

QUORUM

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE BROJENDRA PRASAD KATAKEY,  
FORMER JUDGE, GAUHATI HIGH COURT, GUWAHATI

DR. SHANTANU KUMAR DUTTA, SCIENTIST 'D'  
REPRESENTATIVE OF CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
(Email id: shantanucpcb@gmail.com)

IN THE MATTER OF

Threat to Life Arising Out of Coal Mining in South Garo Hills District

-Vs-

The State of Meghalaya & Ors.  
And other connected matters

PRESENT

- : **Mr. H.C. Chaudhary, IFS,**  
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,  
(Planning, Development and Legal Matters),  
Government of Meghalaya.  
Email id: harishcc@yahoo.com
- : **Mr. B. Hajong**  
Director,  
Directorate of Employment and Craftsmen Training  
Labour Department, Government of Meghalaya &  
The Executive Director, Meghalaya State Skill  
Development Society  
Email id: bhupeshhajong01@gmail.com
- : **Mr. Mendon Pariat**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Meghalaya State Skill Development Society  
Shillong
- : **Mr. Carmo Noranha**  
Executive Director  
Bethany Society, Shillong  
(Email: betahnyngo@rediffmail.com)
- : **Mr. Ricky Renthlei**  
**Senior Programme Coordinator (Livelihood)**  
Bethany Society, Shillong  
(Email: ricky\_renthlei@yahoo.com)



PROCEEDING NO. 14-A

RECORD OF THE MINUTES OF VISIT TO THE SKILL TRAINING CENTRE OF BETHANY SOCIETY, VERONICA LANE, LAITUMKHRAH, SHILLONG UNDERTAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED BY THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE B. P. KATAKEY, FORMER JUDGE, GAUHATI HIGH COURT HELD AT 3.00 PM ONWARDS ON 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE, 2019

1. At the outset Mr. Carmo Noranha extended his warm welcome to the Chairman and other Members of the Committee. He informed that Bethany Society follows and promotes the philosophy; **“Humans and Earth Fully Alive”** which is an inherent theme of all its programmes. In accordance with the same, they are committed to creating sustainable livelihood opportunities which are ethical, efficient, economical and inclusive in nature. The goal is to always reduce drudgery and promote stewardship towards the earth by the use of appropriate technology which are simple to implement. These technologies are largely inspired by nature and natural phenomenon where the focus is to learn from and mimic the natural forest ecosystem.



2. The Chairman stated that the core agenda of the visit of the Committee to the Centre was to understand the feasibility, replicability, and sustainability of the technologies being implemented by Bethany Society for providing an alternative livelihood model/opportunity to people from the remote regions of Meghalaya who are currently engaged in Coal mining for their livelihood which indeed poses a major risk to their personal well-being and also to the environment.

A blue ink signature, likely of the Chairman, is written in the bottom left corner of the page.



3. The team was thus introduced to the current practices of integrated farming (livestock, vegetable cultivation, soil & waste management, resource conservation) which are based on the principles of natural farming and zero waste. The major technologies discussed were Bokashi (Smell-less Piggery/Poultry), Keyhole Garden, Recycling and water conservation (Handmade Paper Unit), Composting, Mushroom cultivation. It was demonstrated how livestock can be reared in an environment which resembles their natural habitat (by creating a forest floor) along with integrating it with crop cultivation and composting techniques. This model of integrated farming is climate smart, relevant to Meghalaya's context and reduces the input cost significantly while also producing products viz. organic vegetables, bio-fertilizers, eggs, chicken/pigs, mushroom etc. which have a ready and consistent demand both in the local market and abroad.



4. This model of integrated farming using appropriate technology has been collectively deemed to be replicable at the village level by individuals or communities and one which prevents exploitation and promotes harmony with the environment. Besides, another salient feature of the technology and model being practiced is that it is accessible and affordable for and by all including persons with disabilities, which makes it truly inclusive in nature. The Committee

put on record its deep appreciation that the Bethany Society in collaboration with 7 other NGO partners in Meghalaya along with Meghalaya State Skills Development Society (MSSDS) are committed to creating such models at the village level and promoting it as a viable and sustainable alternative to livelihoods across Meghalaya.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'B. Katakey', is written over the printed name and title.

**(JUSTICE BROJENDRA P. KATAKEY)**  
**CHAIRMAN**