



7. Shri T. Longmei, S.A., Home (GAB), Nagaland, Kohima.
8. Shri Wangko Zeliang, President, Old Nkio Students Union, Peren District, Nagaland.
9. Shri Kunamyi Neime, Secretary, Nkio Pumling Council, Peren District, Nagaland.
10. Shri Kusap, Chairman, Old Nkio Village, Peren District, Nagaland.
11. Shri Akubo, Chairman, Nkio Pumling, Peren District, Nagaland.

### **Facts of the case**

The applicant Shri Kusap, Chairman, Old Nkio Village, Peren District filed an RTI application to the PIO of the Urban Development Department, Nagaland Secretariat on 14.03.2012 seeking 13 items of information relating to the **establishment of new townships** in Nagaland.

Since the filing of the RTI application on 14.03.2012, the said application has been moving between the Urban Development Department and Home Department up till 31.05.2012. The Urban Development Department have categorically stated that they are not the authority to handle or to notify establishment of townships but only prepare Master Plan for towns and Administrative Headquarters as may be notified by the Government. The Home Department on the other hand have stated that they are responsible for recognition of villages and establishment of Administrative Headquarters but not responsible for establishment of new townships.

Both the departments of Urban Development and Home Department have categorically stated that the establishment of **new townships** is not a subject that falls within their respective Department's responsibility.

Notwithstanding the fact that Home Department has categorically stated that the establishment of new townships does not fall within its purview, the Additional Secretary & PIO, Home Department vide his letter No.GAB-1/COM/305/2012 Dt. 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2012 furnished information to the appellant regarding information sought by him in his RTI application and also enclosed 5 Annexures in the said letter to the applicant/appellant.

## Decision

With this “**impasse**” on the account of Home Department and Urban Development Department, both denying that the setting up of new townships is being handled by them, and the hearing not reaching any definitive conclusion, the Commission in **public interest** and in **exercise of its authority to make recommendations to the Government** hereby decides as under :-

Whereas, the subject matter of establishment of new townships does not seem to be falling under the specific jurisdiction of any of the Departments, and whereas such queries on the establishment of new townships have been raised in the present RTI application and may be raised again in future and whereas future public interest warrants the enactment of law or guidelines for the setting up of new townships in Nagaland, the Commission in exercise of its authority under the provision of the RTI Act (Section 25 (5) and also Section 25 (3) (g) recommends that a **High Powered Committee** headed by Home Commissioner of Nagaland with Secretary Urban Development, Director, Urban Development, Director, Census or her representative, Director, Land Revenue as Members and Secretary, Home in-charge of GAB as Member-Secretary be constituted to frame Laws/Acts or general guidelines for the establishment of **new townships in Nagaland.**

This decision to constitute a High Powered Committee on the initiative of the Home Department is prompted by the fact that the Home Department is presently handling the subject of establishment of Administrative Headquarters and therefore **better placed** to initiate action for the enactment of laws or guidelines for setting up of new townships in Nagaland.

The said High Powered Committee may be set up by the Home Department by 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2012 under intimation to the Commission and appropriate expeditious action be initiated by the said Committee.

The appellant Shri Shri Kusap, Chairman, Old Nkio Village, Peren District having been convinced that no single definitive Department is responsible for the subject of establishment of new townships, and on the decision of the Commission recommending that the Government constitute a **High Powered Committee** as mentioned in the aforesaid paragraph, **agreed to withdraw** their complaint and await the outcome of the recommendation of the High Powered Committee which Government is expected to constitute by 15.09.2012.

With this decision pronounced, the complaint is disposed.

Decision pronounced on 09.08.2012 in the presence of all concerned.

Copies be issued to the following:-

1. Shri Neihu C. Thur, Secretary & FAA, Urban Development Department, Nagaland, Kohima.
2. Shri Ken Kreditsu, Director & FAA, Urban Dev., Nagaland, Kohima.
3. Smt. Ahola Those, Jt. Secretary & PIO, Urban Dev. Deptt., Nagaland, Kohima.
4. Smt. Meilemla Pongener, Secretary & FAA, Home Deptt, Nagaland, Kohima
5. Shri Nyimtsemo, Addl. Secy & PIO, Home Deptt., Nagaland, Kohima.
6. Shri Kusap, Chairman, Old Nkio Village, Peren District, Nagaland.

Sd/-

**Lalhuma IAS (Rtd)**

Chief Information Commissioner,  
Nagaland, Kohima

Authenticated by

Secretary  
Nagaland Information Commission