

#Naagarika - Citizens' Watch Committee

September 15, 2017

Police Inspector KG Halli, Bengaluru- 560045

Subject: Complaint relating to Encroachment, illegal Dumping of Debris, Untreated Sewage and Domestic Waste into Kacharakanahalli Kere.

Naagarika-Citizens' Watch Committee and residents are addressing this Complaint to you, for registering the same and take action against all persons responsible for encroachment, illegally dumping of garbage, debris and sewage into the Kacharakanahalli Kere, which comes under your jurisdiction. We also request you to register this complaint and initiate action against government officials, whose negligence and apathy to state the least and collusion and connivance, more appropriately, has resulted in wide spread danger to the water bodies and lives of people surrounding the water bodies.

Earlier this day, members of the Naagarika-Citizens' Watch Committee inspected Kacharakanahalli Kere. To the shock and dismay of the committee members, it was found that the lake has been brazenly subjected to encroachment, dumping of garbage and debris and inflow of untreated sewage. Encroachment in this lake is of alarming proportion, with local residents claiming Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) as the biggest encroacher of the lake.

It is also apparent from the quantity of waste in the lake that miscreants routinely dump waste in this lake either directly or through sewers and storm water drains, posing a risk to public health.

The Committee on inspection has documented the following specific issues in the lake:

Kacharakanahalli Kere - in Kacharakanahalli Ward encompasses an area of 57 acres 26 guntas. The Koliwad Committee Report has mentioned an encroachment of 33 acres and 18 guntas, increasing our concerns.

The lake is suffering at the hands of rampant encroachment, brazen dumping of waste and inflow of untreated sewage. Largescale slum dwellers residing on the lake bed too has led to the disastrous state of the waterbody. This persistent



dumping of waste in and around the lake has caused danger and annoyance to the public at large and people living in the vicinity.

Hence, the persons who are involved in the illegal activity of encroaching and dumping of garbage, debris and sewage into the Kacharakanahalli Kere have, apart from violating multiple environmental laws, committed offences punishable under Sections 120-B, 268, 269, 270, 278 and 290 of Indian Penal Code, 1860 and Sections 14 r/w 25 of the Karnataka Lake Conservation and Development Activities Act, 2014.

The public officials entrusted with the duty to protect the lake and prevent such illegal activities have turned a blind eye to the same. The number of encroachments and amount of dumping cannot miss the naked eye of any individual. However, no action till date has been taken against any person for such illegal activities.

This shows that the public officials are hand in glove with the other miscreants. Therefore, public officials and government servants have also committed offences under Indian Penal Code and Karnataka Lake Conservation and Development Activities Act, 2014 and we request you to initiate action against such errant officials to ensure that there is accountability and that there is no further laxity on part of the officials in strictly enforcing and implementing laws.

We, therefore, request you to initiate immediate action with the alacrity that the situation demands to bring the guilty to the book. We would like to extend all possible support and cooperate with the investigation.

Yours faithfully, United Bengaluru

Encl.

1. Briefing note of Yellamallappa Chetty Lake Series

2. 'Of shrinking lakes and buck-passing babus' published in the Deccan Chronicle dated July 19,2017

3. Details of encroachment as per Koliwad Committee Report

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