# JUSTICE A.V. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (Former Judge, High Court Of Kerala) CHAIRMAN

#### State Level Monitoring Committee, Kerala

(An authority constituted by the National Green Tribunal) "AMPAZHAVELIL" Rajeev Nagar, Elamakkara Kochi-682026

Home Office 0484-2408388

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8139878758
e-mail: avrpillai@gmail.com

01.11.2022

Sir/Madam,

Kindly see the appended report regarding the unauthorised waste dumping near the Palliyamkara L.P.School, Kalamassery by the side of Seaport – Airport road within the local limits of Kalamassery Municipality in Ernakulam District, Kerala State.

The same may kindly be placed before the Hon'ble Tribunal for consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

JUSTICE A.V.RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI, (Chairman, SLMC, KERALA)

То

The Registrar, National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone Bench, Kalas Mahal, Kamarajar Salai, PWD Estate, Chepauk, Triplicane, Chennai, Tamil Nadu-600005.

# BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

### **NEW CASE**

#### REPORT

PRESENTED BY JUSTICE A.V.RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI
(FORMER JUDGE, HIGH COURT OF KERALA)
CHAIRMAN, STATE LEVEL MONITORING COMMITTEE, KERALA
(FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE AFORESAID COMMITTEE)
REGARDING THE UNAUTHORISED WASTE DUMPING NEAR THE
PALLIYAMKARA L.P. SCHOOL, KALAMASSERY BY THE SIDE OF SEA
PORT – AIRPORT ROAD WITHIN THE LOCAL LIMITS OF
KALAMASSERY MUNICIPALIRY IN
ERNAKULAM DISTRICT, KERALA

PRESENTED ON: 01.11.2022

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### **REPORT**

The following report is submitted before this Hon'ble Tribunal for interference and necessary orders.

On 13.10.2022 I have received a Whatsapp message from the staff reporter of Malayala Manorama daily stating that non-biodegradable waste materials including plastics were dumped and burnt in a vacant land near Palliyamkara L.P.School by the side of Seaport Airport Road within the local limits of Kalamassery Municipality. The photographs of the site were also forwarded which are appended as **Annexure-A series**.

Immediately I have instructed the Chief Environmental Engineer, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Ernakulam to cause a site inspection immediately and to give a report along with the photographs.

On the next day, on 14.10.2022 I along with the Chief Environmental Engineer visited the spot and found emission of obnoxious smoke from the burning plastic materials and it was being spread in the entire area.

Annexure-B-I is the comprehensive report from the Chief Environmental Engineer, KSPCB, Regional Office, Ernakulam (dated 15.10.2022) and Annexure-B-II series are the photographs taken on 13.10.2022. Annexure-C series are the photographs taken on 14.10.2022 at the time of my visit.

It was revealed that the waste materials deposited at the site were from M/s.S.F.O Technologies, Plot No.2, Kochin Special Economic Zone, Kakkanad, Ernakulam.

Along with Annexures-B-I and B-II series the Chief Environmental Engineer has produced the letter dated 15.10.2022 issued to Kalamassery Municipality which is appended as **Annexure-D**.

Now by the letter dated 27.10.2022 the Chief Environmental Engineer reported that it was informed by the Secretary, Kalamasseery Municipality that a fine of Rs.25,000/- was imposed on the contractor who was entrusted by M/s.S.F.O Technologies to remove the waste from their business premises. It is



further reported that the site was cleaned. **Annexure-E series** is he said letter and the photographs of the site.

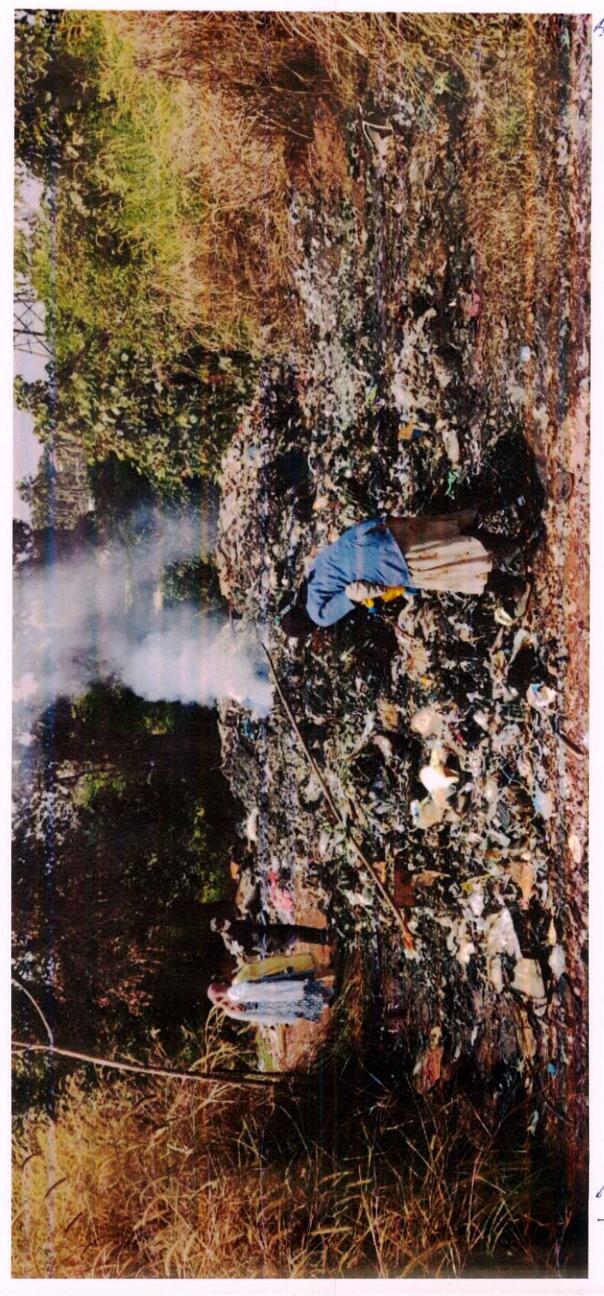
As the photographs did not inspire confidence, I have visited the spot again on 29.10.2022 without any assistance. It was found that the waste materials were buried in the site itself as could be discerned from the loose soil at the site, though it is claimed by the Municipality as well as the polluters that the waste materials were removed and transported to somewhere else.

The Kalamasery Municipality which is duty bound to ensure that the Waste Management Rules are strictly followed, has allowed the polluters to escape after remitting a flee bite fine without considering the environmental impact of the illegality perpetuated. Presumably it was due to some local political interference

Therefore, the interference of this Hon'ble Tribunal is requested in the matter.

Dated this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November 2022.

Justice A.V.Ramakrishna Pillai (Former Judge, High Court of Kerala ) Chairman, SLMC, Kerala.



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NNEXUR.A





- 4-

## Report on waste dumping near Pallilamkara L.P.School in Kalamassery Municipality

As per the information received from the Hon'ble Chairman, State Level Monitoring Committee, the Officials from Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Ernakulam conducted a site visit on 13.10.2022 at Kalamassery Seaport- Airport road side near Pallilamkara L.P. School, where non-biodegradable waste including plastic waste was seen piled up and burnt in the vacant land coming under the jurisdiction of Kalamassery Municipality. Also the SLMC chairman along with Chief Environmental Engineer visited the site on 14.10.2022. During site visit it was noticed that a large heap of waste like plastic waste, cotton waste, cloths, vehicle seats, glass bottles, sponges, paper plates etc were piled up and burnt. The site condition reveals that this waste was not a one time dumping but it is a continuous waste dumping site. Most of the waste was found in burning condition and smoke could be seen spreading around the area. Waste like vehicle seats, cloths etc were seen partially destroyed. This is a serious violation of Solid Waste Management rule, 2016. It was seen that foul smell still lingering in the area. This is releasing large amount of toxic gases into the atmosphere and poses a threat to the surrounding Environment. During the site visit, nearby L.P. School authorities and locals were enquired about the incident. They informed that waste was seen burnt in this area about two days before but they were unaware of the culprits who deposited the waste here.

Directions were given to the Kalamassery Municipality, directing them to take necessary steps to extinguish the fire and to remove the waste from this area and also directed to identify the culprits behind this incident and to ensure that no wastes are dumped at the site in future. Photos taken during site visit and letter issued to the Municipality are attached as Annexure-1&2 respectively.

CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

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ANNEXURE. BILLY





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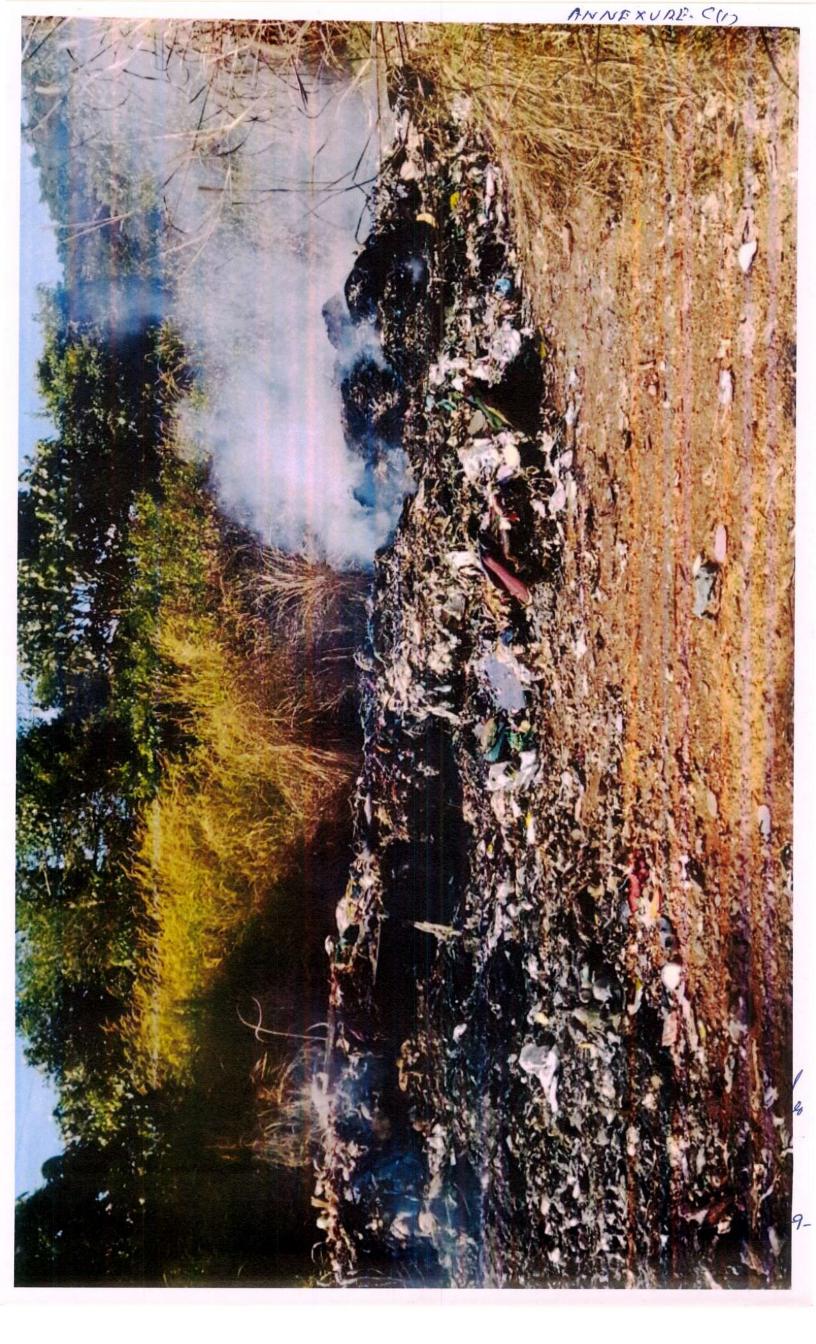




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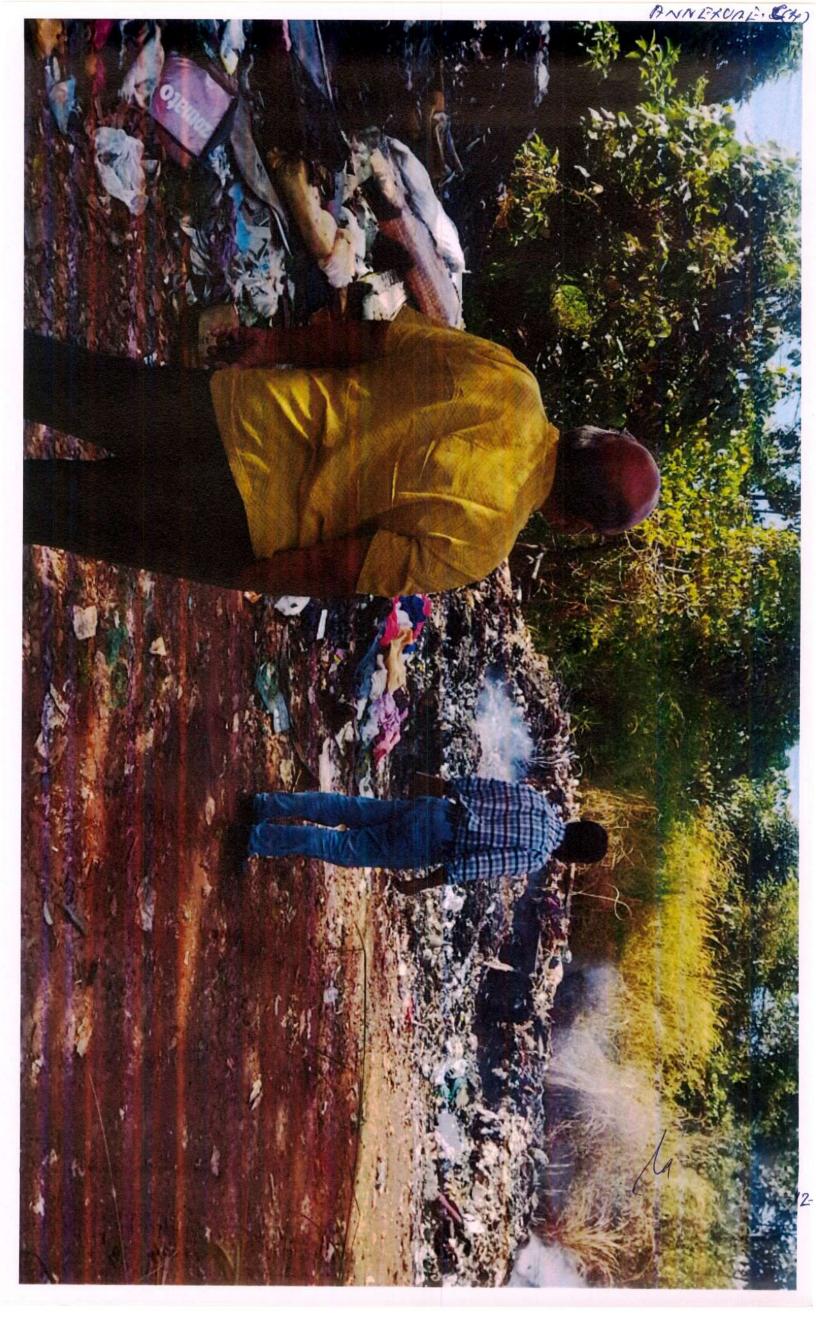


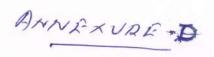
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## KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD REGIONAL OFFICE, GANDHI NAGAR, ERNAKULAM – 682 020

www.keralapcb.org

PCB/RO-EKM/GEN-261/19

Date: 15.10.2022

From

Chief Environmental Engineer,

To

The Secretary
Kalamassery Municipality
Ernakulam

Sub: Waste burning on the side of Seaport Airport road, Kalamassery -reg.

Ref: Inspection conducted by the Board officials on 13.10.2022 and 14.10.2022

Sir,

The Hon'ble Chairman of State Level Monitoring Committee along with Pollution control Board officials inspected the site near Pallilamkara L.P. School at Kalamassery Seaport Airport road on 14.10.2022, where a huge heap of waste was seen piled up and burnt. During site visit it was noticed that a huge quantity of waste like plastic, cotton, cloths, vehicle seats, glass bottles, sponges, paper plates etc. was piled up and burnt. Smoke was seen rising from burnt waste and foul smell still lingering in the area. This is releasing large amount of toxic gases into the atmosphere and poses a threat to the surrounding Environment. The site condition reveals that this waste was not a one time dumping and burning but it was a continuous waste dumping site. This is a serious violation of Solid Waste Management rule, 2016. Hence you are directed to immediately take necessary steps to extinguish the fire,



remove the waste from this area and should take action for safe disposal of waste. You are also directed to identify the culprits behind this incident and to take necessary legal action against them and ensure that no wastes are dumped at the site henceforth. The action taken in this regard shall be reported to this office within 3 days of the receipt of this direction.

Yours faithfully

CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

Copy to:-

1. The Chairman State Level Monitoring Committee

- Member Secretary
   Kerala State Pollution Control Board
   Pattom P.O.
   Thiruvananthapuram-695004
- 3. The Regional Joint Director of Urban Affairs Marine Drive, Ernakulam
- 4. The Environmental Engineer
  District office-1, Ernakulam (for follow up action)

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## KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD REGIONAL OFFICE, GANDHI NAGAR, ERNAKULAM – 682 020

www.keralapcb.org

PCB/RO-EKM/GEN-261/19

Date: 27.10.2022

From

Chief Environmental Engineer,

To

The Chairman

State Level Monitoring Committee

Sub: Plastic Burning near the side of Seaport Airport road, Kalamassery -reg.

Ref: 1) This office letter of even no. dated 15.10.2022.

- 2) Letter issued to Kalamassery Municipality on 15.10.2022
- 3) Reply letter received from Secretary, Kalamassery Municipality on 20.10.2022

Respected Sir,

Kindly refer the above.

As per the reference cited (3) above the Secretary, Kalamassery Municipality informed that, the address of SFO Technologies was found in the search conducted by the municipal workers on the site and on enquiry it was found that the waste was collected by the Contractor, Mr. Siraj Vettithadamatil House, Cusat PO, Kalamassery from CSEZ, Kakkanad under the misrepresentation that it would be delivered to the cement factory at Palakkad, Walayar for Coprocessing. The Kalamassery Municipality also reported that the area was completely cleaned by the contractor and a fine of Rs.25,000/- was levied from the contractor for the consequences caused by the irresponsible action. Subsequently the officials from this office visited the site on 22.10.2022 and found that the waste was completely removed from the area.



As per the Solid Waste Management Rule, 2016, section 4, 1(a) it is the responsibility of waste generator to handover the segregated wastes to authorized waste pickers or waste collectors as per the direction or notification by the local authorities. It is also mentioned in the rule that, no waste generator shall throw, burn or burry the solid waste generated by him, on streets, or open public spaces outside his premises. Hence Board has directed the SFO Technologies to offer explanation for the above unauthorized waste dumping and also to submit the document as a proof of handing over the waste to the Contractor. The photos taken during the site visit and the letter issued to the SFO Technologies, Kakkanad is attached herewith for your kind information.

Yours faithfully

CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

Copy to:-

- The Member Secretary
   Kerala State Pollution Control Board
   Thiruvananthapuram
- 2. The Environmental Engineer District Office-1, Ernakulam



