

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
PUDUCHERRY POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Public Hearing on Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) for Mahe Region prepared under the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2019, held on 24.03.2023 in the Civil Station Auditorium, Mahe.

Public Hearing for views/suggestion on the draft CZMP for Mahe region was convened on 24.03.2023. **Dr. D. Manikandan, I.A.S., District Magistrate -cum- District Collector, Puducherry.**

Thiru. Shivaraj Meena, Regional Administrator, delivered the key note address emphasizing on the importance of preparation of Draft Coastal Zone Management Plan for Mahe region.

Dr. N. Ramesh, Member Secretary, Puducherry Pollution Control Committee, Puducherry, Outlined the procedure of Public Hearing and explained method of preparation of Draft Coastal Zone Management Plan for Mahe region.

Shri. Dr. D. Manikandan, I.A.S. District Magistrate -cum- District Collector, Puducherry, briefly explained on the importance of Coastal Zone Management Plan for Mahe region as per the CRZ Notification, 2019. Subsequently he commenced the hearing by inviting the public to express their views, and suggestions, if any, by indicating their name and native after the technical presentation is completed.

Thiru. Vipin Babu, Scientist, PPCC, made a presentation on draft CZMP for Mahe. He gave a detailed narration about the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 2019 and the necessity for the preparation of CZMP. He has stated that Mahe, being an Urban developed area comes under the Municipal limits and is categorized under CRZ-II. It was clarified construction activities are permitted only after Pre-existing road / authorized structure which is in existence before 19.02.1991 in between the High Tide Line (HTL) of Sea / Backwater, Tidal influenced water body and the proposed site on the landward area. He also explained that construction of buildings for residential purposes, schools, hospitals, institutions, offices, public places, etc. shall



be permitted only on the landward side of the existing road, or on the landward side of existing authorised fixed structures. No permission for construction of buildings shall be given on landward side of any new roads which are constructed on the seaward side of an existing road. The permitted buildings shall be subject to the local town and country planning regulations as applicable from time to time, and the norms for the Floor Space Index (FSI) or Floor Area Ratio (FAR) prevailing as on the date 18.01.2019.

The 12 nautical miles territorial limit classified under CRZ, 2019 as CRZ-IV(A) area was explained to the participants, and there is no restriction for fishing activities carried out by the fisher folks.

The views/ suggestions received from the public and the clarifications given by the PPCC official are detailed below:

1. Thiru. Ratheesan, Valavil, Mahe.

- i. Whether an existing house falling outside the sea mouth zone can be renovated? Whether the plan will be passed / approved by the authorities?
- ii. Whether the map/plan includes, Temples, Offices and Places for laying fish nets were marked?

Explanation from PPCC Officials: This draft CZMP is prepared in 1: 25000 scale for public consultation as per CRZ Notification, 2019. After approval from MoEF & CC, GoI. Local level CZMP will be prepared in 1:3960 scale. That plan/map will include all the common properties of fishermen communities and other infrastructure within the CRZ area.

2. Thiru. Ashalatha.K, Mahe:

In the case of a family belonging to the fishermen community, suppose any one member of the family is a government employee, and he/she likes to construct a house for his/her parents. For availing loan the existing house is transferred in his/her name. Now the owner of the house is a government employee. Are they eligible for fishermen benefits?



Explanation from PPCC Officials: All the coastal communities including fishermen are allowed to construct residential buildings as per the provisions mentioned in CRZ Notification, 2019.

3. Thiru. Abdul Gafoor, Mondoli;

- i. Many of my close friends are working in Gulf countries .They want to build a house here, their native place. How are they considered? They must also be included and considered in this CRZ Act. Otherwise, ongoing construction of many houses will get stalled.
- ii. I am presently residing at Boulevard Road area. It is learned that the said road is not shown in government records. Can I get an explanation?

Explanation from PPCC officials: All activities will be regulated by approved CZMP and provisions mentioned in CRZ Notification, 2019. The data shared by various Govt Department i.e Roads etc were incorporated by the NCSCM while preparing the CZMP.

4. Thiru. Jamal, Mondock, Mahe:

My house is situated on the banks of Mahe River which was built during 1986. I am not able to renovate it or sell it due to the restrictions as mentioned in the CRZ – II as per the CRZ Notification.

Explanation from PPCC officials: CRZ –II area, construction activities are permitted considering the Pre-existing road / authorized structure which is in existence before 19.02.1991 in between the High Tide Line (HTL) of Sea / Backwater, Tidal influenced water body and the proposed site on the landward area. Since the said building was constructed in 1986 which is before the enactment of the CRZ Notification.

5. Thiru. Muhammad Shameem, Mahe;

Is there any proposal to change the law in CRZ – II area for construction of building as per CRZ Notification, 2019?

Explanation from PPCC officials: The CRZ Notification, 2019, is already published by MoEF & CC, GoI. This public hearing is only for draft CZMP. The MoEF & CC, GoI, shall issue



the necessary amendments / Office Memorandum in the CRZ Notification, 2019, based on the necessity, and as requested by the State / UT Government on case to case basis.

6.Thiru. Pallyan Pramod, President, Mundock Residents Association (Ex – Municipal Councilor) Mundock, Mahe:

- i. The CRZ Act is implemented according to the Government law. Yes, we cooperate with it. But why is the government implementing the act? To avert disasters. But in the entire history of Mahe, not a single human death was reported as a result of natural disasters. The geo-natural atmosphere of Mahe is always calm.
- ii. So many ancestral homes are there on the banks of Mahe River just two meters away from the water body. Same is the case at Pandakkal. People who were born here and lived here for generations had faced no problems. They have a right over their properties.
- iii. If there is, say, 15 cents, some three heirs get five cents each. But they cannot build new houses in the share they got which doesn't have the old house. They can stay in the old house, but they won't get permit for a new building due to the CRZ Act.
- iv. Before 1994, it was allowed. Take the case of the Walk Way. It is a permanent structure right in the river itself. It has permission. Likewise, permission should be granted for other buildings on the landward side of the walkway. GoP must conduct some scientific studies regarding the Mahe coast.
- v. There are so many procedures connected with the CRZ Act. These are all directly linked with human life. It has to be explained to all officials concerned.

Explanation from PPCC Officials: Government of Puducherry regulates all the activities in CRZ area as per the Existing CZMP prepared under CRZ Notification, 2011. The project proponent shall apply for CRZ clearance to Puducherry Coastal Zone Management Authority(PCZMA) before carrying out any alteration / modification in the existing building and for new construction. PCZMA shall examine the proposal, whether it's a permitted activity as per the CRZ Notification, and will recommend to the respective planning authority for building permission.



7.Thiru. N Krishnan, Mahe:

- i. Why is a 500 meters line applied on Mahe in the Draft CZMP map? This covers half of the Mahe in draft CZMP prepared under CRZ Notification, 2019. Mahe is a small area with high density of Population.
- ii. We are worried about the 500 meters line. It is very fearful for us.
- iii. CRZ Notification, 2019, has mentioned construction of dwelling units is permissible activity for local communities including the fishermen communities. This is fine, but the government should construct the sea protection wall on the banks of the Mahe river.

Explanation from PPCC officials : As per the CRZ Notification, 2019, issued by Government of India, 500 meters from HTL of Sea is applicable to all the Coastal States / UTs, not only for Mahe. Earlier, CRZ Notification, 2011, mentioned that 100 meters is CRZ area i.e HTL of backwater/tidal influenced water body, now there is 50 meters reduction in the draft CZMP, 2019 w.r.t the HTL of tidal water bodies towards land ward side.

8. Thiru. Dineshan, BJP representative Mahe:

- i. The decision to reduce the distance limit from 100 meters to 50 meters in this area gives me immense pleasure. First of all I express my thanks to the Puducherry Government for this kind of action.
- ii. Many of us have confusions in this matter. There is no restrictions above 500 meters of CRZ area. People want a clarification. Common people should be assured that there is no problem for constructions beyond 50 meters.
- iii. This is merely for our safety. It seems to be a misunderstanding. The law is for preserving the environment and fish wealth for the future generations. We must compromise in certain minor matters. The environment and fish productivity is to be handed over to the generations to come. As such, this is a far sighted initiative carried out by the Central Government.
- iv. There will be no exceptions for Mahe alone. All matters must be clear for everyone. There should not arise any doubt about the Act or its implementation. Now itself, there is a doubt regarding fishermen community and fisherman. There will be difficulties when going to the authorities for a permission. I urge the concerned officials to bring in more



clarity in these matters , so that the notification bring wellness for our land and our people.

Explanation from PPCC officials : Upon requisition from all concerned the Government of India has reduced the 50 meter in CRZ Notification, 2019. The Draft CZMP is prepared for the conservation and protection of the unique environment of coastal stretches and marine areas, also for the security of the livelihood of the fishermen communities and other local communities in the coastal areas, and to promote sustainable development.

9. Thiru. Mohanan, Indian National Congress, Mahe:

- i. The people assembled here, especially those from the coastal area have clearly expressed their views before the officials regarding the CRZ Notification.
- ii. There was a master plan preparation carried out years back for the densely populated areas of Mahe. I am not deviating, but just mentioning a case. People suffered a lot because of that master plan. I warmly welcome the collector and other high officials who have come here to hear the voice of people.

10. Thiru. Vinodh, Indian National Congress, Mahe:

- i. So many changes have taken place between 2019 and 2023 in the seashore. This meeting should take into consideration these changes before getting into any conclusion. Mahe is thickly populated and the density of population is very high.
- ii. People want to build houses. They don't know whether the revenue department or the Science and Technology department or the Municipality has to provide sanction.
- iii. I request you to consider their views and proposals when submitting your report to the government of India and Coastal Regulatory Authority.

Explanation from PPCC officials : Comments / suggestions from this meeting will be included in the Minutes of the meeting and same shall be forwarded to PCZMA and GoI for further action.

11. Thiru. Sunil Kumar, Communist Party of India (Marxist), Mahe:

- i. I reached here with a lot of worries on draft CZMP. A lot of people have already expressed various views and suggestions. It is known that the people of Puducherry have same kind of worries.



- ii. I Just want to know the real facts about the law. From the discussions, it seems that one can build a house or do any such activities without much difficulties. It is literally impossible to build another house within 50 meters away from the water front. If the matter is made clear here itself, we don't have to fight with the Town Planning Authorities or any other Government Offices. We are facing a lot of problems to get permissions and approvals for our constructions.
- iii. Public have many doubts. Many people are unaware of this meeting. There was only a newspaper announcement inviting the interested public to participate. There was no idea about the matters which are going to be discussed or about the government officials who would be participating.
- iv. We are happy that the restriction is reduced to 50 meters from 100 meters. But we do not agree with this 50 meter. We were all born and brought up in Mahe. As there is no threat of Tsunami or other natural disasters, this 50 meter should be reduced to 10 or 5 meters. We are requesting this as a special consideration. We were called for expressing our views, and this is our opinion. Kindly consider.
- v. Laws should always stand for the people. It should never ever trouble them.

Explanation from PPCC officials: As per the Guidelines mentioned in EIA Notification, 2006 for Conduct of Public Hearing Puducherry Pollution Control Committee has issued Public Notice in English Newspapers and Local vernacular Language (Malayalam) on 21.02.2023 for inviting views / comments on draft CZMP 2019 for Mahe region.

50 meters from HTL of creek/backwater/tidal influenced water is marked as CRZ. As per the CRZ Notification, 2019, there is no power for state government to reduce the distance from said areas. Projects will be approved if the provisions are complied as mentioned in the CRZ Notification, 2019.

The following representations received towards comments/ suggestion/views on Draft CZMP,2019 for Mahe Region enclosed as Annexure.

- i. Thiru. Pallyan Pramod, President, Mundock Residents Association (Ex – Municipal Councilor) Mundock, Mahe, addressed to the District Collector, Puducherry and Regional Administrator, Mahe.



- ii. N. Krishanan, Choovar, Choodikkotta, Mahe addressed to Puducherry Pollution Control Committee, Puducherry.

Dr. D. Manikandan, I.A.S., District Collector-cum-District Magistrate, Puducherry, has informed the public to submit the views/objections in writing to incorporate in the draft CZMP for Mahe region prepared under CRZ Notification 2011 and same shall be forwarded to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GoI for consideration.

Shri P. Vipin Babu, Scientist of Puducherry Pollution Control Committee concluded the Public Hearing with vote of thanks.

List of Participants, News Paper Advertisements, Written submission received from the stakeholders and the recorded Audio & video (DVD) of the entire proceedings are enclosed.



Dr. D. Manikandan, I.A.S.
District Collector -cum- District Magistrate, Puducherry
