



## **ALL GOA SMALL SCALE RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES UNION**

**190, Nauxim, Bambolim, Tiswadi, Goa. 403 206**

**Reg.No.561**

**Date: 09/06/2023**

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

**Subject: Goa Fisheries department must stop playing with lives of Goa's fishing communities**

All Goa Small Scale Responsible Fisheries Union express deep shock over Directorate of Fisheries lethargy over sanctioning of funds to fishermen whose canoes are destroyed due to disastrous storms and fires.

Fisheries department has an accumulated Corpus funds of Rupees 20 Crore over the past decade from the contributions from fishers as per information shared publicly by Director of Fisheries Dr. Shamila Monteiro on May 16, 2023 meeting with fishermen organisations from across Goa in Panjim. Interests over this amount itself is enough to defray the loss suffered by fishing communities in various disasters such as storms and fires. Yet it is not done.

Santos Gauns, a fishermen from Cakra found his canoe destroyed during July 25, 2019 early morning storm at 01.00 am but Fisheries department is yet to sanction funds to rebuild his destroyed canoe even though four years are about to get completed next month.

On March 20, 2023 early morning fishing boats and fishing nets belonging to fishermen Sanjay Faterpekar, Santosh Kukalkar, Santosh Gauns, Chandranath Rosario, Govind D'mello and late Kashinath Pereira were gutted in fire. Government authorities were intimated, Agasaim police station carried on investigations, Santa Cruz MLA Rudolf Fernandes carried on site visit to the gutted canoes in Cakra.

Goa Fisheries department deputed private company to estimate loss caused to the fishermen due to fire. Private company charged per fishermen Rupees five thousands thus putting additional financial burden on fishing communities.

Goa Fisheries Minister Nilkhant Halarnkar then declared on May 16, 2023 in Panjim and May 19, 2023 in Canacona that gutted fishing canoes at Cacara will be given above Rupees Two Lakh each. After some days he went back on his word and reduced the promised amount to Rupees forty thousand. Then after few minutes he leveled false allegations that Cacara fishermen set their own canoes on fire without any evidence.

Deputy director of Fisheries Chandrakant Velip told Cacara fishermen that they should not play leadership role for fishing communities but be subservient and regularly touch feet of the politicians.

Union therefore demands:

1. Release of funds from Corpus Funds to replace canoes destroyed due to storm and fire in Cacara.
2. In case above demand is rejected then new canoes be given to the aggrieved fishermen free of cost by the Department of Fisheries.

Fulfillment of any of the above two demands will end practices of cruelty towards Goa Fishing communities perpetuated by Goa Fisheries Department.

Department of Fisheries is found discriminating against fishing communities of Tiswadi Taluka as till date department hasn't processed Fuel Subsidies for Fishermen in Tiswadi Taluka.

Union therefore demands:

1. Immediate sanctioning of fuel subsidies for Tiswadi Taluka.

Thank you

*Shaila*  
Shaila D'mello  
President

*Laximan*  
Laximan Mangueshkar  
Secretary