

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
(SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH, CHENNAI)
IN
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 141 OF 2021 (SZ)**

**REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY,
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT / 1TH RESPONDENT**

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Dated at Chennai on this the 18th day of February, 2022.

M/s. E.K.KUMARESAN

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



**BEFORE THE HONOURABLE NATIONAL GREEN
TRIBUNAL, CHENNAI**
ORIGINAL APPLICATION No.141 of 2021

**Tribunal on its own motion - SUO MOTU Based on the News item
in Kerala Kaumudi Newspaper, Web Edition Dated : 06.06.2021
VS**

Principal Secretary, Environment Department and others

AFFIDAVIT FILED BY 1st RESPONDENT

I, Dr. Venu. V, S/o. Vasudeva Panikkar, aged 57 years, residing at Government Quarter No.6, Jawahar Nagar, Kowdiar P O, Thiruvananthapuram, do hereby solemnly affirmed and sincerely state as follows:

1. I am presently working as Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Kerala, Environment Department, and I am conversant with the facts of the case as disclosed from the relevant records. I am competent to swear to this Affidavit and I am the first respondent in this Original Application.
2. The issue under consideration in OA 141/2021 is pollution of the Pallikkalar River which flows through three districts - Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha and Kollam. It passes through the towns of Adoor, Vadakkadathucavu, Peringanad, Nooranad, Pallickal, Sooranad, Pavumba, Pavumba - Churuli, Thodiyoor, Vadakkumthala, Kuttivattom, Mynagapally, Karunagapally, Ayanivelikulangara and Kandathil. On reaching Ponmana near Karunagapally the river empties into the Arabian Sea through Ashtamudi Lake.

Pathanamthitta District

The river originates as a small creek (width less than 1 m) from the upstream side of Ezhamkulam Grama panchayat near Puthumala & flows towards the direction passing through 5 local bodies namely Erathu panchayath, Adoor municipality, Kadambanad panchayath, pallickal panchayath & leaves Pathanamthitta District at Anayadi near

North Sooranad. The length of stretch of the river in the district is approximately 17 km. Major towns included are located in Ezhamkulam Grama Panchayat & Adoor municipality.

Alappuzha District

The river as such is not flowing through Alappuzha District. However, a rivulet which flows downstream from Thamarakulam meets Pallickal river at Airottupalam in Shooranad north panchayath, Kollam Dist. Also another rivulet of the Pallickal River flows through Chooran Vayal which forms boundary with Pathanamthitta district.

Kollam District

The major portion about 25 km of the river flows through Kollam district. The Grama Panchayats of Poruvazhy, Sooranad North, Sooranad South, Thazhava, Thodiyoor and Mynagappally and the Municipality of Karunagappally of Kollam district are located on the banks of the river.

A meeting was convened by Additional Chief Secretary Local Self Government Department with the concerned LSGIs through which the River flows and the need for developing a comprehensive action plan to clean up the River has been communicated. Following a brainstorming session, the steps to be taken and actions to be taken were tabulated and distributed to the LSGIs for further action. Immediate short term strategies have been developed to address the pollution load from domestic waste water and solid waste dumping. Once this is completed, the long-term strategy will be an approach in which water management and environmental management are combined to develop a plan to restore the lost ecology of the River. Following steps are being carried out by LSGD to curb the pollution in Pallikkal River.

1. Data Collection

Identification of the local bodies along which the river flows and all points where liquid waste is directly discharged into the river and to collect details about drains carrying waste water into river, septage and solid waste dump sites near by the river.

2. Intervention and Remedial Measures



- New toilets for no latrine households and provision of septic tank systems for those which are discharging directly into water bodies/ Community toilets to be provided wherever necessary with scientific septic tank system
- Leach pits to be replaced by septic tanks
- Retrofitting of old septic tanks to improve treatment efficiency
- Installation of common STP and ETP to ensure that only treated wastewater reaches the natural streams.
- Cleaning of storm water drains (small streams, creeks leading into the river) periodically
- Procurement of sewer cleaning machines and equipment maintenance
- Propagation of vegetative cover in watersheds will reduce river pollution due to soil erosion and enhance percolation of rain water
- Installation of CCTV cameras and fencing at critical areas
- Installation of night vision surveillance cameras at priority sites
- Continuous monitoring of river banks and public places involving the participation of school students may be considered to prevent waste
- Awareness programme & capacity building

3.Enforcement and Regulatory Measures

- Continuous surveillance for protecting the water body. Installation of additional continuous online River water monitoring stations
- Enforcement & Penal provisions
- Identification of the establishments/commercial complexes/flats/houses/hotels etc who are discharging the sewage
- Periodical inspection in the STP/ETP, Industries, Flats, hotels, monitoring of STP,ETP

The LSGIs have collected the preliminary data for the implementation of the short-term strategy and submitted their status of action on the intervention and remedial measures. The same is attached as **Annexure.-I**

A meeting was also convened by the Secretary, Water Resources Department for ensuring compliance on the order of the



Hon'ble Tribunal in the above case. It was decided that the District Collectors shall inspect the site in coordination with Irrigation Department and Pollution Control Board and furnish report along with holistic action for the protection of Pallickal river. The same shall be submitted before the Tribunal as soon as the action plan is ready.

All the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge, belief and information.

Dated this 14th day of December 2021.



DEPONENT

Solemnly affirmed and signed before me by the deponent, whom I know on this is the14th... day of December, 2021 at this Office of the *Government Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram.*



RAJESH. S
SECTION OFFICER
ENVIRONMENT (A) DEPARTMENT
Government Secretariat
Thiruvananthapuram

14	ALAPPUZHA	Thamarakkulam	Shall be completed by 31.03.2022	Shall be completed by 31.03.2030	Shall be completed by 31.03.2030	Shall be completed by 31.03.2022	Shall be completed by 10.12.2021	Project included in MGNREGS for placing 'Coir Bhoovasthram' on river banks	Shall be completed by 31.03.2022	Shall be completed by 31.03.2023	Shall be completed by 31.03.2023			
15		Nooranadu	Shall be completed by 31.03.2022	Action by SM,PCB,LSGI and shall be completed by 31.03.2022	Shall be completed by 31.03.2022	Implemented the help of MGNREGS workers, and shall be completed by 31.03.2022	Not applicable	Action done by LSGI through MGNREGS and shall be completed by 31.03.2022	Shall be completed by 31.03.2023	Shall be completed by 31.03.2022	Shall be completed by 31.03.2022			
16		Palamel	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	5 projects are proposed to be set up for an amount of 15 Lakhs.	Not applicable	Not applicable				

Action by SM & LSGI shall be completed 31.03.2022			KSPCB	KSPCB	Agricultural Dept/Soil conservation	DTPC	Action by LSGI & SM and shall be completed by 31.03.2023		Door to door waste collection via HKS in Every Month. And it is handover to clean kerala company.	Action by LSGI & SM and shall be completed by 31.03.2022			
Action by SM & LSGI shall be completed 31.03.2022	Action by SM & LSGI shall be completed 31.03.2022	Action by SM & LSGI shall be completed 31.03.2022	KSPCB	KSPCB	Agricultural Dept/Soil conservation	DTPC	Action by LSGI & SM and shall be completed by 31.03.2022 (Gas Crematorium)	Action by LSGI & SM and shall be completed by 31.03.2022	Not applicable	Mini MCF project taken for and shall be completed by 31.02.2022	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	KSPCB	KSPCB	Agricultural Dept/Soil conservation	DTPC	Not applicable	Not applicable	Door to door waste collection via HKS in Every Month.	Not applicable	Project proposed in 2021-22 Fyr for placing Sign boards regarding awareness to public. The Green Protocol is strictly adhered.	Not applicable	Installed Shutter to filter Nonbiodegradable flowing into waterbody.

True copy attached


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