

**Land Acquisition for Construction of
Sub - Fire Service Station, at Saphai
Village West Jaintia Hills District.
Social Impact Assessment Study**



Meghalaya Institute of Governance
C/o Meghalaya State Housing Cooperative Society Ltd. Campus,
Shillong- 793003, Meghalaya

ABOUT MEGHALAYA INSTITUTE OF GOVERNANCE

The Meghalaya Institute of Governance was created as one of the institutional support mechanisms of the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA) with a vision to explore, share and promote good governance in Meghalaya by assisting the government, the private sector, the voluntary sector and the communities in putting good governance into practice.

In exercise of powers conferred by the Sub Section (1) of Section 4 of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency, Rehabilitation And Resettlement Act, 2013 (No. 30 of 2013), the Government of Meghalaya had notified the Meghalaya Institute of Governance as the State Social Impact Assessment Unit for carrying out Social Impact Assessment Study.

Declaration

This final SIA and SIMP report is based on the information given by the land owners, government officials, Revenue Department and other line departments as well as Headmen from villages falling under the proposed acquisition. Maps and project details were provided by the government officials from Revenue Department.

This Social Impact Assessment and Social Impact Management Plan is the final SIA report after the Public Hearing.

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Shillong.

Publication year: February, 2020



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Abbreviations

C&RD	-	Community and Rural Development
CPR	-	Common Property Resource
F&ES	-	Fire and Emergency Services
FGD	-	Focus Group Discussion
FS	-	Fire Station
HH	-	Households
KII	-	Key Informant Interview
MIG	-	Meghalaya Institute of Governance
NOC	-	No Objection Certificate
OSD	-	Officer on Special Duty
PAF	-	Project Affected Family
RFCTLARR	-	Right to Fair Compensation, Transparency in Land Acquisition Resettlement and Rehabilitation
SIA	-	Social Impact Assessment
SIMP	-	Social Impact Management Plan
Sub F&ES	-	Sub Fire and Emergency Services
TOR	-	Terms of Reference

Executive Summary

The Meghalaya Institute of Governance was assigned¹ the task of conducting an SIA on proposed land acquisition at Saphai, West Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya for the purpose of constructing a Sub-Fire Service Station. The area proposed to be acquired measures 2641.43 sq. m. which belongs to the Saphai village durbar.

The Saphai Sub-Fire Service Station is already present and shares office space with the Saphai Police Station. The purpose of the land acquisition is to construct a separate Sub-Fire Service Station office. The primary role of the F&ES is to provide first response in case of emergency situations. The land proposed to be acquired is 1 km away from the existing police station. It is open area with a few matured trees. It lies adjacent to the land of Smt. Ribanti Suchiang and the village land.

From the survey, it is seen that there is one abandoned semi-pucca structure on the land. A few households collect firewood from the area to be proposed. Apart from this, there is negligible negative impact on the community from the land acquisition.

During the Public Hearing held² on 21st February 2020 approximately 178 people were in attendance. There was no objection to the land acquisition and people welcomed the proposal to build the Saphai Sub-Fire Service Station.

¹ See Annexure 1

² See Annexure 4

Chapter 1: Introduction

Introduction to Social Impact Assessment

The Social Impact Assessment process began as part of the new land acquisition act called the Right to Fair Compensation, Transparency in Land Acquisition Resettlement and Rehabilitation Act, 2013 of the Government of India. It is a people friendly, rights-based approach to development that took into consideration impacts from the loss of land, probable impacts to the wellbeing, security, sentiments of the people, impacts to the institutions present near the project site that the implementation of the government project might bring about; not just from an environmental point of view but from the social - institutional point of view.

Prior to this, land acquisition was at the behest of the acquiring department. It was based on the idea of “eminent domain” wherein land was thought to be placed at the disposal of the state and land could be used in any way it saw fit without any consideration whether the acquisition of the land would be detrimental to the people who resided on or who used the land. It ignored that land acquisition for any project may also cause certain difficulties to peoples’ livelihoods, activities, social and political structure and the environment. Thus on 31st December 2014 the President of India promulgated an ordinance with the official mandate to “meet the twin objectives of farmer welfare along with expeditiously meeting the strategic and development needs of the country.”

As per the Act, the state or union government can acquire land, provided it shows the “public purpose” of the project. Public purpose includes projects related for strategic purposes such as those related to the armed forces, national security; infrastructure projects; projects which provide housing for low income groups, the poor or landless and those displaced by natural calamities or other reasons. The underlying clause in this Act was that land acquisition could only occur if 70% of the population to be affected agrees to the land acquisition.

The new land acquisition act warrants the carrying out of a Social Impact Assessment study to ascertain whether the land acquisition would be beneficial or detrimental to the community which is a stakeholder. The Meghalaya Institute of Governance, one of the instrumental support institutions of the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority was notified as the State’s Nodal Social Impact Assessment Unit as per the Right to Fair Compensation,

Transparency in Land Acquisition Resettlement Rehabilitation Act 2013 to conduct Social Impact Assessment.

Rigorous field level data collection exercises were conducted for this purpose. They begin with a preliminary site visit to assess the project site and help in preparing a detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the project. The next step, with the help of the acquiring body is to meet with direct stakeholders such as village durbar members as well as the land owners, residents of the village who would be indirectly affected by the land acquisition but directly affected by the proposed project. The final step is to hold a public meeting bringing together the district authority, the village authority, the land owners and the village residents to air out any further grievances or concerns on the proposed land acquisition.

The Meghalaya Institute of Governance was notified to conduct a Social Impact Assessment Study on land acquisition at Saphai village, West Jaintia Hills District for the purpose of setting up a sub-fire service station. The objective of the study is to prepare a complete inventory of structures, affected families and persons and to identify its social impacts.

Introduction to the Problem

The damage caused due to fires and the inability to respond effectively in times of emergencies translates to immeasurable losses to individuals and communities. According to Government of India data, in the year 2015, Meghalaya was one of the eight states in India with more than 1000 forest fires in that year. In that year alone there were 1373 forest fires, which was a 22.26% leap from the number of forest fires in 2014 which were 1123³.

For the past year there have been no incidents of fire in the village. However, before that, incidents such as burning of structures like individual houses, sawmills; and forest fires which burn agricultural products like broom grass and fruit trees. This has caused huge losses to peoples' livelihoods and income as well as their sense of security. It must be mentioned that as there are no insurance schemes available, losses due to fires are no longer compensated for.

According to a community member in Saphai, it was informed that the presence of the F&ES has been of great service to the villages in and around Laskein Block. However, at times due to poor network connectivity in the area, the F&ES's services become hampered.

³ (Forest Fires Reported during 2014 and 2015, n.d.)

About Meghalaya Fire & Emergency Service

The Meghalaya Fire & Emergency Service has five functioning Fire Stations, 29 Sub-Fire Stations and four temporary Fire Camps which are being manned by a total of 876 personnel in various stations. At present the administrative control of the six districts of the Eastern Range i.e. East Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills, West Jaintia Hills, East Jaintia Hills and Ri Bhoi District F&ES Station/Sub-Station is vested under the command and control of the Superintendent of Police (F&ES), Meghalaya, Shillong. Whereas, the remaining five district of the Western Range i.e. West Garo Hills, South West Garo Hills, East Garo Hills, North Garo Hills and South Garo Hills F&ES Station/Sub-Stations are functioning under the command and control of the respective District Superintendents of Police. However, the overall supervision is under the Addl. Director General of Police (F&ES), Meghalaya, Shillong.

The primary role of the Meghalaya Fire & Emergency Services is to attend to all fire incidents such as Special Service Calls, other emergencies such as building collapse, road accidents, drowning cases, natural disasters such as landslides, flash floods and other natural calamities. It is envisioned to make Meghalaya a fire free state⁴.

Table 1 Presence of F&ES and Sub-F&ES in Meghalaya⁵

Sl. No.	District	Name of Fire Station / Sub-Fire Station
1.	East Khasi Hills District	Shillong F&ES Station, Nongthymmai
2.	Total F&ES – 4	Barabazar F&ES Station
3.	Total Sub F&ES – 3	Mawlai F&ES Station
4.		Sohra Sub F&ES
5.		Shella Sub F&ES
6.		Mawngap Sub F&ES
7.		Governor House F&ES
8.	West Khasi Hills District	Nongstoin FS
9	Total FS – 1	Mairang F&ES
10	Total F&ES – 2	Sonaphar F&ES

⁴ (Home, n.d.)

⁵ (Meghalaya Police, n.d.)

11.	South West Khasi Hills Total F&ES – 1	Mawkyrwat F&ES
12.	Ri Bhoi District	Nongpoh F&ES
13.	Total F&ES – 3	Byrnihat F&ES
14.		Umiam F&ES
15.	West Jaintia Hills District	Jowai F&ES
16.	Total F&ES – 3	Amlarem F&ES
17.	Total Sub F&ES – 1	Dawki Sub F&ES
18.		Garampani Sub F&ES
19.	West Garo Hills	Tura F&ES
20.	Total F&ES – 5	Phulbari F&ES
21.	Total Sub F&ES – 2	Dalu F&ES
22.		Dadengiri F&ES
23.		Tikrikilla F&ES
24.		Rongram Sub-F&ES
25.		Garobadha Sub-F&ES
26.	South West Garo Hills	Ampati F&ES
27.	Total F&ES – 2	Mahendraganj F&ES
28.	East Garo Hills	Williamnagar F&ES
29.	Total F&ES – 2	Rongjeng F&ES
30.	North Garo Hills Total F&ES – 1	Mendipathar F&ES
31.	South Garo Hills	Baghmara F&ES
32.	Total F&ES – 2	Nanglbibra F&ES
	MEGHALAYA	Total F&ES – 25 Total FS – 1 Total Sub F&ES – 6

From the table above we can see that there are a total of 25 F&ES stations, one FS and six Sub F&ES in Meghalaya.

Project Proposal

The project proposal includes the construction of a Sub-Fire Service Station at Saphai village. This is an already existing service, housed at the Saphai police station. Due to the absence of its own facility, the sub fire service station cannot function to its full potential.

The proposed project area measures an area of 2641.43 sq.m for the fire station to have its own office of operation. The land to be acquired is in Saphai village and owned by the Village Durbar itself. The Saphai Sub-Fire Service Station would serve not just Saphai village, but the other villages under Laskein C&RD Block in times of road accidents, natural calamities, fire, etc.

Project Location

The proposed location for establishment of a separate Sub-Fire Service Station is about 1 km more or less from the existing Sub-Fire Service Station in Saphai village, West Jaintia Hills District.

Ownership of Land

The land to be acquired belongs to the Dorbar Shnong of Saphai village.

Description of Project Area

The land proposed to be acquired is a shrub land with few matured trees.

Chapter 2: Approach & Methodology

Rationale of the Study

The rationale for the SIA study is to create an inventory of structures and resources present on the land to be acquired as well as its surrounding areas. By doing so, it may be possible to assess possible negative and positive impacts for all stakeholders from the land acquisition of the proposed project.

The research strategy that the SIA-Unit used is a descriptive method. This method describes the specific behaviour or facts concerning the nature of the situation. It involves the gathering of data that describe the events; organisation, tabulation, depiction and description of the data collected.

Primary Data

The research team held interviews with the Village Headman of Saphai village, Shri Anthony Bareh and held a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with the community members on 14th November 2018. During these interactions, Key Informant Interviews (KII) was conducted with them using a checklist and an open ended questionnaire. The methods used were both structured and unstructured and designed based on the likely impact on the project area.

Reconnaissance/Preliminary Site Visit

A preliminary site visit was first carried out on 14th November 2018. It involved identifying the likely significant impacts of the project which needs to be investigated and also defining the approach that will be taken for their assessments to complete the initial scope of work. The Reconnaissance Survey helped in developing the TOR for this SIA study.

Stakeholder Consultation

Good practice requires active consultation with relevant affected communities and other interested and affected parties. As such KIIs were held with the Village Headman and the Village Secretary since this land proposed to be acquired is owned by the community itself. The aim of these interactions is to give the respondents an opportunity to express their views on the project and its impacts so that these can be taken into account while developing mitigation impacts.

Secondary Data

The research team first reviewed and studied the related literature to understand the requirement and needs of the project area. Based on the review of secondary data the team was able to get an insight on the background of the project and this has allowed for group identification and formulation of questionnaire design. Secondary data such as project details, type of investment, maps and details of land owners were obtained from the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, West Jaintia Hills District, Jowai.

Public Hearing

The Public Hearing for the proposed land acquisition was held on 21st February 2020 at Saphai community hall. In attendance were officials from the Revenue Branch, West Jaintia Hills District, Block Development Officer of Laskein C&RD Block, officials from the Saphai F&ES as well as officials from the Meghalaya Fire and Emergency Services, Shillong.

Data Processing and Analysis

Data collected during the field visits have been systematically arranged and qualitatively interpreted.

Chapter 3: Demographic Profile and Description of Village

This chapter will describe the nature of the village as well as its demography. It also describes likely impacts (both positive and negative) on the existing infrastructure and services available in Saphai.

Saphai Village

The proposed land acquisition for construction of Sub-Fire Service station in Saphai falls under the administration of Laskein C&RD Block, West Jaintia Hills District. Saphai village is about 32.8 km from Jowai, the district headquarters.

Saphai is a large village with a total of 410 households residing in it. The village has population of 2540 persons; out of which 1269 persons are males, and 1271 persons are females as per the Census of India 2011. In Saphai village the population of children with ages between 0-6 years is 642 which make up 25.28 % of total population of the village. The average sex ratio of the village is 1002 which is higher than Meghalaya state average of 989. Child sex ratio as per this census is 994, which is higher than the Meghalaya average of 970.

Table 2 Village Profile as per Census of India 2011

Particulars	Total	Male	Female
Total No. of houses	410	-	-
Population	2540	1269	1271
Children (0-6)	642	322	320
Scheduled Caste	2	2	0
Scheduled Tribe	2282	1144	1138
Literacy	61.8%	52.69%	70.87%
Total Workers	931	605	326
Main Worker	539		
Marginal Worker	392	230	162

Saphai has lower literacy rate compared to Meghalaya. In 2011, literacy rate was 61.80 % compared to 74.43 % of Meghalaya. Male literacy stands at 52.69 % while female literacy rate was 70.87 %.

Within the boundaries of Saphai village also is also the Kopili Hydro Electric dam under North Eastern Electric Power Cooperation (NEEPCO). This was the first project of NEEPCO and came into existence in 1976⁶. The Umrong reservoir is located near the village. This power station provides electricity to Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.

Saphai Village Profile

Table 3 Availability and anticipated impact on community infrastructure and public services

State	Meghalaya	
District	West Jaintia Hills District	
Block	Laskein C&RD Block	
Total No. of Households	410	
Total Population	2540	
Basic Facilities	Presence	Impact (Y/N)
Primary School	Yes	No
Secondary School	Yes	No
Higher Secondary School	No	No
Anganwadi Centre	Yes	No
Bus stop	Yes	No
Police Station	Yes	No
Bank	No	No
PDS	Yes	No
Pharmacy	No	No
PHC/CHC/others	Yes	No
Community hall	Yes	No
Library	No	No
SHG	Yes	No
Youth Club	Yes	No
Traditional Healers	Yes	No
Religious Institutions	Yes	No

⁶ Kopili Hydro Electric Plant accessed from <https://neepco.co.in/projects/hydro-projects/kopili-hydro-electric-plant>

Accessibility to PHE Water	No	No
Accessibility to Community well	No	No
Road (Black top and Kutcha)	Yes	No
Transportation	Yes	No
Community Forest	Yes	No
Cremation/Burial Ground	Yes	No
Playground	Yes	No
Market	Yes	No
NGO's	Yes	No

The table above shows the availability and anticipated impact of infrastructure and services at Saphai. It can be drawn out that the proposed land acquisition for construction of the Sub-Fire Service Service station at Saphai will not have negative impact on the infrastructure and public services at Saphai.

Chapter 4: Data Collection and Analysis

Table 4 Dates of Field Study

Sl. No	Approach	Date of Visit
1.	Reconnaissance/ Preliminary Site Visit	14 th November 2018
2.	Interaction with Traditional Heads	14 th November 2018
3.	FGD with Community Members	14 th November 2018
4.	Public Hearing	21 st February 2020

Findings/Observation from Preliminary Site Visit, KIIs and FGDs

During the preliminary site visit, it was learnt that the land proposed to be acquired belongs to the village durbar of Saphai village. The Saphai Sub-Fire Service Station is already present and operates from the Saphai Police Station which is about 1 km from the land proposed to be acquired. Due to the lack of space and the need for the F&ES to have its own operational set-up it is required to acquire the land to construct a separate building for it. The Saphai Police Station is about 2 kms from the main settlement area of the village and 600-700 m approximately from the border with Assam. Apart from this, the following were also seen:

Type of land

The land to be acquired may be classified as shrub land which has a few matured trees.

Location of land

The land proposed to be acquired is not on the road side. It is about 500 m away from the PWD road. The proposed land borders the village land and the land of Smt. Ribanti Suchiang who had recently bought it from Smt. H. Lamare.

Structures present on land

For the proposed land acquisition, it is observed that there is one semi-pucca structure which is vacant. There however, are no major public or private structure which will be directly disturbed from this acquisition.

Use of land

The land is used by few households for collection of fire wood.

Anticipated impacts

However, some minor indirect impacts may be anticipated during the construction and operation period of the project. These are:

1. Disturbance to the Tympreng SSA School during construction period which is about 30m from the identified site.
2. The approach road to this school will also be affected from this land acquisition.
3. Anticipated disturbance to the community playground which is adjacent to the land to the identified site.
4. Indirect impact to residences which are about 500 m away from the identified spot.

Key Informant Interview with the Traditional Institution/Land Owner

During the KII with the village durbar, as represented by Shri Anthony Bareh the village Headman, the following was learnt;

Ownership of the land

The land proposed to be acquired belongs to the Saphai village dorbar.

Existing Institutional Set-up

- Also it was learnt that there is an existing and functioning Sub-Fire Service Station at Saphai which is running from a shared administrative building of the Saphai Police.
- The temporary Sub-Fire Service Station has no administrative building and no staff quarters.
- The land to be acquired is suitable for establishment of the Sub-Fire Service Station as it is near to the residential area of the village. It also has better network coverage than other parts of the village making receipt of emergency calls easier and cutting short the emergency response time of the F&ES.

Issues with the area proposed to be acquired

- One of the main problems for the Sub-Fire Service Station is the availability of water as the only source of water is from the river Kopili. During the monsoon the road to collect water from the Kopili becomes slippery and muddy, posing a serious threat to vehicles collecting water. As such, during the monsoon the Sub-Fire Service Station has to buy water from private individuals.

Impact from the proposed land acquisition

- The Headman, Shri. Anthony Bareh said that the acquisition of the land will have no *negative impact on the community infrastructures in the village.*
- The Dorbar Shnong of Saphai is willing to give the land for the project as this Sub-Fire Service Station would be beneficial for the entire community in times of emergency.

Aspirations from the project

- Once the project is in operation the Headman requests' that consideration of employment should be given to the local people from the village itself who are fit for the position.

Figure 1 Existing Sub-Fire Service Station Office



Findings from the Focus Group Discussion with the Community Members

This section will discuss the Focus Group Discussion that was held with 58 community members from Saphai village. The following are the main points of discussion:

Awareness of the project

Most of the participants were already aware of the proposal to set up a new Sub-Fire Service Station in the village and knew the site which had been identified for this purpose.

Need for the project

- For the past year there have been no incidents of fire. However, the main concern has been forest fires affecting agricultural goods like broom grass cultivation, fruit trees, sawmills and individual houses. As there are no insurance plans for these, no compensation can be acquired for the losses.

- Fires affecting agricultural land and products could not be addressed in a speedy manner as there is poor road conditions. It takes a minimum of 25 minutes for the Fire truck to reach the nearest house from the present FSS and moreover the Fire truck is out of shape to function as the work demands.
- So far there has not been any fatality due to fire in the area. However, there has been great loss to property.

Advice from community members

- The community members requested that the project be installed at the earliest as this will benefit all villages immensely. They also put forward the need to allot employment to residents of the village who are fit for the position.
- The site for the proposed location is far better for the smooth functioning of the F&ES in comparisons with the existing location.
- So far there is no financial aid from the state government to mitigate any disaster caused due to fire calamity.
- There is possibility of finding water source in the land to be acquired if bore well is dug.

Impacts from the project

- The project will be beneficial to everyone in the village and beyond it. It will bring safety and security to Saphai village and its neighboring villages, namely:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. Khonshnong | 2. Nongryngkoh |
| 3. Lakadong | 4. Pohkseh |
| 5. Tongkiat | 6. Iooksi |
| 7. Iooksi Iapkhla | 8. Thlongmu |
| 9. Sarhen | 10. Kyanmynsar |
| 11. Umdienglieng | 12. Priang |
| 13. Iawthymme | 14. Umsaitlait |
| 17. Saphai | 16. Jongkasaro |

- There will be *no adverse impacts* on community resources and common property.
- According to the community members of Saphai, it was informed that the presence of the F&ES has been of great service to the villages of Laskein Block. The F&ES response is quick if adequate information is given before, however, due to poor mobile/telecommunication coverage response rate lessens.

Aspirations from the project

- The community requests that employment should be given to the local people from the village itself who are fit for the position.

Chapter 5: Summary of Major Findings and Probable Impacts

The table below summarises the major findings from the field survey and data collection as part of the Social Impact Assessment Study.

Table 5 Summary of major findings

Sl.	Variable	Comment
1	Ownership of Land	The land belongs to the Dorbar Shnong.
2	Typology of land	The land is flat and arable shrub land.
3	Project affected families	There will be no families affected.
4	Use of land	The land proposed to be acquired is a shrub land with a few matured trees.
5	Structure present on land	There is only one Assam type house which has been abandoned
6	Structures adjacent to the land to be acquired	There is only one SSA school adjacent to the project site, whose land might be disturbed once the construction phase of the project begins. Apart from this there is one play ground and the approach road to the school which will be disturbed.
7	Trees	There are shrub plants with a few matured trees.
8	Water sources	Presently there is no water sources however there is a possibility of finding water source in the land to be acquired if bore well is dug.
9	Roads	There is an approach road to the school.
10	Places of religious and cultural importance	There is no religious or spiritual impact from the land to be acquired
11	Safety and crime	The installation of the project in the village will not only make Saphai better prepared during incidents of fire and other emergencies, but also the neighbouring villages will be benefitted.

12	Economic and livelihood	The F&ES may be able to protect the livelihoods of other community residents from threats of fire.
13	Alternate place for project	The area identified is ideal for the proposed project.

Figure 2 Land proposed to be acquired



The table below shows the probable positive and negative impacts from the land acquisition at Saphai village for the construction of a Sub-Fire Service station.

Table 6 Probable Positive and Negative Impacts from the Setting-up of a Sub-Fire Service Station at Saphai.

Sl.	Variable	Remarks	Probable Positive Impacts	Probable Negative Impacts
1.	Ownership of Land	The land belongs to the Dorbar Shnong	i. Monetary Compensation ii. Compensation for loss of land.	Nil
2.	Roads	i. The project site is 500 m away from the PWD road. ii. The approach road to the school is nearby.	<i>Nil</i>	Impact to roads during construction phase
3	Structures	i. One Assam type house ii. SSA school	<i>Nil</i>	Impact to roads during construction phase
4.	Water Sources	Nil	Nil	Nil
5	Community		Decline in loss due to fires and other emergencies	
6	Economic Wellbeing		i. Protection of economic assets from destruction due to fire and other calamities	Nil.

			ii. Employment opportunities from the Fire Station	
7	Places of Religious or Cultural Importance	Nil	Nil	Nil
8	Social Institutions	Nil	Nil	Nil
9	Safety		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Protection from fires. ii. Effective response during road accidents iii. Effective response during natural calamities. iv. Effective response during other emergencies 	Nil
10	Environment		Protection/prevention of forest fires	

Chapter 6: Public Hearing

A Public Hearing for the proposed land acquisition at Saphai, West Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya for the purpose of constructing of the Saphai Sub-Fire Service Station was held on 21st February 2020. The Public Hearing was conducted by Shri. A. B. S. Swer, Director, MIG, Shillong. In attendance was the BDO Laskein C&RD Block Shri B. Langbang, officials from the Revenue Branch of the Deputy Commissioner Office, West Jaintia Hills District, the Saphai F&ES, and the Headman of the village Shri Anthony Bareh as well as officials from the Meghalaya F&ES, Shillong and the community members of the village. In total there were 178 people gathered during the meeting.

Figure 3 Public Hearing at Saphai



The presentation of the report was conducted by the staff of the MIG, after which the floor was opened for the discussion on the report.

Figure 4 Public Hearing at Saphai



Shri P. Kharkongor, RO, Saphai F&ES explained to the gathering the function of the F&ES. He explained that in 2005, the Government of India had placed the onus of first response to the F&ES. Hence, in case of any emergency it is necessary that people inform the F&ES. He explained that the F&ES conducts safety inspections for public buildings such as churches and schools. The F&ES responds during earthquakes, to rescue humans and animals. The F&ES also has trained personnel for medical emergencies. He urged people to accept the F&ES in their village as it will be beneficial to them.

Shri Anthony Bareh, Headman of Saphai village said that he felt proud that the village was to receive the Sub-Fire Service Station as other villages had tried but failed to get this office set up in their village. He wanted to express his gratefulness to the Shillong F&ES Office for their speedy cooperation with the village to set up the Sub-Fire Service Station's own office in Saphai. He thanked the Saphai F&ES for their quick action during emergencies and hoped that the setting up of a permanent Sub-Fire Service Station in the village would further improve the services provided by this office.

Shri. A.B.S. Swer asked the gathering whether they accepted the report as presented and if they also accepted the Sub-Fire Station, to which the gathering agreed. After which the hearing was concluded.

Chapter 7: Social Impact Management Plan

The following are the measures to reduce and alleviate any negative impacts that may arise from the construction of a Sub-Fire Service Station at Saphai village, West Jaintia Hills District.

Resettlement Measures

- i. As per Section 8 of the RFCTLARR Act 2013 the Rehabilitation Commissioner shall publish the approved Rehabilitation and Resettlement Scheme by affixing it in conspicuous places in the affected areas.
- ii. As per Section 101 of the RFCTLARR Act 2013 when any land acquired under the Act remains un-utilized for a period of five years, it shall be returned to the legal owners or the legal heirs.

Rehabilitation Measures

- i. The Village dorbar who owns the land may be compensated as per the First Schedule of the RFCTLARR Act 2013.
- ii. When jobs are created through the project, suitable training and skill development should be given so as to ensure employment at a rate not lower than the minimum wages; or ;
- iii. Proper financial training for all; to help those who have been awarded compensation to be more financially aware and thus be able to plan their financial resources sustainably.
- iv. Vocational or skill training of the affected family members who have suitable educational qualifications.
- v. Provide training and market linkage support to women through SHGs.
- vi. If any affected household is reduced to the status of a marginal farmer or landless, they shall be allotted a minimum one acre of land in the command area.
- vii. Attempts should be made by the project proponent to reconstruct the community infrastructures most likely to be affected by the project.

Environmental Measures

- i. Under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 Chapter 3 Section 3.1(i) compensatory afforestation must be made for the loss of all trees in the area.
- ii. To ensure that there is no loose earth that may cause landslides later.

- iii. Efforts must be taken not only for the creation of adequate drinking supply but for the protection of the already present water resources.
- iv. To install a Dust Mitigation Plan⁷ such as the one installed in Delhi -National Capital Region (NCR) by the Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, and Government of India. The following measures may be followed by the construction company:
 - a. No loose soil or sand or construction and demolition waste or any construction material that causes dust shall be left uncovered.
 - b. Wind-breaker of appropriate height.
 - c. Water sprinkling system shall be put in place.

Miscellaneous

- i. To install a Community Engagement Strategy which contains a list of key stakeholders and describes their interest in the project; actions, outcomes, mechanisms, to support a regular review of the effectiveness of the community engagement strategy. This would engage local grassroots bodies in the identification of suitable areas to dump soil, to monitor and supervise construction labourers engaged in the construction of the project.
- ii. To ensure that there is cooperation between the village durbars and the construction company so as to create a sense of security among the people and avoid untoward incidents with the construction labourers.
- iii. To install a Dispute Resolution Mechanism.
- iv. To install a Grievances Redressal Mechanism (GRM) and to ensure that a Grievances Redressal Officer (GRO) is placed at the ground level who is accessible by all stakeholders. The functioning and hierarchy of the GRM should be properly explained beforehand.

Rehabilitation and Resettlement Committee

Although Section 45(1) of the RFCTLARR Act 2013 puts provision for the establishment of a Resettlement and Rehabilitation Committee when the area of land to be acquired is more than one hundred acres. As such it is desirable to constitute a similar body to see and review and monitor the progress of rehabilitation and resettlement once in a month till the process of

⁷ (Press Information Bureau, 2018)

rehabilitation and resettlement is completed. This Committee is also set up for the purpose of carrying the post-implementation social audits and grievance redressal.

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NOTIFICATION
Under Section 4 (2) of RFCT Act, 2013.

Under Section 4 (2) of Right to Fair Compensation & Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

NO.RDA.71/2016/33,

Dated Shillong, the 12th February, 2020.

WHEREAS, acquisition of land area measuring 0.653 Acres (2641.43 Sqm) at Saphai Village in West Jaintia Hills in acquisition setting up of Fire Service Station (proposed project) to be constructed/developed by Government of Meghalaya is/are proposed.

WHEREAS, a social Impact Assessment team of the Meghalaya Institute of Governance (MIG) has been formed to consult, to survey and to take public hearing after publication of this Notification.

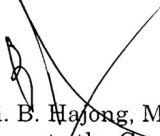
WHEREAS, the aforesaid team will fix and indicate the dates and venue for which all concerned will be requested to remain present with their claims/objections/suggestions, if any.

WHEREAS, the concerned land owners of Saphai the Headman Saphai and the villagers may remain present for hearing for consent/approval for the project.

WHEREAS, the process must be completed and SIA report must be submitted along with the plan (SIMP) within the time specified as per RFCT-LARR Act, 2013.


WHEREAS, any attempt at coercion or threat against the process during the specified period will render the exercise null & void.

Now, therefore, if there is any requirement for information, anyone may contact the SIA Unit.


(Shri. B. Hajong, MCS)
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya
Revenue & Disaster Management Department.

Annexure 2 No-Objection Certificate from JHADC

Rev



OFFICE OF THE JAINTIA HILLS AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT COUNCIL, JOWAI.

No. JHADC/REV/LR/19/2015/20, Dated Jowai, the 29th November, 2016.

To,

✓ The Deputy Commissioner,
West Jaintia Hills District,
Jowai.


Subject :- No -Objection Certificate.

Reference :- Your letter No. REV/LA-20/2014/27, Dated: Jowai, the 8th December, 2015.

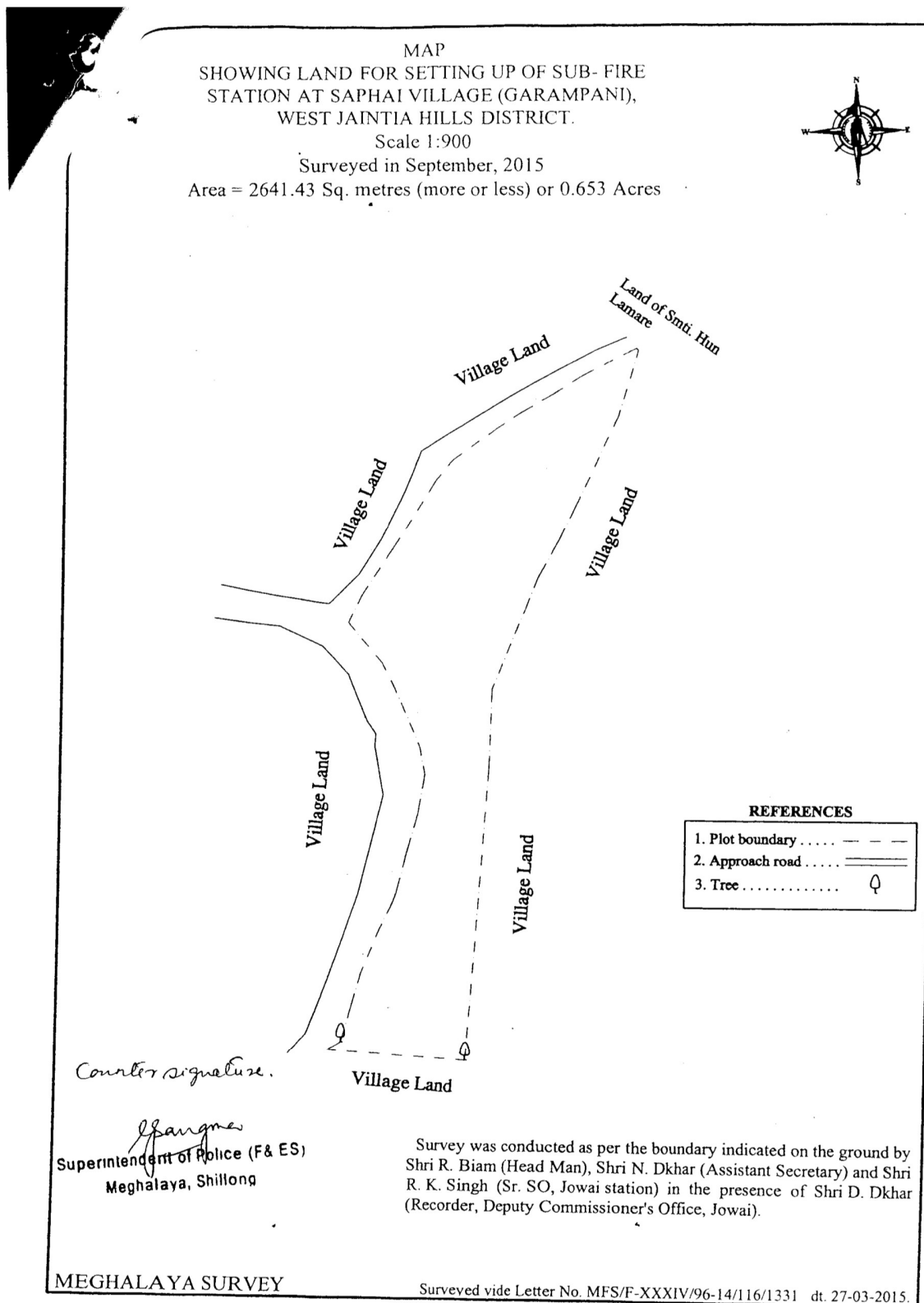
Sir,

With reference to the subject and your letter cited above, I am directed to inform you that the Executive Committee, Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council, Jowai in exercise of power conferred under Rule 29 of the Assam and Meghalaya Autonomous District (Constitution of District Council) Rule 1951 as adopted and amended and as required under Section 41(3) of "The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013" is pleased to grant this No-Objection Certificate to the Deputy Commissioner, West Jaintia Hills District for the purpose of acquisition of land for setting up of Sub-Fire Station at Saphai Village (Garampani), West Jaintia Hills District.

Deputy Commissioner
Office Jowai
Receipt No. 7447
Date 11/2/2016

Yours Faithfully,

Secretary,
Executive Committee,
Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council,
Jowai.

XXXXX



Annexure 4 Boundary of Land Proposed to be Acquired

**Schedule of Boundary for Setting up of
Of Sub-Fire Service Station at Saphai Village (Garampani)
West Jaintia Hills District.**

Land of Saphai Village

NORTH	:-	Village land /Land of Smt. Hun Lamare
EAST	:-	Village Land
SOUTH	:-	Village Land
WEST	:-	Village Land

Annexure 5 Notification to Conduct Public Hearing



Meghalaya Institute of Governance
c/o Meghalaya State Housing Cooperative Society Ltd. Campus
Shillong- 793003, Meghalaya

Phone No.: 0364-2505977
No: MIG 256/2019-20/1203


Email: migshillong@gmail.com
Dated: 13th February, 2020

Public Notice

The Meghalaya Institute of Governance has been notified as the State Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Unit to conduct Social Impact Assessment Study for acquisition of land measuring an area of 2641.43sq.mt at Saphai village, West Jaintia Hills District for the purpose of setting up of Sub-Fire Service Station.

In connection with this, a Public Hearing will be held at Saphai Community Hall, Saphai Village, West Jaintia Hills District on 21st February 2020 (Friday) at 10:00 am.

All interested persons are invited to attend the said Public Hearing to express their claims/ objections/ suggestion, if any, on the proposal.


Aiban Swer,
Director
Meghalaya Institute of Governance,
Shillong.

Annexure 6 Attendance during Public Hearing

Attendance at Public Hearing at Saphai Village, West Jaintia Hills District for the Purpose of Social Impact Assessment on Land Acquisition for Setting-Up a Sub-Fire Station at Saphai on the 21st February, 2020.



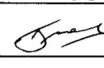
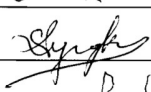
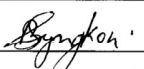
Sl. No	Name	Village/Designation	Signature
1	Aibon Swex	Director M(C)	[Signature]
2	John M. Swex	DySP (FRES)	[Signature]
3	R. K Singh	32 SO Jaintia Hills	[Signature]
4	B. Langbaup	BDO, Laskai	[Signature]
5	T. Khongwir	LFM (FRES)	[Signature]
6	P. Khaikangor	R.O (FRES)	[Signature]
7	F.R. Shadap	Koliamy	[Signature]
8	Shri. Fulchay Bareh	Headman	[Signature]
9	Sh. D. Bekhai	Reader, P. U.	[Signature]
10	Shri M.P. Pakma	R.E.C. (Empire)	[Signature]
11	Shri V. Gino. Synnah	Saphai (Member)	[Signature]
12	Shri. Womphorki Lanai	Saphai (Secy Shuang)	[Signature]
13	Sh. Ymdant. Popeny	Sec Saphai U.C.	[Signature]
14	Smt phatti Shadap	Member Shuang	[Signature]
15	Shri Mainlystar Tyngkan	Chairman Shuang	[Signature]
16	11 Remi Suchiang	member Shuang	[Signature]
17	Smt Womphorki Suchiang	Saphai	[Signature]
18	11 Thombha Lamare	Saphai	[Signature]
19	11 Kalires Langstang	Saphai	[Signature]
20	11 Phul Langstang	Saphai	[Signature]
21	Monika Suchiang	Saphai	[Signature]
22	Memory Lamare	Saphai	[Signature]
23	Mebis Suchiang	Saphai	[Signature]
24	Joycy phawa	Saphai	[Signature]
25	Modesty Passali	Saphai	[Signature]
26	Edris Suchiang	Saphai members	[Signature]
27	Bek 11	Saphai	[Signature]
28	Rika Mery phawa	Saphai	[Signature]
29	Rosila Langstang	Saphai	[Signature]

Sl. No	Name	Village/Designation	Signature
30	operna Rabon	Saphai	O. Rabon
31	Ribha Langstang	Saphai	R. Langstang
32	Sonita Biam	saphai	S. Biam
33	Balakyntiew Biam	Saphai	B. Blam
34	Ridabun Sangstang	Saphai	R. Sangstang
35	Monica Salak	Saphai	M. Salak
36	Waino - Tyngkan	Saphai	W. Tyngkan
37	Kimstina - Suchiang	Saphai	K. Suchiang
38	Binoris - Rabon	Saphai	B. Rabon
39	Sasthorn - Rabon	Saphai	S. Rabon
40	Dena - Niang	Saphai	D. Niang
41	Leinika - Tyngkan	Saphai	L. Tyngkan
42	Ribha - Lamare	Saphai	R. Lamare
43	Darika Suchiang	Saphai	D. Suchiang
44	Riba Rabon	Saphai	R. Rabon
45	Auki Rabon	Saphai	A. Rabon
46	Evening Syngkon	Saphai	E. Syngkon
47	Mery Biam	Saphai	M. Biam
48	Synsbar Biam	Saphai	S. Biam
49	Shint Laka	Saphai	S. Laka
50	Riti passah	Saphai	R. Passah
51	Lucy Langstang	Saphai	L. Langstang
52	wanda - Synnah	Saphai	W. Synnah
53	Phutlin - Synnah	Saphai	P. Synnah
54	Sophina - Suchiang	Saphai	S. Suchiang
55	Deimon - Lamare	Saphai	D. Lamare
56	Santi magabain	Saphai	S. Biam
57	War phi shympa	Saphai	W. Shympa
58	Judi Suchiang	Saphai	J. Suchiang
59	Hensi dhar	Saphai	H. Dhar
60	wan pntugen dhar	Saphai	W. Dhar

No.	nama anak	tempat	alamat
62	Niema Sutunga	Saphai	N. Sutunga
63	Schanbori Synnah	Saphai	S. Synnah
64	Deilang. Synnah.	Saphai	D. Synnah.
65	Emlang. Dkhar.	Saphai	E. Dkhar.
66	Mistura. Dkhar	Saphai	M. Dkhar
67	Kainess. Dkhar	Saphai	K. Dkhar
68	wangai. Dkhar	Saphai	W. Dkhar.
69	Wili Lamarei	Saphai	W. Lamarei
70	Nabita. Synnah	Saphai	N. Synnah
71	Dabelin Synnah	"	D. Synnah
72	Expitoney Synnah.	"	E. Synnah
73	Makbanti Tyngkan.	"	M. Tyngkan
74	Ihri. Iw. Lyngdot. SSK.	SHADC - Towai.	Ihri
75	Preda Sumex		P. Sumex
76	Meanyi pasli	Saphai	M. Pasli
77	Koramai Kapiak	Saphai	K. Kapiak
78	Emi. Langwar	Saphai	E. Langwar

Sl. No	Name	Village/Designation	Signature
79	Bailin Shadap	Saphai	B. Shadap
80	Lucy - Mang	Saphai	L. N
81	Victoria - Lamare	Saphai	V. Lamare
82	Bina - Kamar	Saphai	B. Kamar
83	Phity - Dhar	Saphai	P. Dhar
84	Tissilin Sungoh	Saphai	T. Sungoh
85	Ribha Kanai	Saphai	R. Kanai
86	Elmory Syngkon	Saphai	E. Syngkon
87	Binarai Biam	"	B. Biam
88	Diana Passah	" "	D. Passah
89	Milda Sumar	Saphai	M. Sumar
90	Yan Pala	" "	Y. Pala
91	Dajan Miki Biam	Saphai	D. Biam
92	Nidatum - Sumet	Saphai	N. Sumet
93	Rikomany - Kanai	"	R. Kanai
94	Byolui - Dhar	"	B. Dhar
95	Nihunlang - Kanai	"	N. Kanai
96	Thelpis - Siyam	"	P. Siyam
97	Embi - Sungoh	" "	M. Sungoh
98	Rose Biam	Saphai	R. Biam
99	Jedanta Sapalam	Saphai	J. Sapalam
100	Phynai Lamare	Saphai	P. Lamare
101	P. Suchiang	Saphai	
102			
103	Chengkun Shynga	Saphai	
104	Mephi Suchiang	Saphai	
105			
106	Joli - Pale	Saphai	J. Pale
107	Res posteira	Saphai	R. posteira
108	Rika Longbang	Saphai	R. Longbang
109	Nidawan Syntah	Saphai	N. S

Sl. No	Name	Village/Designation	Signature
110	Phailangki Lamari	Saphai	Ramori.
111	Darniki Biam	Saphai	Biam
112	Thang-i da oo Kamar	Saphai	A. Kamar
113	Amsita Pala	Saphai	A. Pala
114	Riwanki Pala	Saphai	R. Pala
115	Senita Pala	Saphai	Pala
116	Regina Pala	Saphai	R. Pala
117	Sambha Papiak	Saphai	S. Papiak
118	Leuwina pazlu	Saphai	E. pazlu
119	Briti Suam	Saphai	B. Suam
120	Juhi Langtang	Saphai	J. Langtang
121	Sngiawhun Langtang	Saphai	S. Langtang
122	Rijina Langtang	Saphai	R. Langtang
123	Silora Suam	Saphai	S. Suam
124	Rihok Suam	Saphai	R. Suam
125	Moi Langtang	Saphai	M. Langtang
126	Shariah Tyngkan	Saphai	S. Tyngkan
127	Sumartha Suam	Saphai	S. Suam
128	Tiplang Suam	Saphai	T. Suam
129	Ritil Suam	Saphai	R. Suam
130	poibiang Suam	Saphai	P. Suam
131	Noli Langtang	Saphai	N. Langtang
132	Deligent - Langtang	Saphai	D. Langtang
133	Sibina - Shulet	Saphai	S. Shulet
134	Yowrita - Shulet	Saphai	Y. Shulet
135	Delii - Rabon	Saphai	D. Rabon
136	Emidahun - Biam	Saphai	E. Biam
137	Heli skum - Takai	Saphai	H. Takai
138	Nidawun - Langtang	Saphai	N. Langtang
139	Khamxi - Sa yoo	Saphai	K. Sa yoo
140	Dunna Dbari	Saphai	D. Dbari

Sl. No	Name	Village/Designation	Signature
141	Rimika Suchiang	Saphai	
142	Lutmon Syngkon	Saphai	L. Syngkon
143	Hunmon Lamarei	Saphai	H. Lamarei
144	Ridahan Langstang	Saphai	R. Langstang
145	Rishuro Langstang	Saphai	R. Langstang
146	Judis Iakai	Saphai	J. Iakai
147	Hannawri Iakai	Saphai	H. Iakai
148	Sipi Dhar	Saphai	S Dhar
149	Rita Langstang	Saphai	R. Langstang
150	Tohpyungait	Saphai	T. Kanai
151	Lida Suchiang	Saphai	L. Suchiang
152	Sammaya Suchiang	Saphai	S. Suchiang
153	Kein Tyngkan	Saphai	K. Tyngkan
154	Banke shatap	" "	
155	Dany Bosco Symmah.	"	D Symmah.
156	ustaboy shatap	"	ustaboy
157	mac shatap	"	
158	ngait Syngkon	"	NGS
159	edaman ngubak	"	E n
160	Stijelus Tyngkan	"	
161	Raribok Sa'iem	"	R S
162	Aimansri Iakai	"	A. Iakai
163	Me Phakjai Iakai	"	M. i
164	bagkil suiam	"	B. M
165	Lutmon Iakai	"	L. Iakai
166	Blessing Syngkon	"	
167	Duina Syngkon	"	D. Syngkon
168	Shemlang Syngkon	"	S. Syngkon
169	Dimaia Iaka	"	D. Iakai
170	may Syngkon	"	M. Syngkon
171	Banjilo Suchiang	"	