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Ref. No. MCHI/PRES/19-20/637

To, Shri Sanjay Kumar (I.A.S.) Chief Secretary of Maharashtra Chairman Empowered Committee IT-ITeS Mantralaya, Mumbai 400 034.



Sub: Suggestions for Survival & Sustenance of the Real Estate Industry in Mumbai

Respected Sir,

We, at the onset, would like to sincerely thank you for calling a meeting in such a short notice and this shows your commitment towards resolving the issues.

Please find below our suggestion for Empowered Committee for IT/ITES Parks

1. Reduction in ASR - RR 2020-2021

We humbly request that across all categories viz: Land, Office, Shops, Apartments /Service Apartments may be reduced by 30% and for approved users in IT Parks further 20% lower rates than the commercial rates.

2. LUC Charges

Sir, the current Land Under Construction (LUC) charges insisted by MCGM for project are exorbitantly high and are multiple times that area generally charged post receipt of Occupation Certificate to the building.

IT/ITES Concession policy of MCGM in respect of taxation is discretive. Different standards are being applied by different offices for allowing concessions, though it is ought to be allowed since the inception of the business. Sometimes it's from the date of LOI, sometimes from the date of RC. This is not justifiable.

Vacant premises not capable of habitation, are taxed at full rates as if it is beneficially & permanently occupied. This clearly demotes the construction sector.

(At present this matter is sub-judice in Supreme Court on petition filed by Central Mumbai Developers Welfare Association)

3. Introduction of Zero Premium IOD/CC up to plinth level

It is prayed & requested that payment of all premium / charges / fees etc should be linked with the progress of construction of proposed building. For construction work up to plinth level of proposed building including basement if any, no FSI is consumption is involved, hence, no Premium / Charges / Fees shall be insisted till the grant of CC above plinth level.

Thereafter Premiums may be insisted in stages in proportion to the Commencement Certificate requested for construction work above plinth level. This will provide timely assistance and would be a great development friendly step by Government.

4. IT Parks - Property Tax demands

Sir, your good self being the Chairman of Empowered Committee for Private IT/ITES parks, we have to bring to your kind attention that the concerned MCGM department have been causing hardships to the Developers and Unit holders raising False demands for vacant premises.

CREDAÎ-MCHU

Maker Bhavan II, 4th Floor, 18, V, Thackersey Marg, New Marine Lines, Mumbai - 400 020. Tel: 42121421, Fax: 4212 1411/407 Email: secretariat@mchi.net Website: www.mchi.net



4A. Beneficial Occupation

The MCGM Officers are insisting for number of times, that "the date of Occupation Certificate / Water Connection / Physical Occupation is considered as the date of assessment, whichever come earlier". This might be the practice of the department for aiming to collect the revenue, but the words – "Occupation Certificate", "Water Connection" or "Physical Occupation" are nowhere mentioned in the MMC Act 1888. Hence, we feel that no one shall be penalised by applying such imaginary principles for assessment of properties. It is given to be known that assessment of our properties is being revised by applying these imaginary principles.

The department is also very keen on valuing the said part of land at Commercial rates, even though it has **No construction potential**.

Sir, for Private IT/ITES Parks Property Tax cannot be levied at Commercial rates but must at all times be assessed at IT Rates at par with Residential rates as approved under the Policy based on the principal of Beneficial Occupation.

With this reference we would like to request as below.

- A. Even if the occupation certificate is granted, the property shall be assessed by MCGM for collecting the tax only when it is physically occupied for conducting the business.
- B. In case of IT/ITES Parks, to claim the property tax at IT rates at par with Residential rates, the individual unit need to obtain certificate to that effect from Director of Industries. This takes some time. During the intermediate period the property shall be taxed at Residential rate only being unit in IT/ITES park and not at Commercial rate.
- C. In situations like Covid19 the already occupied units may get vacant and remain such for considerable period. In such event, the property taxation shall be suspended till it is reoccupied for the business.

5. Exit Policy for IT/ITES Parks

Sir, a lot of Private IT/ITES Parks have been constructed over the last 2 decades. This has led to some level of non-compliance at certain instances and at certain projects. Many parks have also outlived their purpose especially With the DCPR 2034 in place, the premium for IT/ITES Parks and Commercial users is brought at Par so as to curb these non-compliances.

It is prayed that ongoing or previously completed IT Parks should be given a <u>One-Time Option</u> to convert to Commercial User as per DCPR 2034 to be regulatory compliant. This Transition/ Exit Policy may be formulated by collecting Top-Up premium on such RR rates at which premiums were previously paid:-

- i) Post Completion of 3 years, on payment of 10% premium
- ii) Post completion of 5 years, on payment of 5% premium.

Once the transition of such IT Parks is completed, prospectively the other benefits given for IT/ITES Parks Viz:- relaxation in Property Tax, Electricity Duty and other concessions may be withdrawn.

We hope you shall consider the above, thanking you in anticipation of a favourable response.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely,

For CREDAI-MCHI

Nayan Shah

President

Bandish Ajmera

Hon. Secretary