



Valli Senthilkumar <valliav4@gmail.com>

Invitation of Raghu Ananthanarayanan

Working Committee <workingcom@auroville.services>

Tue, Sep 6, 2022 at 1:08 PM

To: dena.Merriam@finnpartners.com

Cc: Working Committee <workingcom@auroville.services>, AVCOUNCIL <avcouncil@auroville.services>, "FAMC ." <famc@auroville.services>, TDC Town Development Council <tdc@auroville.services>

Dear Dena Mirriam,

Re: Invitation of Raghu Ananthanarayanan

We are writing to you in response to your letter to residents which has been communicated via internal residents' bulletins taken over by the Secretary, Auroville Foundation. Please note that relying on this method, rather than writing to the groups and platforms recognised by the Residents' Assembly, significantly reduced the reach of your letter. We, as the Working Committee/Groups selected through and overwhelmingly endorsed by the Residents' Assembly (please see again the recent Resolution of the Residents' Assembly attached), take up your request to express our views openly.

Your letter outlines a recommendation, made to and approved by the Governing Board, to invite Mr. Raghu Ananthanarayanan "to help foster a dialogue that will hopefully help address some of the core issues dividing the community...". Your defined scope, 'issues dividing the community', fails to address the painfully obvious coercion, harassment, intimidation, divisiveness and brute force inflicted by the Secretary on the governance of Auroville and the lives of residents. The core issue is the relentless attacks by the Secretary and her illegitimate appointees against the values, processes and people which serve the Charter and Mother's Dream, done seemingly without objection from the Governing Board.

Setting such a scope, having it 'approved' by the Governing Board and allowing it to be developed further by the Secretary without even sharing this to the community undermines the legitimacy and effectiveness of such a dialogue. This is initiated despite our many communications to the International Advisory Council and Governing Board about the many issues arising and asking for interactions that would allow the diverse voices of the RA to be heard and considered, which have been entirely ignored.

The Residents' Assembly has committed to strive towards mutuality and collaboration with the Governing Board. We understand that Mr. Raghu Ananthanarayanan has reassured many of those he has already spoken with that he is not proposing or conducting any mediation. This seems to be misaligned with the Secretary's statement of the purpose, "...namely, enabling the stakeholders of Auroville to arrive at a consensus and commit to a way forward".

If progress is to be made on the real issues, a first step should be to identify and secure the essential pre-conditions for meaningful dialogue, possible mediation and eventually reconciliation. This is a line of exploration which we will be taking up through engagement with the community.

We suggest that one of several necessary pre-conditions for a fertile dialogue and possible mediation would be the recognition of the Working Groups and Resolutions of the Residents' Assembly. We extend this suggestion directly to yourself, to Mr. Raghu Ananthanarayanan, to the International Advisory Council, to the Governing Board and to Dr. Jayanthi Ravi, Secretary Auroville Foundation.

We look forward to your considered reply.

Sincerely and in service,

Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation,
Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Hemant, Maël, Sauro, Valli

Auroville Council of the Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation
Julia, Philippe, Samrat, Hallen, Balaji, Claudine, Shivaya, Shiva, Suryan

Funds and Assets Management Committee of the Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation
Amy B, Bobby P, Danny, Elodie, Mita R. Palani, Ranjithkumar

TDC (Town Development Council) of the Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation

Allan B, Anan, Dorle, Divya L, Fabian, Island, Lata, Meera N, Natasha S, Tom G

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Resolution of the RAS No. RAD-04-2022 in August 2022 .pdf

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● Outcome of the Emergency RAD to approve the Resolution of the Residents' Assembly No. RAD_04_2022.pdf

203K