

Missionaries of Charity exit linked to neglect by Assistência, says citizens' group

Allege Mother Teresa's home had not been repaired for over a decade; posed serious threat to both inmates and nuns

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Concerned Citizens of Goa on Saturday alleged that Assistência de Goa was responsible for the decision by the Missionaries of Charity to vacate the home for the destitute at St Inez-Panjim.

Speaking to reporters, activist Avertino Miranda stated that since the Society was finding it difficult to maintain the asylum in a manner advisable for fulfilling the purpose of the institution, Mother Teresa had been invited to take over the home for the destitute, provided it was handed over to them unconditionally until such time as they decided to discontinue their activities. This arrangement was agreed to by Assistência de Goa, according to the record of proceedings of the managing committee dated March 7, 1976.

"In 2013, there were negotiations to develop the land and it was agreed that 85% of the

premises would be occupied by the Sisters and 15% would be retained by the Assistência," Miranda said.

However, in 2014, the share of the Sisters was further reduced to 78% and 22% for Assistência," he added, demanding that the President of Assistência de Goa clarify the matter and ensure that the Missionaries of Charity are not given a raw deal and are brought back to their home to continue their yeoman service to the needy in our society.

Miranda and others also voiced concern that Mother Teresa's Home had not been

repaired for over a decade and remained in a dilapidated and unliveable condition, posing a serious threat to both the inmates and the nuns." He claimed that Assistência failed to undertake essential repair works to ensure the safety of the residents and staff.

Ana Gracias demanded that the land donated for a charity should not be allowed to use for some other purpose. Jose Carmino Joao said that the Sisters had given a helping hand and took care of many destitutes in the home. "We request the Assistência

de Goa President to publicly disclose the minutes of all meetings and negotiations held between Assistência and the Sisters from 2013 to date, in a transparent manner," the citizens demanded.

Activists Jose Carmino Joao and Felicio Fernandes were also present.

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