

**MINUTES OF THE 16<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE HIGH-LEVEL EMPOWERED  
COMMITTEE (HLEC) OF REBUILD KERALA INITIATIVE (RKI) HELD ON 30<sup>th</sup>  
MARCH 2022 THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCE**

The meeting started at 2:10 PM with Chief Secretary in the chair. The Committee deliberated upon the agenda items one by one.

**Agenda Item 1: Presentation of Action Taken Report on 15<sup>th</sup> HLEC held on 22<sup>nd</sup>  
December 2022**

The RKI presented a report on the actions taken in response to the decisions of the 15<sup>th</sup> HLEC meeting.

**Agenda Item 2: A review of the RKI projects**

The Chair highlighted the need to operationalize the Price 3.0 software with dash board reporting facility to facilitate submission and processing of bills electronically for effective online monitoring of the fund allocation and disbursements, and expediting the financial progress of projects.

The RKI presented the current status and issues of various projects that are being implemented by Departments. The Committee noted the gap in the physical and financial progress achieved by the Departments, and the slow pace of implementation of select projects.

The Chief Secretary noted the reason for delay in technical evaluation of Septage Treatment Plant project for Cherthala Municipality. The ACS-LSGD informed that the delay is due to assessing the technical suitability of the project.

The Committee noted with concern the slow pace of implementation of the Kerala Chicken Project being implemented by the Animal Husbandry Department. The Secretary- Animal Husbandry reported that the issue of Technical Sanction approval has been resolved and an advance amount has been disbursed to NABCONS, and the project implementation has now been streamlined.

The Project Director – KSTP informed the Committee that the reconstruction of 24 flood damaged road projects is progressing at a good pace and are expected to be completed within the agreed timelines.

The Principal Secretary - IT Department has informed the Committee that, for completing the Mapathon project, an extension period of 3 months is required and that the project shall be completed by July 2022.

The Committee also noted with concern the slow pace of implementation of projects under the Forest Department. In the context of slow pace of fund utilization, the Committee enquired about the status of the replacement proposals with reference to the

decisions of the 15th HLEC meeting. The Principal Secretary– Forest Department informed the committee that the replacement proposal

“Eco-restoration of Degraded forests, management of Invasive Alien Species from the Forests” has been submitted to RKI. He also mentioned that based on the recent government decision, mangrove sites owned by private parties shall not be considered under the Consolidation of mangroves project. the ACS RKI pointed out that, in view of the considerable delays and legal issues involved in the acquisition of private estates and the policy decision of the Government to the effect that mangroves in private lands need not be acquired, it would be better to withdraw the AS given for the Acquisition of private estates and mangroves and can be swapped with viable proposals.

### **Decisions Taken:**

1. IMPACT Kerala shall expedite the technical evaluation and awarding of work for the Establishment of Septage treatment plant project for Cherthala Municipality **[Action: MD - IMPACT Kerala]**
2. The Harbour Engineering Department shall expedite the procedures to obtain CRZ clearance for the river training projects. **[Action: Chief Engineer - Harbour engineering Department]**
3. The Women & Child Development Department shall expedite the physical and financial progress of the smart anganwadi projects. **[Action: Director – WCD]**
4. The KSEB shall prepare the tender documents related to Kavalam & Kidangara sub-station projects in parallel with the land acquisition of these projects, such that the tender can be issued immediately after the land acquisition procedures are completed. **[Action: Director- KSEB]**
5. The IT Department shall ensure the expedition of the activities under the Mapathon project for the achievement of its target by July 2022. **[Action: ACS – Department of Electronics and IT]**
6. Department of Electronics and Information Technology shall ensure that, DLI 2 year 1 targets are achieved as per approved schedule. **[Action: Additional Chief Secretary – Department of Electronics and IT]**
7. The Revenue Department shall expedite the various processes related to the implementation of the Phase 1 of the Digital Resurvey of 1550 Villages of the State, so that the 1st year target (digital resurvey of the 400 villages) is achieved as per the agreed timeline. **[Action: ACS – Revenue and Disaster Management Department/Director – Survey and Land Records]**
8. The Forest Department shall expedite the physical and financial progress of its projects. . Viable proposals can be considered in lieu of the projects like ‘Acquisition of private estates and mangroves’ in which considerable delays have been experienced **[Action: Chief Conservator of Forest (CCF)]**

9. Operationalization of the Price 3.0 software with dash board reporting facility to facilitate submission and processing of bills shall be expedited

**Agenda Item 3: Haritha Keralam Mission-Establishing Preliminary Water Quality Testing Labs attached to 313 Higher Secondary Schools in Kerala (Rs. 5.19 Cr)**

The Task Force meeting of the Haritha Keralam Mission (HKM) held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021 under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources had decided to establish water quality testing labs in 500 Higher Secondary Schools (HSS) across the State with the collaboration of local bodies and RKI. Based on this decision, the HKM, through Nava Keralam Karma Paddhathi (NKKP), had submitted a proposal for Rs. 8.19 Crore to be funded under RKI. Based on the discussion with RKI, the proposal was revised to include only the HSS in the 5 flood-affected districts. The HKM has proposed to establish 313 primary water quality testing labs attached to HSS in the 4 Pamba Basin districts (Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Idukki, and Alappuzha) and Ernakulam District (Periyar Basin district included in the Additional Financing to PforR) of the State.

Financial assistance for an amount of Rs. 5,18,80,000 (Five Crore eighteen lakhs and eighty thousand) is requested from RKI as gap filling fund for establishing 313 water quality testing labs in the selected schools of the above-mentioned flood affected districts. The background and context for the initiation of a massive water quality testing programme for open wells were appraised in RKI-IC in its meeting held on 11th February 2022. The HKM meeting chaired by Hon'ble CM on 30th July 2018 had decided to set up one water quality testing lab attached to a HSS in each local bodies of the State with the vision to make school children as ambassadors of water quality in the State. General Education Department (GED), along with Vidya Kiranam Mission, has taken up the setting up of labs as a convergence project and had issued orders facilitating testing of water at schools covering the catchment area of the entire local body. The parameters to be tested in the proposed water quality testing labs were finalized, IIITMK was engaged for developing the software for managing data and generating reports on water quality, preparation of handbook, and training video for using the test kits and KIIDC was engaged for setting up of labs. The HKM has successfully rolled out primary water testing laboratories in the 2 constituencies of Dharmadam and Chittoor. Government had issued AS for using the asset development funds allocated to MLAs for setting up water quality labs for setting up of 148 laboratories costing Rs.1.60 lakhs per lab. Around 140 labs were sanctioned under the scheme and are in different stages of execution.

Considering the importance of the project, the RKI-IC decided to recommend the proposal to the HLEC for approval.

## **Decision Taken:**

1. The HLEC considered the proposal and directed RKI to issue administrative sanction for Establishing Preliminary Water Quality Testing Labs attached to 313 Higher Secondary Schools in Kerala at an estimated cost of Rs. 5.19 Crore on the conditions that (i) integration with the OH programme may be explored, (ii) project operational aspects shall be finalized and continuity during school vacations is facilitated, (iii) convergence of schemes and sharing of resources and expertise is ensured, (iv) sources for meeting operating costs and revenue streams are identified, and (v) water testing training is provided to the students and the teachers.

**[Action: CEO - RKI]**

## **Agenda Item 4: Balance work of Koottakadavu Regulator in Anakkara Panchayath of Palakkad District.**

The Irrigation Department has submitted a project proposal 'Balance Work of Koottakadavu Regulator in Anakkara Panchayath of Palakkad district' worth Rs.35 Crore. This regulator project is located at Koottakadavu Anakkara Panchayath across Bharathapuzha river (550 m d/s of confluence of Thoothapuzha & Bharathapuzha) having a catchment area of 1990 ha spread over Anakkara, Pattithara, Paruthur panchayath in Palakkad District and Irumbilum Panchayath in Malappuram District. The Irrigation Department reported that this project was started under NABARD-RDF scheme & accorded Administrative Sanction vide G.O (Rt)No. 156/2014/WRD dated 06.12.2014 for an amount of Rs. 50 Crore and the agreement of the existing project was executed in 2016 & the agreement period expired in 2018 and 60% of the civil works & 70% of the Mechanical works (Shutters) were completed with an expenditure of Rs.16.81 Crore. In 2018 & 2019 floods, the water level in the regulator raised above the actual design capacity & got flooded, causing erosion of the left bank. Currently, the Irrigation Department has prepared a revised design (Civil, Mechanical & Electrical) for protection works having an estimate of Rs. 35 Crores to manage the future floods. The present proposal includes raising of piers by 1.25 m to accommodate the future extreme flooding events, construction of aprons, retaining wall of about 900 meters to protect the riverbanks on both sides, mechanical & electrical works at an estimated cost of Rs. 35 Crores. This project will benefit the agriculture (in Puncha & Mundakan season & supports four LIS projects for an area of 670 ha-Paddy & Multi crops) and drinking water purposes (Pattithara & Paruthur-Karamputhur WSS projects) of the catchment area.

The RKI – IC in its meeting held on 18th March 2022 considered the proposal and decided to recommend the proposal subject to the condition that the proposed design and the interventions proposed shall be vetted by an appropriate technical institution. The ACS-WRD highlighted the need & importance of this project and informed the

Committee that this project will benefit the minor irrigation and drinking water projects in the catchment area of this regulator.

**Decision Taken:**

1. The Committee recommended the proposal to the tune of Rs.35 Crores for the consideration of the Council of Ministers and directed RKI to issue Administrative Sanction, subject to the condition that the proposed design and interventions shall be vetted by a competent technical institution. **[Action: CEO - RKI]**

**Agenda Item 5: Urgent rectification and protecting right side banks of Check dam across Bharathapuzha at Mannanur in Vaniyamkulam Panchayath, Palakkad District.**

The Irrigation Department has submitted the project proposal, 'Urgent rectification and Protecting right side banks of Check dam across Bharathapuzha at Mannanur in Vaniyamkulam Panchayath, Palakkad District' having project cost of Rs.12.60 Crore. This project was accorded Administrative Sanction vide G.O (Rt)No.563/2013/WRD dated 22/05/2013 for an amount of Rs. 4.89 Crore and the project commenced in 2014 & was completed in 2016. In 2018 floods, the river flooded, and the excess discharge of water spilled over the existing check dam and nearby agricultural lands having an extent of 5 acres, approximately. The side bunds and riverbanks of existing check dam (steel & gabions) were destroyed. Also, the natural flow of the river was diverted due to the high discharge of water in the flood. Due to this, the Mannannur railway station & railway line (Mangalore-Chennai) were flooded and caused the erosion to the right bank of the river and resulted in agricultural loss. Irrigation Department proposes to take up rectification works for an estimate of Rs 12.60 Crore which includes the construction of retaining wall (414 m), construction of pier & abutment to fix the shutters, mechanical works and land acquisition etc.

The RKI – IC in its meeting held on 18th March 2022 considered the proposal and decided to recommend that the proposal may be given in principle sanction subject to the condition that the Water Resources Department shall ensure that the proposed design & estimate shall be vetted by a reputed institution based on scientific studies. DPR, incorporating the findings of the study report shall be submitted to the RKI to issue AS for the same. The ACS-WRD highlighted the need & importance of this project to protect the riverbanks, agricultural land, and the railway station.

**Decision Taken:**

1. The Committee recommended the proposal at an estimated cost of Rs 12.60 Crore for the consideration of the Council of Ministers for issuing in principle. Subject to the

approval, the Water Resources Department shall furnish DPR of the project duly vetted by a reputed institution based on scientific studies. **[Action: CEO - RKI]**

#### **Agenda Item 6: DPR of Reconstruction of Vayyattupuzha – Potheepad road in Ranni LAC**

The Chief Engineer – KSTP has submitted the DPR (based on DSoR 2016) of Reconstruction of Vayyattupuzha – Potheepad road in Pathanamthitta District, from the already approved in-principle G.O (Ms) No.15/2020 P&EA dated 30/05/2020, for approval. A total length of 38.897 Kms with construction duration of 18 months is proposed to be rehabilitated under RKI at a total project cost is 173.079 Crore The DPR (based on DSoR 2016) was considered by the RKI-IC in its meeting held on 20/10/2021. Based on the decisions of the Committee, a separate discussion was held between the ACS and CEO – RKI and Secretary, PWD and it was decided to defer the proposal based on the findings that the said road does not form part of the Core Road Network (CRN) of the State and that the DPR of the work has not yet received the approval of the funding agency, that is the German development bank, KfW. However, the Chief Engineer in its letter dated 26/11/2021 has reported that No Objection of the DPR has been received from KfW. Further, the KfW also provided their No Objection for tendering of the project on 06/01/2022.

The matter was again considered by the RKI – IC in its meeting held on 11/02/2022 and decided to recommend the DPR (based on DSoR 2016) to the HLEC for directions to issue Administrative Sanction for the proposal. The Chief Engineer vide letter dated 29/03/2022 has reported that, considering the revision of estimate based on the DSoR 2018 and extension in the period of construction to 24 months, the total project cost of the road has increased to Rs 185.47 Crore. The matter was placed before the HLEC for consideration. The matter was placed before the HLEC for consideration.

#### **Decision Taken:**

1. The HLEC considered the matter and recommended for Administrative Sanction from the Council of Ministers for the DPR (based on the DSoR 2018) of Reconstruction of Vayyattupuzha – Potheepad road in Ranni LAC, at an estimated cost of Rs 185.47 Crore. **[Action: CEO - RKI]** **[Action: CEO - RKI]**

#### **Agenda Item 7: LSGD - Nooradipalam wing wall and approach road construction in Vandiperiyar GP, Idukki District**

The LSGD is executing the construction work of Nooradipalam in Vandiperiyar GP, pursuant to the order of the Hon. High Court (HC) to reconstruct the flood damaged bridges viz., Santhipalam and Nooradipalam in the panchayat. Accordingly, the work was taken up under CMLRRP and AS was issued for an amount of Rs. 1.29 Crore. The CE – LSGD, has now informed that additional works like approach road (20 m length on

each side), wing wall (15 m length), side protection etc., are also to be taken up for completion of the bridge construction and has submitted an estimate of Rs. 50 lakhs. For ensuring complete compliance to the HC decision, the ACS – LSGD has requested to include the said additional works under RKI, since fresh works cannot be taken up under the current CMLRRP scheme.

The RKI has accorded AS vide G.O.(Rt) No. 156/2020/P&EA dated 18/03/2020 for the reconstruction of 266 flood damaged LSGD roads worth Rs 67.9 Crores. Later, as per G.O.(Rt) No. 231/2021/P&EA dated 27/05/2021, 14 works were removed from the approved list due to different reasons. Further, the CE – LSGD proposed to drop 2 additional works on 25/10/2021. Hence, it is reported that dropping of all these 16 works would provide a savings amount of approximately Rs. 4 Crores. In this circumstance, the matter is placed before the HLEC for a decision on whether the proposed work may be taken up under RKI through LSGD Engineering Wing utilizing the expected savings of Rs. 4 Crores as reported above.

**Decision Taken:**

1. The HLEC considered the matter and directed RKI to issue Administrative Sanction for the proposal at an estimated cost of Rs 50 Lakhs. **[Action: CEO - RKI]**

**Agenda Item 8: Resilient Kerala PforR – Program Operations Manual (POM)**

RKI briefly presented the contents of the Program Operations Manual (POM) which was prepared by RKI in adherence to the requirements of the Resilient Kerala Program for Results (PforR). The POM has also been vetted by the World Bank which has issued its No Objection for the POM. The POM is required to be officially notified after securing the HLEC's approval.

**Decision Taken:**

1. The HLEC approved the POMs. **[Action: RKI]**

**Agenda Item 9: Resilient Kerala PforR – Biannual Progress Report**

The Committee was informed about the requirement of the submission of Biannual Progress Report to the donor agencies as per the requirements of the Resilient Kerala Program for Results (PforR). The 1st Biannual Progress Report was placed before the Committee.

**Decision Taken:**

1. The HLEC approved the 1st Biannual Progress Report **[Action: RKI]**

## **Agenda Item 10: Resilient Kerala Program for Results (PforR) – Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) Detailed Action Plan (DAP) – For Approval**

The RKI briefly presented the Year 1 and Year 2 activities and tentative fund requirements documented by the Departments for DLIs 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9 as well as the Year 1 activities and fund requirements for DLI6. The ACS- Department of Electronics and Information Technology has informed that DLI 2 year 1 target will be achieved as per the approved schedule. Setting up of the registry database is in progress and more than 10 lakhs beneficiary details have been already migrated to the registry along with the Aadhar data, however Aadhar Vault linking will be completed by next week. The ACS has also informed that, the setting up of an administrative structure, and development of a data privacy policy are other two activities to be completed as part of the first year target, where the Department has already prepared these two documents and same are in the approval process. The ACS has informed that, the Department would require maximum Rs. 11 Crores for the hardware infrastructure, where Rs.15 Crore is the approved cost.

1. The Committee approved the activities and tentative fund estimates mentioned in the Detailed Action Plans which were approved by the respective Secretaries for the DLIs 2, 6, 8 and 9.
2. The Department of Electronics and Information Technology shall ensure that, DLI2 year 1 targets are achieved as per approved schedule. **[Action:Additional Chief Secretary – Department of Electronics and IT]**

The meeting concluded at 3:10 PM



## List of Participants

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
<b>List of HLEC Members</b>		
1	Dr V.P Joy	Chief Secretary & Chairman, HLEC
2	Dr. V. Venu IAS	ACS, Department of Environment
3	Sri T.K. Jose	Addl. Chief Secretary, WRD
4	Sri RK Singh	Addl. Chief Secretary, Finance Dept.; CEO, RKI & Member, RKI- IC.
5	Smt. Sarada Muraleedharan	Addl. Chief Secretary, LSGD
<b>List of Other Officials</b>		
	Sri Bishwanath Sinha	Addl. Chief Secretary, IT
	Sri Rajan Khobragade	Principal Secretary, Health Department
	Sri. Rajesh Kumar Sinha	Principal Secretary, Forest Department
	Smt. Tinku Biswal	Secretary, AHD & Fisheries Department & Agriculture
	Dr. A. Kowsigan IAS	Director, Department of AH
	Smt. T V Anupama	Director, Women & Child Development Department
	Sri Seeram Sambasiva Rao	Director, Survey & Land Records (SLR) & Project Director, PWD – KSTP
	Sri. S Venkitesapathy	MD, KWA, Water Resources Department
	Sri Snehil Kumar	Director, IT Mission
	Sri Biju K	Commissioner, Land Revenue
	Smt. P.I Sreevidya	Executive Director, State Kudumbasree Mission
	Sri Pramod G. Krishnan	CCF(WP&R) & CEO
	Sri V. Jayamohan	Asst. Commissioner, Land Revenue
	Sri. Rajan Joseph	Director, KSEB
	Sri. George C Thomas	Chairman KSBB

	Sri. Kesavan Nair	MD CKCL
	Sri. Harikumar	Project Director, IMPACT Kerala
	Sri Jomon K. George	Chief Engineer, Harbour Engineering Department
	Sri Johnson K	Chief Engineer, LSGD
	Sri Ajith Ramachandran	Chief Engineer, Roads
	Smt. Darlene D 'Cruz	Chief Engineer, PWD – KSTP
	Sri. B. Harikumar	Deputy Director, PPM Cell, DoA
	Sri Sreedevi P	Deputy Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Administration