

E-BPAS YET TO TAKE OFF THE GROUND

19 BUILDING PLAN APPLICATIONS IN 40 DAYS: NONE PROCESSED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: The electronic building plan approval automation system (e-BPAS) launched by Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) department is yet to achieve its objective as at least 19 building plans have been pending for approval in the past 40 days.

Of the 19 housing plans submitted between August 1 and September 8 through e-BPAS, eight applications were to be scrutinised by Bhubaneswar Municipal Commission (BMC), while 11 were submitted from non-BMC localities which require approval from Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA), sources said.

Though over 40 days have passed since the launch of the online platform, the authorities are yet to process a single application, it was alleged.

Sources said in an effort to ensure transparency and faster delivery of services in real estate sector; the H&UD department had decided to accept applications for approval and alteration of building designs through e-BPAS from August 1, thereby putting an end to the time-consuming manual re-



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Earlier, before starting a housing project, individuals and developers had to approach the development authority which in turn was asking them to obtain no objection certificates (NOCs) from various agencies for drainage, road connectivity, environment and pollution, among others. These procedures used to take several months.

With e-BPAS, the prolonged process was supposed to come down to a maximum of 30 days as BDA would obtain all clearances before approving the structure plan. It was planned in such a way that the development authority would take 15 days for two-storey or smaller structures to

clear, while a commercial or residential complex of more than three-storeys within a month, sources said.

Expressing displeasure over the delay, a few of the applicants have termed the online facility a breakdown. "Like several other government initiatives, the online building plan approval system has also failed to deliver services to the citizens," said one of the applicants.

When asked, Sudhir Ranjan Mohanty, a top BDA official, said all applications would be processed soon. "Already 250 plans have been pending for approval prior to the introduction of e-BPAS. Once they get cleared, we will process the new ones," Mohanty added.