

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGH POWER COMMITTEE HELD ON 24/07/2020

1. The High Power Committee headed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Serto, & Executive Chairman, Nagaland State Legal Services Authority, with Shri. Abhijit Sinha IAS, Principal Secretary (Home), Nagaland and Shri. Renchamo P. Kikon, ADG (Prison), Nagaland as members, constituted vide Govt. of Nagaland notification no. Home/JL-3/COVID-19/2020 in pursuance to the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court, passed in suo-motu Writ Petition (C) 1/2020, in the wake of outbreak of pandemic Corona Virus, held its second meeting through video conferencing on 24th of July 2020 at 2:30 pm.

2. The HPC reviewed the actions taken in pursuance of the decisions arrived at in the first meeting held on 1st of April 2020. After due deliberations, and taking into the account the rising number of positive cases being detected outside the Quarantine Centres in the State and the need for measures to prevent the spread of the Virus, decided the following:

(a) Every accused on being arrested by the Police should be immediately tested for COVID-19 by taking him/her to the nearest health facility having TrueNat machine, which gives its result in about an hour. In case of arrest made in the jurisdiction of a Police Station, which do not have a testing facility, or the arrest is made at a location which is significantly far from the Medical Centre having the testing facility, the accused unless otherwise required to be taken immediately to another location for investigation purposes should be brought without delay to the nearest Medical Centre having the testing facility. After getting the test result, the accused may be interrogated/ kept in police custody at the Police Station nearest to the Medical Centre.

(b) It should definitely be ensured that the accused is tested for COVID-19 within 24 hours after arrest before being produced before any Magistrate.

(c) The State Government shall issue suitable directions to all the Deputy Commissioners, the Commissioner of Police, Superintendents of Police and Chief Medical Officers for ensuring that the testing of the accused brought by the Police to any Medical Centre is done immediately on topmost priority and the results made available without any delay.

3. The HPC was informed by ADG Prisons that quarantine wards/ facilities have been created in all the jails of the State to isolate and keep the new UTPs under observation for three weeks as decided in the first HPC meeting before being sent to the general UTP wards.

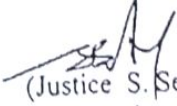
4. The HPC reviewed the number of prisoners as against the full capacity in all the jails of the State, and noted that there is no problem of congestion in any of the jails for now. The ADG Prisons was asked to regularly monitor the position of occupancy and in case there is a

possibility of any prison getting close to a situation which may lead to congestion, to immediately bring to the notice of the HPC so that suitable actions could be taken.

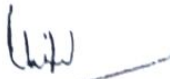
5. The ADG Prisons, who also holds the charge of ADGP Law and Order, informed that due care is being taken in all the Police Stations to ensure that the accused are kept segregated while in Police Custody and whenever the numbers of accused increase, the quarter guard of the Units are also being used for keeping the accused after taking due permission from competent authority. The HPC directed for continuance of the present arrangements so that there is no danger of transmission of the Virus from one accused to another, should one is already infected from before.

6. It was also decided to suggest to the State Government to increase the reach of the TruNat machines across the State and make it available at the various medical centres at strategic locations and suitably train the medical professionals, so that besides the COVID-19 testing, the machines could also be used for testing for several other diseases, thereby further benefitting the common people.

7. The meeting concluded with vote of thanks to the Chair.


(Justice S. Serto)
& Executive Chairman,
Nagaland State Legal Services Authority


(Abhijit Sinha)
Principal Secretary, Home
Nagaland


(Renchamo P. Kikon)
Additional Director General, Prison
Nagaland