

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON  
LAW AND ORDER/SECURITY ISSUES OF SEPPA MARKET AREAS  
DC'S CHAMBER, 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2014

A meeting, chaired by Mr. Sandeep Kumar Singh, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, East Kameng, was held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014 at DC's Chamber, Seppa, East Kameng district to discuss the prevailing law and order/security situation in the market areas of Seppa Township, and to evolve strategies to deal with the issues identified.

The following were participants in the meeting:

- 1) Mr. L.R. Rana, i/c Superintendent of Police, East Kameng
- 2) Mr. Takam Nicholas, CO (Judicial)
- 3) Mr. Jambey Netan, OC Police Station, Seppa
- 4) Mr. S.P. Mishra, OC, CRPF, Seppa
- 5) Mr. Tassang Taku, President, East Kameng Chamber of Commerce and Industries
- 6) Mr. Anchu Rimo, Secretary, Bazar Welfare Committee (BWC), Seppa

The main points of discussion consisted of the following:

**1. Voluntary Public Vigilance:**

The possibility of voluntary vigilance by the business community/public against extortion and other criminal activities in the market areas was raised. Individuals selected for the purpose shall aid the traders and assist the law enforcing authorities in restraining/apprehending law breakers. The list of such persons shall be made available by the President, East Kameng Chamber of Commerce and Industries (EKCC&I) shortly.

**2. Filing of FIR:**

The East Kameng Chamber of Commerce and Industries (EKCC&I) and the Bazar Welfare Committee (BWC), Seppa shall file FIRs without delay on behalf of the victims of extortion/intimidation among the business community.

**3. Mode of Patrolling :**

- a) Patrolling by the police/Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) should attempt to cover larger areas at one given time, rather than being concentrated at one location, it was felt. The patrolling teams may need to spread out along the length of the areas concerned, especially within the main market.
- b) All public areas/grounds and premises of institutions not under lock and key should be covered during the patrolling. Of particular note in this regard would be the General Ground, Seppa, and the campus of the GHS School, Bebo Colony, which are reportedly used as drinking hubs and for other undesirable activities in the night time. Reasonable action may be taken against individuals apprehended in unwanted activities in such public places/institutional premises.

**4. 'Name and Shame' Campaigns:**

The option of naming and shaming individuals caught in the act of extortion, theft and other criminal activities was discussed. Photographs of such persons, along with the nature of their offence may be displayed at public places, both as a caution to the general public and as a deterrent to the person concerned and other possible offenders. A camera for this purpose as well as for other police work would be provided by the President, EKCC&I.

**5. Awareness Activities:**

It was felt that conducting awareness activities among the public, especially school and college students, would go a long way in bringing about the desired changes vis-à-vis law and order. The following were envisaged.

- a) Necessary information regarding filing of FIRs against offenders would be imparted. Photographs and information regarding offenders may be incorporated in the slide shows during other public awareness programmes.
- b) High School and College students should be instructed by their institutions to desist from movement or gatherings during night-times. Specific directives should be issued during the College/School Assembly that students should not venture out after 8 pm without justifiable reasons.

**6. Restraining Criminal Elements:**

- a) All individuals apprehended in connection with extortion, theft, intimidation, criminal trespass and other illegal activities should be produced before an executive magistrate and bound down for good behaviour under Section 107, CrPC., on the pain of foregoing a bond of at least Rs. 10, 000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand) in case of repeat offence. Non-response of summons for such hearings shall attract a warrant of arrest, including non-bailable warrant.
- b) Investigations into any case involving unknown perpetrators should always aim to question habitual offenders so that their activities are monitored as well as dissuading them from committing fresh offences.

**7. Medical Board for Arrestees:**

All arrested individuals have to be medically examined as per law. However, this provision is misused by arrestees who feign illness or intimidate medical officers and obtain medical certificates to evade internment. Therefore, a board, rather than an individual doctor, should examine arrestees. An administrative officer/magistrate would be one of the members of such a board. Liaison with the district medical department in this regard is necessary. Furthermore, the regular check-up of under-trial prisoners, as dictated by the law, is not being done. The District Medical Officer (DMO) should ensure visitation of UTPs by doctors.

**8. Sustained Investigation into Cases:**

It was opined that cases should not be allowed to die out due to lack of adequate attention, thereby emboldening criminal elements. Investigations into cases should be all-encompassing, sustained and unremitting. All possible informants and suspects should be questioned, both to arrive at the truth of the matter as well as to

convey to the public that the wheels of justice are turning. Relevant to this point is the recent case of the burning of GHSS, Bebo Colony and the investigation thereof. As directed earlier, a weekly report on the status of the investigation in the particular case is to be submitted to the DC without fail.

**9. Mobile Check-Points (*Naka Bandhis*):**

The law enforcing departments (police and CAPF) shall set up check-points (*naka-bandhis*) at different locations to check criminal activities and movement of bad characters. Unregistered vehicles shall be seized at such check-points and cases registered against the offenders.

**10. Seizure of Unregistered Vehicles and Motor-Cycles:**

Apart from seizures of vehicles at Check-Points (*naka bandhis*), drives should be conducted by the Officer-in-Charge, PS, Seppa, and size all unregistered vehicles, with particular emphasis on motor-cycles, which are the case of most instances of traffic violations and accidents in the township. Cases should be filed against such violators under appropriate sections of the law. Such drives should also be undertaken regularly by the District Transport Officer (DTO) to rein in the menace of reckless driving and also to curb loss of government revenue.

**11. Police Check Gate at Bana:**

The possibility of establishing a police check-gate at Bana was discussed. Such a check-gate would afford the law enforcement agencies the wherewithal to keep a tab on the movement of criminal elements/law-breakers. The physical requirements of the gate and provision of accommodation to the police personnel are relevant to this proposal. The tourist lodge at Bana can accommodate the police personnel, it was opined.

**12. Setting up CCTV Cameras in the Market Areas:**

It was strongly felt that setting up CCTV cameras at vital locations in the market areas of Seppa township would deter the commission of crimes as well as aid the law enforcement agencies in their preventive and investigative works. Such cameras may be obtained through donations by members of the trading community.

**13. Check on Illegal Business Operations:**

a) Control of Illicit Sales by Wineshops:

Wineshops indulge in the practice of selling their products through the backdoor after closing hours. Surprise checks by patrolling teams and closing up of backdoor-windows may help control this unlawful practice.

b) Timely Closure of Snooker Parlours:

Snooker parlours are liable to attract unsavoury characters, especially at night-time. Therefore, it is essential that they are closed at the prescribed time of 0800 pm. Patrolling parties should arrest the management and seize snooker items in cases of violation of timings by snooker parlours.

c) Control of Unauthorised Sale of Meat:

Unauthorised sale of meat on the roadsides should be prevented. As per earlier directions to the police, such items should be seized and disposed off

