**Minute of the 15th Meeting of the State Advisory Committee (SAC)**

**Venue :** Hotel Japfu, Kohima, Nagaland.  **Date :** Wednesday, the 29th June, 2022.

Chairperson NERC, Shri.Khose Sale welcomed the SAC Members, Director N&RE, Chief Electrical Inspector and Senior Officers of DoPN. Sharing the reasons of the Commission inability to conduct SAC Meeting for the past 2 years, Chairman assured that in the coming days to come – SAC Meetings will be scheduled at regular specified intervals. In turn, senior-most SAC Member Capt. Hekiye Sema on behalf of all Members present welcomed the new Chairperson wishing him a very successful tenure and assuring cooperation.

**Agenda No: (i). Review of 14th SAC Meeting Minutes:**

Minutes of 14th SAC Meeting held on 09.03.2020 was read and taken through some key actionable issues by the Deputy Director, NERC. A major concern that emerged was non compliance of providing “True Up” data in the retail tariff petition filed by DoPN year after year. While DoPN has stated their inability to furnish the same as auditing of Commercial Accounts done by AG is not timely. However, the Committee was of the view that DoPN should be pro-active in communicating with AG, Nagaland of the need for periodic commercial audit timeline.

**Agenda No: (ii). Strengthening of State Electricity Regulatory Commission:**

The first approved sanction post of NERC was grossly inadequate for the Commission to effectively perform its expected role and deliver. The Chairperson, NERC briefed the house on the status of existing staff and additional minimal functional requirement. All Members strongly felt the need to strengthen the functioning of the Commission and advised the Commission to initiate proposal in accordance with Electricity Act, 2003. Draft proposal will be vetted and recommended by SAC prior to submission to the State Government.

**Agenda No: (iii). Need for Power Sector Reforms in Nagaland:**

DoPN briefed the Members on the status of organisational reform proposal already with the State Government namely – formation of SPV for Generation Development, State Transmission Utility, Distribution Company covering urban areas in Dimapur & Kohima and SLDC still functioning under DoPN. SAC Members were fully supportive of DoPN initiatives and impressed upon State Government to accept, approve and implement reform proposals without delay in line with the State Power Policy of Nagaland.

On infrastructure reform intervention, DoPN briefed the house on the status of pre-paid meter installation and its positive impact on revenue collection with over 20,000 consumers already connected in Kohima and Dimapur. And that plans and proposal to scale up in line with GoI Policy of 100% pre-paid metering by 2025. Members appreciated the action plan of the Department while advising DoPN to sensitize and create awareness of the benefits to the consumers.

As part of institutional strengthening, Members also advised NERC to revive the State Coordination Forum and District Coordination Committee which were already notified during 2011.

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**-2-**

**Agenda No: (iv). Promotion of Renewable Energy (RE) in Nagaland:**

Concern with environment and climate issues, GoI has a very aggressive policy to develop, generate and consume renewable energy. While deliberating over some activities relating to solar energy development in the State, SAC observed that proper coordination is lacking between DoPN and N&RE. Both being State Government Department, role and responsibility should be clearly defined – this issue requires immediate attention of the State Government.

As designated nodal agency for Energy Conservation of the State, Chief Electrical Inspector gave an impact assessment of “Green Village” energy conservation program that has been successfully implemented over the years by the Inspectorate. With additional fund more villages can be covered – more villages can benefit. SAC was appreciative of the scheme benefit and recommends to the Government for increase in coverage.

The 15th Meeting of the State Advisory Committee (SAC) was closed with “Thanks” from the Chair.

*Sd/-*

**Er. HEKAVI N. AYEMI**)

Deputy Director,

Nagaland Electricity Regulatory

Commission (NERC), Kohima.