



MIZORAM LOKAYUKTA
(Constituted under the Mizoram Lokayukta Act, 2014)

Case No. MLC- 49/2023

In the matter of:

1. Pu Zomuanpuia Tlau,
Venglai East, Kolasib. : Petitioner/Complainant

Versus

- 1. Pi Margaret Lalramchhani**
DFO, Green India Mission
Kolasib Forest Development Agency : Respondent/OP
- 2. Pu B. Lalsiamliana, ACF**
Secretary (2017-2019), Tumpui VFDC : Respondent/OP
- 3. Pi F. Lalrinmawii**
Chairman, Tumpui VFDC : Respondent/OP
- 4. Pu B. Vanlalzauva, Forest Guard**
Present Secretary, New Diakkawn VFDC : Respondent/OP
- 5. Pi Lalhmingmawii**
Present Chairman, New Diakkawn VFDC : Respondent/OP
- 6. Pi R. Lallianzuali**
Present Chairman, Thingdawl VFDC : Respondent/OP
- 7. Pu Reuben Zorema Sailo, Forest Guard**
Present Secretary, Dilzau VFDC : Respondent/OP
- 8. Pi Lalfakawmi**
Present Chairman, Dilzau VFDC : Respondent/OP
- 9. Pu Laltlansanga Khiangte, Forest Guard**
Present Secretary, Meidum VFDC : Respondent/OP
- 10. Pi Lalnipuii**
Present Chairman, Meidum VFDC : Respondent/OP
- 11. Pu Abraham L. Pachuau, Forest Guard**
Present Secretary, Pangbalkawn VFDC : Respondent/OP
- 12. Pi V. Lalremruati**
Present Chairman, Pangbalkawn VFDC : Respondent/OP

- 13. Pi K. Lalbeisei**
Present Chairman, Kawnpui North VFDC : Respondent/OP
- 14. Pu R. Lalhmunmawia**, Forest Guard
Present Secretary, Bualpui North VFDC : Respondent/OP
- 15. Pi Lalhnuni**
Present Chairman, Bualpui North VFDC : Respondent/OP
- 16. Pu Sailianpuia**, Dy. Forest Ranger
Secretary (2019-2023), Bukpui VFDC : Respondent/OP
- 17. Pi Ranglianthangi**
Present Chairman, Bukpui VFDC : Respondent/OP
- 18. Pu R. Vanlalchhanchhuaha**, Forest Guard
Present Secretary, N. Chaltlang VFDC : Respondent/OP
- 19. Pi Lalthlamuani**
Present Chairman, N. Chaltlang VFDC : Respondent/OP
- 20. Pi Remruatkimi**
Present Chairman, Zanlawn VFDC : Respondent/OP
- 21. Pi Lalbuatsaihi**
Present Chairman, Lungmuat VFDC : Respondent/OP
- 22. Pu Lalrintluanga Rawite**, Forest Guard
Present Secretary, Lungmuat VFDC : Respondent/OP

ORDER

Date: 24.07.2024

A brief summary of the case is that the Mizoram Lokayukta received a complaint petition from Pu Zomuanpuia Tlau of Kolasib against Kolasib Forest Division for alleged misappropriation of Fund under Green India Mission during 2017-2018 to 2022-2023. On receipt of the complaint, Case No. MLC-49/2023 was registered. The Mizoram Lokayukta then directed the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Mizoram to conduct Preliminary Enquiry (PE) by passing Order dt.06.06.2023 and in pursuance of the Order, the ACB registered PE No. 5/2023 dt.23.06.2023 and appointed Pu R. Lalnunmawia, Dy.SP as Enquiry Officer. The E.O. conducted PE and collected documents and visited the site. Thus, the ACB submitted PE Report to the Lokayukta on 25.01.2024. On perusal of the PE Report, the Mizoram Lokayukta sought more information/clarification from ACB, Mizoram on 13.02.2024 and reply was received on 22.02.2024.

2. Points of allegation:

Under Kolasib Forest Division, Environment & Forests, Government of Mizoram Department set up Village Forest Development Committee (VDFC) in 12 (Twelve) Villages in which a huge amount of money was sanctioned for development of Green India Mission during 2017-18 to 2022-23. It is alleged that Green India Mission plantation was not executed and the allotted funds are misused and misappropriated by Officials.

3. The points of preliminary findings are as follows:

- i) During the course of enquiry, the Enquiry Officer (EO) Pu R. Lalnunmawia, ACB have examined the complainant Pu Zomuanpuia Tlau and recorded his statement, wherein he stated that he collected information regarding implementation of Green India Mission in Kolasib district from the Office of Kolasib Forest Division through RTI.
- ii) During the course of enquiry, the EO also visited the place of occurrence i.e. Kolasib Forest Division. Collected Implementation Guidelines for National Mission for a Green India (GIM) and collected relevant documents from the office of Divisional Forest Officer Kolasib. He had also collected sanction orders as below:
 - a. Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change letter No.F.No. 9-/11/2014/G1M-Mizo dt. 29.06.2016 Amount Rs. 988.35 lakh
 - b. Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change letter No.F.No. 9-/11/2014/GIM-MIZO dt. 19.09.2017 Amount Rs. 2000 lakh
 - c. Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change letter No.F.No. 9-/1 1/2014/GIM- MIZO dt. 07.02.2019 Amount Rs. 2236.424 lakh
 - d. Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change letter No.F.No. 9-/1 1/2014/GIM- MIZO dt. 26.11.2019 Amount Rs. 1770.90 lakh
 - e. Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change letter No.F.No. 9-/11/2014/GIM- MIZO dt. 11.02.2021 Amount Rs. 299.48 lakh
 - f. Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change letter No.F.No. 9-/1 1/2014/GIM- MIZO dt. 10.12.2021 Amount Rs. 13.158 Crore
 - g. Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change letter No.F.No. 9-/1 1/2014/GIM- MIZO dt. 10.12.2021 Amount Rs. 16.70 Crore
 - h. Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change letter No.F.No. 9-/11/2014/GIM- MIZO dt. 09.11.2022 Amount Rs. 36.27 Crore
 - i. Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change letter No.F.No. 9-/1 1/2014/GIM- MIZO dt. 09.11.2022 Amount Rs. 30.71 Crore
 - j. Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change letter No.F.No. 9-/1 1/2014/GIM- MIZO dt. 09.11.2022 Amount Rs. 5.56 Crore

iii) The EO had also collected Work Programme for the year 2017-18 to 2021-22 as under:

Sl. No.	VFDC	2017-18 Amount	2018-19 Amount	2019-20 Amount	2021-22 Amount	2022-23 Amount
1.	Thingdawl	10,09,630	44,96,580	6,81,960	37,47,485	5,48,440
2.	New Diakkawn	10,29,360	44,62,560	6,93,360	37,14,105	5,57,940
3.	Tumpul	9,30,250	44,44,200	6,11,220	37,35,325	4,89,640
4.	Pangbalkawn	9,98,020	45,00,900	6,72,460	37,57,745	5,48,440
5.	Meidum	9,42,400	45,19,260	6,20,720	37,69,084	4,89,640
6.	Dilzau	9,64,270	44,17,200	6,43,980	37,10,306	5,14,800
7.	Kawnpui North	10,30,360	40,83,417	6,85,100	33,85,426	5,57,820
8.	Zanlawn	9,38,940	40,86,408	6,24,980	33,99,545	5,03,400
9.	Bualpui North	8,67,370	40,42,938	5,45,460	33,87,326	4,33,920
10.	Bukpui	10,30,360	40,83,417	6,85,100	33,85,426	5,57,820
11.	N. Chaltlang	10,09,590	40,62,357	6,73,700	33,69,206	5,48,320
12.	Lungmuat	8,78,980	40,38,618	5,54,960	33,77,066	4,33,920
	TOTAL	1,16,29,530	5,12,37,855	76,93,000	4,27,38,045	61,84,100

- iv) The EO had also collected VFDC meeting minute books of (1)Thingdawl (2) New Diakkawn (3) Tumpui (4) Pangbalkawn (5) Meidum (6) Dilzau (7) Kawnpui North (8) Zanlawn (9) Bualpui North (10) Bukpui (11) N. Chaltlang and (12) Lungmuat villages and he had also collected Cash Account Books (Subsidiary cash book) maintained by Secretaries of different VFDC.
- v) After scrutiny of collected documents by the EO, the documents revealed that under Kolasib Forest Division, Implementation of Green India Mission was executed satisfactorily.
- vi) During enquiry, officials of the concerned departments and Village Forest Development Committee (VFDC) members from the twelve villages were examined by the EO and recorded their statements.
- vii) The enquiry revealed that Green India Mission was introduced in Kolasib District in the year 2015, but implementation was started in 2017. According to Pi Margaret Lalramchhani, DFO, Green India Mission, Kolasib Forest Development Agency, the GIM Scheme is Central Scheme, fund were received in the District (Division) through state Forest Development Agency (Account), which were again distributed to VFDC Account through PFMS. Kolasib FDA Joint Account was open at Kolasib SBI and operated by Chairman (CF) and Member Secretary (DFO) and the Village Level Account (VFDC Account) are operated by Chairman (elected citizen) and Secretary (Forester/ Forest Guard/ Dy. Ranger/ Ranger).

- viii) The enquiry also revealed that for execution of the GIM plantation, plants were collected from the office and planted on the sites selected by VFDC by engaging local labours for the works. Department officials maintain Meeting Minute Book, supervised the works and sent report to the Office of DFO, and the Accounts are audited at DFO Office.
- ix) During the course of enquiry, the EO with party visited all the villages covered by Green India Mission under Kolasib Forest Division and examined the VFDC Chairman/Ex-Chairman and Secretary. He also scrutinized the collected work programme for the year 2017-2018 to 2021-2022 and subsidiary Cash Account Book maintained by each VFDC. He also took photographs which indicate the implementation of GIM in each village.
- x) A reply to an additional information/clarification sought from the ACB revealed that original cash books are not seized. As per ACB Manual clause 71.7, original documents are seized after registration of regular case only.
- xi) The EO also recorded supplementary statements of 11 (eleven) VFDC members (Secretaries) wherein they were asked about money transaction and items purchased for beneficiaries. Details of labourers related to plantation of Green India Mission for the year 2017-2018 to 2022-2023 and also Reports of Auditors (Social Audit) related to plantation of Green India Mission for the year 2019-2020 was also collected by the EO which were all scrutinized by Lokayukta.
4. As per the provision of Section 19(3) of the Mizoram Lokayukta Act, 2014, the opportunity of being heard was afforded to the parties concerned on 25.6.2024 vide order and notice dated 13.06.2024. Accordingly, hearing was held on 25.6.2024 in Court Room No.1 of the Mizoram Lokayukta. The complainant was absent despite notice being given vide order dated 13.06.2024. Respondent no.2, 3, 10, 12, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23 & 24 appeared in persons. Meanwhile, respondent no. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 16, 21 & 22 were absent despite notice being given to them. Inquiry Officer Pu. R. Lalnunmawia appeared on behalf of Anti-Corruption Bureau. The parties were heard.
5. During hearing, the respondents stated that the allegations against them were false and were falsely implicated. As per Green India Mission Guidelines, plantation was done accordingly. It is also submitted that the works were executed satisfactorily in all the villages. Having considered the same as prayed by the respondents and taking into consideration of the facts and circumstances of the case, Interlocutory Order dat. 19.04.2023 was passed where the respondents were granted time till 12th July, 2024 to prepare a detail reply in their defense and submit the written statement within the period granted to them. Accordingly, written statements were submitted to the Lokayukta by respondent no. 1, 2, 7, 14, 15, 18 & 22.

6. On perusal of the statements and documents available, it can be stated that there is no misappropriation of fund under Green India Mission as alleged. The enquiry concluded that the Green India Mission plantation under Kolasib Division was executed satisfactorily. The EO conducted thorough examination of concern parties including Village Forest Development Committee (VFDC) beneficiaries and relevant parties and has found no evidence of misappropriation and is deemed satisfactory by all the stakeholders. We appreciate the thorough and meticulous approach of the Enquiry Officer in conducting the Preliminary Enquiry into the alleged misappropriation of funds in the Green India Mission. The documents collected and efforts have helped to clarify the facts and established that there was no misappropriation as alleged. It also appears that the financial transactions were audited and the records were found to be in order or no discrepancies were found as per the findings of Enquiry Officer. Therefore, the findings were instrumental in establishing that the allegations were baseless, thereby facilitating the closure of this case.

7. Accordingly, in terms of Section 19(3)(c) of the Mizoram Lokayukta Act, 2014, after considering all the facts and circumstances of the case and materials available on record and in the light of findings and conclusions, no further action is required, therefore, we hereby decide to close the case. Accordingly, the case stands closed.

Sd/-LALSANGLURA
Member

Sd/-LALMALSAWMA
Chairperson