

Q: What are the facts behind the rumor of the sale of land at Ananda Sambodhi, a large WWD master unit in India?

A: The Ananda Sambodhi is similar to other master units in India, the pieces of land owned by AMPS as the MU core property are spread out over a large territory.

At Ananda Sambodhi MU, the Didi in-charge (who happens to be aligned with Kolkata) wished to increase security and services at the center portion of the property where most of the activity takes place. Her plan was to sell a small one-hectare plot at the perimeter of the declared MU and use the proceeds to make highly needed improvements (a well and/or a security wall or fence around the central portion).

The plot on the perimeter never had a security wall installed (the directive given by Ba'ba' is that every AMPS property have a secure compound) thus it became occupied by squatters over the years. Undesirable neighbors slowly encroached on the land over years to the point that they were fully occupying this portion. The original donor, the one who donated the portions of land for the MU to AMPS, perturbed that the perimeter plot had never been secured and utilized, advised that this land be sold to put it in the name of the squatters and to satisfy the need for raising funds for the pressing needs at the center of the Master Unit. **The donor, in the status as agent facilitating a particular objective, pressed the Didis for the sale to the squatters, convincing them that when anyway the squatters wouldn't vacate, why not simply settle the matter in this manner and everyone gain benefit.**

The Regional Secretary Dada for AMPS with its camp office in Ranchi (Kolkata Region) came to know of **the** plan to sell the property from the original donor **himself**. The RS was asked to help since the title of the property is in the name of AMPS Central and he held power of attorney on behalf of GS for the regional matters.

In the spirit of cooperation and doing what was right to build the required boundary wall, to protect the Didis at the MU, the RS stepped in to help to facilitate the sale of the land according to the Didi's plan. The process of land transfer in India is multi-stepped. AMPS, supervised by the RS and with the approval of AMPS Central, began the process of the sale. One of the first steps involved a down payment by bank cheque from the buyer. The buyer's check bounced for lack of funds in the buyer's bank account. The bad check stalled the sale of the property.

Then, in this stalled status, without any sale having taken place, a rumor was spread worldwide that "Ranchi" had sold Ananda Sambodhi master unit in India. Additionally, in a reaction contrary to the good will that AMPS Central displayed for Ananda Sambodhi, persons from Kolkata filed a case in court against AMPS Central that essentially prevented AMPS Central from selling any AMPS property in India without involvement of the court and the Kolkata plaintiffs. Even if AMPS wanted to sell property, including Ananda Sambodhi, it cannot until this case has been resolved.

Let it be made perfectly clear. AMPS policy is to do everything it can to keep real property, land and buildings, and not sell it. AMPS has a Land Department with strict policies and procedures. No one can sell AMPS property without explicit, written, approval from the top authorities of the Central structure.

The false rumor about Ananda Sambodhi rebounded worldwide, feeding the factional politics that have torn at our Ananda Marga community. Those who read the disinformation and allegations of the sale of the MU, repeated in many forms over many months, began to accept the rumors as fact and to ascribe the falsehood and bad faith of the rumor to AMPS Central with its camp office in Ranchi. But the truth is that no Ananda Sambodhi land was sold at all and has not been sold since this incident.

Our Ananda Parivara investigative reporter is on the scene. The parcel of land that has been reported sold lies on the perimeter of the master unit and comprises only a little more than 1 hectare out of a total of 18 hectares MU land. The original donors of the land were not happy with our management of it as the land was left unutilized for many years. Even the perimeter fence was not constructed, according to Baba's directives. This allowed squatters to inhabit the parcel.

It has been discovered that the donors were involved in instigating the squatters to settle there. They proposed a deal to RS Dada, who had the power of attorney from GS Dada for land management in Bengal, to get at least something from the land, as the squatters were not going to leave the place any way, as is the local practice.

But RS was cheated in the deal. The check that was to pay for the land bounced and so in effect there was no sale at all. Central Office was caught by surprise and is investigating the matter. In the mean time under pressure from general Margiis and other WTs, the Kolkata dissidents had no choice but to file a case to show their innocence. The matter will now be adjudicated by the court which may in the end prove their own complicity in the matter.