

**SITARAM KUNTE**

I. A. S.

Municipal Commissioner



बृहन्मुंबई महानगरपालिका

No. : MGA/5250

Date : 30.9.2013

Sub:- News report in Times of India dated 9<sup>th</sup> September 2013  
captioned 'Bribe demads hold up Bulding Projects in City'.

Dear Shri Shah,

A report has appeared in the Times of India on 9th September 2013 regarding demands for bribes in the Building Proposals department of MCGM. Some members of MCHI and PEATA have cited non-specific instances that are quoted in the report.

I wish to inform you that MCGM administration is desirous to root out corruption from the buildings approval process. To that end, rules have been made transparent and discretions curtailed to the extent possible. Office automation is being aggressively pursued and paperless office system is being put in place. This will help track file movements and locate deviations from the prescribed norms for the approval process. To deal with grievances, I have already directed Dy.Ch.Es of Zonal offices to hold periodic meetings with the developers and architects to resolve technical issues in building approvals. If the issues remain unresolved, you can approach Ch.E.(D.P.) or me personally. We will try to resolve all technical and administrative issues and ensure expeditious clearances, provided the proposals comply with the statutory requirements.

As a part of an exercise to enhance general hygiene in MCGM governance, efiort is underway to infuse ethical standards among public servants of MCGM by exposing them to training programs on Ethics run at Institute of Friends of Moral Re-armament of India at Panchgani. RTI Act is being implemented in the right earnest across MCGM. In all internal meetings of the BP department, the officials are directed to uphold highest standards of integrity and professionalism. They are also directed to remain vigilant against

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influential outsiders who may vitiate their functioning. In specific complaints, matters are inquired and suitable reliefs given along with administrative action against the delinquents.

Notwithstanding these efforts, however, greed can trump better senses resulting in demand for bribes. Demanding bribes is a cognizable offence, whether it is done by a public servant or by a private person in his behalf or otherwise. The offences are listed in sections 7-13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act (POCA). Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) is the competent authority to initiate legal action against public servants or their accomplices for demanding bribes. There are special courts to deal with cases of corruption. Given the nature of the offences, the testimony of the victim against the perpetrator is of critical importance. Also, it is important to resist attempts to commit such crimes with all the force at command of the victim.

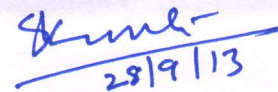
Your members are therefore, advised to approach ACB to initiate legal proceedings against demands for bribes. Your members and their liasoning agents are also advised to strictly say no to bribes and immediately file their complaint against such demands in the ACB. You may also lodge complaint in my office, which I will get enquired through the Vigilance Department and also forward it to the ACB. However, since demanding bribes is a criminal offence I reiterate that ACB is the appropriate statutory authority for that purpose, which your members must approach.

You may find this cumbersome and a distraction from your normal course of business. However, given the nature of the offence, effective remedy would require your wholehearted cooperation. In the larger interest of this city, I seek your cooperation in combating such demand for bribes. I have seen that even a seemingly helpless poor person musters courage to fight the demand for bribes. Fortunately, members of your organization are much better placed in the society to be able to put up effective resistance when confronted with such criminal acts of demanding bribes. I assure you that even if a *prima-facie* case is made out, the officials shall be subjected to

severest punishment available under the law. These examples will also have a strong deterrent effect on the system.

I wish to add here that we have pursued cases of corruption vigorously. After receiving reports from ACB, we have given sanctions to prosecute in such cases. We have also secured convictions in some cases. MCGM administration is committed to clean and ethical governance and will take every possible step to root out corruption and your proactive support in this regard is welcome.

Yours sincerely,

  
28/9/13

(Sitaram Kunte)

Shri Vimal Shah,  
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