

## **Memorandum of Settlement**

### **1. Preamble**

The Government of India and the Government of Assam have made persistent efforts in the past to fulfill the legitimate aspirations of the Karbi people, which led to devolution of more autonomy to the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council and development of the area. Notwithstanding these initiatives, organizations representing the Karbi people continued to demand for creation of an Autonomous State under Article 244A of the Constitution. In an effort to find a comprehensive and final solution to the issue, several rounds of tripartite discussions were recently held with the leaders of Karbi armed groups as well as elected representatives of Karbi people. The negotiations have led to the signing of this Memorandum of Settlement which will ensure greater devolution of autonomy to the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council; protection of identity, language, culture, etc. of Karbi people; rehabilitation of cadres of the armed groups; and focussed development of the Council area, without affecting the territorial and administrative integrity of Assam. The signatory armed groups have agreed to abjure violence and join the peaceful democratic process as established by law of the land.

### **2. Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council/KAAC**

- 2.1. The Committee of the Legislative Assembly of Assam, as envisaged under Article 371B of the Constitution, will be constituted expeditiously.
- 2.2. The Government of India may expedite passage of the Constitution (125<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Bill, 2019 which proposes to rename the Council as Karbi Anglong Autonomous Territorial Council and increase the number of members to not more than 50, of whom, 6 members including at least 2 women members will be nominated by the Governor and the rest of the members will be elected on the basis of adult suffrage.
- 2.3. The Government of India and the Government of Assam will take necessary steps to reserve 34 seats for STs and 10 seats under Open category for all communities, out of 44 elected seats in KAAC.

2.4. The Constitution (125<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Bill, 2019 proposes to transfer a number of subjects to KAAC by amending paragraph 3A (1) of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution (Annexure-I). Necessary steps will be taken to transfer the following additional subjects to KAAC :-

- i) Implementation of schemes under rural electrification, non-conventional energy sources, solar energy, renewable energy and mini-hydel projects.
- ii) Welfare and Development of Minority communities/ Indigenous faith.
- iii) 'Medium' to be added to 'Small, Cottage and Rural Industry subject to the provisions of entries 7 and 52 of List I of Schedule VII'.
- iv) 'Vocational education' to be added to 'Education that is to say primary and secondary education, higher secondary education including vocational training, adult education and college education (general)'.
- v) 'Protection of Wildlife' to be added to 'Forests (other than reserved forest)'.

2.5. The Government of India and the Government of Assam may consider enhancing budgetary provisions for KAAC to undertake development activities keeping in view the population and topography of the area.

2.6. Proposed amendments to Article 280 and the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution as per the Constitution (125<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Bill, 2019 will further augment the Consolidated Fund of the State to supplement the resources of KAAC on the basis of the recommendations of the State Finance Commission.

2.7. Executive functions of KAAC shall be exercised through the Principal Secretary not below the rank of Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Assam. The post of Principal Secretary shall be encadred. Heads of various Departments/Directorates of KAAC shall not be below the rank of Additional Secretary to the Government of Assam. Officers of KAAC shall exercise administrative as well as financial powers commensurate with their ranks.

- 2.8. Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police of the districts within KAAC will be posted in consultation with the Chief Executive Member of KAAC.
- 2.9. Deputy Commissioners of the districts within KAAC shall report to the Chief Executive Member through the Principal Secretary in respect of all developmental activities in their districts with regard to the responsibilities assigned to them by KAAC.
- 2.10. The Government of Assam shall create a post of DIG, Police exclusively for the Hill districts.
- 2.11. An institutional mechanism shall be set up to streamline coordination between the State Government and KAAC. The mechanism shall be headed by the Chief Secretary, Government of Assam, with the Principal Secretary, KAAC as its member. The mechanism shall periodically review (not less than once in a quarter) the following issues in particular :-
- (a) Bills/Regulations passed by KAAC awaiting assent by the Governor.
  - (b) Proposals of KAAC regarding creation of new posts and filling up of vacant posts.
  - (c) Proposals of KAAC in connection with annual plan, allocation and flow of funds, financial sanctions, utilization certificates, etc.
  - (d) Proposals of KAAC regarding recruitment within its delegated authority.
  - (e) Issues with regard to transfer of subjects to KAAC and powers/ functions of its functionaries.
  - (f) Issues with regard to local sources of revenue for KAAC including minor minerals.
- 2.12. The Government of India may consider reviewing the number of Assembly constituencies within KAAC area through the process of delimitation keeping in view the population and topography.
3. **Issues relating to language, identity, culture, etc.**
- 3.1. The Government of India may refer to UPSC the demand for exemption of ST (Hill) candidates from KAAC area from taking one Modern Indian Language (MIL) in the Civil Services

examinations conducted by UPSC.

- 3.2. The Government of Assam will consider favourably the proposal of KAAC to notify Karbi as the official language of KAAC. However, Hindi, English and Assamese shall also continue to be used for official purposes.
- 3.3. Hindi, English, Assamese and other indigenous languages shall be taught in educational institutions under KAAC.
- 3.4. The Government of Assam shall set up a committee to study the demand for notifying Karbi language as an associate language in the State. The Committee will also recommend measures to further strengthen and popularize Karbi language at the national level including a suitable script in consultation with Karbi Literary Society and other Karbi organisations.
- 3.5. The Government of India will examine the demand for notifying Karbi people living outside KAAC area as ST in Assam, in consultation with the Government of Assam. The Government of Assam may also consider conferring ST (Hill) status to Karbi people living outside KAAC area.
- 3.6. The Government of Assam shall set up a Karbi Welfare Council for focussed development of Karbi people living outside KAAC area.
- 3.7. The Government of Assam shall promote and support the annual Karbi Youth Festival through financial assistance.
- 3.8. The Government of India and the Government of Assam will take necessary steps to set up a Karbi cultural centre at Taralango and an academy to promote Karbi language and culture at an appropriate location in KAAC area.

#### 4. **Rehabilitation of armed cadres**

- 4.1. All signatory armed groups shall abjure the path of violence, surrender their weapons and disband their organisations within one month of signing of the Agreement. All camps occupied by these groups shall be vacated forthwith.
- 4.2. All armed groups shall submit the lists of their cadres to Addl. DG, Special Branch, Assam within a week of the signing of the Agreement. The names of such cadres shall be scrutinized and

verified by the Screening Committee headed by Addl. DG, Special Branch, Assam, before their rehabilitation.

- 4.3. The Committee headed by Addl. DG, Special Branch, Assam shall assess the rehabilitation needs of Individual cadres based on age profile, educational qualification, general area of residence, etc. The Committee may also involve concerned departments of the State Government, KAAC and successful entrepreneurs/ NGOs in the process.
- 4.4. The Government of India, Government of Assam and KAAC shall take necessary measures to rehabilitate the cadres of armed groups. Such measures shall include (i) lump sum payment of ex-gratia, (ii) funding economic activities through existing Government schemes relating to fisheries, piggery, organic farming, poultry farming, agro-based industries, etc., (iii) trade/ vocational/ skill development training based on locally available resources, and (iv) recruitment in appropriate Government jobs as per eligibility.
- 4.5. Efforts will be made to cover the cadres of armed groups under various ongoing government schemes for employment generation and other benefits.
- 4.6. Criminal cases registered against cadres of armed groups for non-heinous offences will be withdrawn by Government of Assam as per procedure established by law. Criminal cases registered in connection with heinous offences will be reviewed on case to case basis according to the existing policy on the subject.
- 4.7. The Government of Assam will provide financial compensation @ Rs. 5 lakhs to each of the next of kin of persons who lost their lives in agitations related to Autonomous State demand and have not yet been compensated in any manner.

## **5. Special Development Package**

- 5.1. The Government of India may allocate Rs. 500 crores (Rs. 100 crore per annum) for development of infrastructure in KAAC area. Additionally, the Government of Assam will contribute Rs. 500 crores (Rs. 100 crore per annum) for development of the area. Illustrative list of projects to be taken up on priority under the special development package is appended at Annexure-II.

(vi) Karbi People's Liberation Tigers/KPLT (M)

*Shri Mensing Kramsa*  
**Mensing Kramsa (Chairman)**

*Jishnu Barua*  
**Jishnu Barua**  
(Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam)

*Govt*  
**Piyush Goyal**  
(Additional Secretary/NE, MHA)

Signing of the Agreement is witnessed by

*Tuliram Ronghang*  
**Tuliram Ronghang**  
Chief Executive Member, KAAC

*Himanta Biswa Sarma*  
**Himanta Biswa Sarma**  
(CM, Assam)

5.2. Army, Paramilitary Forces and Police shall organise special recruitment rallies to recruit Karbi youth. Pre-recruitment training exercises will be organized by the agencies to facilitate the process.

6. **Monitoring**

A Joint Monitoring Committee shall be constituted with representatives of MHA (GoI), Government of Assam, KAAC and the signatory armed groups to monitor implementation of this Agreement.

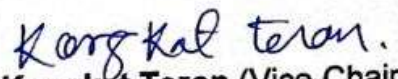
The above Agreement is signed on September 4, 2021 at New Delhi in the presence of Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah.

Representatives of following organisations append their signature to this Agreement: -

(i) Karbi Longri North Cachar Hills Liberation Front/ KLNLF

  
Pradip Terang (Chairman)

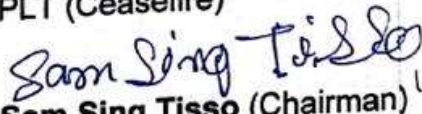
(ii) People's Democratic Council of Karbi Longri/ PDCK

  
Kongkat Teron (Vice-Chairman)

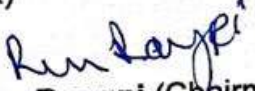
(iii) United People's Liberation Army/ UPLA

  
Wellesley Terang (Chairman)

(iv) Karbi People's Liberation Tigers/KPLT (Ceasefire)

  
Sam Sing Tisso (Chairman)

(v) Karbi People's Liberation Tigers/KPLT (R)

  
Run Rongpi (Chairman)

List of representatives of Karbi armed groups who attended the signing  
of Memorandum of Settlement

- (i) Karbi Longri North Cachar Hills Liberation Front/KLNLF

*Wiling Son Phangcho*  
**Wiling Son Phangcho** (Publicity Secretary)

- (ii) People's Democratic Council of Karbi Longri/PDCK

*Sanjit Phangcho*  
**Sanjit Phangcho** (General Secretary)

- (iii) United People's Liberation Army/UPLA

*Longki Bey*  
**Longki Bey** (General Secretary)

- (iv) Karbi People's Liberation Tigers/KPLT (Ceasefire)

*Dorsing Terang*  
**Dorsing Terang** (General Secretary)

- (v) Karbi People's Liberation Tigers/KPLT (R)

*Goodwinson Kro*  
**Goodwinson Kro** (General Secretary)

- (vi) Karbi People's Liberation Tigers/KPLT (M)

*Men Sing Tokbi*  
**Men Sing Tokbi** (C-in-C)