

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
(SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH, CHENNAI)**

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 128 OF 2021 (SZ)

AFFIDAVIT FILED BY THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR, PATHANAMTHITTA

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Dated at Chennai on this the 2nd day of June, 2022

M/s. E.K.KUMARESAN

Standing Counsel for State Government of Kerala - NGT(SZ) Chennai Bench

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**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, CHENNAI
O.A.No.128 of 2021**

Ibrahim Karim
S/o Ibrahim
Pallivasal Estate
Factory Division
Munnar P.O., Kerala

.....Applicant

State of Kerala & 5 Ors.

.....Respondents

AFFIDAVIT FILED BY THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR, PATHANAMTHITTA

I, the District Collector, Pathanamthitta District, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. It is respectfully submitted that I am the.....Respondent in this Original Application and am fully conversant with the facts of the case as disclosed from the relevant records and hence competent to swear to this Affidavit.
2. It is respectfully submitted that the applicant filled this Original with the grievance against the construction of Sabariamala Pilgrim Centre Complex in Ranni, Ittiyappara. In his application it has been stated that the work site is coming under the category of wet land.
3. It is respectfully submitted that I was directed to submit an individual statement before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (South Zone) as per the judgement dated 07.03.2022. The Village records, the lands are mentioned as 'Nilam'. At present, the land appears filed and the KSRTC Bus Stand has been functioning along the southern side of the land. On the basis of my direction, the Revenue Divisional Officer, Thiruvalla conducted a meeting of officials on 21.03.2022 to assess the progress in construction and the impediments in restarting the construction of the Pilgrim Centre at Ittiyappara.
4. It is respectfully submitted that the Executive Engineer, PWD (Buildings) Tahsildar Ranni, Tahsildar (LR), Ranni, Agriculture Officer, Ranni, KSRTC

Officials , Grama Panchayat Secretary, Ranni and the Village Officer, Ranni-Pazhavangadi were participated in the meeting. The meeting is of the view that the construction of the Pilgrim Centre at Ittiyappara is a major project of the Government to envisage better facility to the Sabarimala pilgrims. Due to some technical issues, the construction of the centre has been delayed for a very long time.

5. It is respectfully submitted that in the meeting, Executive Engineer, PWD(Buildings) reported that the land in question was converted before the year 2000 and it is mistakenly included in the data bank as 'wet land' and necessary steps have to be taken urgently to remove the land from the data bank. He further reported that the Government had accorded to the Administrative Sanction for Rs.5 Crores for the construction vide order G.O. (Rt)No.1184/09/PWD dated 14.08.2009 and 1.10.28 hectors of land acquired for the construction of pilgrim centre and KSRTC and necessary funds for this has been disbursed by the Public Works Department. A revised Administrative Sanction accorded for 16.50 Crores in 2013 and tender formalities were completed and the work order given to M/s Roger Mathew and Company. The Company started the piling work in the work site and due to technical issues, the work prolonged and the contract has been cancelled.
6. It is respectfully submitted that the Executive Engineer PWD (Buildings) requested that the land in question are converted many years back from 2008 and it has been included mistakenly in the data bank and necessary steps have to be taken to de-notify the land from the data bank.
7. It is respectfully submitted that the Agriculture Officer, Ranni and the Chairman, Local Level Monitoring Committee also opined that the land included in the bank erroneously and the land looks converted even before the year 2000 and it has to be excluded from the data bank. He further reported that the entire land surrounded with dry lands and no paddy cultivation in the adjoining lands and there is no water flow or streams passing through the land in question, Village Officer, Ranni -Pazhavangadi reported that the land in

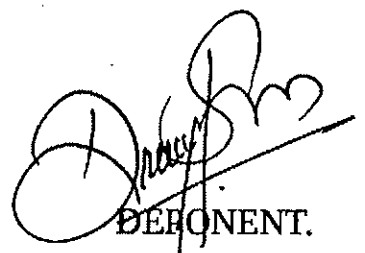
(3)

question is in the possession and name of KSRTC and the bus stand is functioning in the land for many years. KSRTC is remitting land tax for an extent of 01.04.20 hectares of land and the building situated in the land is having building number and electricity connection.

8. It is respectfully submitted that the Agricultural Officer, Ranni and the Chairman, Local Level Monitoring Committee conducted the Local Level Monitoring Committee (LLMC) meeting on 26.03.2022. The Committee decided to exclude the land in Thandapper number 11090, Block 9 of Ranni Pazhavangadi Village, Ranni Taluk, Pathanamthitta District owned by Grama Panchayat Ranni Pazhavangadi for KSRTC Bus Stand from the data bank.
9. It is respectfully submitted that considering all the facts, I directed the Revenue Divisional Officer, Thiruvalla to avail the Kerala State Remote Sensing & Environment Centre's (KSREC) report including satellite map of the land and to verify whether land is converted before the year 2008. Revenue Divisional Officer, Thiruvalla issued necessary direction to the Executive Engineer PWD (Buildings) to obtain the report urgently from KSREC. Hence it is submitted that the final statement in the matter will be submitted before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) as and when the report is received from KSREC.
10. I submit that all the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge, belief and information.

Dated at Pathanamthitta on the 23rd day of April 2022.

Solemnly affirmed and signed
at Thiruvananthapuram on this
the day of April, 2022 in my presence.



BERONENT.