

**Proceedings of Extra Ordinary Gram Sabha Meeting held on 22/09/2019** at 10.00 am in the premises of Panchayat Conference Hall, Buticas Navelim, This meeting is presided over by the Sarpanch Smt. Vilma D'Silva.

The signatures of the members present are taken on the attendance register where in 16 members are present. Earlier this meeting is adjourned by half an hour after waiting for 15 minutes and the same started at 10.45 am.

**1. To discuss and finalise the draft Coastal Zone Management Plan.**

Franky Pires	Proposer
All Gram Sabha Members	Seconder

The Gram Sabha member Shri. Siddharth Karapurkar explained the CZMP Plan in details with pictorial depictions on the Projection Screen. During the said meeting the Gram Sabha Members were greatly disturbed to observe the arbitrary, unscientific and illegal procedures adopted by you while preparing the draft Coastal Zone Management Plans for our village and the rest of Goa State.

The Gram Sabha Members termed that the draft Plan put up for review is completely wrong and the draft plans need to be prepared in consultation with the local stakeholders, failing which the entire process will be an eyewash, leading to loss of livelihoods of lakhs of people, while destroying both the environment and social fabric of the state of Goa.

The Gram Sabha Members pointed the following faults which were discussed at large and the same are listed below for your reference and further consideration:-

**1. Failure to consult the local residents:**

The Gram Sabha Members discussed that Contrary to the guidelines laid down in the CRZ Notification, the Government of Goa and NCSCM have avoided consulting the local stakeholders till date. It is discussed that the villagers, fisher folk and farmers, equipped with thousands of years of direct scientific experiences, possess all the knowledge of the CRZ areas of their wards, including the natural features, ecologically and economically important areas, people's usages and practices, sustainable uses, and the resources needed to deal with natural calamities and climate change. Not a single person on the ground has been consulted, giving rise to draft plans that have little to do with the ground reality.

**2. False promises and deadlines:**

The Gram Sabha Members discussed that though the Director of Environment, Minister of Environment and other officials are repeatedly promising to send their officials to the people for consultation, no person has visited the Village Panchayat Navelim or the people for discussion in the matter till date, on the contrary, the Government is repeatedly threatening the people that only the submissions made before 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2019 will be considered while preparing the draft, forcing people into desperate attempts to collect data and prepare alternative plans as asked by the Minister for Environment.

3. Failure to visit the site:

The Gram Sabha Members inquired with the Sarpanch if any official from The NCSCM has visited Navelim villages to which the Sarpanch's reply was negative. Therefore it is termed that the Government has never seen or understood our unique khazans, sluice gates, agricultural and fishing practices, fish and shell fish breeding areas, impact of tourism or dependence of lakhs of people on these CRZ areas for livelihood and environmental security.

4. No secondary data considered/available:

The Gram Sabha of Navelim in consideration of the above points opined that The Government of Goa, including the Fisheries Department, Revenue Department, Environment Department, Agricultural Department, Captain of Ports, etc have very little data and hence, the draft CZMPs cannot be prepared unless all the data regarding the fisher folk, farmers, sluice gates, bandhs, farming, fish breeding and ecologically sensitive areas is collected and made available. The Gram Sabha members pointed out that even the scanty information available with the Departments, such as registered fisher folk, fishing auction rights, registered vessels, existing authorized developments, etc is not reflecting on the draft plans as received by the Panchayat.

Since, the Government has failed to send their experts to our village and due to the impossible deadlines given instead, the Gram Sabha of Navelim resolved to prepare alternate plans using the knowledgeable persons.

Further, in order to supplement the map being submitted herewith, the Gram Sabha Members of this Panchayat pointed out the following flaws in the draft plans prepared by NCSCM for our village:

1. FISHING AREAS NOT MARKED

It is discussed that, Navelim village is gifted with large fishing areas within the Sal river, as well as within our khazan lands. Not a single fishing area of our village is shown on the draft plans. These fishing activities are the food security and livelihood of our villagers. The entire Sal River is used for fishing, as we have been doing for thousands of years. We have numerous ogors (traditional fish ponds) / salt pans in our village that sustain the lives and livelihoods of the Villagers of Navelim.

2. FISH BREEDING AREAS NOT MARKED

It is discussed that, the water bodies of our village and the Sal river are fish breeding areas where numerous marine species of ecological and commercial value breed, feed and flourish. The khazans are exceptional fish breeding grounds due to the presence of shallow breeding areas, excellent supply of food due to the stubble of paddy crops and other biotic elements, and protection from the rougher waters of the river and predators.

3. EXISTING BANDHS NOT MARKED

It is discussed that the draft plans do not show many of our bandhs indicating the complete failure of NCSCM and Goa Government to apply their minds. This is a most fundamental error affecting the entire plans, since the CRZ areas are completely wrong as a result.

**4. SLUICE GATES NOT MARKED**

It is discussed that the draft plans do not show any of our sluice gates, though many of them are clearly visible even on google earth imagery. The Gram Sabha members termed this as a gross negligence which is inexplicable and unforgivable, since the HTL and CRZ demarcations are completely wrong due to the negligence of the authorities.

**5. WRONG HTL DEMARCATION.**

It is discussed that the HTL demarcated on the draft plans is completely wrong due to the failure to appreciate the existing bandhs and sluice gates. Due to the incorrect HTL, many houses are unnecessarily shown within CRZ.

**6. NO INDICATIONS OF MASSIVE POLLUTION**

It is discussed that the Sal River is suffering from massive pollution due to the urban and industrial developments at Margao City and other areas in the watershed of the river, gravely affecting the water quality, environment, fisheries and our livelihoods. The severe pollution due to sewage, garbage and industrial pollutants is decimating the fisheries and wildlife of Sal river, and is therefore the biggest threat to the CRZ areas of our village. Our fish catch has dwindled rapidly over the past few decades, causing huge losses to us. The environment and ecology of our village is also gravely affected, with many species of fish disappearing from our river.

**7. EXISTING DEVELOPMENTS NOT SHOWN**

It is discussed that the draft plans only show some of the structures existing before 1972-74, but completely fails to show the structures constructed after 1974. The guidelines under the CRZ Notification require all existing authorized developments to be clearly marked on the plans and the draft plans cannot be put up for public comments without demarcating all of the existing structures as per the law, since it will be impossible for every affected person, especially the poor, under privileged, fisher folk and farmers to point out their missing homes, leading to grave injustice. The Gram Sabha member Shri. Siddharth Karapurkar probed that this is all the more important considering that since the CRZ law was passed in 1991, only the houses of the poor are demolished, even if they have existed for hundreds of years, while illegal constructions of the rich are unaffected. As an example he alluded to, please investigate how NCSCM has given false reports to make a huge hotel of Triumph Reality at sy no 336/1-A, Benaulim village, Salcete taluka, Goa legal, though it was illegally constructed after 1994 by destroying a huge sand dune and filling low-lying fields without any permissions at all, while large number of legal fisher folk structures have been demolished across Goa.

In view of the above, it is requested that the attached plan prepared by the Village Panchayat of Navelim after detailed deliberations with the expert local fisher folk and farmers, physical verification and consultations with Gram Sabha and affected residents be accepted and adopted fully as the draft CZMP for our village, and that no changes be considered without placing the proposed changes before the Gram Sabha of our village. Further, The Gram Sabha resolved to reserve the right to place before you additional submissions as and when necessary.

Dy. Sarpanch Shri. Paul Pereira extended vote of thanks to the Gram Sabha Members for their presence and active participation in the discussion and the meeting ended at 12.05 p.m.

Recorded by:

Sd/-  
(Joaquim Rodrigues)  
Secretary, V.P. Navelim.

Sd/-  
(Vilma D'Silva)  
Sarpanch, V.P. Navelim.