

Lokayukta pulls up the absent Tahsildars for delay in clearing Chikkabanavara and Mallasandra Lake encroachments

Bengaluru: Jan 13, 2020: It's been more than 14 months and the Tahsildar (Bangalore North) is yet to clear the encroachments despite Lokayukta's repeated order. While the officials from Joint Director of Land records department had submitted Survey, the Tahsildar does not seem to adhere to the orders of removing encroachments on Chikkabanavara Lake.

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 Chikkabanavara and Mallasandra lakes are part of.

The Lake hearing update as follows:

On Chikkabanavara Lake:

The Lokayukta was visibly upset during the hearing as the Bengaluru North Tahsildar was absent and he wanted a concrete response from the Tahsildar on removal of encroachments on Chikkabanavara Lake. The BWSSB assured the Lokayukta and the petitioners that they would stop the sewage entering into the lake by 2021 and that they would pump all the sewage water to the STP and treat the same. Additionally, the BDA updated that the DPR is being prepared and will be finalized in a month's time and that they have budgeted the rejuvenation of the lakes to an estimated amount of for Rs 10Cr.

Lokayukta Directed to Bangalore North Taluk Tahsildar to remove the encroachment and submit a report in 3 months.

Mallasandra Gudde Lake:

Lokayukta in his earlier order had directed the Tahsildar (Bangalore North) to remove the encroachments. But there is no action on the order despite repeated orders directing the same.

Honourable Lokayukta once again ordered the Tahsildar (who was absent during the hearing) to remove the encroachment and to give status report in 10days.

Mr. Harish Kumar, General Manager, Namma Bengaluru Foundation responded that, "In summary, the authorities seem to have no accountability of their duties and seem to have a lackadaisical attitude how they operate. Despite two years of our relentless efforts in saving the lakes and waterbodies of Bengaluru. The Government needs to fix Accountability and Transparency issues immediately".

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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