

**MINUTES OF THE 4<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE HIGH-LEVEL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE (HLEC) OF REBUILD KERALA INITIATIVE (RKI) HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 29<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2019 AT CHIEF SECRETARY'S COMMITTEE ROOM, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.**

The meeting started at 10.30 am with the Chief Secretary in the chair. The list of participants is attached.

The meeting discussed the agenda items one by one.

**1. Action taken Report on Minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup>HLEC Meeting held on 30/04/2019**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Point of action</b>	<b>Status as reported in the meeting</b>	<b>Remarks/Decision</b>
<b>ATR on previous meeting</b>			
1.1	World Bank Development Policy Loan: Prior actions	All prior actions have been implemented.	Noted.
1.2	3 <sup>rd</sup> Advisory Council Meeting	For information	Noted.
1.3	Rebuild Kerala Development Programme	RKDP approved by Government on 21/05/2019	Noted.
1.4	Diaspora Bonds	Action underway in Finance Dept.	FD to expedite the matter. <b>[Action: ACS (Finance)]</b>
1.5	Strengthening of RKI	Eols received from consultancy firms for (a) PMSS, (b) DCSC for LSG Roads, and (c) TSC for Water Resources have been opened and shortlisting of firms is being done.	Noted.
1.6	Strengthening of offices of key Secretaries	Proposals yet to be received from Fisheries, Transport, LSGD and Health Departments.	RKI to expedite procurement of the teams suggested by the Secretaries <b>[Action: RKI]</b>

1.7	Setting up of office space for RKI	Interior construction is underway.	Noted.
1.8	Report on: a) Immediate Recovery Programme (2018-19) & b) Short Term Recovery Plan (2019-20)		Noted.
<b>Other Agenda items</b>			
2	Rebuild Kerala Development Programme	RKDP approved by Government on 21/05/2019.	Noted.
3	Prior Actions to avail the Development Policy Loans	All prior actions have been implemented.	Noted.
4.	Designating nodal officers in the key departments involved in RKDP	Many departments are yet to respond.	RKI to follow up with the concerned departments which have not designated nodal officers so far. <b>[Action:RKI/ All Secretaries]</b>
<b>5 (a)</b>	Requirement of studies by Departments	Consultants engaged by the RKI have been tasked with the prioritisation and preparation of ToRs/ RFPs of the studies envisioned in the RKDP in consultation with the departments concerned.	RKI to expedite the prioritisation of the studies required to be taken up and preparation of ToRs in consultation with the concerned departments. <b>([Action:RKI/ All Secretaries]</b>
<b>5 (b)</b>	Preparation of DPRs by Departments	Departments have been asked to place the 'ready to implement' projects/ project profiles in	The matter is separately discussed as Agenda item no. 3

		this HLEC meeting and present the same.	
<b>5 (c)</b>	Domain Experts for PWD	Proposal yet to be received from PWD.	Proposal to be submitted <b>[Action: Pri.Secretary (PWD)]</b>

## 2. World Bank Development Policy Loan (DPL)- Report on loan negotiations

The ACS(Finance) briefed about the negotiations being carried out with the World Bank. He informed that the bank has agreed to extend the financial assistance offered by it in two tranches. He further informed that negotiations would be completed and agreement signed in a couple of days. Committee took note of the matter and decided to convene a meeting of Secretaries by the Chief Secretary in the next week to decide on broad **sectoral allocation** of funds among the key departments to take up rebuilding efforts.

**[Action: CEO (RKI)/ All Secretaries concerned]**

## 3. Presentation of project proposals/ profiles by the departments:

Sl. No.	Name of Department	Discussion on projects
1.	Kerala Water Authority	<p><b>Projects presented</b></p> <p>MD, KWA presented an investment plan of KWA for the next 5 years. KWA has given top priority for providing distribution networks for schemes having production and transmission components either existing or under construction in order to put idling assets to use, expand coverage and generate revenue. The plan includes projects on:</p> <p>a) Water Supply Sector (Rs. 22,727 Crs)  b) Sanitation Sector (Rs.1,875 Crs)  c) Institutional Strengthening and Studies (Rs.1,230 Crs)</p> <p>MD sought approval of HLEC of schemes amounting to Rs.458.66 cr for which DPRs are ready.</p> <p><b>Decision:</b></p> <p>The Committee observed that Sanitation Sector is not given adequate importance in the investment plan. Further, allocating a huge sum of Rs.1,230 crores for institutional Strengthening and studies need to be reviewed. Hence the committee asked the KWA to</p>

		<p>rework the proposal prioritising the distribution works in terms of the Post-flood rebuilding requirements and also giving equal importance to the sewage networks in the cities of Kochi and Kozhikkode.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>[Action: ACS (Water Resources)]</b></p>
2.	<b>Irrigation Department</b>	<p><b>Projects presented</b></p> <p>The Irrigation Department submitted project proposals of projects of total worth Rs. 9402.92 Cr. The projects are classified into two categories, i.e., <i>Structural intervention</i> and <i>non structural interventions</i>. There are 13 Projects under structural intervention to the tune of Rs.9121.62 cr involving Idamalayar project, Muvattupuzha valley project, Banasura Sagar project etc. Under non-structural interventions, there are 7 projects to the tune of Rs.281.3 cr involving works such as data collection, analysis; modelling for implementing KWRIS, providing technical support unit consultants and Institutional reform consultants, flood proofing of CIAL, development of AC canal, sustainable development of Kuttanad, and training/capacity building.</p> <p><b>Remarks</b></p> <p>The Committee observed that structural interventions include long pending projects of the Department.</p> <p>The Chief Secretary pointed out that there is no data to show that the implementation of the major irrigation projects, in which the Government had already pumped in hefty sum of money over the years, has improved agriculture productivity in the beneficiary area.</p> <p>ACS (Finance) observed that the Department should focus on flood mitigating projects that are <i>directly connected with the post-flood rebuilding</i>, rather than on major and minor irrigation projects. .</p> <p>The Principal secretary Planning Department pointed out the major irrigation projects taken up by the Department are in poor shape and opined that no further funds should be spent on the same without assessing the scenario properly. He also informed that the SPB has strong reservations in this regard.</p> <p>Shri TKA Nair expressed concern on the issue of assured availability of water the traditional sources, which may hamper the very prospects of irrigation projects.</p> <p><b>Decision/ Action point</b></p>

		<p>All structural intervention projects presented in the meeting will be referred to State Planning Board for remarks on viability and productivity.</p> <p>Irrigation Department will review the minor irrigation structural intervention projects correlating the output and the investment in terms of measured agriculture productivity and resubmit to HLEC.</p> <p>The HLEC, in-principle, approved non-structural intervention projects presented in the meeting.</p> <p><b>[Action: ACS (Water Resources)]</b></p>
3.	Forest Department	<p><b>Projects presented</b></p> <p>CCF presented the Department's '<b>Perspective Plan for the Consolidation of Forest Areas of Kerala</b>' of which following four components have direct relevance to the RKDP.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Relocation of Private Settlements in the core areas (Rs.291.96 Cr.)</i></li> <li>2. <i>Acquisition of Private Estates (Rs.385.31 Cr.)</i></li> <li>3. <i>Consolidation of Mangroves (Rs.120.00 Cr.)</i></li> <li>4. <i>Feasibility Study on Rehabilitating Tribal Communities from the Core to the Periphery of Forests (Rs.2.73 Cr.)</i></li> </ol> <p>These four components were submitted as four independent project proposals for the consideration of funding under RKDP at a <b>total cost of Rs.800 Cr.</b></p> <p>Outcomes of these projects include: climate resilience increased and disaster risks reduced in forested landscapes, removing turbulence inside the forests, hydrological function of forests improved, significant reduction in human-wildlife conflict, improved fisheries prospects improved, increased carbon sequestration in restored forests which is a global commitment, better developmental prospects for tribal and forest dwelling people etc.</p> <p><b>Remarks</b></p> <p>The Committee approved the four project proposals.</p> <p>Shri TKA Nair stressed the need to have clear and well defined plan for managing mangroves as this requires specific kind of treatment. He also pointed out that the Central Government is in the process of amending the Forest Conservation Act which may have serious repercussions to the State. He desired that the State Government should carefully examine the amendment</p>

		<p>proposals and submit its well considered opinion to the Central Government sufficiently early to avoid misunderstandings. For this, he suggested that the Chief Secretary may convene meeting of Secretaries and draft the Government's responses and get the approval of the Council of Ministers.</p>
		<p><b>Decision/ Action point</b></p>
		<p>The HLEC gave its in principle approved for the project proposals submitted by the Forest Department.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>[Action: Principal Secretary (Forest)/ PCCF]</b></p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Kudumbashree</b>	<p><b>Projects presented</b></p> <p>Kudumbashree presented the Livelihood Initiatives proposed in the context of post flood recovery. The goal of the project is to enhance employment and incomes of the flood affected poor by leveraging on the existing network of strong community institutions, promoting enterprises, and clusters in farm and non-farm sector, and enhancing skills of target populations. The following 8 proposals were suggested in this project.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Livelihoods opportunities to the poorest individuals – 'Prathyasa' (Rs.6.00 Cr.)</li> <li>2. Design and implementation of a livelihood start-up programme (SVEP) in 7 Blocks (Rs.35.00 Cr.)</li> <li>3. 'Crisis Management Fund (CMF)' for micro-entrepreneurs and women JLGs (Rs. 175.00 Cr.)</li> <li>4. Livelihood initiatives &amp; micro-enterprises by positioning effective mechanisms for their sustained handholding &amp; incubation (Rs.1.85 Cr.)</li> <li>5. Leverage E-commerce platforms to promote entrepreneurship (Rs. 10.00 Cr.)</li> <li>6 Enhancing economic resilience of traditional sector livelihoods (Rs. 19.67 Cr.)</li> <li>7 Strengthen livelihood projects by formation of effective value chains and forward &amp; backward linkages (Rs.11.88 Cr.)</li> <li>8 Skilling for enhancing employability (Rs. 162.05 Cr.)</li> </ol> <p>The total project cost estimated is <b>₹421.45 Crore</b>.</p>
		<p><b>Remarks</b></p>
		<p>The Committee was of the general consensus that the proposals are valid in the context of post flood recovery and livelihood initiatives. 'Crisis Management Fund (CMF) for micro-entrepreneurs and women JLGs proposed by Kudumbashree (Rs.175 Cr) is in terms of</p>

		<p>grants and not as loans. Hence the Chief Secretary suggested examining whether the grant component of KfW assistance can be utilised for the same. Moreover, skill development schemes are being taken up by Kudumbasree which is supported by the State as well as central governments. Hence the proposal should be to expand the ambit of the schemes to more women, augmenting with the fund support from the RKI. The Committee emphasised that updated additional skills should be imparted under the relevant programme. The Chief Secretary emphasised need to impart housekeeping skill development programmes so that housekeeping activities of large Government offices can be taken up by the women units set up under the aegis of Kudumbasree.</p> <p>Sri. T.K.A Nair also suggested to prepare a scheme to facilitate fish-vending women micro-entrepreneurs.</p>
		<p><b>Decision/ Action point</b></p>
		<p>The HLEC gave its in principle approved for the project proposals submitted by the Kudumbasree. However Kudumbasree may revise the 'Crisis Management Fund (CMF) for micro-entrepreneurs and women JLGs that Kudumbashree proposes (Rs.175 Cr) after ascertaining the volume of the grant portion of KfW assistance the state is getting for rebuild efforts.</p> <p><b>[Action: Kudumbasree/RKI]</b></p>

#### 4. Other items of discussion

##### a. Restructuring of KSTP loan for PWD:

PWD was not represented in the meeting. PWD to apprise the Committee on the progress in this regard in its next meeting.

**[Action:Prl. Secretary (PWD)]**

##### b. LSGD roads

And

##### c. Project Management Unit for LSGD Roads:

Dy. Chief Engineer, LSGD presented the present status of activities taken up for the reconstruction of LSG roads affected in the flood. After initial prioritisation, 487km of roads in 8 districts were identified and out of which 300km length of road will be taken up immediately in the first phase. *Ground truthing* exercise is completed in 6 districts and is in the final stage in the remaining 2 districts.

**Concept note to empower rural women and to boost rural tourism by maintaining clearer and greener rural roads through community participation:**

In order to empower rural women, it has been proposed to involve communities, especially members of *Kudumbasree* in maintenance of rural roads under the restructured KSTP loan, towards making them cleaner and greener. The concept note provides for entrusting the community for greening, beautification, maintenance of roads and providing wayside amenities by creating suitable mechanisms for their economic development and gender empowerment.

The Committee considered the concept note and directed the *Kudumbasree* to develop the note into an Action Plan for Idukki and Wayanad districts. The Committee also directed to LSG PMU to consult the *Kudumbasree* before finalising the roads to be developed in Idukki and Wayanad districts.

***Action: ACS (LSGD/Kudumbasree)]***

The committee also considered the comments offered by Dr. K.M.Chandrasekhar, by mail, in his absence. He has raised serious concerns about the implementation mechanism adopted under RKI and the implementation capacity of the State Departments in comparison with institutions like Kudumbasree, CIAL, KIAL, KMRL etc. He has pointed out that an effective single point monitoring and implementation should be the most important constituent of any project. The committee observed that, at present, the implementation responsibility of RKI is scattered amongst various Departments and a multitude of agencies. It was decided that the concerns of Dr.K.M.Chandrasekhar would be discussed in detail with the Secretaries concerned.

The meeting concluded at 12.30PM with the Chief Secretary thanking the participants.



**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1	Sri.Tom Jose	Chief Secretary (Chairman)
2	Dr.Vishwas Mehta	Additional Chief Secretary (Water Resources)
3	Shri Manoj Joshi	Additional Chief Secretary (Finance)
4	Sri. Devendra Kumar Singh	Additional Chief Secretary (Agriculture)
5	Dr. A Jayathilak	Principal Secretary (Planning & EA)
6	Sri. P K Kesavan	Principal Chief Conservator of Forsest &HoFF
7	Smt Padma Mahanty	Chief Conservator of Forests
8	Sri. Pramod Krishnan	Chief Conservator of Forests
9	Dr. A, Kowsigan	MD, Kerala Water Authority
10	Dr. Mithra .T	Additional Secretary, LSGD
11	Asha Varghese	Director, Kudumbasree
12	Sri.Jananrdhanan Nair G	Joint Secretary, Law Department
12	Sri. Saji Kumar	Chief Engineer, LSGD
13	Sri. Joshy K.A	Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Administration
14	Sri. Shajahan B	Chief Engineer, (P&O), KWA
15	Sri. Vishnukumar .G	Dy. Chief Engineer, LSGD
16	Sri. Sudheer. P	Joint Director, Irrigation Department.
17	Sri. Raveendran .T	Technical Member, KWA
18	Sri. John Koshy	Executive Engineer, KWA, Jalabhavan
19	Smt. Minu. S	Assistant Executive Engineer, KWA,
20	Sri. Ajith Chacko	COO(L), Kudumbasree
21	Sri. Santhosh Kumar. S	DFO, Flying Squad, Trivandrum
22	Dri. Pradeep Kumar . K.L	DFO, Timber Sales, Trivandrum
23	Sri. Balu R	Assistant Engineer, Irrigation
24	Anish S	Assistant Engineer, o/o CE, LSGD
25	Smt. Suchitra .S	Program Manager, Kudumbasree
26	Dr. Nikesh Kiran	Program Officer, Kudumbasree
27	Sri. Dalhan C.S	Program Officer(Agri), Kudumbasree
28	Smt. Niranjana	Program Officer, Kudumbasree
29	Sri. Das Vincent. C	SPM, DDU-GKY, Kudumbasree
30	Smt. Anubha Sharma	Thematic Anchor, Kudumasree
31	Sri. Arun. S. Pillai	First Grade Overseer, o/o CE, LSGD

