



## Forum for Good Governance

Regd. No. 653/2009

Hyderabad

1<sup>st</sup> December, 2021

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(Retd. High Court Judge)

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L. No. FGG/GOV/REP/ 143/2021

To

H.E. the Governor  
Telangana State  
Hyderabad

Respected Madam,

**Sub :** GHMC – Structural reforms in working of GHMC  
and making it a institution of self government –  
Request – Reg.

**Ref :** 1. Constitution 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act 1992  
2. GHMC Act 1955

**-: \$ :-**

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation having a population of one crore is bigger than some of the countries in Europe. During last 5 decades there was large scale migration of people to Hyderabad in search of employment. GHMC did not plan for required civic amenities leading to mushrooming of slums. The people living in slums are prone to submergence in rainy season due to lack of proper drainage system. Today bad roads and bad drainage system is making the common man's life measureable. To make Hyderabad vibrant and livable city there is a need for structural reforms in the working of GHMC. Forum for Good Governance proposes the following initiatives in this direction.

1. **Need for new GHMC Act :** At present GHMC Act 1955 is in vogue. It is a voluminous document of nearly one thousand pages. It contains many provisions which are not required now and are redundant. Before the elections to GHMC in 2020 Government announced that new GHMC Act is under preparation and will be enacted shortly, but so far there is no move in this direction.

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2. **Multiple Agencies :** People living in Hyderabad pay property tax annually to GHMC. Sec. 199 of GHMC Act says "Property tax contains

- a) A general tax
- b) A water tax
- c) A drainage tax
- d) A lighting tax
- e) A conservancy tax

When a person pays property tax it implies that he paid water and drainage tax also. Again, we have water board which separately collects water and drainage tax thus subjecting the residents to double taxation. Forum for Good Governance feels that water board to be merged with GHMC.

3. **Providing sufficient funds to GHMC:** The annual average budget of GHMC is close to 3 thousand crores mostly from its own sources. The State Finance Commission recommended for transfer of 11% of state budget to local bodies but that is not being done. With the result, GHMC starved of funds, has become a defunct institution. While the pot holed roads, choked Nalas are crying for attention, Government bypassing the GHMC is going for construction of flyovers etc. Virtually Government is running the show of GHMC. Forum for Good Governance suggests that sufficient funds as per recommendations of Finance Commission to be released to GHMC and stop inference from Government to enable the GHMC to function as a institution of self-government.

4. **Controlling Corruption :** There is rampant corruption in the working of GHMC. As per their own record there are close to 1.3 lakh unauthorized constructions in GHMC limits speaks volumes about the prevalence of corruption. From bottom to top there are percentages for officials and politicians in works with the result hardly 50% of the estimated money only are spent on the works leading to execution of substandard works. Forum for Good Governance feels that there is urgent need to control the corruption in the working of GHMC and make it people Friendly Corporation.

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5. **Constitution of Ward Committees** : As per Article 243 –S of Constitution of India, for each ward there shall be a Ward Committee consisting local residents. They meet regularly, identify the civic problems of the ward and prepare action plan. Ward Committee acts like a bridge between people and the corporation. Elections to GHMC were held a year back but so far the Ward Committees are not constituted. We suggest that there should not be any delay in constitution of Ward Committees.
6. **Preventing food adulteration** : Road side eateries, Dhabas even some hotels are resorting to food adulteration. Mangoes and Bananas are chemically treated for artificial ripening. GHMC has food inspectors but there are not effective. The working of food inspectors to be improved to control adulteration. There should be a system of flying squads and people when find food adulteration can contact them over phone and help in preventing food adulteration.

Forum for Good Governance requests H.E. the Governor to direct the Chief Secretary and Prl. Secretary, MA&UD to take steps to rejuvenate the dyeing GHMC by allotting sufficient funds and allowing it to function as an institution of self government.

Yours Sincerely



**M. Padmanabha Reddy**  
Secretary

Forum for Good Governance