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PARSI JUNCTION

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Committed to Transparency and Accountability

FRUSTRATED KERSI RANDERIA COMPLAINS TO NATIONAL PRESS AGAINST REST OF THE BPP BOARD

Most issues of the Parsi community have so far been restricted to reporting within the community newspapers, namely Parsi Junction, Jame Jamshed and Parsi Times.

With the increasing credibility of the present board of Trustees under the able guidance of Acting Chairperson Armaity Tirandaz seems to have severely upset and mentally affected Kersi Randeria who is now the sole minority. Whilst the rest of the Board have been working tirelessly towards the welfare of the community, one Trustee alone, acting as a thorn is trying his level best to belittle and insult the BPP. The Covid19 pandemic has affected every household in our nation. Our community has seen over 50 members in Mumbai die because of this dreadful incurable virus.

Today, despite the government opening offices at 30% capacity, most organizations have continued to operate under a Work from Home culture protecting their employees. No organization wants to face any kind of liability in the unfortunate event their employee contracts the virus which results in their untimely death.

In fact, all the Courts in Mumbai as well as the Supreme Court of India are hearing all matters through video conferencing, avoiding

physical contacts of litigants, lawyers and court officers.

The BPP has been functioning through zoom calls, conference calls on a practically daily basis. In fact, we have been informed that most of the BPP Trustees have calls every single day to discuss the issues of the community, spending more time now on community affairs than they did before.

In our earlier editions, we highlighted the great tasks undertaken by this Board towards community welfare during Covid including providing over 5000 meals to needy community members during the lockdown. We were inundated by emails from community members showering their appreciation to the board on the manner in which they handled affairs of the community during the lockdown.

Unfortunately, the one sour grape within the BPP has on 7th October 2020 once again gone to the cosmopolitan press to wash his dirty linen, thereby embarrassing the BPP and our community.

As everyone will recollect that when Kersi Randeria was in majority, he acted like the De facto Chairman of BPP for the last almost five years from October 2015 to April 2020.

During this time, he threatened community members and residents time and again with the fear of being evicted if they did not tow his diktat. Suddenly, under the leadership of Mrs. Tirandaz, Randeria is finding himself irrelevant in community matters and is now throwing dirt in the cosmopolitan press.

On the same day of the article in the cosmopolitan press, Randeria's supporters immediately let loose on WhatsApp and began berating the Trustees for not holding physical meetings at the BPP Board Room.

What comes as most shocking is that these very same people who berate the BPP Board are thought to be educated, yet have conveniently forgotten that as on date over 50 Parsis and over 15,000 others have died of Covid in Mumbai alone. A total of over 1 lakh have died of Covid in India and this number is increasing each day. As mentioned above, over 50 members of our community have died in the last few months.

Despite the above startling facts, for the sake of one upmanship and pettiest of petty politics, Kersi Randeria and the likes of him are seeking the BPP hold regular board meetings and that beneficiaries

should travel by car, taxi or even bus to visit the BPP.

Mr. Randeria seems to have forgotten that the Trustees have not been elected to attend Tuesday meetings at the BPP Board Room but instead to protect and serve the community every day 24x7. A Trustee who is unable to serve the community at any and every time is the Trustee that needs to resign. Whether a meeting is held via zoom or in person is of no relevance in today's times.

For the record, Trustees during elections have promised to be available at all times. In the name of transparency, we are providing the details of the Trustees who are always available to serve the community regardless of politics.

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Reverting to the National Press Release of Kersi Randeria, his first complain to the national press is that BPP has not had a physical meeting in BPP Boardroom since

March 2020. True but then everything has been under complete lockdown from March to around July 2020. After that though there has been opening of the lockdown it has been so gradual that it was not worth the risk.

For months now, starting from 29th July 2020 official BPP Board meetings have been held on Zoom every Tuesday with proper draft Agenda first on Saturday preceding the meeting, then Final Agenda on Tuesday morning to all Trustees and draft Minutes prepared by Administration by Thursday and Final Minutes along with admin draft circulated by the Acting Chairman Armaity Tirandaz within time.

Almost all the Senior Staff are on Zoom meeting including the CEO Aspi Sarkari, Dy. CEO Shehnaz Khambatta, Housing Executive Officer Ronny Patel, Chief Accountant Nilufer Patel, Legal Dept. Mughda Sawant and Benaz Bhamgara, Repairs in charge Khushru Bharucha and his boss Bilal Baig as also Percy Sigantoria for Wadia Baugs.

All of them attend with all files and papers required and all matters are discussed and decided and if there is any query from any Trustee than the concerned dept. is asked to be present with all facts and figures at next board meeting. The Zoom meeting is in fact better than the physical board meeting

as attending to phone calls, meeting their called or uncalled public outside and then calling them in disrupting the flow of items is completely avoided.

Kersi Randeria next complains that policy and housing decisions would be easy in physical board meetings as all files would be easily available. In the first place the Board has decided not to take up any housing issue till a fresh Power of Attorney is registered in view of sad demise of Zarir Bhathena and the inability of Chairman Yazdi Desai to take part in any BPP activity from April 2020 onwards till date. Thus his complaint is irrelevant to the facts at present.

Community is to take note that Kersi Randeria is today in a minority within the BPP Board. Should any member be threatened by Randeria in any way or form (as he has done so multiple times in the past) they should immediately contact any of the able Trustees listed above and we are certain the Board will take strict action against him. The BPP is today under a new era of honest leadership with Armaity Tirandaz. If any member has any issue they are free to raise a grievance within the community. It is however unfortunate that despite our community being small in number, people like Randeria wish to make community affairs public only for political gain.