

Print

Karnataka Lokayukta
(Under Section 7 of the Karnataka Lokayukta Act, 1984)

CASE **COMPT/UPLOK**
NUMBER : **/BCD/3339/2023**
District : **Bengaluru (U)**

BY :

1. Suo Moto

As per the Order of Honble Upalokayukta-2,
Dated: 03/06/2023.

COMPLAINANT/S

AGAINST :

1. Assistant Revenue Officer

Bruhath Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Whitefield
Sub-Division, Bengaluru.

2. Revenue Officer

Bruhath Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Whitefield
Sub-Division, Bengaluru.

RESPONDENT/S

Allegation/Grievance
Brief : Dereliction of duty.

Received From : Suo Moto (Upalok-2 section)

Received On : 05-06-2023

Seal and Signature

Complaint stands
allotted to : **ARLO-1**

SCRUTINY AND OPINION

ಸಹಾಯಕ ನಿಬಂಧಕರು
ಕಾನೂನು ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕಾಯುಕ್ತ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-೧.

KARNATAKA LOKAYUKTA

No:

Date: 03/06/2023

ORDER

My attention was drawn to a news item published in "Samyuktha Karnataka" dated: 30/05/2023, wherein, the residents of Ramagondanahalli falling within BBMP limits of Whitefield Zone have gone on strike demanding basic facilities, such as, roads and drinking water for the residents during this summer season.

2. It is evident from the news report that, drinking water is not supplied to these areas everyday and water is supplied only once in a week making residents to struggle for water. As such, they have gone on strike flaunting empty pots in front of A.R.O. office of Whitefield Sub-Division of BBMP. Besides, locking the office of ARO, BBMP.

3. It is also stated that, residents are procuring drinking water from far of places and some of them are getting water in water tankers by paying huge charges which results in commercial exploitation of ground water by the water supplying agencies resulting in public inconvenience.

4. Their demand is that, the drinking water be supplied to their area everyday and officials responsible for irregular supply of drinking water be penalised.

5. The said news item reflects the mal-administration in Whitefield, BBMP Sub-zone. Particularly, in the most happening areas of Whitefield. The BBMP Authorities have an onerous duty to ensure that required quantity of water is supplied to every resident daily. Right to clean drinking water is a fundamental right within the meaning of right to life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

6. It is needless to say that, drinking water is essential to prevent dehydration during summer. If drinking water supply is provided once in a week people will be left in lurch for the rest of the days in a week and they live in an unhygienic conditions and they have to source water from external agencies by spending huge money on water suppliers. Making people to buy water from private individuals is an unbecoming conduct on the part of the BBMP officials as the health and hygiene of citizens would be badly affected.

7. BBMP generates huge revenue from the tax payers and it owes a duty to supply adequate water to residents residing within the BBMP limits. Ramagondanahalli which is part of Bangalore metropolitan area is facing acute shortage of water supply and the photograph published in the said news paper depict that the residents of Ramagondanahalli are demanding basic amenities, roads and proper

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ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕಾಯುಕ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

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water supply. Being frustrated with the official apathy, they have also locked the office of the Assistant Revenue Officer, Whitefield Sub Division.

8. Denial of water has been deemed to imply denial of right to life. It has been read into the interpretation of Article 21. The State is duty bound not only to provide adequate drinking water. But, also to protect water sources from pollution and encroachment.

9. If anything endangers or impairs that quality of life in derogation of laws, a citizen has right to approach the authorities for supply of adequate potable water when short supply may be detrimental to quality of life.

10. Water has been defined as a "Social Asset". Water is essence of life. Several judgements under Article 21 of the Constitution emphasise to include right to supply sufficient water and right to decent and dignified life. A right to live with dignity, peace and

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ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕಾಯುಕ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

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right to humane and healthy environment would certainly imply right to water to all members of the society, be it a human or animal.

11. Further, an entitlement to receive safe drinking water (potable water) is part of right to life under Article 21 of Constitution of India. The right to access to clean drinking water is a fundamental right and it is a duty on the part of the State under Article 21 to provide clean water to citizens. Citizen's right to have access to clean drinking water is a fundamental right. The said fact is emphasised by the Supreme Court in case of M.C.Mehta V/s Kamalnath during the year 1997 and also in a case relating to State of Karnataka V/s State of Andhra Pradesh in the year 2000 and also in case of Narmada Bachao Andolan V/s Union of India. It is said that, water is basic need for the survival of human being and it is part of right to life and human rights.

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12. The administration cannot be permitted to function in such a manner to make the lives of citizens miserable. Right to clean water to sustain life is basic. Press can espouse the cause of citizens for the benefit of society especially for those under privileged villagers and poor.

13. Denial of access to water and sanitation has been going on for a lifetime even before the advent of economic reforms. This has been happening despite Supreme Court rulings time and again. Access to clean drinking water is fundamental right and it is part of right to life.

14. It is a implicit right asserted through a set of laws which confer the duty upon the State through its agencies, the local bodies to provide clean water.

15. Under these circumstances, denial of water to Ramagondanahalli citizens of Whitefield, BBMP area is not justified.



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16. The grievance of the residents of Ramagondanahalli needs to be addressed on top priority. I propose to initiate suo-moto action against the erring officials. Acting under sec.7(1) R/w 9(3)(a) of Karnataka Lokayukta Act, 1984 office is directed to register a suo-moto complaint based on the news report published in "Samyuktha Karnataka" dated: 30/05/2023.

17. The following officials be added as respondents in this case for proper adjudication.

Sl. No.	Name and Designation of the officers
1.	Assistant Revenue Officer, BBMP, Whitefield Sub-Division, Bengaluru.
2.	Revenue Officer, BBMP, White Field Sub-Division, Bengaluru.

18. The respondents are directed to immediately restore regular water supply to Ramagondanahalli.

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19. The BBMP authorities shall bestow interest in providing motorable roads and basic amenities to the residents of this area without further delay. It is needless to direct that, required adequate quantity of water shall be supplied to the said village everyday without any lame excuses.

20. Call for comments from the respondents and also report from the Commissioner, BBMP as to why there was no regular supply of drinking water to this village resulting in public unrest.

21. Comments from the respondents shall reach this office within 15 days from the date of receipt of this order and also communicate this order to Commissioner, BBMP forthwith.

List this matter after 2 weeks.


(Justice K.N. Phaneendra)

Upalokayukta-2,
Karnataka State.

Uplink/BQ/3339/2023

ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿಗೆ ಆಗ್ರಹಿಸಿ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆ

ಪಾಲೆ ಲೋ

ಸಂ.ಕ.ಸಮಾಚಾರ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಪುರ

ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಹಲವು ಮೂಲಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಒದಗಿಸುವಂತೆ ಆಗ್ರಹಿಸಿ ವೈಟ್‌ಫೀಲ್ಡ್‌ನ ರಾಮಗಿಂಡನಹಳ್ಳಿಯ ನಾಗರಿಕರು ವೈಟ್‌ಫೀಲ್ಡ್‌ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಕಂದಾಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಕಚೇರಿಗೆ ಸೋಮವಾರ ಬೀಗ ಹಾಕಿ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟಿಸಿದರು.

ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಅಧಿಕವಾಗಿದೆ. ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಮಗೆ ನಿತ್ಯ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ವಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಒಂದು ದಿನ ಮಾತ್ರ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಕೆಲವರು ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್ ನೀರು ಖರೀದಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇನ್ನು ಕೆಲವರು ದೂರದ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಿಂದ ನೀರು ತರುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ರಸ್ತೆ ಒಳಚರಂಡಿ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯವನ್ನು ನಮಗೆ ಒದಗಿಸಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ನಾಗರಿಕರು ದೂರಿದರು.

ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಮೂಲಸೌಲಭ್ಯವನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಬೇಕು. ಇಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದರೆ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೂಡಲೇ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಅಮಾನತುಗೊಳಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಆಗ್ರಹಿಸಿದರು. ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಲವು ನಾಗರಿಕರು ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು.



ವೈಟ್‌ಫೀಲ್ಡ್‌ನ ರಾಮಗಿಂಡನಹಳ್ಳಿಯ ನಾಗರಿಕರು ವೈಟ್‌ಫೀಲ್ಡ್‌ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಕಂದಾಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಕಚೇರಿಗೆ ಬೀಗಹಾಕಿ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟಿಸಿದರು.

ಸಂ.ಕ.ಸಮಾಚಾರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಪುರದ ಬಳಿಯ ಅಂಚೆ
ಇನ್‌ಸ್ಟೋಸಿನ್ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಗೆ
ಎಂಟು ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಮಾಡಿದೆ.

ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಲೋಕಾರಂಭ
ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಉಪಲೋ
ಪಕರಣ ದಾಖಲಿಸಿಕೊಂಡ
ಕಾನೂನು ವಿಭಾಗ ಘಟನೆ
ನೀಡುವಂತೆ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿಯ

ಅಂಡರ್‌ಪಾಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸಿ
ಹೊರಹೋಗಲು ಕೈಗೊಂಡ
ವರದಿ ನೀಡಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಿ
ಪೂರ್ವ ವಲಯದ ಕಮಿಷನರಿ
ಎಕ್ಸ್‌ಕ್ಯೂಟಿವ್ ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರ
ಎಇ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲರಾಮನಗರ
ಸ್ವಾಮ್ ವಾಟರ್ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ
ಹಾಗೂ ಅಸಿಸ್ಟೆಂಟ್ ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರ್

ಭಾನುವಾರ (ಮೇ 21) ರಜೆ
ಉದ್ದೋಗಿಯವರಿಗೆ ಭಾನುವಾರ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ತೋರಿಸಲು ಈ
ವೀಕ್ಷಣೆ ಬೇಕು ಮೇಲೆ ಆರಂಭವ

ನಾಡಪ್ರಭು ಕೆಂಪೇಗೌಡರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ

ದೇಗುಲ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು : ಬಾಸಿಡಾನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ

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today at 10:22 AM



THE HINDU
Bengaluru

Residents in Whitefield spend ₹10,000 per month on water

Multiple apartments in the area are spending anywhere between ₹1 lakh and ₹1.2 lakh per month for water

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Residents of around three villages in suburban pockets of Whitefield are forced to cough up around ₹10,000 a month to purchase water, as groundwater has depleted drastically. These residents are dependent on borewells.

In the last five months, many villagers have spent nearly ₹50,000, and a large chunk of their earnings is going into arranging water for day-to-day needs. While earlier, their average spending was ₹500 to ₹600 per month, the situation changed after a water supply agent started to transport water to urban areas from these villages.

Borewells

In Ramagondanahalli village, Jagadish's weekly spending is ₹2,400. He needs two tankers of water a week. A water tanker of 12,000-litre capacity costs ₹1,200. Mr. Jagadish, speaking to *The Hindu*, said a water supply agent had dug over 25 borewells in these villages to supply 120 to 130 tankers a day to

urban pockets. The water from these wells was being pumped round the clock, owing to which water in borewells located in houses had depleted completely. The residents now could not draw water from these wells and were dependent on tanks supplied by the same agent. The situation was no different in Siddapura and Thubarahalli villages. Mr. Jagadish said the residents had written multiple letters to the Executive Engineer demanding

the closure of this agency or to restrict operational hours to help recharge residential borewells, but to no avail. Mr. Jagadish said of the 5,000 houses, only 2,500 houses had Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) connection and the rest are dependent on their borewells.

Umesh M., a resident from Siddapura village, said villagers here were spending anywhere between ₹6,000 and ₹10,000 depending on their re-

quirements. Unrestricted commercial pumping of water had made villagers depend on water tankers. Mr. Umesh said there were months when he spent ₹15,000. The spending goes up when relatives come home.

Spending up

Meanwhile, on the other side of the story, multiple apartments in the Whitefield area are also spending around ₹1,00,000 to ₹1,20,000 a month to purchase water as apartment

agents are supplying 6,000 litres of water for ₹750. On a daily basis, three to four tankers are bought by these apartments.

Rama Narayana Swami, a 70-year-old, said 117 families were living in her apartment and most of them are retired. Every month, each house had to spend ₹1,200 to ₹1,300. This has been the plight for the last three months. Earlier, the apartment was spending ₹30,000 per month.

A resident of another private apartment at Nalurahalli said although they had sustainable water management models, monthly water-cost came to about ₹1,00,000. The BWSSB supplied water once a week and they were blaming erratic supply on water shortage. Unless BWSSB found some solution, the spending would remain the same, residents said.

An Assistant Executive Engineer of BWSSB said owing to issues with pump sets, the supply had been erratic. The BWSSB was working to fix the problem and it would be resolved soon, the official added.



Water tankers can be seen parked at Ramagondanahalli near Whitefield. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

