

12th March 2020

To,
The President
Standing Committee on Taxation and Finance
BBMP, Bengaluru

Respected Sir,
Greetings from Namma Bengaluru Foundation (NBF)

Subject: Suggestions to BBMPs 2020-21 budget.

Reference: Your letter dated 7th March 2020 to Namma Bengaluru Foundation (NBF) asking to provide suggestions to BBMP Budget 2020-21.

Thank you for asking NBF for inputs. We request that the following five pro-people pro-governance suggestions are adopted in BBMPs 2020-21 budget.

- 1. Increase Education budget:** In the past years, education budget has averaged less than 0.5% of total budget. Building human capital is the need of the hour. Public investment in early childhood care and education should be the priority of the local government. Let BBMP set an example for all the Urban Local Bodies in Karnataka in this respect. Please increase this to minimum 5%.
- 2. Create a real time database of properties, commercial establishments to enhance revenue:** It is observed that taxes are either under paid or not paid by most of the property and commercial establishment owners as they are not tracked regularly. BBMP is losing on this important revenue source. To correct this situation a real time database needs to be put in place and tracked by jurisdiction officers in real time.
- 3. Make internal Risk-based Audit a priority:** This much needed reform is long pending in BBMPs administration process. When BBMP is planning to spend close to Rs.10,000 Crores of people's money, it is necessary that it is spent cautiously with responsibility. Financial discipline is needed to get better outcomes. Again, BBMP has the opportunity to set an example for the state. Please adopt this measure earnestly.
- 4. Make Programme of Works (PoW's) available to people:** BBMP has ward-wise and city-wide projects and corresponding budgets. Making Programme of Works (PoW's) and expenditure available to people is mandatory under the transparency law. This will enhance people's participation and the credibility of BBMP.
- 5. Adopt social audit at ward levels:** This reform adopted in the celebrated central scheme, MGNREGS has paid rich dividends. BBMP needs this progressive reform to boost its image and outcomes, again by setting an example in the state.

We sincerely hope that you will consider these suggestions and adopt them in 2020-21 budget.

Thank you
Faithfully
HARISH KUMAR MP
General Manager