

## Catch me if you can but let us work, Mamata dares oppn

### CM Stresses 'People First', Assures Action Over Work Delays

#### TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Catch me if you can. No, this wasn't the Leonardo DiCaprio-Tom Hanks movie playing out at a government function on Tuesday. This was chief minister Mamata Banerjee hitting out at her detractors, making an impassioned plea — some would say challenge — to allow her government to work.

"Catch me if you can, fight me if you can or allow us to work. Don't indulge in any kind of destruction or conspiracies that won't help," she said at a programme organized by the tribal development board.

Focusing on work, the chief minister also stressed on a "people-first" approach by her administration, adding that service-delivery would be accountable and time-bound.

Her challenge to the opposition was clear-cut. "No one can challenge the government in terms of development. Please don't indulge in destructive politics if you (the opposition) can't indulge in constructive politics," she said.

"The services to people cannot be delayed for political reasons, it cannot be withheld for any narrow-mindedness or personal reasons... It is our duty to provide services on time," she said at the venue, where she also released a handbook on the West Bengal Right to Public Services Act, 2013.

The act, passed by the Trinamool government, makes it mandatory to provide public services within a stipulated period, failing which "public servants" could be fined.

"If services are not available within astipulated time, a complaint can be registered. The complaints will be probed and action taken," the chief minister said.

"Our motto is to provide service to people on time. It should not be delayed or denied based on politics and favouritism. Previously, rendering services used to take a lot of time and people were harassed. If you are denied service, lodge a complaint and the government will take action."

Mamata described herself as a "public servant". "Why will services not be allowed to the people? We should be grateful that we are providing services," she added.

Mamata chose to stress on the work she'd done. "Whatever I had said, I have fulfilled. Not even a single demand is pending," she said. "We cannot keep work pending. Then we will not be able to sleep at night. Everything has a time and work should be completed by that time. When I visit the districts, there are files which need my attention. I see the important files there and when I come back, the first thing is to see those files which I missed. Not only timely implementation of projects, but also their evaluation and even follow-up is a must," Mamata said, with the state's top administrator, chief secretary Sanjoy Mitra, beside her.



Chief minister Mamata Banerjee releases the handbook on the West Bengal Right To Public Services Act, 2013