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**Karnataka Lokayukta**

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

CASE COMPT/UPLOK  
NUMBER : /MYS/910/2023  
District : Kodagu UPLOK-1

BY :

1. Suo Moto

As per the Order of Honble Upalokayukta, Date:  
03/02/2023.

Mobile/Landline:

COMPLAINANT/S

AGAINST :

1. District Health Officer

Madikeri, Kodagu District.

RESPONDENT/S

**Allegation/Grievance** Dereliction of duty.  
**Brief :**

Received From : Suo Moto  
Received On : 03-02-2023

**Complaint stands** PP  
**allotted to :**

Seal and Signature

ಇಹಾಯಕ ನಿಬಂಧಕರು

ಕಾನೂನು ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ

SCRUTINY AND OPINION

ಧರ್ಮ ನಿರ್ವಾಹ  
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕಾಯುಕ್ತ ಕಛೇರಿ  
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-೧.

4.2.23  
For PIR

## **KARNATAKA LOKAYUKTA**

No:

Date: 03.02.2023

### **ORDER**

I visited Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital, Mother and Child Hospital situated in Madikeri, Kodagu District when I visited the said District from 21.01.2023 to 23.01.2023 to hold public grievances, hearing and redressal meet and to decide pending cases pertaining to the said District.

2. During my visit, it came to my notice that even though the said Hospital caters to the teaching facility needs of Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences there were no specialized Neurologists, Urologists and Gastro enterologists with super speciality skills. The departments were headed by Surgeons and in case of super speciality requirement, patients were sent to K.R. Hospital, Mysore and Wenlock Hospital, Mangalore. These two hospitals are at a distance of more than 150 kms from the said district and many



critical patients will succumb to their injuries and ailments enroute while being shifted to higher hospitals.

3. Considering the topography of the district and the hilly terrain, shifting patients from Kodagu to Mysore and Mangalore is a tedious task and golden hour would be lost during shifting itself. Though the hospital is properly managed and the new building is coming up, posting of doctors with super speciality qualification is a dire need. Without the facility of super specialists, trauma and accident victims, organo phosphorous cases (OP cases) and patients with cardiac disease will breathe their last for want of specialists/qualified surgeons care. Under these circumstances, I deem it appropriate to direct the Director, Directorate of Medical Education to bestow interest in posting specialists more particularly Neurologists, Urologists, Nephrologists, Cardiothoracic Surgeon and Cardiologists with super speciality skills to this hospital as it is situated in hilly terrain and it is isolated from other nearby districts because of its

geographic conditions. It is also necessary to direct the Principal Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka to take immediate remedial steps to post required super specialists to the said Hospital at the earliest to mitigate the inconveniences of the people of Kodagu District and also to save loss of precious human life.


4. During my visit, it was found that the C.T scan facility installed on the ground floor of the Hospital in front of ART Centre is not operational and it was mentioned to me that the equipment is emitting radiation and proper insulation to prevent the leak of radioactive rays from the lead clad door is to be attended to. This defect shall be immediately redressed and the facility shall be made available to the required patients at the earliest.

5. It is also brought to my notice that the hospital building doesn't have lift facility and it has become inconvenient for the patients. The caretakers of the patients admitted in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the building

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are finding it difficult to climb the stairs. On enquiry the officers of the administration branch reported to me that the file correspondence is being made with the Hon'ble Minister for Health and Medical Education. It is the dire need to provide lift facility to the Hospital building at the earliest. The concerned authorities shall ensure early clearance for the same.

6. It is also brought to my notice that adequate number of 'D' group employees are not provided as against the required strength and there is also impediment to appoint them on regular basis or through contract basis. The Hospital having inflow of so many patients require adequate number of 'D' group employees without which, proper medical services and facilities cannot be extended to the poor and needy patients. The State Government shall examine this aspect having regard to the fact that medical facilities are essential services more particularly subsequent to Covid-19 pandemic situation.



7. It is further brought to my notice that the agency which was entrusted with preparing Arogya Bhagya Cards is not paid remuneration for the past three months and the facilities have come to a stand still for non-payment of charges to the agencies. Under these circumstances the authorities shall resolve this issue at the earliest to avoid inconvenience to needy persons/patients.

8. It is also necessary to provide proper counselling for the students and the younger generation in order to curb and contain suicidal tendencies amongst youth especially in the students of age group between 16 to 18, they are more prone to suicidal tendencies and psychological disorders such as depression and Schizophrenia and other mental disorders during adolescent age either due to hormonal changes or due to stress factors. Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences is equipped with a team of Psychiatrists. I direct the head of the department of Psychiatry to visit the hostels run by Social Welfare Department and Backward Classes Department and Minorities

Department to periodically hold counselling meeting with the students through their wardens. In the first instance, the hostel wardens shall be given training and tips to bring down incidence of psychiatric disorders and mental illness amongst inmates of the hostel. In this direction the District Administration shall organize a training programme initially to the wardens and care takers of the hostels and also to the heads of schools and colleges so that, they in turn will interact with the students to instil confidence and courage in them to face examinations to counter psychological problems.

9. On inspection of the attendance register, cash declaration register and movement register, they were not properly maintained and there were gaps in the attendance register. Some of the duty doctors and the officials working in the hospital are not in the habit of marking their attendance, the moment they report for their duties. The entries in the movement register were made only on few occasions and the Government servants are not in the habit of recording their

movement during office hours. This practice requires to be deprecated and the doctors who are incharge of the administration of the hospital shall ensure strict compliance in the above regard and shall submit a report after taking appropriate action against the officials who display negligence in this regard.

10. The copy of this order be forwarded to;

- i) The Hon'ble Minister, Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
- ii) The Hon'ble Minister, Medical Education, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
- iii) The Principal Secretary to Government, Health and Family Welfare Department, Vikasa Soudha, Bengaluru.
- iv) The Commissioner, Health and Family Welfare Services, Arogya Soudha, Magadi Road, Bengaluru.
- v) The Deputy Commissioner, Madikeri, Kodagu District.
- vi) The Medical Superintendent, Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences, Teaching Hospital, Madikeri, Kodagu District.





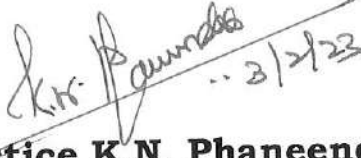
vii) The District Health Officer, Madikeri, Kodagu District

for information and necessary action.

Register a suo-motu case.

11. Action taken in this regard shall be within a month from the date of receipt of this order.

Call on 10/03/2023.

  
**(Justice K.N. Phaneendra)**  
Upalokayukta-2,  
State of Karnataka.