

Speech of H.W.The Mayor, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Mohammad Majid Hussain at Special Meeting on 22nd March 2014:

The 12th Special meeting of the Corporation has been convened today for acceptance of my resignation as Mayor of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation.

I have decided to quit the Mayoral post as per the directive of my Party AIMIM President Janab Asaduddin Owaisi. This in pursuant to the understanding that had been reached with the Congress Party for sharing the post of GHMC Mayor by turns during the five-year tenure of the present elected body. The first GHMC mayor was my predecessor, Mrs Banda Karthika Reddy, from the Congress and I was elected to the post on 3rd January 2012. I have held the post for the past 26 months with the cooperation of one and all.

I thank the Almighty Allah for giving me this opportunity to serve the people of Greater Hyderabad for over two years. I also express my deepest gratitude to my party President and Hyderabad MP, Janab Asaduddin Owaisi, and AIMIM floor leader in the Assembly, Janab Akbaruddin Owaisi, for entrusting me this key position at a very young age.

I got this opportunity thanks to the vision of Salar-e-Millat, Janab Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi, who had given the slogan of “Shaher Hamara, Mayor Hamara” when elections were held to the then Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad in 1986. I may recall that the AIMIM had its mayors for five years in a row in the erstwhile MCH during 1986-1991. Three of the MIM mayors during that period were Dalit brothers—K Prakash Rao, A Satyanarayana and Allampalli Pochaiah. M K Mubeen and Mir Zulfiqar Ali were the other two MIM mayors.

Incidentally, during 2002-2007, the AIMIM and the Congress alliance controlled the Standing Committee of the MCH though the TDP and BJP had their mayor and deputy mayor respectively. Again, after the formation of GHMC, the AIMIM-Congress alliance has been ruling this premier civic body since November 2009.

During my 26-month tenure, the GHMC has grown from strength to strength. Our achievements during this period are many as I strove to transform the GHMC into a truly metropolitan civic body with focus on development of its civic infrastructure and welfare of its residents. Many new works were taken up and numerous key initiatives were launched. We have also stuck to our promise of augmenting the GHMC's revenues without adding to the tax burden on the residents.

I have presented GHMC budgets for three financial years 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15. The revenue income of the Corporation has gone up from Rs 1,370.35 crore in 2011-12 to Rs 1,840.53 crore in 2012-13 and revised estimate of Rs 2,229.81 crore in the current year 2013-14. The capital receipts have increased from Rs 458.19 crore in 2011-12 to Rs 611.32 crore in 2012-13 and revised estimate of Rs 1,637.22 crore in the 2013-14.

Similarly, the revenue expenditure of the Corporation went up from Rs 1,102.85 crore in 2011-12 to Rs 1,315.89 crore in 2012-13 and revised estimate of Rs 1,518.78 crore in 2013-14. Capital expenditure, too, increased from Rs 565.43 crore in 2011-12 and Rs 563.34 crore in 2012-13 to revised estimate of Rs 1,637.22 crore in 2013-14. When I took over, the GHMC made a modest surplus of Rs 160.26 crore in 2011-12. The Corporation had a huge overdraft. We cleared the loans and made a surplus of Rs 572.62 crore in 2012-13. In the current year, the surplus would be Rs 681.03 crore.

The GHMC's revenues from property tax alone have increased from Rs 600.11 crore in 2011-12 to Rs 776.19 crore in 2012-13 and Rs 936 crore in the current year. Similarly, our revenue receipts from town planning, trade license fees and assigned revenues and our capital receipts from JNNURM grants, 13th Finance Commission grants, BPS and LRS receipts, MMTS and Hyderabad Metro Rail deposit works have grown substantially. We also got special grants of Rs 125.71 crore from the Government for COP-11 hosted by us.

Apart from meeting our ever-increasing establishment and administrative expenses, we have stepped up the revenue and capital expenditure on maintenance and operation and development of roads, buildings, bridges, flyovers, storm-water drains, street-lighting, slaughter-houses, parks, playgrounds and solid waste management, as well as on welfare schemes such

as Aasara, Vikasam, MEPMA, night shelters, etc. I would make a detailed presentation on the achievements during two years of my tenure at the special meeting of the General body to be convened to approve my resignation.

Among the major decisions taken by the GHMC since January 2012, we have approved the report of Prasad Committee on the reorganization of GHMC administration and augmentation of staff. The Government has sanctioned additional staff of 2,607 across all the wings of the GHMC. We are in the process of increasing the number of circles in the GHMC from 18 to 30 with proper staffing in all the circles and zones of the Corporation.

We strongly resisted the move of the State Government to extend the jurisdictional area of the GHMC through merger of gram panchayats by adopting an unanimous resolution in the general body at its meeting on 3rd July 2013.

When the Government issued the notifications for merger of 36 Gram panchayats with the GHMC, disregarding our objections, we again rejected the proposal on the ground that adding new areas spanning 300 sq kms with a population of 4.4 lakhs to the corporation would be both impractical and unviable, since the GHMC lacks the administrative strength and financial resources to administer and provide civic amenities in the new areas.

I am thankful that all the parties—AIMIM, Congress, TDP, BJP, TRS, CPI and YSRCP—supported us and ensured that GHMC limits were not extended at a crucial time when the bifurcation of the State of AP was taking place. Otherwise, today, we would have had common capital of Hyderabad spread over 922 sq kms with population of 71.70 lakhs. After our intervention, the Government rescinded the GOs on merger of 36 panchayats with GHMC and asked the Rangareddy District Collector to constitute new municipalities and nagar panchayats comprising these panchayats.

We launched the Greater Hyderabad Development Plan to provide improved civic infrastructure by constructing flyovers, railway under bridges and over bridges, taking up widening of roads and junction improvements and development of city level and colony parks in the core city as well as the peripheral areas. The estimated outlay of the project is Rs 813 crore.

Works on Old City Development package, Charminar pedestrianisation project, Musi revitalization project, nala improvement, sports complexes, modernization of slaughter houses and fish markets, conservation of lakes and biodiversity parks, Mir Alam Tank development, Moula Ali road-ramp, road widening on HMR corridors and MMTS-II and various other projects were expedited.

On the welfare front, we have implemented several schemes including Vaddileni Runalu for self-help women groups, YSR Abhaya Hastham, Janashree Bheema Yojana, Bangaru Talli, Rajiv Yuva Kiranulu, urban self employment programme, Vikasam, Aasara and night shelters for the homeless etc. We have also organized job melas in the South and Central Zones and secured placement for thousands of youth with reputed companies and employers.

It was an honour for me that the GHMC hosted the 11th Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP-11), a prestigious event of Convention of Bio-Diversity (CBD) from 1st to 19th October 2012. The GHMC also co-hosted the Cities for Life, a parallel event to the CBD COP-11, during October 2012, which attracted more than 500 participants from 45 countries across the world. The GHMC spent Rs 265 crore on developmental and beautification works in connection with COP-11. The corporation exclusively appointed an Additional Commissioner, Biodiversity Wing, to take care of environmental issues in the GHMC area.

When I took over as Mayor, I had promised to ensure the development of civic infrastructure in the core city (erstwhile MCH) as well as the other areas (the extended area that covers erstwhile 12 municipalities) on a top priority. I had assured to do justice to all the 150 divisions to ensure that no area lags behind the others in terms of civic amenities.

In furtherance of this objective, we had earmarked Rs one crore each for every corporator ward in the GHMC Budgets for 2012-13 and 2013-14 for taking up works identified by the respective corporators. The funds included releases for sewerage and water works. We also stepped up the allocations for water supply, street-lighting and storm water and drainage networks in the peripheral areas.

I have recently presented the GHMC budget for 2014-15 with a record allocation of Rs 4,599 crore. A number of new schemes and initiatives are envisaged in the budget, including the food scheme (which has already been launched), training programmes for youth and women, school approach improvement, construction of 24 function halls, 400 RO water plants, 1,000 toilets, 12 circle offices, theme and amusement parks, heritage tourism project, Gateway of Hyderabad, peripheral roads project and sports fellowships, etc. We have also enhanced the corporator budget to Rs 1.5 crore per division in core area and Rs two crore per division in peripheral areas.

During my tenure, I have sought the cooperation and suggestions of all the political parties represented in the GHMC to achieve our goal of making Greater Hyderabad a truly global city in terms of civic infrastructure and standards of living, even while preserving the rich cultural and historic heritage of Hyderabad. Apart from upgradation of civic infrastructure, we have focused on improvement of the delivery of various services by the GHMC through the Citizen Service Centres. We have also made all out efforts in the area of housing and poverty alleviation.

As I have stated repeatedly, a great challenge lies ahead of us to work for comprehensive development of our city in the direction of making it a Model city in the world. As the key civic body of the city rendering number of services to the citizens, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation has a historic responsibility to perform.

As I prepare to lay down my office, I take the opportunity to thank all the ex-officio members (Hon'ble MPs, MLAs and MLCs), Deputy Mayor, Standing Committee members, Floor leaders, corporator colleagues, co-option members, GHMC Commissioner and other officials of the GHMC and the media friends for extending their fullest co-operation to me in the discharge of my duties as Mayor in the last 26 months.

I also hope and trust that my successor—the new mayor—from the Congress will continue the good work and implement all the new schemes and initiatives that we have planned under the next year's budget. I assure all the cooperation of my party to the GHMC administration in the months to come. I also express

my deepest gratitude to the citizens of our Greater city and wish them all the best.

Now, I table the booklet on the GHMC's achievements during the two years of my tenure for your reference and record.