

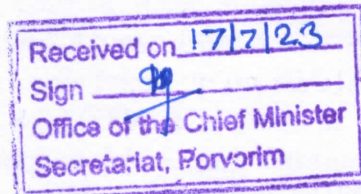
O/c

ALL GOA SMALL SCALE RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES UNION
190, Nauxim, Bambolim, Tiswadi, Goa. 403 206

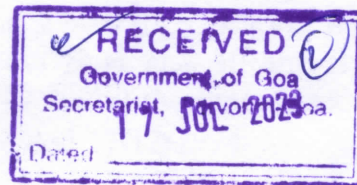
Reg.No.561

Date: 17/07/2023

To,
The Chief Minister,
Government of Goa,
Porvorim, Goa

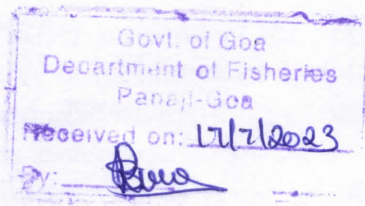


To,
The Minister of Fisheries,
Government of Goa,
Porvorim, Goa



To,
The Secretary (Fisheries)
Secretariat, Porvorim,
Goa

To,
Director of Fisheries,
Government of Goa,
Panaji, Goa



Subject: Goa Fisheries Corpus Fund and its scam

All Goa Small Scale Responsible Fisheries Union (AGSSRFU) is shocked to discover that allocation of corpus funds at Goa Fisheries Department is scam. Those responsible to manage the corpus funds has not only mismanaged but also abused their bestowed authority with highest level of political cover - the cabinet.

Goa Fisheries department issued an Order via reference no.DF/GB/CORPUS FUND/2013-14/852 on 15/05/2013 forming managing committee for the accumulated corpus fund. The managing committee consisted of Minister of Fisheries as a Chairman, Secretary (Fisheries) as Vice-Chairman, Agnelo Rodrigues from Velsao, Representative of Traditional Fishermen as member, Menino Afonso, representative of Boat Owners as member and Director of Fisheries as Member-Secretary. This order has no provisions to replace any of the managing committee members with anyone else.

Yet minutes of the Corpus Fund managing committee meeting held on 17/05/2023 records that Francisco Braganza has replaced Agnelo Rodrigues as a member representing Traditional Fishermen without Office Order from the Fisheries department for his inclusion.

It is in this meeting that corpus fund allocation of Rs.40,000/- was done to Sanjay Faterpekar over just two installment by-passing three previous installments paid on wooden canoe that fisheries department compelled him to destroy and buy fiber canoe. In this context corpus fund managing meeting held on 17/05/2023 is invalid and illegal that promoted fraud and deprived Sanjay Faterpekar of remaining Rs. 60,000/-.

Further shocking information has come to our attention that 24 people were allocated Rs.75,85,750/- through cabinet decision on 08/12/2012. Out of these 24 three received highest amount of Rs.8,00,000/- each. One of these three is member of the managing committee of the corpus fund. He is Menino Afonso from Siridao representing boat owners. Menino Afonso's case of drowned trawler was taken up on 30/01/2020 in his absence at the managing committee and sanctioned Rs.8,00,000/-. His place at the meeting was taken by Domingos Fernandes of Mandovi Fishermen Marketing Co-operative Society. This was done in spite of objections from scrutiny committee on 12/11/2019. This trawler was constructed on 17/12/1994 and got drowned on 23/08/2019 bearing registration no. IND-GA-01-MM-19 near Miramar beach in Mandovi river at 4.30 am. It is recorded in the minutes of the scrutiny committee of 12/11/2019 that at the time of registration the cost of this fishing vessel was Rs.8,50,000/- as per bill dated 17/12/1994.

After the wreckage of the trawler in 2019 R.C.Shukla, Insurance marine surveyor generated loss report of Rs.15,00,000/-. This means the trawler gained in monetary value by almost 50% from 1994 to 2019 this is a period 25 years!

Scrutiny committee remarked "After scrutiny of the application it was observed that there was no natural calamity on the day of incidence i.e 17/04/2019... fishing vessel was operated without fishing vessel licence and also owner didn't possess fitness certificate of the vessel, therefore application cannot be considered." In other words Goa Government awarded corpus funds to the 25 years old trawler carrying on illegal fishing that was meant to be scrapped and unfit to take on sea fishing navigation.

Similarly there are other cases too. The corpus fund need a probe. Judicial investigation is required like the Shah Commission to put Goa's fisheries sector on firm foundation and to pull it out of rampant corruption.

AGSSRFU call upon your office to act against corruption at Goa Fisheries Department corpus fund allocation and submit Action Taken Report (ATR) to the undersigned.

Thanking you.
Yours sincerely

Shweta
Shaila D'mello
President

Laximan
Laximan Mangueshkar
Secretary

C.C.to..

1. Opposition Leader
2. Aam Admi Party

