

Lokayukta pulls up Karnataka Slum Development Board for delay in clearing Subramanyapura Lake encroachment

Take serious note of misleading by misrepresentation of the facts in Talghattapura Lake

Bengaluru: Dec 13, 2019: It's been more than two years and yet the Karnataka Slum Development board officials keep producing lame excuses to relocate lake encroachers to newly constructed housing complex built only for them. While the officials from Joint Director of Land records department had submitted Survey excerpts from Koliwada Committee to Lokayukta on Talghattapura Lake. ***Both these authorities have lied to the Lokayukta***.

To reclaim and protect Bengaluru's dying lakes Namma Bengaluru Foundation started 'United Bengaluru' campaign under the Aegis of Shri Doreswamy in 2017. The Namma Bengaluru Foundation (NBF) and United Bengaluru team submitted 23 lake petitions to Lokayukta on 03-08-2017 one of which Subramanyapura and Talghattapura lakes are part of.

The Lake hearing update as follows:

On Subramanyapura Lake:

The Lokayukta was visibly upset as he wanted a concrete response from them (a positive one at that). The previous order dated Sep 26, 2019 had directed for all works to be completed and the people to move from lake bed (that is an encroachment) to the slum board apartments.

****_Lokayukta Ordered if this work is not completed by one week (by Dec 19, 2019), he will be initiating an enquiry on slum development board for non-compliance and slothful work. Next hearing is scheduled on Dec 19, 2019_****.

Talghattapura Lake:

The Tahsildar's office submitted a report that they are awaiting order from DC for the eviction of encroachment. ****_Lokayukta directed that as per the previous order dated April 25, 2019, the Tahsildar must evict the encroachment immediately_****.

NBF brought to the notice of Lokayukta that Authorities lied to the Lokayukta saying the survey been done but submitted excerpts from Koliwada Committee report. ****_Lokayukta directed NBF to submit objections within 4 weeks on the same and the surveyor must respond to our objections ASAP. Next hearing is scheduled on Feb 15, 2020_****.

Mr. Harish Kumar. General Manager, Namma Bengaluru Foundation responded that, "In summary this raises the question of Accountability of officers to their duties and Transparency in how they operate. The Government needs to fix these two things immediately by making amendments to the Karnataka State Civil Service Act and its Rules".

About united Bengaluru Lake campaign:

United Bengaluru spread awareness on preservation of lakes and inspected about 23 lakes. The report was petitioned to the honourable Lokayukta. There are 23 cases with Lokayukta currently. So far 13 lakes have been surveyed based on Lokayukta order and we have represented in all these surveys.

Relentless follow up from awakened and informed citizenry for action from the Lokayukta against encroachers, recovering the land and protecting it with boundaries has helped in Civic bodies working on the development of these lakes.

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