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Fwd: Tamil Heritage Center scam....

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Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 7:07 PM



----- Forwarded message ------

From: Paul Vincent Baptiste <danalakshmi.pvc@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, May 30, 2017, 17:35

Subject: Tamil Heritage Center scam....

To: famc <famc@auroville.org.in>, Working Committee <workingcom@auroville.org.in>, Auroville Council

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Service <raservice@auroville.org.in>, Mohan V. Chunkath <mohan.chunkath@gmail.com>, Krishan

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To whomever it may concern

In April 2009, I sent the appended mail to different working groups of Auroville including to the Foundation. There were no inquiries regarding the purchase of the source of funds. Dhanapal and Vajaya are both Aurovilians since long and are known to be from penniless family.

Not only was he and his wife not disturbed, they managed to climb higher in the hierarchy in the corridor of power and became members of the Working Committee, member of the Land Coordination Committee and were also given more building contracts and executive posts for different building projects funded by the Government of India, like the Swagatam Guest house, the SAIIER Bhavan and many others large government funded projects; all that with supports from some other executives and powerful individuals who managed to prevent investigations and threatened any one would dare challenge their friends...

There were several letters circulated by villagers with copies to the different working groups of Auroville, including to the Foundation, leveling serious instance of mismanagements of lands issues by Dhanapal and a few others; all these were consigned to the dustbin after being investigated by the FAMC of which Dhanapal was a member... There is also a need to look in the cement purchases for many of the projects undertaken by Dhanapal from a company situated in Kalapet and managed by Vijaya...

And now, you have the "Tamil Heritage Centre" scam on your top files to deal with and some 25 lakhs of Rupees missing according to the posting of the FAMC on May 25th last.

Some 19 years ago Krishnamurthy, an accountant working for Abri Electrical Service was caught after having defrauded 10 lakhs of Rupees; he was condemned by a court of law for Breach of Trust to more than $\underline{240}$ years in Jail...

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Now, we have an Aurovilian executive who has committed similar type of crimes punishable under the laws for misappropriation of Government funds. Let's see how his fate will be handled and what type of court cases he will face if any.

Not taking action under the penal code will only demonstrate that we have two different ways of dealing with offenders: clemency if they are members of the Residents Assembly and hard punishments via court cases if they are paid workers. We do not want to show that Aurovilians are above the laws of the land, do we?

Paul Vincent

30th May 2017

Dear friends,

I understand that you have been informed about Dhanapal who, in the name of his wife Vijaya, has purchased some private properties composed of two pieces of land and a building in Koot Road.

Dhanapal is presently a member of the interim outgoing Working Committee, a member of LCC in charge of negotiating lands purchase with the surrounding villagers for the Auroville Foundation, a contractor for many buildings of Auroville and he is also involved in many other areas of decisions making.

The question arising of this purchase is: from where does he got such a large sum of money to purchase private properties?

This needs to be looked into by the FAMC knowing that Dhanapal is executive of a building unit of the Auroville Foundation named Auronirmatha and he is also a builder/contractor for several buildings of the Auroville Foundation.

Vijaya, his wife, is also an executive of a large-scale buildings project named MATREYEE, she is presently in charge of sanctioning funds to the official contractor who is her husband, Mr. Dhanapal... Husband and wife holding such position is bound to be a fit case of conflict of interests... How can such thing be allowed by the FAMC?

Now, what remain to be seen, is what the FAMC is going to do in this case? After all, the FAMC is in charge of looking after the management of finances and assets of the Foundation.

You are aware that there was several accusations leveled against Dhanapal by surrounding villagers in regard to lands deals, you are also aware that the Working Committee, of which he was a member, has declared that these allegations were unfounded...

Now, -- in the light of this disclosure which need to be fully investigated, -- until he and his wife are completely cleared of any wrongdoings, he and she should not be allowed to continue in the above mentioned responsibilities on behalf of Auroville or of the Foundation, as no proper investigation can ever be done unless they both are out of the way, this is to prevent any tempering with evidences.

There is no need to remind you that Dhanapal had been involved in similar mismanagement of funds in the Surrender buildings issue that surfaced in 1998...

As the FAMC has ordered an investigation on lands deals, it is hoped that the FAMC will also

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ensure that a proper independent investigation will be ordered regarding this valid case of wrongdoings by these two persons who hold high-level decision making and financial responsibilities in Auroville.

The FAMC would thereby show impartiality in dealing with financial misconducts!

I am aware of the gravity of the situation and I hope you understand the implications of a noaction and silence from you on this issue...

Dear Paul,

We published this in our monthly report to N&N a couple of weeks ago:

"Tamil Heritage Centre (THC) construction: Upon receiving reports of gross financial mismanagement of this Government of India (GoI) funded building project, we initiated a detailed financial review. Our final report of this investigation was reviewed with all stakeholders and discussed with the Secretary of Auroville Foundation. Mr. Chunkath (IAS) recommended that an external forensic audit be carried out, which will soon be done.

In essence, the Auroville unit, Auronirmata, was the official contractor for this project and about Rs. 25 lakhs of project money is unaccounted for. Given the financial mismanagement of the Tamil Heritage Centre construction project and the lack of cooperation from the executives, Dhanapal and Vijaya, in providing the requested financial and other pertinent data related to the project it was decided in consultation with the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation that disciplinary action against Auronirmata was necessary. Auronirmata activities and financial accounts have been suspended until further notice and a public announcement to the community has been made regarding the same."

Since then, we have, in collaboration with Auroville Foundation, taken steps to freeze Auronirmata's external bank accounts and to get an external forensic audit of this construction project.

Last but not least, given this egregious case of financial mismanagement, FAMC is now in the process of strengthening administrative management of Govt. of India grants.

In community,

FAMC

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