

**NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL EASTERN ZONE BENCH,
KOLKATA**

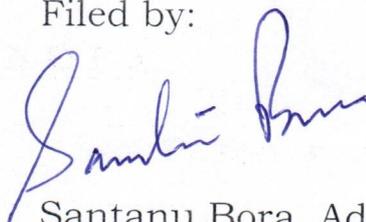
ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 168/ 2023/EZ

(Dilip Nath -Versus- Principal Chief Conservator of
Forest (PCCF), Assam and Others

I N D E X

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Filed by:



Santanu Bora, Advocate

E mail: advocatesbora@gmail.com

Ph. No. 9864176825

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA**

Original Application No. 168 of 2023/EZ

In the Matter of:

Dilip NathAPPLICANT

-VERSUS-

The Principal chief conservator of forest and others
.....RESPONDENTS

AFFIDAVIT OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY, STATE OF ASSAM

I, Dr. Ravi Kota, son of late Shri Kota Appoji, aged about 58 years, residing at Senior Officers Colony, Khanapara, Guwahati, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows: -

1. That I am the Chief Secretary of the State of Assam and as such I am fully conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case.
2. That I have received the copy of the above-mentioned Original Application, have gone through the same and understood the contents made therein.
3. That I have also gone through the Orders and directions of the Hon'ble NGT, EZ Bench, dated 02.05.2024, directing the Chief Secretary, Assam to file a Personal Affidavit clarifying all the facts and also stating the steps taken by the Government, hence, I am affirming this affidavit.
4. That I will traverse only through those portions which are relevant for the present purpose, as well as for which the clarifications are sought for. The portions of Original application, not replied to shall not be treated as to be my admission.

W
NABASISH CHAKRABARTY
NOTARY Govt. of Assam
Regd. No. KAM - 06
Panbazer, Guwahati - 781001

02 JUL 2024

W
Chief Secretary (RAVI KOTA)
Govt of Assam

5. At the outset I state that, I have joined the Office of Chief Secretary, Government of Assam, recently on 1st April, 2024. As such I became aware of the facts and circumstances of the instant case when I was briefed on the matter by the Forest Department. The matter appears to be of a considerably long period of time. Based on such information and preliminary inquiry made by me thereof, I do hereby state the following and thereby affirm this affidavit.

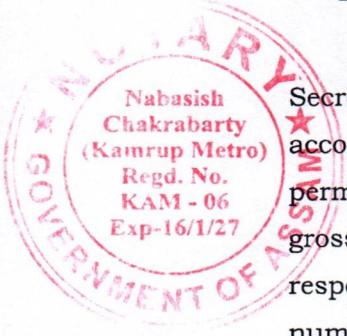
6. With regard to the observations made by the Hon'ble NGT/EZ, as well as the queries sought for, I state that, I have already issued instructions to all concerned and shall submit an additional affidavit after making a detailed enquiry into the matter.

7. That in this regard, I also state that the Forest Department has been directed to file a detailed compliance report on the order of the Hon'ble Tribunal dated 2nd May 2024. The PCCF shall file a separate affidavit detailing the actions taken by him in respect of compliances sought by the Hon'ble Tribunal.

8. Hon'ble Tribunal had directed in para 10 that the Chief Secretary, Assam, file his personal affidavit, and the same has been filed accordingly. As regards the identification of the officer/officers who permitted such extensive constructions within the Reserve Forest in gross violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the answering respondent begs to submit that, given the long period and the large number of officers involved, the identification process will be finalized within 30 days of the submission of this affidavit. The same may kindly be allowed by the Hon'ble Tribunal.

9. The Hon'ble Tribunal, in the order dated 2nd May 2024, also sought for an explanation regarding the inaction of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests since 2017. As directed by the Hon'ble Tribunal, the answering respondent begs to state that a detailed inquiry and examination of records into the matter since 2017 has been initiated. Given the current flood season and the ongoing rescue operations, it is

M. Guha
Chief Secretary (RAM KOTA)
Govt. of Assam



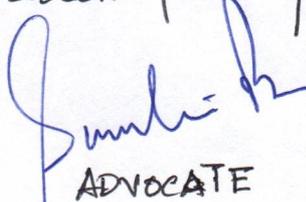
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NABASISH CHAKRABARTY
NOTARY Govt. of Assam
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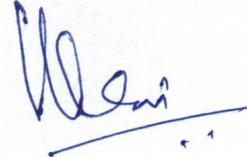
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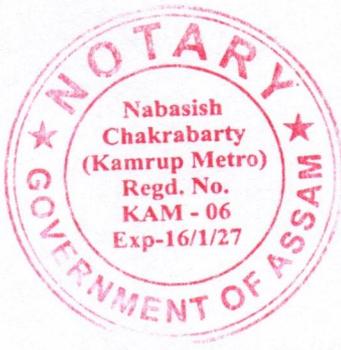
expected that compiling this information may take 30 days. The same may kindly be allowed by the Hon'ble Tribunal.

10. That the statements made out in the foregoing paragraphs are based on records and the same are also my respectful submissions before this Hon'ble Court.

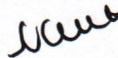
Deponent

Identified by -

ADVOCATE


(RAVI KOTA)
Chief Secretary
Govt. of Assam



SOLEMNLY AFFIRMED and
declared before me by the
Deponent on being identified
by learned Advocate



NABASISH CHAKRABARTY
NOTARY Govt. of Assam
Regd. No. KAM - 06
Panbazer, Guwahati - 781001

02 JUL 2024