

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**

SOUTH ZONE AT CHENNAI

**O.A. NO... 141.....of 2021 [SZ]**

**BETWEEN**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu based on the news item in Kerala Kaumudi, Newspaper, Web Edition, Dated 06-06-2021, "A new Ray of Life for Pallikkalar"  
.....Applicant(s)

With

The Principal Secretary, Government of Kerala, Ors.....Respondent(s)

**REPLY STATEMENT FILED BY THE 9<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT IN THE ABOVE APPLICATION.**

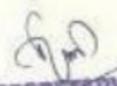
1. It is respectfully submitted that the above issue pertains to the dumping of waste *Pallickalar* a fresh water river which flows from east and passes through Enath Grama Panchayath, Ezhamkulam Grama Panchayat, Adoor Municipality, Kadambanad Grama Panchayat at Pathanamthitta District. In Alapuzha District it flows through Thamarakkulam Grama Panchayat, Palamel Grama Panchayat, Vallikkunnam Grama Panchayat, Bharanikkavu Grama Panchayat. In Kollam District it flows through Sooranad North Grama Panchayat, Sooranad South, Grama Panchayat, Mynagappally Grama Panchyat, Sasthamkkotta Grama Panchayat, Kunnathur Grama Panchyat, Poruvazhi Grama Panchyat, Panamel Grama Panchyat, Thevakkara Grama Panchyat and finally through *Karungappally* Municipality. The river has a length of 45 meters. Before the river joins the T.P.Canal the last stretch of 2 kilo meters falls within the Karunagapally Municipality. Thus, it is the people of Karungapally Municipality who are worst affected by the dumping of waste.



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2. In the news paper report the statement that waste is dumped from the *Kannettippalam* and *Kallukadavu Palam*, *Chambakkadavu Palam* and other similar bridges. Out of the above only the *Kannettippalam* falls within the jurisdiction of this *Karungappally Municipality*.
3. This *Karunagappally Municipality* has taken various steps to prevent the dumping of waste in river and other public places. The 3 canals, *Pattolithoudu* and its tributaries are cleaned from time to time under the programme called ‘*Ini Njan Ozhugatte*’. To rejuvenate the wetlands a special programme titled “*Veendedukkam Thannerthadom*” was formulated and cleaned the *Vattakkayal* of the market area. On the basis of a special programme of the Central Government, “*Jalshakthi Abahiyan*”, during the year 2021-22 a scheme was formulated for the protection of Wetlands and River protection. All the NGOs’ of the area who are interested in protecting the environment are actively participating in the programme. It may be noted that the news paper report concerned has not found any fault on the part of this *Karunagappally Municipality* in not discharging their functions for the removal of the waste.
4. Due to climate change and sea level rise the river flows back and the waste gets accumulated in that part of river which flows through this *Karunagappally Municipality*. Due to rare sand mining in *Alappad Grama Panchayat* the river flow is affected in some portion. The general use of the *Pallikklar* has adversely affected the river ecology. But *Karunagappally Municipality* has taken earnest effect to implement all the measures for the proper management of the waste. The Municipality has banned the usage of Plastic carry bags.
5. It is also understood that the Government of Kerala has decided to constitute the *River Management Authority* for the protection of 44 rivers in Kerala.



  
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6. It is reiterated that there is no dereliction of duty on the part of this respondent in complying with any of the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and other Rules for the management of waste. Therefore, it is prayed that the entire *suo motu* proceedings initiated be closed recording the contents of this reply statement

Dated this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021.



*[Signature]*  
SECRETARY  
KARUNAGAPPALLY MUNICIPALITY

8<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT

*[Signature]*

Counsel for the 8<sup>th</sup> respondent

**VERIFICATION**

I, Faisal.A, aged 47 years, son of Abdul Rahiman Kunju, Pulliyil, Thuzhuva .P.O. Karunagappally.P.O. , Secretary, Karunagappally t, Karungappally, ,do hereby solemnly affirm and state that what is stated in the reply statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Dated this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021



*[Signature]*  
SECRETARY  
KARUNAGAPPALLY MUNICIPALITY

8<sup>th</sup> respondent