

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

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 24 OF 2021

In the matter of:

O.A. Ninan, Kerala

----Applicant

-VS-

State of Kerala, and others

----Respondent(s)

AFFIDAVIT FILED BY THE KERALA WATER AUTHORITY/4TH

RESPONDENT

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Dated at Chennai on this the 22nd day of November, 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 SOUTHERN
ZONE, CHENNAI

in

O.A. No. 24/2021 (SZ)

Between

O. A. Ninan, Kerala : Applicant (s)

And

The State of Kerala & Others : Respondents

Affidavit filed by the R4 in the aforesaid Original Application.

I, Venkatesapathy S., I.A.S aged 40, S/o K. Sivaperumal, Managing Director, Kerala Water Authority, Jalabhavan, Vellayambalam, Thiruvananthapuram do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:-

1. That I am competent to swear this affidavit as authorized by the Kerala Water Authority. I am well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case as affirmed herein below.

2. It is respectfully submitted that vide Order dated 31/10/22, the Honourable Tribunal directed the respondents to file a detailed affidavit addressing the apprehensions raised by the applicant, particularly about the discharge of waste water. The learnt counsel appearing for the applicant while opposing the siting of Water treatment plant has raised concern about the discharge waste water into the nearby land. According to him, the project is located 6kms away from the water body and normally, this kind of water treatment plant should be located near the water body to discharge the effluents.

2. It is kindly submitted that the Kerala Water Authority has proposed to implement a water treatment plant of 40 MLD capacity with Pamba River as the source for the general improvement of public health and social living status of people in Seven Grama Panchayaths viz. Puramattom, Kallooppara, Ezhumattoor, Kunnamthanma, Eraviperoor, Koipuram and Thottappuzhasserry. These are seven adjacent Gramapanchayaths situated


VENKATESAPATHY S. IAS
Managing Director
Kerala Water Authority
Thiruvananthapuram

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in the hilly villages of Pathanamthitta District and the benefited population of the scheme is 135928 as per the 2011 census. Detailed survey and investigation have been carried out for planning a viable proposal of new WSS covering the entire area of the above Panchayaths. Administrative sanction for the work had been obtained under the State Plan head- Green book.

4) It is humbly submitted that after conducting detailed survey, a comprehensive scheme is designed for implementation, integrating modern techniques including waste water treatment for reuse of sludge handling & disposal facilities is proposed to implement in the water supply scheme. The WTP is proposed in survey No. 53/1 (350 cents) & 52/12 (8 cents) near Muttamon Junction in Koipuram Village. After fixing the suitable location/position for the WTP according to the topography, locations for other components viz. intake well, storage/service reservoirs in the seven panchayaths were fixed. The lands under survey Nos. 53/1 (350 cents) & 52/12 (8 cents) are identified as the most suitable site for the construction of WTP as the land is having a topography to construct the components of WTP. Soil there is hard so as to avoid expensive piling works for foundation, and site is above the maximum flood level of 2018, hence treated water can be distributed within a short distance to all the Grama Panchayaths.

5. It is also submitted that the back wash and sludge management, shall be carried out in the following manner, as already proposed by the Kerala Water Authority.

Filter back wash management — The wash water recycling system as envisaged by Kerala Water Authority as part of the proposal shall be materialized as a component of the treatment plant along with various other components of the plant and discharge of back wash water outside the WTP premises shall be eliminated.

Sludge management system — A proper sludge management system, including sludge thickening and sludge de-watering either by using drying bed, sludge lagoon, filter press, vacuum filtration or centrifuge shall be provided


VENKATESAPATHY S. IAS
Managing Director
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for disposal of sludge as part of the proposed WTP. The dried sludge shall be reused/disposed in an environment friendly manner for land fill, brick and tile manufacturing etc.

6. It is benignly submitted that the Government of India have also announced Jal Jeevan Mission with the aim to provide safe drinking water to all villages by year 2024. The activities of this mission in the seven villages can be completed only after setting up the proposed Water Treatment plant.

7. It is humbly submitted that the proposed project is purely focused on the public welfare and to cater the basic need and nurture fundamental human rights of the people of that locality.

8. It is respectfully submitted that the apprehensions of the applicants have no base at all and as such are unscientific and skeptical illusions.

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



Dated this the 21st day of November 2022


VENKATESAPATHY S. IAS
Managing Director
Kerala Water Authority
Thiruvananthapuram
Deponent:

Solemnly affirmed and signed before me by the deponent who is personally known to me on this the 21st day of November 2022 at my office at Ernakulam.

Standing Counsel.

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