GOVERNMENT OF GOA
DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL WELFARE
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No. 50-300-2013-14-HC/5813 Dated:-06/04/2020

CIRCULAR

Sub:-Banning the use of the Expression "Handicapped".

The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities hereby seeks to impress upon you the need for discouraging and banning the use of the expression "Handicapped" at least in the context of official correspondence, official reports, Government Institutions, Organization etc. It goes without saying that the expression "Handicapped" violates and undermines the dignity of Persons with Disabilities which is so manifesty against the spirit of the Constitution of India.

Moreover, the use of such other expressions as 'Differently Abled' should also be discouraged as such an expression harps more on the differentiality dimension at a time when we need to promote equality dimension. In addition, no two living entities under the sun are uniformally Abled or uniformally disabled in all respects. In that sense, each one of us, regardless of our ability or disability, happens to be unique and different. Therefore, it is erroneous to single out and to describe only Persons with Disabilities as 'Differently Abled'.

In view of the above, it would be appropriate to describe such persons as "Persons with Disabilities" or for that matter, as "Persons with Blindness', "Persons with Speech and Hearing Impairment", "Persons with Locomotor Disabilities" etc whichever such description is both necessary and relevant.

It is therefore, enjoined upon all the Heads of Government Department, Autonomous bodies, Municipalties/Panchayats, Commissions, Corporations, Aided/ Non-Aided Educational Institutions to strictly refrain from using/exhibiting the words "Handicapped", "Differently abled" etc and follow the above instruction strictly.

(Umeshchandra L. Joshi)
Director of Social Welfare
Ex-Officio/Jt. Secretary (SW)

Copy to:-

1. Jt.Secretary to Chief Minister, Secretariat Complex, Porvorim – Goa.
2. P.A to all the Ministers, Secretariat Complex, Porvorim – Goa.
3. P.A to Chief Secretary, Secretariat, Porvorim Goa.
4. P.S to Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare, Secretariat , Porvorim Goa.
5. All the Heads of Departments/ Autonomous bodies/ Corporations/ Municipalties/ Panchayats/ Commissions.
6. To all the Aided/ Non-Aided Educational Institutions.
7. Office copy.
8. Guard file.