

# Visakhapatnam Apartments Residents Welfare Association (VARWA)

President: N Prakash Rao

Visakhapatnam

General Secretary: BB Ganesh

Date: 08.06.2021

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## Press Statement

The draft notification issued by GVMC for implementation of 'Rules for imposition of Property tax - 2020' leads to imposition of heavy burdens on the Vizagites and is illegal and undemocratic. Hence, VARWA is seriously opposing the changes and is demanding withdrawal of the notification.

Imposition of property tax based on the annual rental income which is currently in vogue, is now being replaced by capital value of the property. It leads to enhancement of tax by many times. Since the govt revises the property values every year, property tax is also bound to increase every year. Resultantly, the tax quantum will be unbearable to the poor people, apartment dwellers, small and medium traders and professionals.

VARWA opposes issuance of the notification by the Commissioner leading to heavy burdens on people at a time when the people are facing horrible problems due to the Covid second wave.

Imposition of property tax and provision of civil services fall under the jurisdiction of the local bodies. Amending the rules pertaining to imposition of property tax by State and Central govts is nothing but grabbing the rights of the local bodies. A new Council of GVMC with 98 Corporators elected by the people and an unanimously elected Mayor has sworn in on 18<sup>th</sup> March. Notification by the Commissioner ignoring the Council and Mayor is undemocratic and illegal and tantamount to insulting the elected body.

We, therefore, demand of the Commissioner to immediately withdraw the illegal and undemocratic notification leading to heavy burdens on the

Vizagites. VARWA and NIVAS have submitted a memorandum to the Mayor on 29<sup>th</sup> March to conduct a thorough discussion on these changes in the Council and reject in the interest of the people of Visakhapatnam. We once again reiterate the same.

We also request the authorities to give incentives to the city tax payers in the property tax in view of ongoing Covid second wave crisis.

**BB Ganesh**

General Secretary

VARWA

**N Prakash Rao**

President

VARWA

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