

**GOVERNMENT OF KERALA****Abstract**

Disaster Management Department - Covid 19 Pandemic –Imminent / Possible surge – Effective containment – Reinvigorating enforcement – Appointing Gazetted Officers of various Departments as Sector Magistrates & Covid Sentinels in local bodies – Orders issued

DISASTER MANAGEMENT (A) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt)No.768/2020/DMD Dated,Thiruvananthapuram, 29/09/2020

Read GO(Rt)No.691/2020/DMD dated 01/09/2020.

ORDER

The Government have closely reviewed the Covid 19 Pandemic situation prevailing in the State and have decided to reinvigorate enforcement at the level of local bodies to check the surge in positive cases.

2) The regular front-line responders from the Departments of Health, Revenue and Disaster Management, Police, LSGD, etc. have been enforcing containment measures ever since February, 2020. The Government are convinced of the need to bring in additional fresh hands from other Government Departments to monitor and reinvigorate enforcement of containment steps at the level of local bodies, working alongside the regular front-line departments.

3) As per Section 29 of the Disaster Management Act, the State Government 'shall provide the District Authority with such officers, consultants and other employees as it considers necessary for carrying out the functions of District Authority'.

4) Section 38 of the said Act empowers the State Government to take measures as it deems necessary or expedient, for the purpose of disaster management, including coordination of actions of different departments of the State Government, the State Authority, District Authorities, local authority and other non-governmental organizations, inter alia.

5) As per section 39 of the said Act, it shall be the responsibility of the departments of the State Government, among other things, to provide assistance and resources to the District Authorities and take such other actions as may be necessary for disaster management.

6) Considering the above in detail, the Government are hereby pleased to order that the DDMA's shall depute exclusively one or more, able Gazetted Officers from other departments of the State Government (departments other than health, police, revenue and LSGD) working in the District as Sector Magistrates & Covid Sentinels, in each local body (depending upon the area of the local body to be monitored) who shall be tasked to reinvigorate monitoring and enforcement of Covid

containment activities in their jurisdiction, as follows:

- i. They shall be officers of the DDMA's reporting directly to the Chairman, DDMA. Among other things, they shall act as the 'eyes and ears' of the DDMA for better containment of the pandemic. These officers shall report to the Chairman, DDMA in the manner and frequency desired by the DDMA.
- ii. The jurisdiction of these officers shall be delineated without ambiguity in the appointment orders to be issued by the DDMA and need to tour and operate from such places. Their duty headquarters would be their areas of jurisdiction until further orders.
- iii. They shall liaise and work along side the personnel already deployed from other regular departments to enforce that the directions of Government and of DDMA are enforced in letter and spirit. They are to be positioned as fresh, additional hands. They are not replacements. They shall be non-partisan in their actions. They shall work in unison with senior officers of other departments with the common objective of containment of the pandemic in their mind.
- iv. They shall be empowered as Special Executive Magistrates under Sec 21 of CrPC to monitor and enforce all Covid Containment measures – existing and those introduced from time to time in their areas of jurisdiction specified by DDMA. They shall focus on Break the chain campaign (SMS –social distancing, masks, sanitizing), quarantine and isolation, compliance of Covid protocol in gatherings (in marriages/ funerals/ auditorium / others), micro containment measures, reverse quarantine, compliance of Covid protocol in shops, markets and commercial establishments, IEC campaigns and such other matters as advised by the Chairperson DDMA .
- v. They shall be informed of the orders of containment issued by the DDMA, State Authority, National Authority and State Government in vogue. They shall be updated periodically.
- vi. They shall be permitted to formally organize his parent departmental team and resources to enable him to carry out his functions.
- vii. Officers of all Government Departments shall render necessary support to them on deployment by the DDMA's for an invigorated response in Covid containment to effectively thwart a possible surge in Covid positive cases, at this critical juncture.

Under Section 39 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the officers deployed shall follow all instructions of DDMA's scrupulously and officers are expected to perform with diligence to achieve these objectives in overall public interest.

In accordance with para 6(iv), Department of Home will issue separate orders to confer the powers under Section 21 of CrPC to all such deputed officials with the jurisdiction.

(By order of the Governor)

DR. VISHWAS MEHTA
CHIEF SECRETARY

All Additional Chief Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries

All Heads of Department

Commissioner, Land Revenue, Thiruvananthapuram

Commissioner, Disaster Management, Thiruvananthapuram

All District Collectors

The Principal Accountant General (Audit) Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram

The Accountant General (A&E) Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram

The Member Secretary, KSDMA, Observatory Hills, Vikas Bhavan P.O,
Thiruvananthapuram.

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