



Citizens' Action Forum

The Fifth Estate

9th/April/2015

SHRI VAJUBHAI RUDABHAI VALA

H.E Governor of Karnataka,
Raj Bhavan,
BANGALORE

Respected Sir,

We the CITIZENS' ACTION FORUM, a not-for-profit society formed by a group of RWA's and concerned citizens, civil society leaders, passionate in bringing transparency and accountability by increasing citizen participation in matters of Governance through structured citizen participation are writing this letter to record our strong objections to the BBMP trifurcation and the manner in which it is being done and in the same breath seek BBMP elections to be held on time.

We from CAF strongly disagree with the argument that only by bi/trifurcating BBMP the Governance issues of Bengaluru will be solved. In this context we seeking a **“white paper on - reasons for the Governance Deficit”** to be brought out which will also examine the justification for the merger in 2007, the reasons for subsequent inadequacies and list a clear roadmap for ensuring effective governance for Bengaluru. We have already met with and given a detailed representation to the Honourable Chief Minister of Karnataka more than a month ago, in this regard which clearly stated our belief and demand that pressing issue of Bengaluru's future governance and administration can only be successfully approached and solved only by implementing the 74th CAA in letter and spirit

Subsequently we have seen developments where cabinet has decided on BBMP trifurcation, even before the Final Report of the 3 member committee solely setup for giving recommendations wrt to “restructuring BBMP and give its recommendations to address the pressing issue of Bengaluru's future governance and administration is finalised. Further we were shocked to read that the Honourable Chief Minister, Karnataka – Shri Siddaramaiah has clearly backtracked on giving financial independence to BBMP as stated in his interview to Times of India. (Paper clipping attached). Post this we also had the High Court of Karnataka directing the state government to hold BBMP elections on time, whilst observing that reorganization is not a simple affair, it will take time.

In spite of all these developments we are now given to understand that the Kataria committee report prepared in 15 days, on irregularities in BBMP has been submitted and can be used to dissolve BBMP council. While we are all for seeking accountability and seek the report to be made public especially if it indicts the BBMP for financial misappropriation in accounts department, solid waste management, civil works and tax collection, and recommends further inquiry by an independent agency. We firmly believe that this should not be used to subvert democracy by superseding the BBMP council. This in turn will mean a dysfunctional Metropolitan Planning Committee and Ward Committees which is against the letter and spirit of the 74th CAA.

Further the Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner has completed the process of delimitation of wards based on 2011 census, at the behest of State Election Commissioner's direction to the Deputy Commissioner to complete the process without any delay.

We from CAF strongly advocate devolution of powers as per the 74TH constitutional amendment act , to zones, which should happen on a scientific, transparent and participative basis applying logic and reason and this must be overseen by Municipality, not Bureaucracy which will NOT be the case if the ordinance to trifurcate BBMP is promulgated.

Hence we seek your Excellency to intervene and advise the state Government to publish the draft notification of the delimitation for public display, and start the process of calling for objection and publishing final notification and BBMP trifurcation is not used as a pretext to subvert the democratic process of holding BBMP elections on schedule. We firmly believe that the constitutional right of citizen to have his representatives is more important than issues of reorganization of BBMP.

Please note we have attached a copy of our letter to the Honourable Chief Minister which we had submitted on 22n Jan 2015, in this regard, for your kind reference.

Sincerely yours

Mahalakshmi Parthasarathy
Secretary
Citizens' Action Forum

Rajshekar. D.S
President
Citizens' Action Forum