

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI.

Original Application No.131 of 2021 (SZ)

In the matter of *Suo motu* – Neem Trees dies as Acid Poured in Kodumudi

...Applicant(s)

*Versus*

1. The Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu,  
Department of Environment,  
Forests & Climate Change,  
Government Secretariat, Fort. St. George,  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 009; and 5 others

**Hearing on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

**Status Report filed by the 5<sup>th</sup> Respondent**

I, R. Ravikumar son of Rangasamy, aged, 51 Divisional Engineer, Highways Department, having Office at Moolapalayam, Erode 638002, hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I state that I am the Divisional Engineer, Highways, the 5<sup>th</sup> Respondent herein and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from the available records. I am filing this Status Report in my official capacity.



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Highways, (C&M), Erode - 2**

2. I humbly submit that the present application has been registered *Suomotu* by this Hon'ble Tribunal based on the newspaper reports in respect of Neem Trees dies as Acid Poured in Kodumudi.

#### **Complaint to the Police on 24.4.21**

3. I respectfully submit, on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021, Mr R Ganesa Moorthy, Assistant Engineer of Highways Department lodged a complaint to the Inspector of Police, Kodumudi regarding removal of barks from neem trees and acid was poured, which were standing on the Erode-Karur Road, opposite to PP Hospital in Kodumudi by miscreants. On 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2021, Sub-Inspector of Police, Kodumudi gave a receipt No: 49 of 2021. On 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021, Inspector of Police recorded statements under section 161(1) of the Criminal Procedure Code from 6 named persons. The Police did not pursue any criminal proceedings against the culprits. No First Information Report was filed based on the statements recorded by the Inspector of Police.

#### **After order by the Hon'ble Tribunal 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

4. A letter was sent by me to the Assistant Engineer on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 in order to obtain an update from the Inspector of Police, Kodumudi. On 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2021 Assistant Engineer of Highways Department sent a letter to the Inspector of Police Kodumudi, requesting for information regarding Receipt No 49 of 2021 and also cited the Honourable Tribunal Took up this matter as *suo motu*. On 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021, I sent a letter to the Inspector of Police, Kodumudi requesting for an update including any action against the miscreants.
5. I received a response from the Inspector of Police, Kodumudi on narrating the events and the further course of action against the culprits. According to the Inspector of Police, that he has conducted investigation on the basis of the complaint received from our Assistant Engineer. He further recorded sec,161 (1) statements from seven persons. From the statements he recorded, he came to conclusion that an employee of PP Hospital, Kodumudi has poured

  
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poisonous acid by removing the barks at the bottom of those neem trees. One Mr Vadivel, who confessed to the Inspector of Police that, Dr Kamala Kannan of PP Hospital, Kodumudi requested him to cut those neem trees. When he about to cut the neem trees, Officials from the Highways Department prevented him from cutting those trees. From his investigation, someone from PP Hospital has poured, poisonous acid and destroyed those neem trees. He further asserted that management of the PP Hospital was responsible for this act.

6. The Inspector of Police, Kodumudi confirmed that for some reasons poisonous acid was poured on neem trees belonged to the Highways Department by PP Hospital management, Kodumudi and necessary action will be taken against the accused for this action.
7. I respectfully submit to the Tribunal that the documents mentioned in this Status Report were in Tamil. I sincerely apologise to the Tribunal that I did not translate those documents to English.
8. I respectfully pray that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to record the above submission and pass any such further or other order as it may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of the case and thus render justice.

Dated at Erode on this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2021

  
**Divisional Engineer,**  
Highways, (C&M), Erode - 2  
5<sup>th</sup> Respondent

#### VERIFICATION

I, R Ravikumar, Son of Rangasamy aged about 50 years, Divisional Engineer, Highways Department, having Office at Moolapalayam, Erode 638002, do hereby verify that the contents of Paragraph Nos. 1 to 8 are true to the best of my knowledge.

Verified at Erode on this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of July 2021

  
**Divisional Engineer,**  
Highways, (C&M), Erode - 2