

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

**Original Application No. 95 of 2020 (SZ)
(Through Video Conference)**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU
Based on the News Item in the Dinamalar
Chennai Edition dated 01.07.2020, "Will
Ramapuram Lake be Completely restored?" ...Applicant(s)

Versus

**The Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu,
Department of Environment,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George
Chennai, Tamil Nadu and Ors.**

...Respondent(s)

STATUS REPORT FILED BY THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR, CHENNAI

I, Tmt. Vijaya Rani, I.A.S., wife of Thiru Roshan Hindu, aged about 48 years, now discharging duties as The District Collector, Chennai District, Chennai-600001, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1) I have perused the affidavit filed in support of the above petition and I hereby deny all the allegations contained therein except those that are specifically admitted herein. I am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case based on the records available in the file. Hence, I am filing this Status Report on behalf of the District Collector herein.

2) It is respectfully submitted that a status report has been submitted by the Greater Chennai Corporation dated 09.10.2020 filed on 03.06.2021 and

received by the National Green Tribunal (South Zone) on 15.06.2021 and passed an order dated 02.07.2021.

3) In para 17 of the said order it was held as follows:

“17.The above officials are directed to file their respective reports as directed to this Tribunal on or before 04.08.2021 by e-filing in form of searchable PDF/OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF along with necessary hard copies to be produced as per rules”

3) In pursuance of the said order, in the order dated 04.08.2021, the National Green Tribunal in para 11 of the order has held as follows:

“The Registry is directed to communicate this order to the members of the committee, official respondents and also to the Principal Secretary for Environment, Additional Chief Secretary for Municipal Administration and Water Supply and Revenue by e-mail immediately for their information and also for giving directions to the authorities to implement the directions issued by this Tribunal in submitting the effective reports; and the said matter stands posted to 03.09.2021.

4) It is respectfully submitted that in obedience to the said order, the Greater Chennai Corporation authorities have requested the Tahsildar, Maduravoyal Taluk, Chennai for demarcation of the boundaries of the said Ramapuram lake which is comprised in S.No.239/2A of Ramapuram village of Maduravoyal Taluk.

5) It is respectfully submitted that based on the oral instruction issued by the Worshipful Mayor of Chennai District on 15.04.2015, the said lake had already been inspected by the Revenue officials and found that the total extent

of the said lake comprised in 239/2A of Ramapuram village worked out to 7.135 Hectares, stood classified as Government Poromboke and Registered in the name of Ramapuram lake in the Land Records of the office of the Tahsildar, Maduravoyal Taluk. Out of the total extent of 7.135 Hectares, there were encroachments to an extent of 5.63 Hectares. The rest of the 1.50 Hectares was with water and remained as a lake. Records shows that out of the encroached extent of about 5.63 Hectares an extent of 1.66 Hectares of land had already been alienated to Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board for eventual allotment to the encroachers.

6) It is respectfully submitted that a sketch showing the boundaries of the said Ramapuram lake, the portion of land measuring 1.66 Hectares alienated in favour of Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (Now Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board), portion of land actually under encroachment, Portion of land meant for Road and portion of land classified as "Gramanatham" comprised in S.No.239/1, and 239/3 of Ramapuram village is submitted herewith.

7) It is respectfully submitted besides the Bio-metric enumeration taken in the said lake and found that there were 235 Encroachments. The name of the encroacher, extent encroached, name of the encroacher, community, Aadhar number, Family Card No. occupation, annual income and type of encroachment were more particularly described in the list of encroachers already submitted in this regard.

8) It is respectfully submitted that in respect of the alleged encroachments in the aforesaid survey fields in S.Nos. 239/1, 239/3 etc., M/s

Ramapuram Social Welfare Federation has filed W.P.No.22958 of 2019 with a prayer to issue a WRIT OF MANDAMUS directing the Respondents therein to remove the encroachments in water bodies, lakes and Ramapuram lake comprised in S.Nos. 239/1 etc., of Ramapuram Village, Maduravoyal Taluk and to direct the Respondents therein to restore natural water storage resources, bodies, canals, and Ramapuram lake as existed prior to 1987 and pass such further or other orders as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of the case. Necessary Draft Counter Affidavit has been prepared and sent to the Government Advocate for vetting.

9) It is respectfully submitted that it is also pertinent to point out that in pursuance of the News Item in the DinamalarChennai Edition dated 01.07.2020, under the caption "Will Ramapuram Lake be Completely restored?" enumeration was conducted and the details of 235 encroachers in the said lake were prepared and submitted to the Assistant Engineer, Water Resources Department, Adyar Irrigation section, St. Thomas Mount, Chennai-600016 along with the letter from the Tahsildar, Maduravoyal Taluk in Rc.No.460/2021/B1 dated 25.08.2021. Besides this, the said list of encroachers was also communicated to the Greater Chennai Corporation authorities along with Tahsildar, Maduravoyal letter Rc.No.460/2021/B1 dated 25.08.2021.

It is pertinent to point out that it is for the Public Works Department and the Greater Chennai Corporation to remove the encroachments on water bodies.As of now, the Greater Chennai Corporation is maintaining the said lake water body area measuring 1.50 hectares litter free by cleaning the

It is pertinent to point out that it is for the Public Works Department and the Greater Chennai Corporation to remove the encroachments on water bodies. As of now, the Greater Chennai Corporation is maintaining the said lake water body area measuring 1.50 hectares litter free by cleaning the surrounding area of lake on daily basis. Further the Greater Chennai Corporation is constructing a compound wall with a height of 7 feet surrounding the lake area in order to avoid further encroachments and also to avoid garbage dumping in the lake area.

8) It is therefore prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to accept the report and to pass suitable order or orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper under the circumstances of this case and thus render Justice.

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai on

This theApril 2022 and

Signed his name in the presence of

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25/4/22

District Collector, Chennai

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