



Zuari Cement
HEIDELBERGCEMENT Group

Zuari Cement Limited

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Note on false news appeared in the press on 12 & 13 January 2020

It was observed on the evening of 12 January 2020 in electronic media (BNews TV channel-regional TV channel) a news item scrolling about Zuari Cement in Bellary region. It was in vernacular language i.e. Kannada language, a liberal translation of the same is reproduced below:

- a) Soldiers were cheated in a commercial city.
- b) Cheated by Zuari Cement company.
- c) Outrage against the company for swindling the crores of rupees.

On 13 January 2020, similar news were also observed in the Print media (both English and Kannada) however, captured differently stating that the fraudsters by using the name of Zuari Cement duped the ex-servicemen. Further, it was reported that Ex-servicemen have approached the Police to take action against the fraudsters, but police have advised them to approach the courts as it is a civil matter and pertinent to money matters.

Zuari team gathered the facts behind the news as appeared in the press. The brief background facts to the matter as under:

The subject is that there is a person named K. Mani, who is an Ex-serviceman, who served in the Madras Regiment, who along with 3 others M. Manjunath from Chamrajanagara (Karnataka), T. Irshad & Johnson Muthu from Tamil Nadu, has floated a Firm in Tamil Nadu. They have gone around and collected money from Ex-Servicemen saying that they are going to invest this money in Zuari Cement and they would get high returns. They also introduced one another K. Manjunath as GM of Zuari Cement, based at Ooty. The Firm has issued Bonds and Cheques in their favour. However, this fraud came to light when the cheques given by the Firm was returned un-honoured.

On 13 January 2020, Officials of Zuari Cement Limited have visited the office of BNews to take up the scrolling of false news against the Zuari Cement Limited with the editorial team of the channel. It was informed to the editorial team that Zuari Cement Limited has neither floated any schemes for investment nor aware of Mr. K. Mani and the other persons named in the news. Also requested the channel to scroll the clarificatory message on this issue. The team has accepted to run the scroll clarifying the matter post discussion with the company officials. Immediately, the channel has scrolled the following clarificatory lines on its evening news item.

- a) There is no connection between Zuari Cement company and K. Mani of Tamil Nadu.
- b) Zuari Cement company is contemplating legal proceedings against K. Mani.

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