

**MINUTES OF THE 21st MEETING OF THE HIGH-LEVEL EMPOWERED
COMMITTEE (HLEC) OF REBUILD KERALA INITIATIVE (RKI) HELD ON
17th AUGUST 2023 THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCE**

The meeting started at 11:30 a.m. with the Chief Secretary in the chair. List of participants enclosed. After the introductory remarks of the Chair, the Chief Executive Officer(CEO), RKI presented the agenda items. The Committee deliberated upon the agenda items, and decided the following:

Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of the minutes of the HLEC meeting held on 14-07-2023 and Action Taken thereon.

The Committee confirmed the Minutes of the last meeting.

Actions taken in response to the decisions of the 20th HLEC meeting was presented before the Committee. The committee took note of the same.

The Chair asked the Water Resource Department (WRD) to update the action taken pursuant to the decision taken in the last meeting regarding expediting the post flood repair and maintenance works taken up under RKI. The Chair remarked that these works were sanctioned as an immediate response to the damages occurred during the floods of 2018. It is not appreciable that more than 20 works are still pending. The Chair directed the Secretary, WRD to closely monitor the progress of the works.

Decisions:

1. The Committee confirmed the Minutes of the last meeting.
2. The Secretary, WRD shall closely monitor the progress of the post flood repair works. [Action: Secretary WRD].

Agenda Item 2: RKI- Source of fund and status

The CEO, RKI presented the fund channels available to RKI since the implementation of the Development Policy Operations (DPO) with the World Bank support. He explained that, taking into account the amounts already received and committed under the ongoing programmes, RKI can leverage an amount of Rs.12,022 crore including state share. He also clarified that the major portion of the expected amount is tied with yearly targets of the ongoing Program for Result, the liquidity depends on the timely actions and involvements by the Departments. He requested the Secretaries to closely monitor, and push activities

envisaged in their respective sectors to see that the yearly targets are achieved, and disbursement claims submitted within the timelines. The Chair also reiterated the same and urged the Secretaries to personally take lead in the matter and conduct monthly reviews.

Decisions:

1. Secretaries to closely monitor, and push activities envisaged in their respective sectors to see that the yearly targets are achieved, and disbursement claims submitted within the timelines. Secretaries to conduct monthly reviews. **[Action: Secretaries of all RKP PforR implementing Departments]**

Agenda Items 3: Projects funded under RKI Status

The CEO, RKI presented a snapshot of department-wise progress of projects funded by RKI. The CEO informed the meeting that he would review the progress of the projects with the respective departments periodically. He also requested the Department Secretaries to review their projects on a regular basis. The Chair instructed the Secretaries and the CEO, RKI to conduct regular review of projects to ensure timely completion.

Decisions:

1. Secretaries shall conduct regular monthly reviews of progress of RKI projects **[Action: Secretary of Departments concerned]**
2. The CEO, RKI shall conduct monthly review of the projects taken up under RKI **[Action: CEO, RKI]**

Agenda Items 4.1 Review of the progress of implementation of the Resilient Kerala Programme for Results (PforR)

The CEO, RKI presented a general overview of the progress of Program for Results (PforR) and highlighted the following challenges:

Regarding DLI 1, the year 1 target that the “*DoF has adopted a debt management plan*” is still pending. The CEO, RKI informed that a draft of the plan has been prepared by the Finance Department which needs to be reviewed and finalized. It is expected that the target can be achieved in a month's time. He informed the Chair that he shall review the same and keep up the timeline.

Regarding, DLI 3, a decision as to the department/ agency to house the disaster risk financing and insurance is still pending. The proposed study

with the Technical Assistance (TA) from KfW is expected to help to formulate the strategies and products of the Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (DRFI) instruments. But the institutional mechanism to drive the DRFI is equally important. The Government needs to take a call on the institutional arrangements now itself in order to achieve the final year target of the DLI within the time frame. The Chair acknowledged the concern raised by the CEO, RKI and informed that a detailed discussion on the matter with stakeholders including Principal Secretaries of Disaster Management and Agriculture Departments can be held separately.

With respect to the DLI 6, the CEO, RKI reported that considerable progress is visible on ground, but the year two target is still pending. The department of Health should ensure that the target is achieved latest by September 30, 2023 as promised. It is also crucial to move faster on the lab infrastructure improvement which has been proposed to be taken up as part of the DLI. The Chair instructed the CEO to review the progress with the Secretary, Health and Family Welfare department.

Regarding DLI 7, the CEO highlighted the delay in institutionalization of the River Basin Conservation and Management Authority (RBCMA) and informed that the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) and the World Bank have raised concern on the non-achievement of the target, as the entire Resilient Kerala Programme is centered on the theme of effective water resources management. He also highlighted the need to carry out the activities envisaged for the preparation of integrated river basin management plan for Pamba Basin in parallel so that the target can be achieved by the end of the third year itself. Having taken note of the urgency, the Chair directed CEO, RKI to convene a separate meeting with the Secretary, WRD on the DLI.

The CEO urged the Department of Agriculture to focus on the activities that would help the Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) to access more organized markets during the year 3 and 4 so that the target for the year 5 of the DLI 8 should not become a concern. The Chair enquired whether the newly launched Agro-Business Company by the Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare would help the FPOs in this regard. The Principal Secretary Agriculture replied that it is one of the mandates of the Company and the company is currently in the registration phase. He also informed that the SFAC has been involved in achieving the DLI targets. The Chair urged the Principal Secretary to review the activities under the DLI with the SFAC and to come up with a detailed plan for achieving the targets.

Regarding DLI 9, CEO, RKI highlighted that focus needs to be given to update data in the Road Maintenance Management System (RMMS), based on which the Forward Work programme (FWP) to be generated and prioritized so that the immediate maintenance can be taken up on a yearly basis through a specific budget allocation. The Department needs to identify the remaining kilometers of roads in the Pamba Basin to be maintained with climate resilient standards. A decision on the tender for carrying out the climate study and preparation of the climate guidelines should be taken urgently.

Secretary, PWD confirmed that the RMMS is established, and it can be operationalised once the budget provision for RMMS functioning and survey activities is approved. The CEO, RKI informed that the budget provision for operationalising the RMMS is under consideration of the Finance Department.

Decisions:

1. Finance Department to review and finalize the draft plan as part of the DLI *“DoF has adopted a debt management plan”* within a month's time. **[Action: Principal Secretary, Finance Department]**
2. A separate meeting to be chaired by the Chief Secretary with stakeholders including Principal Secretaries of Disaster Management and Agriculture Departments to decide on the institutional arrangement for the Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (DRFI). **[Action: RKI]**
3. The Department of Health shall expedite achievement of the year 2 target of the DLI 6 latest by the end of September 2023. The department shall move faster on the lab infrastructure improvement which has been proposed to be taken up as part of the DLI. CEO, RKI to review the progress with the Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department. **[Action: Principal Secretary, DoHFW]**
4. The WRD shall expedite setting up of the RBCMA. The Department shall ensure that the activities envisaged for the preparation of integrated river basin management plan for Pamba Basin are carried out parallel so that the target can be achieved by the end of the third year (before June 2024). CEO, RKI to convene a separate meeting with the Secretary, WRD. **[Action: Secretary WRD]**
5. The Principal Secretary, Agriculture shall submit a detailed action plan for achieving the final year target of the DLI 8. Activities of the newly formed Agro-Business Company may be suitably integrated to

achieve the DLI target. Principal Secretary to review the activities under the DLI with the SFAC and come up with a detailed plan for achieving the targets. **[Action: Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare]**

6. PWD to operationalise RMMS once the budget provision for RMMS functioning and survey activities are approved. The Finance Department to expedite consideration of the budget provision for operationalising the RMMS. **[Action: Principal Secretary, Finance Department and Secretary, PWD]**

7. The CEO, RKI shall review the implementation of the PforR activities with the Secretaries concerned on a monthly regular basis. **[Action: CEO, RKI]**

8. All the Departments shall prepare and submit detailed action plans for the remaining years of the PforR under each DLI to the RKI. **[Action: Secretaries of Departments concerned]**

Agenda Items 4.2: Approval of 3rd Biannual Progress Report of the Resilient Kerala Program for Results (PforR)

The 3rd Biannual report for the period of September 2022 to February 2023 was submitted before the Committee for approval. The Committee approved the report which shall be shared with the World Bank. **[Action: RKI]**

Agenda 5 (i): Improved Infrastructure Facilities to overcome Flood and Drought in Thrissur Ponnani Kole lands for increased paddy production additional works

The Kerala Land Development Corporation (KLDC) presented the proposal for additional works to improve facilities to overcome Flood and Drought in the Ponnani Kole land in Thrissur District.

The RKI-IC, in its meeting held on 31st July 2023 had considered the proposal in detail, and recommended the same to HLEC for consideration.

The Committee, after having considered the recommendations of the RKI-IC, decided to recommend the additional works as part of the project '*Improved Infrastructure Facilities to overcome Flood and Drought in Thrissur Ponnani Kole lands for increased paddy production*'

at an estimated cost of ₹46.81 crore.

Decision:

The Committee recommended the proposal for taking up additional works as part of the project '*Improved Infrastructure Facilities to overcome Flood and Drought in Thrissur Ponnani Kole lands for increased paddy production*' at an estimated cost of ₹46.81 crore for the consideration and approval of the Council of Ministers. **[Action: RKI]**

Agenda 5 (ii): Rectification works of Enamakkal & Idiyanchira regulators of Thrissur District Revised Administrative Sanction

The Irrigation Department presented the proposal.

The Committee was appraised that both the Enamakkal and Idiyanchira regulators are very crucial in managing excess water and also to prevent salt water intrusion in the Kole area. Floods over the years have caused significant damages to both Enamakkal and Idiyanchira regulators, and at present, temporary earthen bunds are constructed during December-May period every year and later removed during monsoon to prevent flooding and ensuring smooth drainage. This annual construction & destruction cycle is causing a recurrent expenditure of ₹45 lakh (Enamakkal) & ₹18 lakhs (Idiyanchira) for the state exchequer. Urgent repair of the regulators are very crucial for managing the flood, sustenance of agriculture and to ensure drinking water in the area.

The RKI-IC, in its meeting held on 31st July 2023 had considered the proposal in detail, and recommended the same to HLEC for consideration.

The HLEC after having considered the recommendation of the RKI-IC in this regard, decided to approve revision of the estimates for the works at an estimated cost of ₹13.63 crore.

Decision:

The Committee authorized the RKI to issue revised administrative sanction for the rectification works of Enamakkal and Idiyanchira regulators at an estimated cost of ₹13.63 crore. **[Action: RKI]**

Agenda 5 (iii): Canals Protection works in Dharmadom area.

The Water Resources Department submitted a project proposal for regaining the natural flow of 17 thodus, which were reported to be heavily eroded. The proposed interventions included desilting,

protecting existing banks and water conservation structures. The RKI-IC, in its meeting held on 31st July 2023, asked to prioritize the works based on the utility such as prevention of saltwater intrusion etc., so that only essential and functionally important works need to be taken up under RKI. Accordingly, the department had prioritized the following 9 works at an estimated cost of ₹17.00 crore. The RKI-IC approved the same and recommended to place the same before the HLEC for consideration.

Decision:

The Committee recommended the proposal at an estimated cost of ₹17.00 crore for the consideration and approval of the Council of Ministers. [Action: RKI]

Agenda 5 (iv): Desilting and side stabilization of Achancoil and Pamba river in Veeyapuram, as a part of Room for River Phase II

Desilting & side stabilization of Achancoil and Pamba river in Veeyapuram, as a part of Room for River Phase II proposals, attempts to remove the high deposits of silt and debris of the river stretches so as to bring back the river into its original width and depth to ensure free flow of water. Stabilization of side bunds, protection of banks at vulnerable locations, removal of other obstructions etc. are proposed to be taken up under the project. The proposed works are estimated to cost an amount of ₹36.00 crore.

The RKI-IC, in the meeting held on 31 July 2023, had considered the proposal, and recommended the proposal to be taken up under the RKI, subject to the condition the department shall incorporate a provision in the tender document mandating that the contractor should remove the silt over and above that required for strengthening of bunds and having sand content to area outside the work site so as to ensure that the dredged silt are not again got deposited back to the rivers.

The HLEC considered the proposal and recommended to take up the proposal under RKI, at an estimated cost of ₹36.00 crore, subject to the conditions prescribed by the RKI-IC.

Decision:

The Committee recommended the proposal at an estimated cost of ₹36.00 crore for the consideration and approval of the Council of Ministers, subject to the conditions prescribed by the RKI-IC. [Action: RKI]

Agenda 5 (v): Reconstruction of 41-mile Varayal bridge, in Wayanad through PMU

The present proposal submitted by the PMU-LSG is to reconstruct the 41-mile Varayal Bridge, in Thavinal GP, Manathavady LAC and Wayanad district which was lost during the flood. It has been proposed to construct a 10m length span bridge having 5.4m wide carriageway and abutment and side protection works to make the structure more resilient at a cost of ₹2.00 crore. The bridge is essential to connect a recently constructed RKI road to the main road. Presently a temporary bridge is used to connect the two roads.

The RKI-IC, in the IC meeting held on 3rd July 2023 had considered the proposal, and recommended the proposal to be taken up under RKI.

The Committee considered the proposal and approved the same at an estimated cost of ₹2.00 crore.

Decision:

The Committee authorized the RKI to issue administrative sanction for the project, at an estimated cost of ₹2.00 crore. [Action: RKI]

Agenda 5 (vi): Reconstruction of Moorthitta- Mukhatheri Road

The road viz., Moorthitta - Mukhatheri Road in Mannar GP in Chengannur LAC in Alappuzha District was issued in principle sanction by the RKI as per G.O (Ms) No. 25/2019/P&EA dated 13-08-2019. Now, the Project Director LSGD - PMU presented the detailed project proposal to reconstruct a road of length of 4.2 k.m., which starts at Moorthitta junction and ends at Vallakali, with rigid pavement, with a minimum carriageway of 3.75m, construction/reconstruction of culverts and one minor bridge at an estimated cost of ₹15.20 crore.

The RKI IC, in the meeting held on 3rd July 2023 recommended the proposal, subject to the condition that the Panchayath should make available sufficient land to ensure the minimum carriageway proposed throughout the entire length of the road, before tendering the work.

The Committee after having considered the proposal recommended the same at an estimated cost of ₹15.20 crore subject to the condition prescribed by the RKI-IC.

Decision:

The Committee authorized the RKI to issue administrative sanction for the reconstruction of a road of length of 4.2 k.m., which starts at Moorthitta junction and ends at Vallakali, at an estimated cost ₹15.20

crore, subject to the condition recommended by the RKI-IC. [Action: RKI]

Agenda 5 (vii): Reconstruction of Padinjarethara Naalam mile stretch of Vythiri Tharuvana road in Wayanad District (Phase 1 works featuring protection works & patch works required for the protection works)

The Chief Engineer, KSTP presented the project and its scope to the committee.

In the RKI-IC meeting held on 31st July 2023, KSTP had originally submitted a proposal for ₹91.57 crore which included both protection and construction of road. In that meeting, the RKI-IC observed that the road is having a cost of nearly ₹9 crore per km and that 53.74% of the project cost comes under the protection work and that the road surface is in good condition for the traffic. In that context, the RKI-IC asked the KSTP to recast the proposal into two phases with the Phase 1 featuring protection work along with patch work required wherever protection works are done, which can be prioritized now. Accordingly, CE, KSTP submitted a re-casted proposal with Phase 1 works at an estimated cost of ₹60.38 crore. The second phase consisting of Road works may be taken up after completion of Phase 1.

Based on the advice of the RKI-IC, the project proposal was submitted in two phases by the KSTP. Phase 1 for the protection and safety works with patch works and phase 2- for construction of road surface works.

The Committee considered the proposal and recommended to take up the Phase 1 works of the road under RKI at an estimated cost of ₹60.36 crore.

Decision:

The Committee recommended to take up the Phase 1 works of the road under RKI at an estimated cost of ₹60.36 crore for the consideration and approval of the Council of Ministers. [Action: RKI]

While concluding the meeting, the Chair reiterated that the Department Secretaries shall personally review the projects and the activities proposed to be taken up under the Programme for Results on a regular basis so that the timelines are strictly adhered to. He also informed that he would conduct a detailed review of the programme soon.

The meeting concluded at 12:20 p.m.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Sl. No	Name	Designation
1	Dr.Venu V	Chief Secretary
2	Shri. Puneet Kumar	Additional Chief Secretary, Planning & Economic Affairs Department
3	Shri. K R Jyothilal	Additional Chief Secretary, Forest & Wildlife & Power Department
4	Smt. Tinku Biswal	Principal Secretary, Revenue Department
5	Shri. B. Ashok	Principal Secretary, Agriculture & Farmers welfare Department
6	Shri. Rabindra Kumar Agarwal	Principal Secretary & CEO, RKI
7	Shri. K Biju	Secretary, PWD
8	Shri. K G Sanal Kumar	Law secretary
9	Shri. Seeram Sambasivarao	Director, Survey & Land Records
10	Shri. Sunil Kumar	Additional Secretary, RKI
11	Smt. Darlene Carmelita Dcruz	Chief Engineer, KSTP
12	Smt. Sreedevi P	Chief Engineer, IDR B
13	Shri. Vishnu Kumar	Project Director, PMU-RKI-LSGD

14	Shri. Harikumar B	Deputy Director, PPM cell
15	Smt. Shalini	Chief Engineer, KLDC
16	Shri. P S Rajeev	Managing Director, KLDC
17	Shri. Manoj MK	Superintendent Engineer, Irrigation Kozhikode
18	Dr. A J Vivency	Technical Committee Member, KLDC

DR VENU V I A S
CHIEF SECRETARY