

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
(SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH, CHENNAI)
IN
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 76 OF 2017 (SZ)**

**INTERIM REPORT FILED BY THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO
GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF 1ST AND 2ND RESPONDENT**

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Dated at Chennai on this the 10th day of February, 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,
SOUTH ZONE, CHENNAI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NUMBER 76 OF 2017

Proceedings initiated based on the News item published in
Malayala Manorama News paper – Malayalam Edition dated
25.03.2017 on the caption "BLACK CITY"

VS

The Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala and others

**INTERIM REPORT FILED BY THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF 1ST
AND 2ND RESPONDENT IN THE ABOVE CASE**

Interim report filed as per the directions of the Hon'ble Court by Venu. V, aged 57 years, S/o Vasudevapanikkar, residing at Government Quarter No. 6, Jawahar Nagar, Kowdiar P O., Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, presently working as Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Environment Department.

1.The above Suo Motu Original Application is based on News item published in Malayala Manorama News paper – Malayalam Edition dated 25.03.2017 on the caption "BLACK CITY".

2. The Joint Committee as well as the Kerala State Pollution Control Board had reported that the real nature of pollution and its source can be identified only if a study is conducted at peak hours of vehicular movement. Due to



lockdown, number of vehicles have come down on roads and studies at this juncture will not reflect the real nature of pollution caused at the particular locations where the study has to be conducted. In view of the observations made by the Joint Committee and Kerla State Pollution Control Board, the Hon'ble Tribunal vide its Judgment dated 14.07.2021, had directed the Environment Department, Government of Kerala to conduct the study. The committee appointed by the Hon'ble Tribunal was directed to provide necessary guidance for the study as envisaged by them in the reports primarily in Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi and submit a periodical reports before the Tribunal at an interval of once in 3 (Three) months regarding the progress of the work.

3. It is humbly submitted that in the meeting convened by the Chief Secretary to Government of Kerala on 14-09-2021, it was decided to invite estimate from NIT, Calicut for conducting Source Apportionment Study in Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi and communication was sent to the Director, NIT, in this regard. NIT, in response to the Government letter has intimated that the institute can take up the source apportionment study in those cities on behalf of Environment Department, Government of Kerala and had forwarded the estimate for the study with head-wise break-up and a brief justification of the budgeted amount.

4. It is submitted that Government examined the estimate furnished by the institute and since the rate quoted in the estimate seems to be exorbitant, the Chairman, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, has been entrusted to examine the proposal of NIT again, hold discussions with the Director, NIT, Calicut, and get the estimate revised to a reasonable amount.



5. It is submitted that the COVID 19 situation in the State of Kerala has delayed the process and it is also humbly submitted that the Government shall expedite further steps

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

Dated this 27th day of January, 2022.



Dr. VENU V IAS
Additional Chief Secretary
Higher Education, Environment
Archaeology, Archives & Museum Departments