

URBAN REFORMS AGENDA AT ULB LEVEL

1.	Mandatory Reforms at City Level		
	Commitment as per the MoA for the current financial year	Progress made during the Quarter	Cumulative progress during the financial year
a)	Implementation of Accounting Reforms		
		<p>Technical team from Centre for Good Governance (C.G.G.) has visited in Aug-06 and conducted a preliminary study of the existing accounting practices and software, hardware requirements and suitability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support of Centre for Good Governance (C.G.G.), Hyderabad was sought for implementing accrual based accounting as per N.M.A. Manual and study of existing system of accounting for reporting preparedness / compatibility of • Chartered Accountant for implementation of National Manual. The 2007-08 budget will be prepared based on those codes.

b)	Property Tax reforms		
	a. House Tax	Revising taxes based on current usage of properties out of “Potential Wards Survey” has yielded an increased collection of around Rs. 2 Cr. During the quarter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was felt that certain properties continued to be either under-assessed or erroneously assessed without regard to their usage details. Subsequent changes in mode of usage could have occurred from completion of construction of building and got occupied by the owner. Such properties have to be revised in the tax demand, according to the current usage. • This demand was got rectified by engaging special teams for survey of such assessments and was initially taken up in the areas / wards identified as potentially viable. • This initiative has yielded an overall increase of Rs. 6 Cr. under House Tax and around Rs. 4 Cr. for the financial year.

	b. Vacant Land Tax (V.L.T.)	An amount of Rs. 1.2 Cr. was collected from assessment of the raised demand during the quarter by initiating massive collection drives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A joint survey for identification of vacant sites not brought into tax net was conducted by officers and revenue staff of V.M.C. • Simultaneous action for leveling the sites and for imposing V.L.T. was taken up in a drive mode and being continued. • Identifying ownership of sites was a great difficulty. This was overcome by getting information from records of sub-registrars concerned, conducting of intensive enquiries locally and issue of notification through media. • An overall increase of Rs. 6 Cr. was registered under V.L.T. demand and above Rs. 2 Cr. collected during the financial year.
--	-----------------------------	---	--

c)	<p>Reforms in levy of user charges</p> <div> <div></div> <div> <p>Collection of Rs. 25 lakhs due to the initiative is a multifold increase compared to last year figures as Rs. less than 2 lakhs for the period achieved.</p> </div> <div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of rationalization of charges under mutation fee for transfer of properties. Earlier the user charges for transfer of properties was a flat rate, maximum being Rs. 250/- • Rationalization of charges was implemented for transfer of properties based on value of property @ 2.5 % per one lakh and the reform yielded an amount of Rs. 40.5 lakhs during the year itself. This is likely to get increased automatically with increase in basic value of properties by registration department. • UGD tariff rationalized and raised to Rs.15/- per closet. • Building permission fees revised to bring it in line with current expenditures. </div> </div>
----	--

d)	Implementation of E-Governance in municipalities		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of the existing e-governance mechanism being implemented at V.M.C. is being taken up by Centre for Good Governance (C.G.G.) • Most of the services being provided to the citizens are being fine tuned to be Single-window based. • Initiating a standards-based approach to enable integration of all related applications with the accounting applications. • V.M.C. is also working on the modalities of granting permission to the organizations interested in setting up V.M.C. recognized tax collection counters by granting them access to our website for tax collections. • A brief exercise was undertaken to lessen the time consumed for redressal of citizen grievances received from 103 counter (call center), website and various other modes. • Upgraded the existing grievance redressal module by introducing auto SMS of the grievances received to the concerned official without any time delay for speedy redressal of the grievances. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiation of a total single-window based service delivery mechanism. • Setting a benchmark for total integration of all the existing functional software modules with the accounting module(s) as per NMMP guidelines. • Online tax collections are being handled by E-seva, a third party organization. • Grievance redressal mechanism has been upgraded by implementing latest technology initiatives, thus by reducing the time taken for the grievance redressal.

e)	Earmarking of funds for basic services to the poor		
			40% of funds under capital expenditure have been estimated for in the Budget for the year 2006-2007.