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#### NOTIFICATION

**No. F. 14011/1/2009-IPR, the 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2014.** The Governor of Mizoram is hereby pleased to promulgate the following Rules viz The Mizoram Press Representative Accreditation Rules, 2014 in amendment of earlier Rules viz The Mizoram Press Representative Accreditation Rules, 1984 to provide for accreditation of correspondents and representatives of newspapers, news agencies and other media as it is considered necessary and expedient to bring the visual and electronics media within the ambit of the State Accreditation Rules.

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#### **FOREWARD**

The Mizoram Press Representative Accreditation Rules was first notified in 1984. Since then significant progress and changes have been noticed in the medium of mass communication and media.

In view of the changing media scenario, a new policy needs to be adopted to bring electronics and visual media within the ambit of the Mizoram Press Representative Accreditation Rules.

The Mizoram Press Representative Accreditation Rules 2014 has now been framed to ensure accountable system of Government conferment of accreditation to Media personnel. This New Mizoram Press Representative Accreditation Rules 2014 has incorporated provisions for review, renewal, withdrawal and termination of Accreditation which is expected to facilitate maintenance of Journalistic ethics and integrity.

In addition, a new provision has also been made for the process of conferring special recognition of the Government for Press Representatives who are above 65 years of age and have rendered substantial contribution in the field of journalism.

## THE MIZORAM PRESS REPRESENTATIVE ACCREDITATION RULES, 2014

### 1. Short title extent and commencement :-

- a) These rules may be called the Mizoram Press Representative Accreditation (Constitution of the Mizoram Press Representative Accreditation and Grant of Accreditation) Rules, 2014.
- b) They shall come into force from the date of publication in the Official Gazette.
- c) They shall apply to Press Representative at the State, District, Sub-divisional and Block headquarters of Mizoram.

### 2. Definition :-

In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires.-

- a) "Accreditation" means recognition granted to Correspondents/Editors of News Media Organizations by the Government for the purpose of access to sources of information in the Government and also to news materials, written or pictorial, released by, or on behalf of the Director of Information & Public Relations and or other Department and agencies of the Government of Mizoram;
- b) "Accredited Press Representative" means a Journalist who has been granted accreditation under these rules;
- c) "Authorised person of the media organization" means Editor/Executive Editor, Channel Head, CEO, Owner, Manager or Regional Manager (in case of news agency/ news photo agency etc.) and Station Director/Director, News in case of Doordarshan and All India Radio.
- d) "Committee" means the Mizoram Press Representative Accreditation Committee constituted by the Government under rule 3;
- e) "Cameramen" means Still and Video Cameramen employed by media organizations for taking picture or videograph news events.
- f) "Director" means the Director of Information and Public Relations, Government of Mizoram.
- g) "Editor" means Editor of a newspaper, magazine, Television Channel, Radio organization, who is in charge of news selection and editorial policy of the organization who is declared as the editor under the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867.
- h) "Government" means the Government of Mizoram.
- i) "Mizoram Press Representative Accreditation Committee" subsequently referred to in these rules as a 'committee' means a committee constituted by the Government to advice to the Government in respect of accreditation of Press Representative working at the State Capital, District, Sub-divisions and Block headquarters of the State.
- j) "Newspaper" means the periodical work containing public news or comments on public news. A 'Daily newspaper' shall be published not less than five days in a week; A 'Weekly' or 'Fortnightly' newspaper shall have not less than 45 or 22 issues in a year respectively.
- k) "News Agency" means wire and non wire organization which supply news on a minute-to-minute or daily basis to a number of media organizations, both print and electronic.
- l) "News Media" means newspaper, news agency, feature agency, broadcasting concern, television;
- m) "Press" means people who write reports for newspaper, radio or television.
- n) "Press Representative" means the Journalist /correspondent, photographer representing any newspaper, news agency, feature, News, photo-agency, broadcasting concern or television and file news items regularly for the newspaper, magazine, television channel, radio organization or news portal under Rule 8(d).
- o) "Radio Organization" means any media organization which broadcast news bulletins and carries current affairs programmes, including All India Radio which operates under the Prasar Bharti Act.
- p) "Television Channel"/ "Local Cable TV" shall have the same meaning as News and Current Affairs Channels permitted under the Guidelines of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. This includes the news channels of Doordarshan operating under the Prasar Bharti Act, 1990.

**3. Constitution of the Mizoram Press Representative Accreditation Committee :-**

- 1) The Government of Mizoram shall constitute a Committee called the Mizoram Press Representative Accreditation Committee (hereinafter referred to as MPRAC) with the following compositions;

Chairman	:	Secretary, I & PR, Govt. of Mizoram.
Member Secretary	:	Director, I & PR, Govt. of Mizoram.
Member	:	2(two) Senior Officials from I&PR Department.
Member	:	President, MJA General Headquarters, Aizawl.
Member	:	General Secretary, MJA General Headquarters, Aizawl.

- 2) The Director shall be the convener of the Committee.

**4. Terms of Office :-**

- 1) The normal term of office of the members of Committee shall be for a period of two years from the date of issue of Notification constituting the Committee.

Provided that where it is not reasonably practicable to reconstitute the Committee after expiry of its terms, the State Government may extend the term of the Committee last constituted for a period not exceeding three months at a time and one year in all.

- 2) No member other than those appointed by virtue of post may continue for more than two consecutive terms.
- 3) If any vacancy is caused in the office of the member of the committee due to superannuation pension, resignation, death, illness or any other reason before expiry of the period of two years, a new member may be nominated in the vacancy to hold office for the remaining period;

Provided that the member to be nominated in the vacancy shall represent the category in which the vacancy had occurred.

**5. Conduct of Business of the Committee,-**

- 1) The Committee shall meet once in a year or more frequently if so required;
- 2) The quorum for the meeting shall be not less than three members;
- 3) At least a minimum of 7 days notice should be given for convening a meeting of the MPRA Committee. But in exceptional cases an emergent meeting may be convened after giving 48 hours notice. Even then the decisions of such emergent meeting will have temporary validity until they are approved by the Committee meeting called after 7 days notice.
- 4) The names of persons submitting applications together with such other details as may be available, and particulars of applicant for accreditation, if any shall be circulated to the members along with the notice of the meeting. In a situation where proper intimation could not be given in time, the Committee may also consider any other application for accreditation.
- 5) All correspondence on behalf of the Committee shall be made in the name of the Committee and shall be signed by the Director, Information and Public Relations.

**6. Function of the Committee :-**

The Committee shall have the power to:

- (a) grant or withdraw accreditation to Press Representatives;
- (b) renew accreditation to Press Representatives;
- (c) review the list of accreditation of Press Representatives;
- (d) ratify the grant of temporary accreditation given by the Director;
- (e) review its own decision.

**7. Procedure for Application of Accreditation :-**

- 1) Press Representatives desirous of obtaining accreditation shall apply in Form-1 attached to these rules. The Application should be countersigned by the Chief Editor/Editor and the name of the Representative shall be forwarded along with details regarding the professional experience of the correspondent through concerned D.D/IPRO for scrutiny. Each application should be accompanied by 3(three) passport size photographs of the applicant Press Representative. The Director shall place the application before the Committee for its decision.
- 2) In case of the districts apart from the capital, the media representatives should submit the application to the Director through the respective IPRO for scrutiny along with the certification from the authorized person in the media organization under which he or she works.
- 3) The responsibility of furnishing correct information in the application for accreditation shall be on the Chief Editor/Editor. In case where any false/incorrect information is furnished, the News Organization will be penalized with non receipts of Government advertisement for a period up to a maximum of two years but not less than one year after reasonable opportunity is given for explanation.

**8. Conditions for accreditation :-**

The Press Representative who applies for accreditation shall fulfill the following conditions :-

- a) His residence should be at the State Capital, District, Sub-divisions and Block Headquarters of the State Government during the period of accreditation.
- b) He shall be a working Press Representative as defined in the working Press Representative (and Miscellaneous /Provisions) Act, 1955 and employed whole - time correspondent as recognized by I&PR Department.
- c) Retainer, stringer or part-time correspondent shall not be accredited to the Government.
- d) The Press Representative shall have at least five years' experience as a correspondent in a recognized Media Organization/Firm.
- e) A maximum number of two correspondents from each newspaper/news media in the State headquarter and one correspondent in the District headquarters can be accredited if they fulfill the required conditions.
- f) In case of Electronic Media seeking accreditation for their Representatives, the factors to be taken into consideration for determining the accreditation are:
  - (i) T. V./Radio News production organization, having air-time arrangements with channels/stations, must have at least one news bulletin /programme of minimum 30 minutes duration per day.
  - (ii) Satellite channels, having dedicated at least 15 percent of their respective air-time (approx. 3.5 hours in a 24 hours cycle) to telecast/transmission of news and news related programme per day.
  - (iii) The Television channel should have been in operation a minimum period of three years;  
In case of TV channels, accreditation will be given to only one Cameraman/ Correspondent. This accreditation will be considered on the recommendations of Director/ Editor of the TV channel provided that all the requirements of these rules are fulfilled by the concerned applicant. If there are more than one correspondent from the same channel covering different programmes of the channel, only one correspondent who is directly employed and recommended by the authorized person, will be considered for Accreditation. His/Her designation should be shown as Cameraman-cum-correspondent.
- g) In case the Committee rejects the application of a press representative for accreditation, then the applicant shall be informed of the reasons for such rejection in writing. The applicant shall have the liberty to re-apply for reconsideration of the Committee. However the Committee's decision, after such reconsideration, shall be final.

- h) He should not have been convicted for any criminal offence under any law in force.
- i) The News Editor/ correspondent / cameraman / of News section of Doordarshan and AIR, the representatives of Press Information Bureau (PIB), Press Trust of India (PTI) and United News of India (UNI) are eligible for accreditation.
- j) Rupees Ten shall be charged for application fee.

**9. Status of Accreditation :-**

- 1) Accreditation does not confer any official status on the News Media Representative/ correspondent. Government merely recognizes that the accredited correspondent/Press Representative represents the newspapers /news agency/Media which employs him.
- 2) News Media Representative/ Correspondent/Journalist shall not have letter heads and visiting cards with the words "Accredited to the Government of Mizoram". If he/she wishes may have letter heads and visiting cards with the word "Accredited Press Representative".
- 3) A press representative may, for his/her access to or attendance at a press conference in a Government Office be required to produce the press accreditation card on demand for recognition of his identity.
- 4) Accreditation so granted shall be utilized only for Press related purposes.
- 5) Accreditation is personal and not transferable.
- 6) Validity of the accreditation shall be two years.

**10. Accreditation Card for Press Representatives :-**

- 1) On the recommendation of the Committee, the Director shall issue Accreditation Card to Press Representative/Correspondent/Journalist bearing a passport size photograph of the Representative/ Correspondent within a fortnight of the date of recommendation by the Committee.
- 2) The accreditation Card will normally be utilized for attending Press Conference convened by the Government and entry into Government offices. The accreditation Card shall not be admissible for attending special functions or conferences, where entry is covered by special invitation cards and security passes.
- 3) Rupees Fifty shall be charged for Accreditation Card Fee.

**11. List of Accredited Press Representatives :-**

The Director, Information & Public Relation shall maintain a list of Accredited Press Representatives.

**12. Review of the list of Accredited Press Representatives :-**

The list of accredited representatives will be reviewed periodically by the Committee, ordinarily once in a year.

**13. Renewal of Accreditation :-**

- 1) Accreditation may be renewed at an interval of 2 years on a request from the Editor and the Manager/Publisher in Form II, provided the provisions of these rules are fulfilled.
- 2) In general cases no press accreditation card shall be renewed unless an application for such renewal both by the card holder and the authorized person of the media organization is submitted at least 30 days before the date of expiry, failing which the accreditation shall stand cancelled/ rejected. Only under special circumstances renewal may be allowed after a maximum period up to 60 days from the date of expiry of the Accreditation Card if applied for by the Accreditation cardholder and the authorised person of the media organization in which he/she belongs to, shall have to assign the reason for such delay.
- 3) If and when an accredited Press Representatives/correspondent happens to change his/her organization from which he/she was accredited, he/she should bring to the notice of the Director,

in writing about the change within 15(fifteen) days from the change of his/her organization, along with a certification from the editor/publisher of his/her new organization.

- 4) Rupees Fifty shall be charged for renewal of the Accreditation Card.

#### 14. Loss of Accreditation Card :-

- 1) In case of loss of any Accreditation Card during the period of its validity, an application addressed to the Director shall be made for issue of a duplicate Accreditation Card. It should be certified by authorized person of the media organization. The Director shall issue duplicate card for the remaining period of validity only.
- 2) Rupees One hundred shall be charged for re-issue of the Accreditation Card on loss of the said card.
- 3) The funds collected in the form of fees and fines shall be credited into Government Account.

#### 15. Withdrawal of Accreditation :-

1. Accreditation of Accredited Press Representative shall be liable to be withdraw if:-
  - a) he commits any offence under the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, or
  - b) he uses information received and facilities accorded to him for a non-journalistic or illegal purposes, or
  - c) he behaves, in the course of his duties, in an undignified or unprofessional manner or commits an offence involving moral turpitude or
  - d) he engages himself in work other than Press related matters such as soliciting business or advertisements for a newspaper or news agency, or
  - e) he is convicted by a competent court of jurisdiction for defamation or any other criminal offence arising out of his writings/coverage.
  - f) he causes willful publication of news that is incorrect or false. But in case, the newspaper itself is responsible and not the accredited press representatives/Journalist for the willful publication of false, malafide or incorrect reports, or abuse of confidence, the News Organization will be penalized by non receipts of Government advertisement for a period up to a maximum of two years but not less than one year after reasonable opportunity is given for explanation. Action will be taken by the Director on the advice of the Committee after the matter has been reported to the editor of the newspaper or manager of news agency and after the party concerned has been given a reasonable opportunity to be heard by the committee
2. The power to withdraw accreditation shall vest in the Committee which shall not exercise this power except after giving a show cause notice for a period of 7 days to the correspondent concerned and also an opportunity of being heard.
3. A Press Representative aggrieved by an order passed by the Press Accreditation Committee under this rule may prefer a review petition before the Accreditation Committee within 30 days of the passing of the order or after communication of the order to him/her, if it is passed in his/her absence.

#### 16. Withdrawal & Notice of Termination of Accreditation of a Press Representatives :-

When an accredited Journalist/correspondent ceases to represent a newspaper or news agency on behalf of which he is accredited, the fact should be brought to the notice of the Director, in writing by the correspondent, or by the editor, or the manager concerned within thirty days. Failing this, the matter may be reported to the Committee by the Director for necessary action.

If and when an accredited journalist happens to change his organization from where he was accredited, he should bring to the notice of the Director, Information & Public Relations in writing within 15(fifteen) days from the change of his organization, along with a certificate from the editor/publisher of his new organization.

In the case of suspension or closure of a newspaper for over a month, the newspaper shall inform the reason of suspension/closure to the Director of the Committee for any appropriate action by the Committee.

**17. Continuous absence from the headquarters :-**

An accredited Press Representative/correspondent who is continuously absent for three months without sufficient reasons from the Headquarters of his operation shall forfeit his accreditation. This period may be extended by three months more on a written request from the Editor or Manager concerned.

**18. Representation against decision :-**

Newspaper, agencies and correspondents may submit representation to the Committee for review against any decision taken under the provisions of these rules, such representation should reach the committee two calendar months from the date on which the decision in question was communicated to the newspaper, agency or correspondent concerned.

**19. Violation of decisions :-**

If any member violates the decision of the committee or acts against the Rules, the committee reserves the right to forfeit his membership.

**20. Prominent Press Representatives :-**

A Press Representative who is above 65 years of age and have made outstanding contribution in the field of journalism may be given special recognition and issued a card as a Prominent Press Representative. The card will be valid for life of the Press Representative provided he continues to have his permanent residence in the State of Mizoram. A new card with new photograph may be issued to such prominent Press Representative on request.

**21. Dissolution of the Mizoram Press Representative Accreditation Committee :-**

If the committee does not follow the Rules, the State Government reserved the right to dissolve the committee and can reconstitute a new committee.

**22. Relaxation of Rules :-**

The Government may, if it considers necessary, proper or expedient to do so, in consultation with the Press Accreditation Committee, relax any of the provisions of these rules.

By order

Sd/-

**K. LALNGHINGLOVA, IAS**

Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Mizoram,  
Information Public Relations Department,  
Government of Mizoram.