

June 12, 2015

To
The Trustees
Bombay Parsi Punchayet
Bombay

Dear Trustees,

The decision to contest the BPP elections was taken after much deliberation. Having successfully steered several community trusts, it was deeply felt that one could make a difference at the apex Parsi - Zoroastrian Trust. It was therefore an eye opener for me to view the functioning of the BPP from within.

To begin with, the deliberations of the Trustees showed no sense of direction or vision. There appeared to be a hidden agenda behind just about every proposal brought to the board. Secondly, there was no sense of financial probity which should always be positioned to help the needy and less fortunate. Thirdly, there was a surprising willingness to fritter away the funds of the BPP on pointless litigation, undertaken to either prove a point or to suit the personal beliefs of certain Trustees. Finally, there was a total lack of compassion and empathy for the persons for whom the BPP was primarily formed to assist.

My vote at the BPP has always been in favour of those really needing our help; be they young people seeking scholastic aid, older persons in need of help to pay medical bills, deserving persons who need a leg up just to carry on with their lives, or the genuine housing needs of the community. While these issues should have been among the major items on the Trustees' agenda and should have exercised the attention of all the Trustees, this never really happened. In the midst of all the petty quarrels and the pushing of pointless and expensive schemes to further the private agendas of a group of Trustees, the pressing needs of the community never received the serious consideration they warranted.

I firmly believe that raising bogeys and false alarms to sway the unsuspecting sections of the community was not at all the function of a BPP Trustee. Instead of discussing harebrained schemes and pointless plans, the Trustees should have been discussing ways of alleviating the suffering of our less fortunate brethren.

The shabby treatment meted out to the BPP staff is another issue which exercised me greatly. Good and decent members of the staff have been hounded out, again to settle personal scores. This has left the staff at all levels a demoralized lot with virtually no empathy for them on the part of at least some Trustees.

The BPP functions today on the basis of majority voting. Vision, empathy and a sense of fair-play fall by the wayside. All that seems to matter is whether one's Adversary - Trustee is defeated in the voting, regardless of the merits of the subject at hand.

