

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

NOTIFICATION

No. FOR/CC/29/2019/Pt/637

Dated Shillong the 18th July 2023

The Governor of Meghalaya is pleased to issue Guidelines for Preservation and Conservation of Water Bodies in the State of Meghalaya.

These guidelines may be called the Meghalaya Waterbodies (Preservation and Conservation) Guidelines, 2023. These are issued as guiding principles for conservation, preservation, protection of the water bodies following the principle of sustainable development and inter generation of equity within the State of Meghalaya.

1. Short Title & Commencement –

- (1) These guidelines may be called the Meghalaya Waterbodies (Preservation and Conservation) Guidelines, 2023.
- (2) These guidelines shall come into force on the date of their publication in the official Gazette.

2. Definitions –

- (1) In these Guidelines unless the context otherwise requires –
 - (a) “**Government**” means the State Government of Meghalaya;
 - (b) “**Competent Authority**” for Urban Areas shall mean and included State Government, Meghalaya Urban Development Authority constituted under the Meghalaya Town and Country Planning Act, 1973, Municipal Bodies and for any other area Authority so notified by the Government.
 - (c) “**Waterbodies**” means the areas of land natural or manmade in the State of Meghalaya where the rainwater accumulates and acts as natural reservoir or storm water reservoir which is bounded by all sides and characterized by substantial and persistent volume of water and so notified by the Government.

3. No person shall undertake the following activities in any of the waterbodies:
 - a. Dump or throw solid waste or garbage in the waterbodies;
 - b. Discharge untreated sewage, industrial effluents or any other pollutants into the waterbodies, directly or indirectly;
 - c. Obstruct or interfere with the activities of the Competent Authority or other designated agencies tasked with the preservation and protection of the waterbodies.
4. Subject to any other laws which are for the time being in force in Meghalaya, no person after coming into force of these Guidelines shall without the permission of the Competent Authority:
 - a. Carry out any mining or excavation activities in the waterbodies;
 - b. Exploit the waterbodies for commercial fishing or aquaculture activities that may disrupt the natural ecosystem;
 - c. Undertake any activities including the filling up of waterbodies which may cause damage or reduce the size of the waterbodies;
 - d. Construct or erect any structure in the waterbodies.
5. Any person aggrieved by the order of the Competent Authority under Guideline 4 may submit representation before the State Government within thirty days from the date of such order, whose decision thereon shall be final.
6. Without permission of the Competent Authority, no person shall be entitled to take up any project or scheme of tourism or water-based recreation for better management, preservation and conservation of the waterbodies.

Sd/-

(Syed Md. A. Razi, IRTS)

Commissioner and Secretary to Govt. of Meghalaya
Forest and Environment Department

Copy to:-

- 1) P.S to the Chief Minister of Meghalaya for kind information of Hon'ble Chief Minister.
- 2) P.S to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya for kind information of the Chief Secretary.
- 3) P.S to the Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya Water Resources Department for kind information of the Additional Chief Secretary.
- 4) The Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya Forest and Environment/Urban Affairs/Soil and Water Conservation/Tourism/PHE Departments for kind information.
- 5) The Law Department for information.
- 6) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Meghalaya, Shillong.
- 7) The Director, Urban Affairs Meghalaya Shillong.
- 8) The Director, Tourism Meghalaya Shillong.
- 9) All the Deputy Commissioners, Meghalaya for information and necessary action.
- 10) The Member Secretary, Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board
- 11) The Secretary Meghalaya Urban Development Authority(MUDA) Shillong for information and necessary action.
- 12) CEO, Municipal Boards, Shillong, Jowai, Tura, Williamngar, Resubelpara and Bagmara for information and necessary action
- 13) The Director of Printing and Stationary, Meghalaya, Shillong with a request to publish the Notification in the Meghalaya Gazette.
- ✓ 14) State Informatics Officer, NIC Shillong Meghalaya with a request to upload in the Government website.

By orders etc.,



Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya
Forests and Environment Department.