

**MANIPUR**



**GAZETTE**

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No. 37

Imphal, Thursday, May 29, 2024

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**GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR  
SECRETARIAT : LAND RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

**ORDER BY THE GOVERNOR : MANIPUR**

Imphal, the 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2023

**No. DRO-107/1/2023-REV-REVENUE:** Whereas the Sub-Divisional Officer, Saitu-Gamphazol issued an Order No. 14-11-2009 dated 14.11.2009 allowing the recognition of Leisenbung Village as a separate village under Kangchup Circle with Shri Paokhojang Kipgen, as its Chief.

2. Whereas, clarifications were sought from Forest Department on the matter vide letter No. DRO-107/1/2023-REV-REVENUE date 04.04.2023;

3. Whereas, Forest Department vide letter No. 3/4/2011/Forests dated 04.04.2023 has confirmed that the boundary of the so-called Leisenbung Village falls within the boundary of Langol Reserved Forests;

4. Whereas, Forest Department has further confirmed that Langol Reserved Forests was notified by the Manipur State Darbar vide Resolution No. 4 dt. 02.11.1938. As per Section 4 of the Union Territories (Laws) Act 1950 (Act No. 30 of 1950), the resolution of the State Darbar is deemed to have been taken under the provision of the corresponding Act and the legal position of the Langol Hills of being a Reserved Forest since 1938 has been upheld by the Courts including the Hon'ble High Court of Manipur.

5. Whereas, Forest Department has also confirmed that under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and as per the directive of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Order dt. 12.12.1996 in WP(C) No. 202 of 1995 and also Order dated 21.07.2022 in Civil Appeal No. 10294 of 2013, no forest land including the Reserved Forests, Protected Forests and any other forests irrespective of legal classification and ownership can be diverted for other purpose including settlement of villages except with the prior approval of the Central Government. The said orders of Sub-Divisional Officer, Saitu-Gamphazol dated 14.11.2009 is a violation of provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927; Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; Manipur Forest Rules, 2012 and the Hon'ble Supreme Court Orders mentioned above. Forest Department has also requested to cancel the above Order dated 14.11.2009;

6. Whereas, the area falling under the said Leisenbung village had been transferred to Imphal District vide Manipur Gazette No. 37 dated 16<sup>th</sup> January, 1985, and is now under Imphal West district subsequent to creation of Imphal West and Imphal East districts in 1997;

7. Whereas, Section 5 of the MLR&LR Act, 1960 defines the jurisdiction of Sub-Divisional Officers;

8. Whereas, Sub-Divisional Officer, Saitu Gamphazol has no jurisdiction over Imphal West district;
9. Whereas, the order of Sub-Divisional Officer, Saitu Gamphazol dated 14.11.2009 is therefore in violation of the MLR&LR Act, 1960;
10. Whereas, further, under the then Rules of Business of the Government of Manipur 2001, the entry (viii) Creation of Districts, Sub-Divisions, Tehsils and villages and alteration of boundaries thereof has been allocated to the Revenue Department at sl. No. 28;
11. Whereas, in implementation of these Rules, the competent authority to issue order for creation of villages is the Revenue Department (now Land Resources Department);
12. Whereas, the Revenue Department has not delegated power to issue such order to the Sub-Divisional Officer, Saitu Gamphazol;
13. Whereas, the order of the Sub-Divisional Officer, Saitu Gamphazol is also therefore in violation of said Rules of Business of the Government of Manipur 2001;
14. Whereas, in view of paras 5, 9 and 13 above, the order of the Sub-Divisional Officer, Saitu Gamphazol is illegal in law;
15. Whereas, the order dated 14.11.2009 is required to be cancelled in view of its illegality;
16. Now, therefore, the Governor of Manipur is pleased to declare the Order no. 14-11-2009 dated 14.11.2009 of Sub-Divisional Officer, Saitu Gamphazol regarding recognition of Leisenbung Village as null and void ab initio.

By Orders and in the name of the Governor,

CHANDAM BOBO SINGH,  
Deputy Secretary (Land Resources),  
Government of Manipur.