



Edition 22
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Dear All,

Greetings from Praja Foundation!

Praja Team visited Aizawl, Mizoram between 7th and 11th February 2020, to study the urban governance structures and reforms implemented in the state. Field interviews with elected representatives such as Mayor, councillors of the Aizawl Municipal Corporation (AMC), administrative officials at AMC, Public Health & Engineering Department (PHED), Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation department (UD&PA) etc., and CSO representatives including academia were conducted.

Constitution of Aizawl Municipal Corporation (AMC)



Mizoram has only one municipality i.e., Aizawl Municipal Corporation (AMC). The Mizoram Municipalities Act, 2007 was formulated for the constitution of Municipal Board, Municipal Council and Municipal Corporation in Mizoram State. Provisions of ward committee and Local Council were added later through amendment after the release of Mizoram Municipalities (Ward Committee and Local Council) Rules, 2010. The council to corporation upgradation took place in the year 2015.

Committees in AMC

AMC has six special committees focussing on various subjects such as Building Committee, Accounts Committee, Town Vending Committees etc. The committees hold meetings and take decisions over various matters relating to various subjects as and when the requirement arises.

Apart from this, ward committees have been formed at the ward level. Mizoram (Ward Committee and Local Council) Rules, 2010 provides the mandate for constitution and functioning of ward committees. The committee is formed with 2 members from each Local Council under the ward level, 2 nominated members and the ward councillor. The ward councillor is the chairman of the ward committee. The tenure of the ward committee is co-terminus with the term of the councillor i.e., five years. The ward committee makes key decisions on various matters relating to budget allocations, development schemes, monitoring and supervision of services etc. at the ward level.

Ward plans are compiled at the ward committee by incorporating proposals from the local council members in the committee. The ward councillors consult with the Mayor for incorporation of the ward plans into the corporation budget. Ward assistance fund is received through the budget once it is passed and finally approved by the board (Council). The fund is then used to prioritise projects at the ward committee and accordingly projects are executed.

Local Council System

Local Councils (erstwhile Village Councils) have been given the status of Local Councils in the Municipal Corporation jurisdiction. The elections are held within these Local Council areas in accordance to the rule of composition of Local Councils – five members for a locality of 1500 voters or less; seven members for a locality of more than 1500 voters. The members will elect the Local Council Chairman and two members to represent them in the ward committee. The Tenure of Local Council was reported as 5 years which is coterminous with the term of the corporation.

An interesting finding is that the property tax collection is entrusted in the hands of the local councils. This forms a decentralised system of collection. Administrative officials conveyed that the system is effective as there are savings in cost of property tax collection, and that local council members are the best fit for the purpose as they have a higher awareness of new properties that come up in their locality. From the corporation budget, a token amount is allotted for all the local councils. Apart from this, the local councils also receive funds through state grants known as the state tax devolution fund.

Integrated system of local governance practice

Mizoram has set a 'best practice' in terms of integrating the erstwhile village council system into the city government structure. The local councils have been empowered with decision making powers and funds to carry out their functions and implementation of projects at their level. There is a strong connect between the ward committees at ward level and local councils. The flow of planning and execution of projects apart from the flow of funds have been orderly structured and followed.

Important Links –

Mizoram (Ward Committee and Local Council) Rules, 2010

https://amcmizoram.com/uploads/files/19.%20The%20Mizoram%20Municipalities%20Ward%20Committee%20and%20Local%20Council%20Rules%202010_02082019120704.pdf

Manipur Municipalities Act, 1994

<https://manipur.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/the-manipur-municipalities-act-1994.compressed.pdf>

Kind Regards,



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