

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN
TRIBUNAL WESTERN ZONE BENCH AT
PUNE**



Appeal No. 51/2022

Colva Civic and Consumer Forum

... Appellant

Versus

**The Goa Coastal Zone Management
Authority and Ors.**

... Respondents

**REPLY AFFIDAVIT OF THE APPELLANT TO
THE SUR REJOINER DT 12.08.2024 OF
RESPNDENT 4**

I, Mrs Judith Almeida, aged 69 years, daughter of late Joseph Henry Baptiste, R/o. H. No. 257/1, Bagdem, Ward 3, Colva, Salcete, Goa, President of the Colva Civic and Consumer Forum (the appellant), do hereby solemnly state on oath and affirm as under:

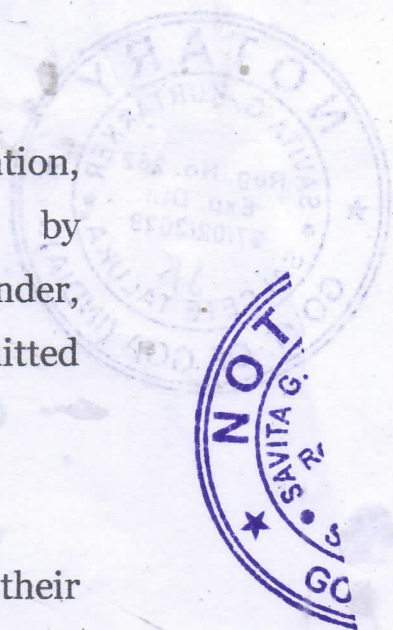
1. I am filing an affidavit in sur-rejoinder to the respondent no.4's affidavit in sur-rejoinder

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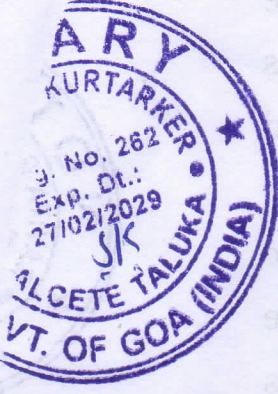
dated 12th August 2024 which was served to me via e-mail on 12.08.2024

2. At the outset, I deny each and every allegation, contention, and averment made by Respondent No. 4 in their sur-rejoinder, except those that are specifically admitted herein.
3. The Respondent No. 4 has, in para 4 of their sur-rejoinder, made baseless and unsubstantiated claims regarding alleged delay tactics employed by me, about a stranger barging in on the joint site inspection directed by this Hon'ble Tribunal and that I am using these proceedings to harass the respondent no.4. These claims are vehemently denied for the reasons elaborated below.
4. I respectfully submit that there has been a delay of more than three months in filing the rejoinder dt 06.08.2024. The delay is neither deliberate nor intentional, but due to circumstances beyond my control. I am a layman with no formal legal training. As a resident of Colva village, I have been compelled to personally take up the cause of protecting our environment and community



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from illegal activities that threaten the very existence of our village.



5. I am currently involved in multiple legal proceedings against individuals and entities who are attempting to destroy the ecological and cultural heritage of Colva through illegal and environmentally harmful activities, some of which are pending before this Hon'ble Tribunal.

6. Balancing these multiple cases, along with my limited understanding of legal procedures, has been a significant challenge. I have been dedicating considerable time to gathering evidence, consulting with environmental experts, legal experts and seeking advice from well-wishers to present a comprehensive and accurate case before this Hon'ble Tribunal.

7. With regards to para 8 of the Respondent no.4's sur-rejoinder and the allegations of a stranger being made party to the said inspection, I would like to once again re-iterate the order of this Hon'ble Tribunal dt. 15/01/2024, which permitted my forum to be a part of the inspection as the Appellant. And the said stranger as made out by the Expert Member of the Respondent No.1 and in the

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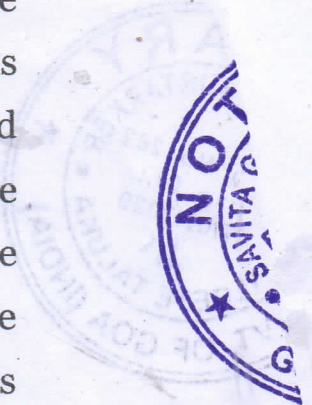
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sur-rejoinder of the respondent No.4 happens to be a fellow volunteer of the appellant forum, and therefore he should have been allowed to be privy to the proceedings of the inspection.

8. I respectfully submit that on the day of the inspection conducted on 19/02/2024, I was feeling unwell due to a fever, which hindered my ability to actively participate in the inspection process. I sent an email to the Resp.1 dt 19.02.2024 requesting that the volunteer be permitted to accompany this Appellant (*refer Annexure A2 page 290*) for the Site Inspection. To ensure that the interests of my community and our forum were adequately represented during the inspection, I requested Mr. Avinash Tavares, a trusted and knowledgeable volunteer of our forum, to accompany me.

9. Mr. Tavares has been actively involved in our collective efforts to protect the environment and heritage of Colva village. His presence was solely to assist me in observing, taking photographs and recording the findings of the inspection, ensuring that no important detail was overlooked due to my limited capacity that day.

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10. I affirm that Mr. Avinash Tavares acted in good faith and solely in support of our common cause. There was no intent to undermine the inspection process or to contravene any rules or procedures.

11. Regarding the allegation made in para 22 of the sur-rejoinder of the Respondent no.4, that I am targeting the respondent no.4, my sole objective in filing these proceedings is to ensure compliance with environmental laws and regulations, which are designed to protect our fragile coastline from irreparable harm. I have no personal animosity or ulterior motive against any of the Respondents. My actions are driven by a genuine concern for the welfare of my community and the preservation of our village's natural heritage for future generations.

12. I respectfully submit that these proceedings have been initiated not with the intention of targeting any individual or entity, but solely to protect my village, Colva, from illegal development and environmental degradation.

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I state that the contents of paragraph 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 are true to my knowledge.

Solemnly affirmed at Margao on this day of November 18, 2024



Handwritten initials 'JK' next to the date.

Handwritten signature of the deponent.



DEPONENT



Solemnly affirmed before me by Rudith Almeida

Who is identified to me by Epic No. KNX3050465

~~to whom I personally know on~~
this 18 day of Nov 2024

Reg No 20759/2024

Handwritten signature 'Ksavita'.

SAVITA G. KURTARKER
NOTARY
MARGAO-GOA

