

**Minutes of the Interaction Meeting with Senior Officers of the Govt. of Meghalaya held on 17.6.08 at Pinewood Hotel Shillong under the Chairmanship of Shri. P.A. Sangma, Chairman, State Planning Board.**

In his welcome speech, the Chairman, State Planning Board, Shri. P.A. Sangma expressed his gratitude to Shri. Donkumar Roy, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya who attended the meeting inspite of his heavy work schedule. He also welcomed the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Shri. Timothy D. Shira and the Cabinet Ministers present, Deputy Chairmen of State Planning Board, Chief Secretary and the Senior Officers to the meeting. He made it a point to mention that this was not a formal meeting but simply a get-together to know and understand each other and as such would therefore provide an opportunity for interacting and sharing one's thoughts and experiences.

The Chairman, in his speech, assured of a stable government which is going to be a 'thinking, working, and transparent government' where clarity, sincerity and dedication play an important role. The Deputy Chairmen were introduced by the Chairman and informed that the members of the present Board will be drawn from the State. He expressed his happiness that personalities of repute of the country in their respective fields have agreed to be Honorary Members of the Board and to advise on vital issues of Agriculture etc. He stated that a lot of research work is to be done by the new Board simultaneously making a mention that there is a lot of expectation from this government. The Chairman pointed out of the urgency to improve work culture, the need for an understanding between the political masters and bureaucracy. He strongly felt that at no point of time should the bureaucracy to be exploited by politicians. He made an appeal to go through the Draft Common Minimum Programme to know and understand the mind of the Meghalaya progressive Alliance government. The Chairman stated that he has full faith in the efficiency of the bureaucracy and their capacity to work together. He later requested the Chief Secretary to say a few words.

The Chief Secretary stated that it was an excellent opportunity provided to the bureaucracy to have heart to heart discussion. He pointed out that in his experience, the state government have an excellent team of Officers in terms of integrity and to be able to conceive ideas as compared to other states. They work as a team and have a harmonious relationship with no scope of confrontation whatsoever. The work culture at the level of Officers is very good whereas at the lower level it is not at all satisfactory. He stated that the response with Govt. of India is very good. The need to improve the position of the State in resources

The 4(four) major problems as viewed by the Chief Secretary are as follows:-

1. Blocks Development Officers are weak. Lack of Manpower, therefore delivery to people is very poor. Corruption and inefficiency.
2. Need to bring in Panchayati Raj Administration.
3. Separation of Judiciary is important. Planning to do so by 2.10.08.
4. Our administration is too Urban centric- Shillong and Tura. We are doing little for rural areas.

The Chairman wanted to know regarding the efficiency of the supporting staff, the working environment including furnishing of rooms, provision of computers etc. He called upon the officers to express their views.

Shri. W.M.S. Pariat, Additional Chief Secretary stated that the working environment between Ministers and officers is very good. He suggested to have a "standardized transfer policy" since some officers are transferred within a short time whereas others remain in the same department for many years and as such affects productivity. He felt the need on delimitation of schemes that is, unproductive schemes, due to scarcity of resources. He informed that preparation of DPR at the District level is not at all satisfactory.

On resource mobilization, Shri. B.K.Dev Verma, Principal Secretary, Finance informed that a report of Dr B. P.Todi, Additional Advocate General, Government of Meghalaya and Chairman of the Task Force will be put up to the cabinet shortly. He suggested introduction of user's charges on Water Supply, Roads and Irrigation projects so that substantial revenue could be generated.

Taking part in the discussions, Smti. R.V.Suchiang, Commissioner & Secretary, Personnel informed that training programmes are usually conducted for ministerial staff by MATI on office procedures and financial rules. That resource persons are sent for imparting trainings at the district level. She stressed the need to impart trainings to MCS officers or even IAS officers. She informed that training is proposed for officers of State Civil Service by faculty members of prestigious institutions of the country viz. IIM etc.

Shri. H.Marwein, Commissioner & Secretary, Labour pointed out on late sanction of schemes more often at the fag end of financial year which leaves little time in implementation of schemes/ programmes. He expressed the need to delegate more powers to the departmental committees of the administrative departments so as to ensure timely implementation and proper management of time. As at present, the departmental committees restrict themselves to continuing schemes only. He pointed out of the need for capacity building through intensive training programmes and computerization of office works for efficiency in delivery.

The points raised by Shri. H.Marwein was appreciated by the Chairman. The Chairman cited certain constraints by factors like weather and religious festivals/conventions where government employees over indulged themselves and consequently affect the actual working time.

Shri A.K.Srivastava, Principal Secretary, Information Technology spoke on the importance of National e- governance and was of the view that the State govt. should attach priority on e-governance.

Shri.P.B.O.Warjri, Principal Secretary, Planning felt the need of delegating more powers to the district heads and to simplify procedures so that process and preparation of plan schemes is not affected. He also felt the necessity of giving trainings to govt. drivers for better behaviour and attitude while performing their duties.

Dr.Shreeranjana, Commissioner & Secretary, Planning spoke on structure of governance in terms of delivery and empowering the grassroots. He was of the opinion of reorganization of staff at different levels through administrative reforms.

Shri. P.Naik, Commissioner & Secretary, Health pointed out of the time consuming process of getting LOA/LOC and does not serve any purpose for Plan Schemes which are important for development of the state. He mentioned of the need of good road connectivity in the state without which-no progress. He also spoke on problems of land encroachment ~~due to~~ due to lack of land records.

The Chairman agreed that land encroachment is the biggest headache and suggested that instructions should be given to all departments for proper demarcation and fencing of their respective lands.

On road infrastructure, Shri.C.D.Kynjing, Commissioner & Secretary, Community & Rural Development was of the opinion that since resources are limited, emphasis should be to identify vital roads. He suggested a review on implementation of SRWP and MLA schemes on account of the amount spreading out so thinly.

Shri B.K Dey Sawian, DGP stated that investment and development cannot take place when there is law and order problem in the state. Therefore in order to maintain normalcy in the state there is lot more to be done in the immediate future. He was in favour of local laws also citing example of gambling Act (local law) in West Bengal which is very effective. He suggested enhancement of training facilities by setting up a proper Training Institute for the Police force. He informed of the various needs of the Department, for instance, improvement of infrastructure, provision of housing facilities for the Police personnel etc. As such, Budget allocation for the department may be viewed in a different perspective.

The Chairman agreed that training and provision of housing facilities are priorities to be considered. However he felt that proper trainings should be given to Police personnel on VIP Security Duty.

Shri A.Pradhan, Additional DGP briefed on shortage of manpower vis-a-vis the number of prisons in the state. He informed of the steps taken by the government on the issue of setting free certain prisoners with due process of law. He also briefed on the progress of the new jails in Nongpoh and Nongstoin. He felt the need of specialized training.

Shri M.Suchiang, Deputy Chairman, State Planning Board stated that an adverse news items appeared in Shillong Times on number of BPL families in the State which is about 51% and this should be a challenge to the government.

Shri W.Kharlukhi, Deputy Chairman, State Planning Board was of the opinion that the Government should no more be seen as a charitable agency but a government to act <sup>as facilitator</sup> and as such, needs a change in its approach. He felt that the Government should take up comprehensive development programmes e.g., good scope of promoting tourism in Sohra.

The Chairman stated that convergence of services is very important as often multiplicity occurs.

Prof. E.D. Thomas, Deputy Chairman, State Planning Board stated that Planning requires study and research which depends mostly on data from concerned Departments. He narrated his experience as member of the Board that data when called for from departments, some Departments do not send the data or otherwise send the same very late. Therefore he made it a point that the present State Planning Board means business and departments should take note of this.

Shri A.L.Hek, honourable Minister was of the opinion that the guidelines of the Government of India and State Government should suit to the needs of the people and local conditions. He felt the need of more manpower to maintain the PHE schemes instead of a blanket ban on recruitment.

The Chairman pointed out that the task before the Board is enormous and agreed to prioritise capacity building and training, resource mobilization, timely sanction of schemes, computerization and E-Governance, delivery system in the grassroots level in absence of panchayat bodies and housing for Police personnel.

The Chief Minister was later requested by the Chairman to give a concluding Speech.

In his speech, the Chief Minister expressed his gratitude for inviting him to such a very important get together. He was of the view that recommendations of the State Planning Board are general in nature and often set aside. He thanked Prof. E.D.Thomas that this time the State Planning Board means business. However, he was of the opinion that State Planning Board cannot be compared with the role of the Planning Commission due to certain limitations. On the other hand, the Board should work hand in hand with the government's objectives and programmes. He pointed out of disparity between rural and urban areas and as such, it should be ensured that such disparity should be minimized and the Board to discuss development programmes etc. as such. On implementation of schemes and programmes, the Chief Minister requested not to neglect the aspect of delivery system at the District and Sub-Divisional Levels. Thus, it is necessary to look into this important issue and to ensure that officers are in their workplaces as posted.

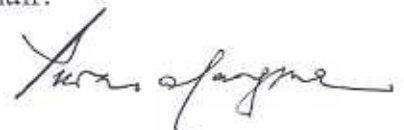
He felt that all officers should give their best and that no officers should be identified with any political party but with the government only.

The Chief Minister thanked the officers for openly airing their views and assured that their views and suggestions will be looked into and taken care of. He however stated that "groupism" in bureaucracy should be done away with as it affects the government to deliver the goods. He hoped that the recommendations of the State Planning Board will be entirely different and to meet the needs of the people keeping in view the constraints of resources available.

He finally thanked the Chairman, State Planning Board for calling the meeting and informed that the government will likewise be holding separate meetings soon with senior officers down to the level of heads of departments.

In conclusion, the Chairman, State Planning Board thanked the Chief Minister and assured of a full cooperation with the Government.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the chair.



(P.A.Sangma),  
Chairman,  
State Planning Board.

## List Of Attendance on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2008.

1. Dr. Donkumar Roy - Chief Minister , Meghalaya.
2. Shri P.A. Sangma - Chairman, State Planning Board.
3. Shri Timothy D. Shira - Deputy Chief Minister, Meghalaya.
4. Shri Paul Lyngdoh - Minister.
5. Shri Conrad K. Sangma - Minister
6. Shri A.L. Hek - Minister
7. Shri E.C. Bamon - Minister
8. Dr. W.R. Kharlukhi - Deputy Chairman, State Planning Board.
9. Prof. E.D. Thomas - Deputy Chairman, State Planning Board.
10. Shri Mihsalan Suchiang - Deputy Chairman, State Planning Board.
11. Shri R. Chatterjee, IAS - Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya.
12. Shri W.M.S. Pariat, IAS - Addl. Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya.
13. Shri B.K. Dev Verma, IAS - Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya.
14. Shri P.B.O. Warjri, IAS - Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya.
15. Shri A.K. Thakur, IAS - Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya.
16. Shri V.S. Oberoi, IAS - Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya.
17. Shri A.K. Srivastav, IAS - Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya.
18. Dr. Shreerajan, IAS - Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya.
19. Shri P. Naik, IAS - Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya.
20. Smti R.V. Suchiang, IAS - Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya.
21. Shri H. Marwein, IAS - Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya.
22. Shri D.P. Wahlang, IAS - Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya.
23. Shri A.K. Bhalla, IAS - Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya.
24. Shri A. Som, IAS - Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya.
25. Shri Ajay Tewari, IAS - Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya.
26. Shri B.K. Dey Sawian, IPS - Director General of Police.
27. Shri Kulbir Krishan, IPS - Addl. Director General of Police (Hqrs/CID).
28. Shri B. Kezo, IPS - Addl. Director General of Police (L&O).
29. Shri A. Pradhan, IPS - Addl. Director General of Police (Prison).
30. Shri A.R. Mathur, IPS - Addl. Director General of Police (TS).
31. Shri S.B. Singh, - Inspector General of Police (SB).
32. Shri R.P. Agrawal - Inspector General of Police (CID).
33. Shri L.B. Sangma - Inspector General of Police (R/PR).