of the various jails, which are as follows:-

**LIST OF JAILS IN MIZORAM INDICATING THE CAPACITY AND  
NUMBER OF INMATES**

Sl. No.	Name of Jails	Official Capacity		Actual Capacity		Actual Occupancy (as on 19.5.2021)	
		3	4	5	6	7	8
		MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
1	Central Jail Aizawl	480		328		589	
2	Separate Women Jail, Aizawl.		98		98		59
3	District Jail, Aizawl	113		70		103	
4	District Jail Lunglei	130	10	84	10	113	17
5	District Jail, Siaha	85	10	50	10	54	6
6	District Jail, Kolasib	130	16	120	14	120	14
7	District Jail, Champhai	112	24	83	20	88	9
8	District Jail, Lawngtlai	96	40	68	30	26	1
9	District Jail, Serchhip	125	40	86	40	35	10
10	District Jail, Mamit	70	44	60	18	48	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1341</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>1176</b>	<b>121</b>

3. The Committee resolved that in view of overcrowding of Aizawl Central Jail, Aizawl District Jail and District Jail, Lunglei beyond its capacity, special emphasis should be given by the concerned Courts and the Government for de-congesting the said prisons. Notwithstanding the above, the concerned Courts and Government should also take steps for de-congesting the other District Jails, as far as possible.



4. The Committee was made aware of the various categories of UTPs/convicts in the various jails and it was resolved that the concerned Courts should consider granting bail to those list of UTPs, which the concerned Courts were of the opinion, could be granted bail, as reflected in 'Category D' chart read with 'Category B' chart, which is the list of UTPs who in the opinion of the concerned Courts are not likely to abscond and whose sentence under the offence charged would not be more than 7 years.

The Member Secretary shall accordingly send a copy of 'Category D' and 'Category B' chart to the concerned Courts.

5. The concerned Courts shall consider granting bail to the above 'Category D' and 'Category B' chart persons after furnishing of proper bail bonds and conditions imposed. In respect of those persons who cannot furnish a proper bail bond, the Court may release them on executing a PR bond.

6. With regard to the list of convicts provided by the IG (Prisons), the Committee resolved that the concerned authority (State Government) may grant remission/parole to those convicts, as per the prevailing law and to those they deem eligible and deserving.

7. The information provided by the IG Prisons on UTPs with critical illnesses was also discussed. It was resolved that all eligible and seriously ailing inmates within Aizawl District may be considered for release on bail. The cases of inmates with critical illness in all other District Jails may be discussed by the concerned courts with the Jail Superintendants and the

Court may consider their release on bail in view of the condition of their illness. The list of ailing inmates who could be released will be provided by the Member Secretary, Mizoram SLISA to the District & Sessions Judges, who should forward the same to the concerned Courts.

8. The meeting resolved that RAgt Test would be done by the Health & Family Welfare Department, Govt. of Mizoram at the Court premises to the accused and convicts who are to be sent to jails. The District Courts will provide a convenient room/place for the staff of Health & Family Welfare Department for the purpose. In this regard, the Special Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department stated that the Director, Health Services will coordinate the steps to be taken by the Health Department.

9. The meeting also resolved that all UTPs who are in judicial custody on bailable charges should be released on bail.

10. All accused under MLP Act may also be considered for released on bail by the concerned courts.

11. In case any Prison inmate is detected as Covid-19 positive, the infected person will have to be immediately isolated from other inmates. An isolation ward should be prepared by the concerned jail authority by renovating the deserted women cell of the Central Jail, Aizawl. The estimated expenditure for renovation of the cell may be prepared by the IGP (Prisons) and submit requirement for funds to the Finance Department, Govt. of Mizoram for granting of funds for the same.


12. It was also resolved that the Police Department and Excise Department should take care while apprehending and arresting persons

who have violated the law, so as to minimize the chance of spread of the virus from a Covid-19 positive person in the lock up, Courts and till they are taken to the prison gates.

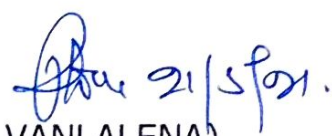
13. The District Judges are requested to collect the list of persons who have been released on bail in pursuance to the meeting minutes dated 20.05.2021 and submit the same to the Member Secretary, Mizoram SLSC on or before 28.05.2021.

14. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the Chairman.

  
(Mrs. LALBIAKSANGI)  
Member

 21/5/2021  
(JUSTICE MICHAEL ZOTHANKHUMA)  
Chairman,  
High Powered Committee

 21/5/21  
(Mr. LALNUNHLUA)  
Member

 21/5/21.  
(Mr. R. VANLALENA)  
Member Secretary