



Press Release

8/12/2025

First action of ED in West Garo Hills town Tura, Meghalaya

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Shillong Sub-Zonal Office (SGZO) has conducted first ever search operations in West Garo Hills on 04/12/2025 under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, in connection with a case relating to the Misappropriation of Funds of Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC) at Tura, Meghalaya. The main accused are Boston Ch. Marak, Ismail Marak, Kubon Sangma and Nikseng Sangma. In this operation, 05 premises pertaining to above mentioned accused persons had been searched.

The modus operandi consists of non-execution of developmental work in connivance of Members of GHADC, contractors and brokers; diversions of funds in advance in violation of rules and getting the advanced amount back by the members of GHADC in the their own/family member's bank accounts. Out of a total allocation of Rs.28.66 Crore, members of the committee, in collusion with certain contractors, diverted and misused the funds in contravention of established rules and procedures.

In particular, instances have been noticed where 60% of the sanctioned funds were illegitimately released to contractors Kubon Sangma and Nikseng Sangma, contrary to the applicable rules and provisions as advance.

During search action, various incriminating documents in the form of investment in immovable properties and digital devices have been seized. The investigation established that, on the directions of Ismail Marak, multiple cheques were issued in the names of contractors Kubon Sangma and Nikseng Sangma (Contractors). Kubon Sangma subsequently withdrew the entire amount and handed it over to Ismail Marak, while Nikseng Sangma transferred his share directly to the directed bank account.

The contractors have admitted to withdrawing the funds from banks and either transferring them to the accused members or their family members, confirming the diversion of GHADC development funds for the Asanang constituency. Further, several bank accounts pertaining to accused and their family members have been frozen under section 17(1A) of PMLA, 2002, during search.

Further investigation is under progress.