

AN APPRAISAL REPORT OF THE EXPERT GROUP CONSTITUTED FOR STUDY OF THE SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT **REPORT OF PENUMAKA(V)**

The District Collector, Guntur, has constituted an Expert Group vide Rc/B/251/2016 dated 08-09-2016 as required under the Section 7 of the LA R&R Act, 2013, for appraisal of Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Report and Social impact Management Plan (SIMP). The Expert Group consisted of the following, namely:

1. Dr. R. Veeraraghavaiah, Dean of Post-Graduate Studies, ANGRAU, Guntur.
2. Dr. A.V.V.S. Swamy, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Environmental Science, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur.
3. Dr. M. Trimurthi Rao, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sociology and Social Work, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur.
4. Dr. K. Somasekhar, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Rural Development, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur.
5. Sri D. Roshan Kumar, Director, Social Educational and Economic Development Society, Guntur.
6. Sri Thulluri Sudhakar, Independent Engineering Consultant, Hyderabad.
7. Pattan Jani Khan s/o Bhashith Khan, Member, Gram Panchayat, Penumaka.
8. Turaka Naresh Babu, s/o Prasad, Member, Gram Panchayat, Penumaka.

The committee has gone through the SIA study report, the proceedings of the Public Hearing, the details of Socio Economic Study conducted, the EIA study reports, and notified Master Plan pertaining to the Capital City area in addition to making a visit to Penumaka village, to study in respect of following issues:

- Whether the project serves any public purpose
- Whether the potential benefits outweigh the social costs and adverse social impacts
- Whether the extent of land proposed to be acquired is the absolute bare minimum extent needed for the project.
- Whether there are other less displacing options available.

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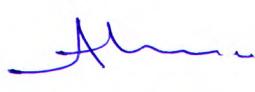
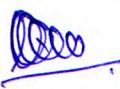
It was observed from the final SIA and SIMP reports, Capital City Master Plan, Infrastructure:

The State of Andhra Pradesh has been put under reorganization through the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act 2014, which resulted in the loss of Capital city of then State namely Hyderabad. Accordingly, a dire need arose for identifying suitable area for establishment capital in the new state of Andhra Pradesh. In this context, the Cabinet of Government of Andhra Pradesh met on 01-09-2014 and resolved “to locate the Capital City in the central place of the state, around Vijayawada, and to go for decentralized development of the State with 3 Mega Cities and 14 Smart Cities. It is proposed to go for Land Pooling System to be worked out by the Cabinet Sub Committee”. Therefore, the Government came up with a new scheme called Land Pooling Scheme wherein landholders come forward proactively to participate in the scheme by offering their lands to share benefits from the development of Capital City in a win-win situation, which the state Government like to call the new capital so developed as the “People Capital”, christened as “Amaravati Capital City”.

Public Purpose: The project proposed, Amaravathi Capital City, satisfies the norm of public purpose (-any purpose, for the own use, hold and control of the appropriate Govt. including public sector undertakings, for infrastructure projects is a public purpose) as per the Section 2 of the LA R&R Act, 2013. As it is going to serve as a Capital City with all state of art infrastructure facilities, it certainly serves public purpose of entire State of Andhra Pradesh as well. Further, the proactive participation of public, the landowners by voluntary land pooling, also testifies that it would serve public purpose.

Potential benefits vis-à-vis social costs and adverse social impacts:

It is observed that this project is aimed at constructing a green field Capital City, mainly acquiring the lands under voluntary Land Pooling Scheme as per the provisions of AP CRDA Act, 2014 and AP Capital City LPS (F & I) Rules, 2015. The proposed Amaravati Capital City Andhra Pradesh falls in Guntur district covering an area of Ac 38049.48 cents belong to 31 villages. Penumaka unit is one of those 31 Villages from which a total area of Ac.1645.4580 cents is proposed for acquisition out of the total geographical area of Ac 2185.4200 cents.

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Against the requirements of Ac. 1645.4580 cents lands for infrastructure development under the project from Penumaka (V)/ LPS Unit area within Amaravati Capital City Development Project, Ac. 920.5648 cents have been acquired under voluntary Land Pooling and the balance of Ac. 724.8932 cents are proposed for acquisition under LA R&R Act, 2013. The location of the proposed lands for acquisition fall under Survey numbers ranging from 3-B to 342-D with land area ranging from about 1.0 cent to Ac 5.25 cents. This land proposed for acquisition, Ac. 724.8932 cents, owned by 1134 people of which 886 people owns less than an acre shows how valuable this land for them to meet their livelihoods mostly by raising flowers and vegetables that demands for more labour mostly meeting their family labour, has resulted in denial for land acquisition compared to those from the rest of the villages in CRDA. These lands proposed for acquisitions, however, are in intermix with those given under pooling scheme. Therefore, a contiguous land block couldn't be made unless both of these put together for any development that requires large contiguous block. Certainly, the project affects 628 people in the Village of those more than 26.43 % are above the age of 51 years and 27.23 % are illiterates. The project as a whole has a much impact on the livelihoods and normal life of the people of the village. The potential benefits expected due to this developmental project would certainly outweigh the present negative impact on the society in the long run.

The main potential benefit identified is the construction of Capital City Development Project. The benefits contemplated are the construction of arterial roads connecting the village with educational institutions/health institutions/ Govt. Complexes and access to marketing and other livelihood requirements to the residents with the development of greenery to be more environmentally sound.

Costs benefit Analysis:

The project cost is estimated at Rs. 1694.82 crores. In view of the Govt. providing tier-I infra-City level infra to Penumaka unit LPS for providing basic amenities and facilities the project cost is on the higher side, when compared to social costs and Social impacts. Further, Govt. is investing in implementing development of infrastructure in the village to ensure health and sanitation levels at par with Capital City Project area.

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Minimum Extent needed & Alternatives:

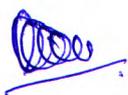
The Capital City area is notified by Government and as per the Master Plan requirements all lands proposed for land acquisition are needed for construction of Capital City Development Project. To have a compact block for taking up the infrastructure development project, there is no choice for exclusion of certain small pockets of land or working out for alternative lands for them as the project area notified by the Govt. for the purpose of construction of Capital City and to implement the Master Plan conceived. Further, the land area proposed for acquisition in the village under the LA R&R Act, 2013 is only Ac. 724.8932 (44.0257% of the total area proposed in the village) as against 55.9742 % of lands acquired under Land Pooling Scheme. The extent of land proposed for acquisition from the Village is very less as compared to the total land given under Voluntary Pooling for the capital city development as a whole.

Displacement & Relief:

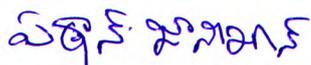
As the village site and habitation has been demarcated and other lands required for village development have been included in residential planning zone (R1) as per notified Master Plan, the displacement of Village habitat is very less. During the visit made by the Expert Group, a few other land owners are also ready for offering the land under the LPS if the Revenue Officials clears up survey disputes in addition to sorting out of demarcation of village site/habitation (*Gramakantam*). The Committee is of the opinion that these issues can be solved easily and go for the LPS in a win-win way rather than going for the LA.

All the land owners, however, are sentimentally attached to these lands/houses over generations and meeting all their livelihoods from these lands only. In general, there is a stern resistance for acquisition of lands in the Village as many people depend on less than one acre but intensively cultivating that small area by putting a lot of their family labour as well. The Villagers have expressed many concerns, apprehensions, and problems, which were explicitly expressed in *Gramasabha* that were incorporated in final SIA report and also put forward to in our meeting as well.

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The concerns of the people are:

- All *Jareebu* lands are marked as dry lands in the proposed land acquisition needs to be corrected.
- 9.2 objections are to be resolved immediately
- Enumeration of livestock needs to be incorporated in the SIA final report
- Many landless labourers are migrating due to lack of works for livelihood.
- *Gramakantams* are to be finalised before commencement of any development activities.
- Irrigation Water stopped for agriculture lands not given under pooling.
- Penumaka village is to exempted from the process of acquisition as it is not in the seed capital (as per master plan)
- Endowment land disputes are to be resolved without jeopardizing livelihood of certain families depending on those lands over generations
- The small water tanks and ponds existing in the area need to be protected by the CRDA.
- Actual Rental values to be reimbursed for those lost their houses for at least one year or till such time they are rehabilitated in the new houses.
- The compensation for construction of new houses should be paid on a par with capital construction rates i.e.@ 3,500/- to 5,000/-
- Commercial shops should have special package under rehabilitation.
- Crop loans and subsidies are not given for the last two years
- Lands taken under LPS should not be sold to private parties
- 500 m should be left along the village while deciding *Gramakantams*
- Handicraft and artisans needs special protective measures to continue on their occupation.
- Instead of proposed seed access road (Manipal Hospital to Dondapadu-21.5 km) the road from NRI Hospital-Surayapalem (NHAI) can be used as alternative.

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Evaluation of SIA/SIMP Report:

The acquisition of land is an issue which has both efficiency and equity dimensions. However prosperity the project brings in future, the present impact on human settlements in the area is quite difficult to quantify. Therefore, there is an immense need to address the human costs and the measures to be taken should create trust and hope preferably with immediate monetary gains to create confidence in the functioning of the system. Concrete plan to avoid impoverishment risks and restore/ upgrade the incomes and livelihood of the affected families shall be made in place immediately. Food security measures shall be taken for the loss of agriculture productivity in area. The literacy rate in the village Penumaka is poor (62.7%) compared to that of the State average of 73% showing their dependency on non-skilled village wage earning activities, primarily on the agriculture. Therefore there is a need to create employment to earn their bread but with immediate payment of unemployment gratuity especially based on individuals' minimum needs rather than based on a family because all the members in landless family in a village are mostly daily wage earners. Further, 13.51 per cent of the PAPs are more than 50 year old, who needs much health care and financial assistance.

Ameliorative Measures Recommended:

All the Residents of the Village, both Farmers and Non-farmers, who are all in very jubilant moods of having State Capital to their vicinity shouldn't feel threatened of losing their normal livelihoods and houses in the Village area to which they are morally, sentimentally and ancestrally attached to. Therefore, those people, who have to lose their houses under acquisition even after considering all possible alternatives, have to be well rehabilitated in such a way that they shouldn't feel the loss. In addition to giving suitable positive consideration to those concerns of the people affected as listed earlier, the Committee recommends the following measures:

1. Working for all possible ways for realignment of Roads to safeguard the Village integrity and its *Gramakantam* without affecting any inhabitation of the Village, as far as possible.
2. Immediate up gradation of skills of the people affected as the Agricultural livelihoods are to be converted into non-agricultural livelihoods and urban agricultural livelihoods.
3. The food production lost by converting these agricultural lands to carry out the Capital Project, the food production so lost should be made good by intensifying agriculture activities in other areas of the state.

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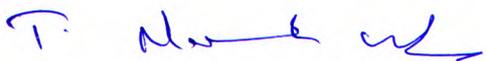
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4. Provision of ample access to interest free credit to encourage self-employment.
5. All PAFs should be provided with healthcare and quality education.
6. Creation of varied opportunities for the people affected and impart them the skills accordingly.
7. New Technologies like Urban intensive and Terrace production of vegetables growth can be promoted.
8. Timely and regular disbursement of monthly compensation for unemployment that needs to be based on persons and not based on family for all the affected landless people and daily wage earners in the project areas. The minimum wage used to be Rs. 100/- and maximum used to be Rs.500/- depending on the nature of work and season and the average wage per day is calculated as Rs.300 and thus the minimum earning of a land less labour per month used to be Rs.9000/- per head as it used to be a land with agricultural activity in the village throughout the year, whereas the Government's plan of paying only Rs.2500/- per family as compensation amounts just 27.8% of an individual's average earnings and it needs to be calculated by multiplying with number of individuals working in the family. Therefore, every member in the family should get at least Rs.9000/- per month. Further, these affected families may be considered for more entitlements under the regular public distribution system.
9. Establishment of homes for the aged people, who are neglected by their families due to the impact of the project.
10. Livelihood opportunities may be provided for the project affected families who losses livelihood by way of land acquisition as per the provisions of LAR&R Act, 2013.
11. As the soils in the area are largely deep black cotton type, the bearing ability and foundation design got to be studied scientifically with state of art technology and expertise before going for construction of any public structure in the project area.

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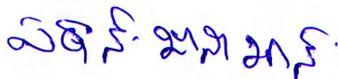
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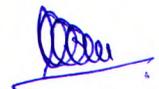
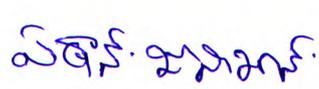
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12. A proper grievance redressal mechanism should be established for resolving disputes on LA.
13. Proper and humane arrival at payment of compensation and timely disbursement of all such benefits as contemplated under the LA R&R Act, 2013.
14. As the lands are very productive and have been supporting good cropping intensity all these years, valuation of these lands proposed for acquisition should be made as per the market value prevailing to arrive at compensation payment.

Finally, the Committee feels that the land proposed for acquisition may be acquired under the LA R&R Act, 2013 duly taking into consideration of the measures recommended to safeguard livelihoods of the people affected, who would eventually turn to future beneficiaries of the project for generations. It is also of the opinion that the Capital City Development is a historic opportunity that provides long term multiplying benefits to current as well as future residents/ population in the area in particular and for the State in general.

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