



POLICE COMMISSIONERATE
BHUBANESWAR-CUTTACK
BHUBANESWAR

COMMISSIONER'S ORDER NO.03 /2020

Sub: Action against "Dadabati".

* * * *

"Dadabati" or 'Extortion demand' is a known menace in society. Many criminals use extortion as a way of not merely earning livelihood, but also supporting a life of extravagance, which then increases the need for more money. This also leads to formation of criminal gangs and various feuds between gangs popularly called 'gang war'. Such 'gang wars' reflect poorly on the law & order situation in any jurisdiction and brings into question ability of the police to prevent such crimes.

2. Most criminals grow from being small to becoming notorious gangsters by adopting the *modes operandi* of extortion. The only way to prevent gang war is to prevent gangs from getting formed in the first place, which is possible only if the phenomena of 'dadabati' is taken seriously. This approach is known as zero tolerance or broken-window policing. The assumption in the Zero tolerance approach is heinous crimes, are rarely preventable though they make maximum public impact and widely covered in the media. On the other hand, petty anti-social activities do not attract adequate time and resource allocation by the police. Since they are relatively low-key crimes, people also believe that they will not be priorities of the police. But, if these small crimes, are stopped then criminals do not grow to become big or go on to commit bigger crimes. A clear focus on small crimes is the best way to prevent

big crimes. Ordinary citizens are scared of antisocials because of four reasons. First, the fear that criminals will become revengeful, if they complaint to the police. Second, people are exposed to a narrative created by movies and media of these criminals receiving patronage from powerful people and being invincible, though this may not be true. Third, citizens do not trust the police enough to be able to confide in them. Fourth, criminals are able to easily come out on bail and not convicted as witnesses are not willing to depose. Therefore, criminals enter into a familiar cycle of Crime-Jail-Bail.

3. In the twin city of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack many cases are registered on extortion demands and circumstances in which people generally fall prey to dadabati demand either by individual or by criminal gangs operating extortion rackets are known. Often people think that police must be knowing everything and yet not acting and therefore, telling the police will not help. This perception has to be changed by constant communication efforts validated by concrete action on the ground. In the city of Cuttack, there is often approval of the local sahi committees to hefty donations from people selling a piece of land, constructing a new house or starting any new business.

4. Keeping the above scenario in mind, a Special Drive will be launched in twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack against Extortion (Dada Bati), which will be called "DADABATI KU NAA" or "No to Dadabati". The objective behind this special drive is to take stringent action against antisocial/criminals who resort to extortion from business men, contractors, liquor vendors, real estate owners, clinics and Nursing Homes, coaching centres, transporters, private industries, sand miners, fast food vendors etc. The scope of dadabati increases where illegalities are being committed, e.g. if a liquor off shop is operating like a liquor on-shop or there is illegal sand mining happening. In such cases, antisocials

demand dadabati as 'protection money' or for keeping their mouth shut. Similarly the amounts demanded can be high where profits are being earned like in construction work. One manifestation of this is the problem of tender fixing. The crime of extortion can manifest in various forms and this order limits to some illustrative accounts only by way of explanation.

5. An Anti-Extortion Task Force is hereby constituted, which will be headed by the Additional Commissioner of Police, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack. She will be assisted by the DCP, Bhubaneswar, DCP, Cuttack, officers of Quick Action Team of Commissionerate Headquarters and the Special Cells of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack UPDs. Additional DCP, Crime will be the *ex-officio* convener of the task force. The task force will meet once in a fortnight to review the progress made and to suggest new measures to be taken to make the mission more effective.
6. In order to sensitize the public about such endeavor of Commissionerate Police, it has been decided that Is.I.C./Zonal ACsP/ DCsP will reach out to the vulnerable groups like chamber of commerce, owners of MSMEs, Hoteliers, Transporters, Business Associations, Residents etc. Besides various communication materials like leaflets, pamphlets, pledge rings etc. can be used for effective public messaging.
7. A dedicated anti-extortion telephone helpline number will be launched for the benefit of the general public to report about extortion demand over phone, SMS/ WhatsApp/Telegram maintaining confidentiality.
8. The activity of known anti-socials, who have earlier been booked for similar offences will be reviewed. In suitable cases stringent preventive action will be taken under the law, such as proceedings U/s.110 Cr.P.C, Externment proceedings under the Odisha Urban Police Act and in befitting cases, under the National Security Act. In case these criminals

are also associated with drug crimes, they can be taken into preventive detention under the NDPS Act.

9. A Special Prosecution Cell will be set up at Commissionerate Headquarters to monitor the Court proceedings in Extortion related cases. Law Officer shall be associated with the Cell to offer legal assistance in processing such matters in the Court. The Learned Public Prosecutors will be requested to identify prosecutors who will handle these cases so that the court have full information on the antecedents of the criminals and they are not easily granted bail. Simultaneously, necessary legal proceedings will be initiated for cancellation of bail. The Learned PPs will be requested to attend the task force meeting either personally or by deputing a suitable law officer. The task force should also identify notorious gangsters whose cases should be handled by Special Public Prosecutors.

10. There is always an apprehension of Police personnel becoming party to extortion demands by either closing their eyes to such crimes or even benefitting in different ways. Any such nexus with criminals will warrant immediate and exemplary departmental action and even action under criminal law. All senior officers must remain alert to these possibilities and instruct officers to maintain distance from dubious individuals and transactions.

It is expected that with all these efforts we will be able to get greater public support and can effectively tackle the problem of 'dadabati'. All officers should take these guidelines with utmost seriousness and endeavor to enhance our effectiveness in dealing with the dadabati menace with the hope of making the twin city safer for people and businesses.


16.10.20
Commissioner of Police,
Bhubaneswar-Cuttack

Memo No. 5205/CP-CS

Date: 16.10.2020

- Copy forwarded to DCsP, Bhubaneswar/Cuttack UPD for information and necessary action.
- Copy forwarded to all Addl. DCsP of Police Commissionerate, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack for information and necessary action.
- Copy forwarded to all Zonal ACsP of Police Commissionerate, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack for information and necessary action.
- Copy forwarded to all IsIC of Police Stations of Commissionerate Police, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack for information and necessary action.


16.10.20
Commissioner of Police,
Bhubaneswar-Cuttack