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Vokkaligas deserved a corporation first: Kumaraswamy

Not opposed to Maratha Board, says former chief minister

23/11/20

BENGALURU, DHNS

Attacking the state government for forming boards and corporations just for votes, JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy said on Sunday that if the government was concerned about welfare of communities, it should have formed one for Vokkaligas.

The former chief minister said that the Vokkaliga community - which forms a majority in Bengaluru - has contributed "a lot for the state's development and to fill its coffers by giving up

agriculture land for industries." Lakhs of people from the community who lost their land have taken up menial jobs such as watchmen or cooks. If any corporation was to be formed, Vokkaliga community should have got one first, Kumaraswamy (who belongs to the community) said.

Criticising the government over its response to Kannada activists who are protesting against the decision to set up the Maratha Development Board, Kumaraswamy said he was not opposed to the govern-



HD Kumaraswamy

ment decision.

"The state could have avoided a controversy by convincing pro-Kannada activists about the necessity for such a body," he said.

Kumaraswamy was speaking to reporters ahead of events held at Dasarahalli constituency on Sunday, to prepare for the

HDK says he's not keen to field candidates for bypolls

Kumaraswamy said that his personal view was against fielding candidates in the upcoming byelections for the Maski and Basavakalyan constituencies, considering the manner in which BJP fought the recently held bypolls.

"The party will discuss and finalise candidates as we have good organisation

upcoming BBMP elections.

He also lashed out at Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Siddaramaiah over the latter's criticism of JD(S) aligning with BJP for the Mandya District Central Co-operative

in these constituencies," he said.

"It is difficult for the regional party to win these bypolls as BJP has employed 'special tactics' to win," Kumaraswamy said, adding that he was against fielding candidates in the byelections, so as to concentrate more on the general elections

Bank elections.

"Siddaramaiah should avoid discussing other parties," he said, adding that Congress too had aligned with BJP in Chamarajanagar, Mysuru and Navalgund in Dharwad district.