

CALLING ATTENTION

**SUB:- CALLING ATTENTION TABLED BY SHRI JOSHUA P. DESOUZA,
HON'BLE MLA**

“Fear and anxiety in the minds of people regarding open water bodies like small lakes and pounds. The death of two kids from Mapusa due to drowning recently has brought this matter to fore. The steps Government intends to take to prevent such accidents”

STATEMENT BY THE HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER DR. PRAMOD SAWANT

REPLY TO CALLING ATTENTION

The incident was reported to the Station Fire Officer/Officer-In-Charge of Fire Station Mapusa telephonically by Shri Nakhul Pednekar (Mobile Number 9822453609) on 27.01.2021 at 18:41 hours stating that two children are feared drowned at Verla Canca, Bardez Goa. The Fire Station crew of Mapusa Fire Station responded at 18:41½ hours and reached the incident spot at 18:50 hours.

On reaching at the place of incident immediate search operation commenced with use of Rope Anchor to search for the drowned children from the pond (approximately 80x80 Sq.mtrs. in area and depth of 3 to 4 metres). Shri Vishnu B. Gawas, Leading Fire Fighter entered the water body and retrieved the bodies of Miss. Chadhani Rajawat, Age 10 years and Master Piyush Rajawat, Age 5 years. The operation by the Fire Services lasted for approximately 45 minutes.

Two cases of unnatural death are registered at Mapusa Police Station under UD No. 07/2021 u/s 174 Cr.P.C. and UD No. 07(A)/2021. All the medico-legal formalities have been completed by the Police and thorough investigation is being carried out.

Mapusa Police have written to the concerned authorities to guard the pond to ensure that there is no repetition of such incident. Further, letters have been address to Deputy Collector of Bardez, Mamlatdar, Director of Water Resources Department Porvorim, Secretary of Village Panchayat Verla Canca to install railing along sides/bank of tank/pond. The staff deployed for patrolling duty in area where there are unused quarries, tanks or ponds are instructed to cause awareness among children found playing in the close vicinity of such water bodies about the precaution to be taken to prevent such incidents.

Directions will be issued to the local authorities to have surveillance over such water bodies and warning should be conspicuously displayed about the risk involved.
