SUO MOTU ADVERTISEMENT CASE NO. 205 OF 2024

BEFORE THE MAHARASHTRA REAL ESTATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY, MUMBAI

SUO MOTU ADVERTISEMENT CASE NO. 205 OF 2024

MahaRERA on its Own Motion

.... Complainant

Versus

Houssed

....Respondent

MahaRERA Agent Registration No. A51800043621

Coram: Dr. Vasant Prabhu, Secretary, MahaRERA

Adv. Krishna Agarwal appeared for the Respondent.

ORDER

29th August 2024

(Through Video Conferencing)

- 1. The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) had issued an intimation letter dated 25.06.2024 to the Respondent above named for issuing an advertisement on the Houssed.com portal dated 14.06.2024 in regard to Vedant Construction's real estate project namely "Sumeet Elite" situated at Thane without incorporating the Quick Response (QR) Code of the said real estate project in the said advertisement.
- The Respondent, inspite of having received the intimation letter from the "Advertising Standards Council of India" failed to comply with MahaRERA regulation and modify or withdraw the said advertisement.
- 3. In this regard, a hearing was scheduled on 31.07.2024 through video conferencing as per the MahaRERA Circular No. 27/2020 and MahaRERA Order No. 593/2023, wherein the Respondent can appear through its representatives and make its submissions.
- 4. During the aforementioned hearing, the Respondent submitted that the said advertisement in question had been withdrawn on 02.07.2024 and an email was sent to the Advertising Standards Council of India informing them of the compliance.

SUO MOTU ADVERTISEMENT CASE NO. 205 OF 2024

- 5. Upon considering the submissions of the Respondent, the Respondent was thereby directed to furnish a comprehensive report in the said matter within a period of 7 days from the date of hearing.
- 6. In this regard, it is necessary to peruse the provisions of MahaRERA Order No. 46B/2023 dated 21.08.2023 read with MahaRERA Order No. 46/2023 dated 29.05.2023 which reads as under:

"MahaRERA Order No. 46B/2023 Real estate agents shall prominently display QR code on each and every real estate promotion/advertisement published in the mediums as more specifically listed in MahaRERA Order No. 46/2023 dated 29.05.2023."

"MahaRERA Order No. 46/2023 The Promoter shall prominently display QR code on each and every project promotion/advertisement published after 01.08.2023. The QR Code must be published in a manner that is legible, readable, and detectable with software application. The QR code must be published besides the MahaRERA registration number and the website address. The mandate as mentioned above shall apply to the mediums of promotion/advertisement and in any other medium as may be directed by the Authority."

- Accordingly, the Respondent filed its response stating that upon receiving ASCI's intimation letter, the said advertisement on Houssed.com platform was withdrawn on 02.07.2024 within the time frame provided by ASCI in its intimation letter.
- 8. Therefore, although the Respondent had published an advertisement on Houssed.com platform dated 14.06.2024 without incorporating the QR code of the real estate project, the Respondent, upon receipt of ASCI's intimation letter withdrew the said advertisement within the time frame mentioned in ASCI's intimation letter.
- 9. Henceforth, it becomes manifestly clear that the Respondent does not stand in violation of provisions of MahaRERA Order No. 46/2023 dated 29.05.2023 read with MahaRERA Order No. 46B/2023 dated 21.08.2023.

SUO MOTU ADVERTISEMENT CASE NO. 205 OF 2024

10. Therefore, in view of the above, the present case stands disposed of.

Dr. Vasant Prabhu

Secretary, MahaRERA