

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE
MEGHALAYA :: :: SHILLONG

Letter No. C.13/2019/39

Dated Shillong the, 30th August 2019

From : **Shri. G. K. Iangrai, MPS**
Asstt. Inspector General of Police (A)
Meghalaya, Shillong

To : The President,
Shillong Press Club.

The Editor,
TNT-The Northeast Today/Meghalaya
Guardian/Telegraph/Highland Post/Mawphor/U Nongsain
Hima/Meghalaya Times/Shillong Today/ Peitngor/ Rupang/T7
News.

Sub : **Press release-regarding.**

Madam,

In inviting reference to the subject cited above, I am enclosing herewith a brief write-up which is apropos to the editorial under caption "Home Department: The MDA Govt's Achilles heel" dated 30th August 2019.

In this regard kindly publish the rebuttal in your esteemed daily for information of the general public.

Yours faithfully,



(G. K. Iangrai, MPS)
Asstt. Inspector General of Police (A)
Meghalaya, Shillong.

PRESS RELEASE

On behalf of the Police Department which was aspersed as Achilles heel of the Government by a renowned editor; herein, the following attributes are stated which is congruous to controvert the entire surmise which was elucidated without substantiating the facts. Meghalaya Police being a department which has put up with various troughs from the inception of the state is once again being denigrated for its endeavours as sentinels of law.

Time and time again the department has been degraded with various allegations which have tarnished the department, and similar allegations have been levied again because of a proposal for change of trade, which is reiterate for information of all, that it is still under consideration by the Government, and as of date it is only a proposal. However it was poignant to read that, individual inferences were already drawn from the proposal, terming the proposal as a racket and further lamenting that an amount of one lakh has been fixed as the minimum bid. The proposal has also been branded as a conversion packet which is a package deal that comes with postings in different districts for the highest bidder to recover the amount, such pillory is nothing but a conjecture which has been based on erroneous information. It is also significant to point out that the proposal which is being disparege was however, permitted in the past to strengthen the Un-Armed Constabulary and in this instance also it was proposed because of the sanctioning of new posts and that vacancies have already arisen despite the fact that recruitment of new recruits concluded recently (new recruits are currently undergoing training), and that fresh recruitment process which will be initiated will at least take more than a year to complete, thereby further increasing the vacancies in the intervening period. Further as per the proposal, the inter-se seniority of the Armed/Battalion Constables who are willing to change their trade will be fixed after the Un-Armed Branch Constables, and hence, the Un-Armed Branch Constables will not be affected in terms of seniority.

The present establishment does not have a pro-active action as proclaimed in the editorial, is contradictory to the actual scenario which the department is undertaking to ameliorate the functioning of police force, and one of the paramount examples is the addressing of issues related to crime against women and children. With an aim to cater to crimes against women and children, Women Police Stations have been created in the eleven districts of the state in 2018, Anti-Human Trafficking Unit have also been set up in each district, and there is also a Special Cell for Women and Children and Special Juvenile Cell, to respond to crimes in which women and children are victims.

To manage and regulate the traffic within the state, various traffic branches have been set up in the state, and to facilitate movement of vehicles for general public especially during emergency situations, 14 two wheelers were launched recently under the nomenclature 'First Responder', with one of the goals is to help the general public reach hospitals, or other institutions on time. The department has also introduced Unarmed Aerial Vehicles (UAV) to superintend traffic congestions apart from the Close Circuit Television (CCTV) which have been installed in various locations; the purpose of the UAV is to locate the point of congestion so as to enable police personnel to clear the congestion and to monitor traffic movement throughout the day.

Another important contribution which has created a huge impact in the society is the Anti Narcotics Task Force, which has detected and curtailed peddling of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS), consignments of NDPS have been seized and peddlers have been arrested from time to time in various parts of the state, and the accomplishment of these Task Force is evident from the media coverage.



Cyber Crime cases have been reported from various parts of the state, and to smoothen the lodging of complaints a Cyber Crime Wing Police Station was established in 2016, to investigate the cases and also to provide awareness to the netizens through training and awareness programmes. Cyber frauds from across the country have been arrested and the process of completing the investigation of cases are also inter related with Forensic examination of electronic evidences and other legal procedures.

Investigation of cases is an ongoing process; not at all investigation of cases can be completed in a short span of time, every case is being investigated with the purpose of delivering justice to the victims and persecuting the accused, but at times due to unavoidable circumstances, the investigation of cases are prolonged until the ingredients for persecuting the accused persons are fulfilled.

In this regard, numerous trainings programmes have been imparted from time to time by the Districts/Battalions/Organisations/Police Training School, and almost every month, officers and personnel of the department are being sent to other reputed Training Academies/Schools within the state and the country, so as to enhance their proficiency and skills.

To facilitate tourist inflow into the state, the department will be deploying tourist police in various tourist destinations of the state, and to alleviate victims/witnesses of vehicle accidents, the department will be initiating the Namar Jong Phi Trauma Counsellor project, whereby police officers and personnel will be trained with psychological avenues, so as to help the victims/witnesses of road accidents.

Pertaining to transfers and postings, it is effectuated due to promotions to higher ranks, superannuation, and recruitment of officers and personnel; by virtue of promotion, superannuation or recruitment, vacancies in Districts/Battalions/Organizations are created and these has to be filled by transferring of Officers and personnel from one place to another. The department functions smoothly when the strength of the unit is ample, and whenever there are deficiencies in any unit, the department mitigates the vacant position at the earliest possible time by posting officers and personnel in these vacant post. In the course of providing adequate strength to various units many officers and personnel are transferred and posted in different Districts/Battalions/Organizations, and this is being done after the approval of the Police Establishment Board (PEB), which is as per Meghalaya Police Act 2010.

There is a misnomer when it comes to transfer and posting, that they are given to the highest bidder and to those who can pay huge sums of money; if officers and personnel are not transferred to a different place of posting, then how will the department filled the vacancies that arises out of promotions and superannuation, especially when considering the fact that recruitment does not happen every year and there is stipulated time for promotion from a lower rank to the next rank.

With regard to Police Stations and their current infrastructures, efforts are being put into renovating and revamping the Police Stations. As Government infrastructures requires due processes such as sanction and approval for improving and expanding the infrastructures, hence, all works cannot be taken up at once. Some Police Stations have been set up in requisitioned buildings/premises due to non-availability of land and in such instances; there are hindrances and limitations in setting up of infrastructures.

A police officer who has to perform duties such as investigations, law and order, security arrangements and others, will not have time to prepare food for arrested/detained persons,



nor can he direct his subordinates to prepare food because they also have their own duties to perform. In order to ensure that basic necessities are provided to those put behind bars and that their health are taken care of, the Officer-in-Charge has to arrange food from available outlets, and this fundamental duty of a police officer cannot be construed as allowing the hoteliers to run their illegal businesses such as selling liquor and commercial sex. It has to be bear in mind that denying food to a person arrested/detained may lead to deterioration of health, which will in turn attract legal ramifications against the Officer-in-Charge, so providing basic amenities to such persons cannot be interpreted as quid pro quo.

As a leader of the police force, the DGP is addressing the basic requirements of not only police stations but also of the entire department, the issues of vehicles have been long pending in the department and it is not possible to provide every unit or officer with new vehicles, as purchasing new vehicles will put the exchequer in tremendous constraints. However, the DGP being delegated with powers to requisitioned vehicles have been providing around (100) hundred requisitioned vehicles monthly (which includes LMV, MMV, HMV), to every unit that are in need of vehicles. Proposals for procuring new vehicles have been sent to the Government and on sanctioning of the same, the units will be provided accordingly. Allotment of vehicles as alleged is not done by a single officer but through established standard procedures and the allotment of vehicles to officers is as per the Grade of the officer and not through any blessings.

The welfare of the Police Force has also been the priority of the DGP, eligible police officers and personnel were promoted from time to time, which since his taking over charge as the DGP, around 372 officers and personnel of various ranks have been promoted, thereby ensuring that they are not deprived of their entitlement. Moreover, new infrastructures are being constructed, which commenced from November 2018, and these includes infrastructures for Meghalaya Police Academy, 3rd MLP Battalion, 5th ML Battalion, 6th MLP Battalion, Forensic Science Laboratory, Storage Facilities for NDPS related cases and hosts of quarters/barracks for officers and personnel.

The DGP who advocates for healthy police public relationship, has facilitated an easier mode of communication through social media to the general public to lodge their grievances, an initiative which is being welcomed by all; a WhatsApp number 6033090114 has also been activated for easier communication for the general public, and the same was widely used to verify facts by various individuals on a daily basis. Apart from these, each district has been mapped with Control Room Numbers which is available in the Meghalaya Police website and soon the Dial 100 project will be implemented in certain districts of the state.

Meghalaya Police today is hugely unfit, is an insinuation which is devoid of facts; law and order was handled impeccably by the department and it is evident from two of the major breakdowns which happened in Shillong and Nartiang; though the editor asserted that Meghalaya Police lacks training in crowd control, but the fact remains that Meghalaya Police has a separate Law and Order component under Special Force-10, which were deployed during both law and order situations, and because of their resourceful training that was inculcated to these Rangers, precious lives were saved during these separate incidents, a fact which will always be undermined.

The structure of Meghalaya Police Website is currently being upgraded and information which has to be uploaded are being compiled and verified before uploading, the daily crime reports are being updated daily and the statistics of crime incidents will also be updated shortly. Whereas, pertaining to the enlightening the status of these cases which were

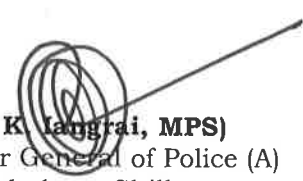


registered in 2018, some of these cases have ended in final form and some of the cases are still pending investigation. Since these cases were registered in 2018, therefore, in all probabilities trial of most of these cases where charge sheet has been submitted is yet to begun and in the course of trial being completed, the same will be intimated to all media houses, which is the procedure which is being done till date. The most recent case of conviction i.e. Mawlai PS Case No. 6(3)2103, in which the accused was awarded life imprisonment by the Hon'ble Special Judge POCSO, East Khasi Hills, Shillong was intimated to all news agencies for favour of their information.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) is not defunct but it is investigating various cases relating to corruption, here it is also worth emphasizing that cases of corruption registered under Prevention of Corruption Act, requires prior sanction of appropriate Government for investigation and prosecution, which is as per the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018. The Amendment Act also extends protection to former officials as well, for offences done while in office and that it provides for a directory (not mandatory) time period of 3 (three) months within which the appropriate government must convey the decision on such sanction. Hence, in accordance with such acts, actions are being taken by the not only ACB but by other Investigating Officers of the district.

Therefore, the exhortations that ACB needs an overhaul, that Meghalaya Police is creating mutiny, that Meghalaya police will become a force that is corrupt to the core and without resilience to fight crime are projections and presumptions or personal views expressed based on ambiguous information which are misguiding and misleading the people.

Lastly, the editor deserve heaps of praise for her editorial, highlighting the imperfections of the Achilles heels of the Government, and as the saying goes every beginning has an end, therefore, this rebuttal is concluded with one of the famous quotes of C. P. Scott i.e. ***"comment is free but facts are sacred."***


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