

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH: AT CHENNAI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 137 of 2023

IN THE MATTER OF:

Muddeneni Rama Krishna,
M. Veeraswami, R/O H.No 5-19,
Mukkolu Village,
Guduru (Mandalam), Machilapatnam District

Versus

State of Andhra Pradesh,
Represented by its Chief Secretary,
Secretariat, Velagapudi, Guntur District,
Andhra Pradesh – 522503.
And 8 others

... Respondents

REPLY AFFIDAVIT FILED BY THE 9th RESPONDENT

I, Karumanchi Kameswara Rao, S/o. Sri Karumanchi Arjuna Rao, a resident of Akkumarru Village, Guduru (Mandalam), Machilapatnam District, Andhra Pradesh State, aged about 40 years, and an agricultural laborer, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I am the 9th respondent in the affidavit and I am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case brought forth by the applicants.

2. I deny all the averments contained in the application, except those that are specifically admitted herein. I respectfully request permission to file additional reply statements and documents, if necessary, at a later stage.

3. It is submitted that the petitioner has filed an application seeking direction for official Respondents to conduct. Comprehensive enquiry on the illegal soil, sand mining without Environmental clearance and Mining leases at Chengala Cheruvu(R.S.No.43) of Narikedalapalem , Sy.No. 24/4 in Chakirevu and Sy.No. 73/2 in Bapanakunta of Akumarru and surrounding villages of Guduru



K. Kameswara Rao



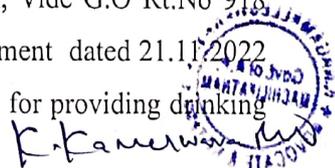
4. It is submitted that the petitioner has lodged an application seeking the directive for official Respondents to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the purported unauthorized soil and sand mining activities carried out without proper Environmental clearance and Mining leases at Chengala Cheruvu (R.S.No.43) of Narikedalapalem, encompassing Sy.No. 24/4 in Chakirevu, and Sy.No. 73/2 in Bapanakunta of Akumarru, along with the adjacent villages of Guduru Mandal, situated in the Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh.

5. It is submitted that the respondent explicitly refutes all the accusations presented in the application and affirm that I am a humble agricultural labourer whose livelihood is solely derived from honest labour. It has come as a shock to find my name included as one of the respondents in the mentioned application, despite my complete non-involvement in the matters under investigation.

6. It is submitted that as a landowner with a property located at R. Sy.no 86-1A, covering an area of Ac. 1.60 cents in Kappaladoddi Village of Guduru Mandal, Machilipatnam District, I contest the petitioner's claims stating that I engaged in illegal soil and sand mining in fertile agricultural lands, Government land, Water bodies, and roads in the mentioned areas. The petitioner also alleged cooperation between local Gram Panchayat and Village Officials with Private respondents in this unlawful mining.

a) In this context, it is important to note the initiation of the "Jal Jeevan Mission" by the Government of India, aimed at ensuring safe and sufficient drinking water by 2024 through individual household tap connections in all rural Indian households. This mission necessitates Gram Panchayats and rural communities to strategize, execute, manage, possess, operate, and maintain their in-village water supply systems. The enhancement of water storage capacity and the reinforcement of water tanks are vital components of this initiative.

b) Accordingly, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Vide G.O Rt.No 918 Panchayat Raj & Rural Development (RWS-II) Department dated 21.11.2022 has accorded administrative sanction for 21674 works for providing drinking



water facilities, to all the needy habitations through 21.51 lakh Functional House hold tap Connections as per JJM guide lines.

c) As a crucial aspect of implementing the esteemed Jal Jeevan Mission, the Village Gram Panchayat, Akumarru Gram Panchayat, Guduru Mandal, Krishna District, conducted Gramsabha on 21.02.2023 by the Surpanch under item No.3 and passed resolution to provide drinking water facilities, to all the needy habitations from Chakirevu tank at Sy.No. 24/4.

d) In this regard, the Grama sabha also adopted a resolution on 29.03.2023, under item No. 53, to strengthen the tank bunds of Chakirevu at Sy.No. 24/4 and the Bapanakunta water tank at Sy.No 73/2 of Akumarru Village. Similarly, the village Panchayat of Naridekapalem passed a resolution dated 14.04.2023, under item No. 37, to broaden and reinforce the tank bunds of Chengal cheruvu by dividing it into two sections, one designated for providing drinking water to the public and the other for catering to livestock needs.

e) As part of reinforcing these water tanks, deliberate removal of debris and soil was undertaken to fortify the water tank bunds. These excavation and de-casting procedures adhered to due process and established protocols. However, it's conceivable that the applicant may have misinterpreted these excavations as illicit, whereas their purpose was specifically geared towards fortifying the water tank bunds in alignment with the requirements of the Jal Jeevan Mission...

f) Further, the Surpanch of Akumarru village issued a certification affirming the absence of any unauthorized excavations within the past year in the Chakirevu Water tank at Sy.No. 24/4 and the Bapanakunta water tank at Sy.No. 73/2 of Akumarru Village. This certification received further validation by the endorsement of the Panchayat secretary, Akumarru Gram Panchayat, Guduru Mandal, Krishna District.

7. It is submitted that the respondent vehemently deny the allegations presented in OA No.19 of 2023, Kotari Muralidhar Babu Vs State of Andhra Pradesh & Ors, and have submitted a reply affidavit to the Honourable National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone bench, Chennai, providing all relevant evidence. My



K. Kanewar



involvement or participation in the alleged unlawful excavations has not been substantiated by any official reports from the pertinent departments. The accusations lack any factual basis. Similarly, the photographs presented by the petitioner as evidence were taken from a different location than the alleged site.

8. It is submitted that the claim of the private respondents conducted excavations using heavy machinery is unfounded, since no illegal excavations occurred in the alleged water tanks at Sy.No. 24/4 and Bapanakunta water tank at Sy.No 73/2 of Akumarru Village. Moreover, the waterbodies predominantly consist of spoil and soil, not sand and silt. Sand and silt cannot be used for reinforcing tank bunds, and spoil and soil cannot be employed for construction purposes. Therefore, the applicant's assertions lack merit. Furthermore, the photographs submitted by the petitioner do not accurately depict the situation in our village, leading to a misleading impression.

9. It is submitted that regarding the photographs presented by the petitioner, displaying the applicant and friends tied to a pole while allegedly documenting illicit excavation areas, it is a fabricated falsehood. In truth, the applicant's friend, Battina Hariram, who frequents Akumarru Village due to a relationship with Kaila Archana, was involved. An FIR, numbered 326/2022 dated 09/10/2022, was lodged at the Guduru Police Station in the Krishna District by Karumanchi Parimala Kumari, the mother of the ninth respondent. This report implicated Kaila Archana, alleging misappropriation of Srinidhi loan funds from DWAKRA members. Following this accusation, Kaila Archana was detained and subsequently granted bail.

Resentment towards Karumanchi Parimala Kumari led the applicant Mudneni Rama Krishna and his associate Battina Hariram to come to our home, verbally abuse her, and consequently, our neighbours intervened, detaining the petitioners and informing the police, resulting in FIR No.89/2023 dated 22.04.2023 in Guduru P.S of Krishna District.

10. It is submitted that considering these incidents, the applicant's allegations against me and my family in this application before the Honourable National



K. Kameela Devi
ADVOCATE & NOTARY

Green Tribunal, Southern Zone bench, Chennai, lack relevant evidence of my involvement or role in the alleged illegal excavations. In summary, I reiterate:

a) I am not involved in any illicit excavation activities as detailed in the application.

b) I do not own any vehicles or excavators, and none of my belongings have been seized, as alleged in the application.

c) My involvement in the purported excavations has not been supported by official reports from relevant departments.

d) The allegations against me are baseless, driven by malice, and politically motivated.

11. It is submitted that this respondent craves leave of this Hon'ble Tribunal to raise additional counter in the course of proceedings, if required.

In light of the above-mentioned facts and circumstances, I humbly beseech the Honourable National Green Tribunal to dismiss the original application No. of 2023.

Dated at Machilipatnam on this the th day of February, 2024.



John S. Rao

Counsel for 9th Respondent

9th RESPONDENT

K. Karumanchi Kameswara Rao



VERIFICATION STATEMENT

I, Karumanchi Kameswara Rao S/o Sri.Karumanchi Arjuna Rao aged 40 years Occupation, Agricultural labour , Akkumarru Village of Guduru Mandal, District, Machilipatnam, do hereby solemnly affirm that the contents of the above paras 1 to 10 are read out and explained to me in Telugu and I hereby verify that the same is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I have not suppressed any material fact.



9th RESPONDENT

K. Karumanchi Kameswara Rao



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VERIFYING AFFIDAVIT

I, Karumanchi Kameswara Rao S/o Sri.Karumanchi Arjuna Rao, aged 40 years, Occupation, Agricultural labour, Akkumarru Village of Guduru Mandal, Machilapatnam District, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I hereby state that I am well aware of the facts and circumstances of this case.
2. I hereby declare that I have been explained the contents of paragraphs 1 to 10 of the Reply in Telugu. I hereby verify after being explained that the contents of the paragraphs 1 to 10 are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and that nothing material is concealed.



Solemnly affirmed at Machilapatnam]

On this the th day of February, 2024]



K. Kameswara Rao

K. Kamalamba
And signed his name in my presence.

Before me Notary Public

10/4/24
K. NAGAMALLESWARAO
M.Com., L.L.B.,
ADVOCATE & NOTARY
Appointed by State Govt. of A.P.
MACHILIPATNAM Krishna Dt., A.P.

