



## WHISTLE BLOWER POLICY

### **Dodla Dairy Limited**

CIN: L15209TG1995PLC020324

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## WHISTLE BLOWER POLICY

### 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Dodla Dairy Limited (the "Company") is committed to comply with various applicable laws, satisfying the Company's code of conduct and ethics, and particularly to assure that the business is conducted with integrity and that the Company's financial information is accurate. The Company is committed to adhere to the highest standards of ethical, moral and legal conduct of business operations. The Company seeks to create an environment free of unfair practices and unethical conduct by laying down the highest standards of conduct for its employees, to ensure their overall professional growth, and to set industry benchmarks for fair practices.

1.2 The Company is committed to maintain an ethical workplace that facilitates the reporting of potential violations of the Company's policies and the applicable laws. Consequently, the Company has established its Whistle Blower Policy (the "Policy") to supplement the code of conduct and anti-fraud policy of the Company. Through this Policy, the Company intends to encourage its employees to report matters without the risk of subsequent victimization, discrimination or disadvantage. The Policy applies to all employees working for the Company.

1.3 The Whistle Blowing or reporting mechanism set out in the Policy, invites all employees to act responsibly to uphold the reputation of the Company. The Policy aims to provide a mechanism to ensure that concerns are properly raised, appropriately investigated and addressed. The Company recognizes this mechanism as an important enabling factor in administering good governance practices.

1.4 The Policy complies with the requirements of the vigil mechanism as envisaged by Section 177 of the Companies Act, 2013 and the rules framed thereunder (the "Companies Act"). Further, Regulation 22 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("SEBI Listing Regulations") provides for a mandatory requirement for all listed companies to establish a mechanism to report genuine concerns to the corporation.

1.5 This Policy should not be used in place of the Company grievance procedure or be used as a route for raising malicious or unfounded allegations against colleagues.

### 2. DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise specified in this Policy, the following terms shall bear the meanings respectively assigned to them herein.

(a) "Alleged Wrongful Conduct" means violation of applicable laws or of Company's code of conduct or ethic policies, mismanagement of money, actual or suspected fraud, substantial and specific danger to public health and safety or abuse of authority or any illegal act(s).

(b) "Audit Committee" shall refer to the Audit Committee constituted by the Board in accordance with the Section 177 of the Companies Act, 2013 and SEBI Listing Regulations.

(c) "Board" means the Board of directors of the Company.

(d) "Employee(s)" means and include every bona-fide employee in the employment of the Company along with persons in casual or contract employment.

(e) "Compliance Officer" shall mean the officer of the Company appointed by the Board in accordance with SEBI Listing Regulations.

(f) "Disciplinary Action" means, any action that can be taken on the completion of / during the investigation including but not limiting to a warning, imposition of fine, suspension from official duties or any such action as is deemed to be fit considering the gravity of the matter.

(g) "Disciplinary Committee" refers to a permanent Committee constituted by the Head of Human Resources or the Compliance Officer of the Company in whatsoever name and designation they hold or be called, unless otherwise constituted by the Managing Director of the Company in relation to any particular case. The Managing Director of the Company may at his discretion re-constitute the permanent Committee at any point of time with any Officer(s) of the Company as deemed appropriate.

(h) "Good Faith" means an employee(s) shall be deemed to be communicating in 'good faith' if there is a reasonable basis for communication of unethical and improper practices or any other Alleged Wrongful Conduct. Good faith shall be deemed lacking when the employee(s) does/ do not have personal knowledge of a factual basis for the communication or where the employee knew or reasonably should have known that the communication about the unethical and improper practices or Alleged Wrongful Conduct is malicious, false or frivolous.

(i) "Managing Director" shall mean the officer of the Company appointed in accordance with applicable laws.

(j) "Policy or "This Policy" means, the "Whistleblower Policy."

(k) "Retaliation/Victimization" refers to any act, direct or indirect, recommended, threatened or taken against a Whistle-Blower by any person because the Whistle-Blower has made a disclosure pursuant to the Policy.

Retaliation includes overt/covert acts of:

- (i) discrimination
- (ii) reprisal
- (iii) harassment
- (iv) vengeance

(l) "Whistle Blower/ Complainant" means any employee who raises a concern in accordance with this Policy.

(m) "Whistle-blowing 'Concern(s)'/ 'Complaint(s)'" an act whereby any employee discloses in Good Faith any information about any potentially illegal and / or unacceptable practices.

Employees can raise concerns/issues, if any, which they have on the following or possibilities/apprehensions of:

- (i) Breach of any law, statute or regulation;
- (ii) Issues related to accounting policies and procedures adopted for any area or item.
- (iii) Acts resulting in financial loss or loss of reputation.
- (iv) Misuse of office, suspected/actual fraud and criminal offences.

(n) "Working Directors" means any executive director of the Company.

### **3. MODE AND MANNER OF REPORTING SUSPECTED PRACTICES**

3.1 The employee may send a communication directly in writing through a letter or an email to the Chairman of the Audit Committee / Managing Directors or the Compliance Officer of the Company. An employee may also send a communication through an e-mail addressed to [cs@dodladairy.com](mailto:cs@dodladairy.com). The address for sending letters in this regard is as below:

Kind Attn- The Compliance Officer/Company Secretary,  
Dodla Dairy Ltd  
CIN: L15209TG1995PLC020324  
# 8-2-293/82/A, 270/Q, Road No 10-C,  
Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad - 500 033  
Telangana, India.  
Tel: 040-4546 7777

3.2 Additional modes of communication would be made available to employees and would be periodically communicated by the Compliance Officer.

3.3 Any whistle blowing concern received by the chairman of the Audit Committee or Working Directors (in writing or through email) shall be forwarded to the Compliance Officer for further action.

3.4 Within a reasonable time of receipt of the concern by the Compliance Officer, an acknowledgement shall be sent to the sender of the concern (where a return address or email is available). The acknowledgement shall confirm receipt of the concern and inform the sender that the concern would be inquired into and appropriately addressed and reported to Audit Committee.

3.5 If any employee has a reason to believe that the Compliance Officer or any function under his control and administration is involved in the violation or has any interest involved which might shadow his judgment, the employee may report his concern (even anonymously) to the Managing Director of the Company.

3.6 In case the concern does not fall within the ambit of the Whistleblower Policy, the sender shall be informed that the Concern is being forwarded to the appropriate department/authority for further action, as deemed necessary.

#### **4. ADMINISTRATION OF THE POLICY**

4.1 The Compliance Officer, upon receipt of the Concern or Complaint shall immediately set in motion based on the Audit Committee's directions and guidance, if any. appropriate action to inquire into the matter. The Compliance Officer shall present a report in the subsequent Audit Committee meeting, reporting the Concerns received (without editing them), for feedback and guidance. The Compliance Officer shall also update the Audit Committee the status of inquiry and actions. Action shall be taken by the Compliance Officer.

4.2 Inquiry into the Concerns received under this Policy shall normally be carried out within 90 days of receipt of the concern by the Compliance Officer. Concerns requiring additional time for inquiry shall be intimated to the Audit Committee at the time of reporting the status of inquiry and actions on a quarterly basis. Once the inquiry is completed, the Compliance Officer shall communicate the actions to be taken to the Audit Committee, if any, by respective groups within the Company and track closure of such actions. The concern shall be kept open until such actions are initiated/completed.

4.3 The concern shall be deemed as closed upon conclusion of the inquiry including any Disciplinary Action, recovery proceedings, initiation of extant legal proceedings, or reporting as required by extant policies, after which the concern shall be reported as closed at the ensuing meeting of the Audit Committee.

4.4 The status of all Concerns which are open or closed during the previous quarter shall be reported to the Audit Committee by the Compliance Officer on a quarterly basis.

4.5 The Compliance Officer shall lay down operating guidelines for handling the disclosures, investigations, record retention, communication, process of reporting of actions taken etc. The operating guidelines will be communicated to the Audit Committee.

#### **5. PROTECTION TO EMPLOYEES AND PREVENTION AGAINST RETALIATION, VICTIMIZATION OR HARASSMENT OF EMPLOYEES RAISING ANY CONCERN UNDER THE POLICY.**

5.1 Any employee who makes a disclosure or raises a concern under the Policy will be protected, if the employee:

- (a) Discloses his/her identity;
- (b) Discloses the information in Good Faith;
- (c) Believes it to be substantially true;
- (d) Does not act maliciously nor makes false allegations; and
- (e) Does not seek any personal or financial gain.

5.2 The Company will not tolerate any attempt on the part of anyone to retaliate, apply any sanction or disadvantage or to discriminate against any person who has reported to the Company serious and genuine Concern that they may have concerning an apparent wrong doing.

5.3 Any infractions of the Code of Conduct of the Company by the Complainant after raising the Complaint may invalidate the protection provided under this Policy.

5.4 Protection under the Policy shall be available to the employee who raises the Concern under this Policy till such time that the Complainant's employment subsists with the Company.

5.5 An employee, who wishes to raise a Concern in respect of any act of retaliation as defined in this Policy against the concerned employee, can do so within 3 months of such act which he/she believes to be an act of Retaliation. After the expiry of period of 3 months, such Concerns regarding Retaliation, if raised, shall not be treated as a Concern under this Policy.

5.6 Any attempt on the part of any employee to misuse the Policy for personal advantage shall be dealt with strictly by the Compliance Officer.

## **6. REMEDIAL/DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

Consequent to the investigation of a concern or violation reported under this Policy, the Compliance Officer may refer the findings to the Disciplinary Committee for appropriate remedial action in case any employee involvement is determined. In the event of any violation of applicable laws and policies, reported under this Policy, found to be true and existing, corrective/disciplinary measures shall be recommended by taking suitable action, as deemed appropriate by the Audit Committee or the Board.

## **7. CONFIDENTIALITY AND ANONYMITY**

An employee may choose to send communication under this Policy on an anonymous basis. However, employees are encouraged to disclose their identities while disclosing of any unethical and improper practices or Alleged Wrongful Conduct or while raising Concerns under this Policy. This will assist in obtaining additional details or evidence as may be required during the inquiry. Identity of the Complainant(s) shall be treated as confidential and shall not be disclosed. This would not have any impact on the employee's performance appraisal, assignment of work or other matters related to employment with the Company.

## **8. RECORD KEEPING**

Records pertaining to the Complaint shall be kept confidential and maintained by the Compliance Officer. Records shall be maintained as per the extant record retention Policy of Compliance Officer /Company.

## **9. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE POLICY**

Compliance Officer shall lay down an appropriate mechanism to communicate the Policy periodically to the employees and for its suitable display on the intranet of the Company. For better understanding of the Policy by employees, frequently asked questions and their responses would also be suitably displayed. Queries/clarifications under the Policy would be handled by the Compliance Officer or any other person nominated by him for the purpose.

## **10. DISQUALIFICATION**

10.1 While it will be ensured that genuine Whistleblower(s) are accorded complete protection from any kind of unfair treatment, this Policy does not protect employee(s) from disciplinary action arising out of deliberate false or bogus allegations made with mala fide intentions.

10.2 In the event, a Whistleblower that makes three or more Complaints, which have been subsequently found to be mala fide, frivolous, baseless, malicious or reported otherwise than in Good Faith, will be disqualified from reporting further Complaints under the Policy. In respect of such Whistle-blower, the Company or the Audit Committee would reserve its right to take / recommend appropriate Disciplinary Action.

10.3 However, this Policy does not protect the Whistleblower from an adverse action which occurs independent of his disclosure of Alleged Wrongful Conduct, poor job performance, any other Disciplinary Action, etc. unrelated to a disclosure made pursuant to this Policy.

## **11. COMPANY'S POWER**

The Board may subject to applicable laws and at the recommendation of the Audit Committee is entitled to amend, suspend or rescind this Policy at any time. Any difficulties or ambiguities in the Policy will be resolved by the Audit Committee in line with the broad intent of the Policy and in consultation with the Board. The Board may also establish further rules and procedures, from time to time, to give effect to the intent of this Policy and further the objective of good corporate governance.