

**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

14.12.2021

Madam,

Kindly see the appended Report regarding the unauthorised dumping of non-degradable solid waste along the banks of Kochi back waters on the southern side of Thoppumpady-Kundannur Road (between Alexander Parambithara Bridge and Kannangatt Bridge) in Wellington Island, in Ernakulam District.

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

Yours Sincerely,



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

To  
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 DUMPING OF  
NON-DEGRADABLE SOLID WASTE ALONG THE BANKS OF KOCHI  
BACK WATERS ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF THOPPUMPADY –  
KUNDANNOOR ROAD (BETWEEN ALEXANDER PARAMBITHARA  
BRIDGE AND KANNANGATT BRIDGE) IN WILLINGDON ISLAND, IN  
ERNAKULAM DISTRICT

**PRESENTED ON : 14.12.2021**

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## REPORT

During the last week of November, 2021 a telephone call was received from a resident of Thomppumpady, (introducing himself as Nipun Cherian), informing that bio-degradable waste in huge quantity is being dumped on the banks of Kochi backwaters which is a part of Vembanad lake known for its biodiversity. He also informed that attempts are being made to dig pits in the area, to fill the pits with the dumped waste and to cover the same with soil using earth removers. According to him this IS in Wellington Island on the southern side of Thoppumpady – Kundanoor Road.

As I was not in station at that time, I contacted the Chief Environmental Engineer, Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Ernakulam and arranged for a local inspection on 6.12.2021. A direction was also issued to get the site inspected immediately by the surveillance team of the Pollution Control Board.

Again, on 2.12.2021, the aforesaid Nipun Cherian mailed a complaint before the Pollution Control Board stating as follows:

*“The wetlands to the south of the highway at Wellington Island between Alexander Parambithara Bridge and Kannangatt Bridge has been converted into an illegal plastic and hazardous waste dumping site since many months.*

*The waste dumping location is in Rameshwaram Village, Kochi Taluk and includes Mangroove reserves under CRZ map. The site is on the banks of Kochi backwaters, part of Vembanad backwater system, protected under the Ramsar Convention treaty by Gov.of India.*

*Currently, officials and contractors of Cochin Port Trust are;*

- 1. Digging pits with earth mover, filling the pits with the plastic and hazardous waste and covering it with soil.*
- 2. Also, the earth mover is mixing the plastic and hazardous waste with soil and spreading it flat,*





3. *Pushing the plastic and hazardous waste into the water bodies in the property.*

*FIRs are already registered with Harbour Crime Police Station regarding dumping of waste in the property at night by tipper trucks. Complaints are also filed against the Cochin Port Trust officials at Harbour Crime Police Station for the filling of land and water with plastic, hazardous waste.*

*I request you to urgently intervene in the matter to stop the filling of land and water with plastic, industrial and hazardous waste which is posing serious threat to health and life of people of Kochi. Also the pollution is leading to destruction of backwater ecosystem and introducing poison to fish resources which are caught, sold and consumed as food by many.”*

The surveillance team of the Pollution Control Board along with the Assistant Engineer of District Office-I, inspected the site on 2.12.2021 and found that about 5 acres of land got affected due to the unauthorised dumping of non-biodegradable solid waste for months. Few men were seen engaged in the waste heap. They have produced **Annexure-I** document titled ‘Order for ACMC Contract Works’ signed by Superintendent Engineer (CM) as well as **Annexure-II** document titled ‘Schedule of Quantities’ which apparently was issued by the Cochin Port Trust.

As it was clear from Annexure I and II documents, that the site is vested with Cochin Port Trust and a contractor was engaged to deal with the waste deposited there, the Environmental Engineer, Pollution Control Board, District Office-I, Ernakulam issued **Annexure-III** notice, to M/s.Cochin Port Trust, directing segregation and disposal of the waste materials dumped as per Solid Waste Management Rule in consultation with the local body concerned.



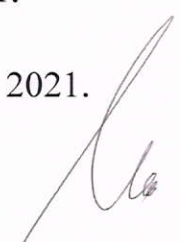
As scheduled, I along with the Chief Environmental Engineer, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Ernakulam visited the site at about 10.30 a.m. on 6.12.2021.

It was shocking to note that solid and hazardous non-degradable waste materials were seen dumped over an area covering a length of about 200 Meters on the bank of the backwaters, south to the public road between Alexander Parambithara Bridge (crossing over Kollam – Kottappuram National Water Way) and Kannangatt Bridge. The entire road side was seen dumped with non-degradable solid waste. Prima facie it appeared that the waste dumping in that area has commenced months back. At the entrance of the area, a trench was seen dug to prevent the entry of heavy vehicles carrying waste materials to that area. The Chief Environmental Engineer stated that it was at the intervention of the District Collector on receiving the recent complaint.

There was visible violation of solid waste disposal in that area which is ecologically fragile, as the dumping side is very close to back waters where mangrove forests are seen along the banks (Kindly see Annexure-IV(a) photograph). There is every chance of leach ate flow from waste heaps to the backwaters. Annexure-IV(b) to IV(d) are views of the dumping area from the road.

As it is likely to cover up the illegality by spilling soil over the waste to make it appear that the waste materials are removed, immediate intervention of this Tribunal is required in this matter.

Dated this the 14h day of December, 2021.



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



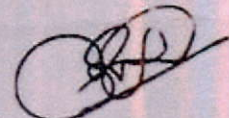
**ORDER FOR ACMC CONTRACT WORKS**

The Work Order No.50 dated 16.11.2021 is issued for the execution of the work as detailed below.

Vendor No. : 103921  
Contract No. : 4600000102  
Agreement No/WO No. : Agreement No.17 of 2020-2021  
Purchase Requisition No. : 2500005572  
Purchase Order No. : 4590002922  
Division : SE(CM)  
Subdivision : AE(Sanitary)  
Name of Work : Cleaning the SER Area near Kannangattu Bridge by removing the garbage.  
Amount of PO : Rs.1,14,641.28  
Period of execution : 20 days from the date of Work Order.  
Head of Charge : Fund : 1032  
GL Code : 630000  
Cost Centre : 30575

Enclosure:

Schedule of Quantities 1 page.

  
**SUPTDG. ENGINEER(CM)**  
I accept the above work order

(Signature of Contractor)  
Name & address of Contractor  
Sri. Joseph Nelson  
Arakkal House,  
Cheekkutty Master Junction,  
Thoppumpadi, Cochin- 682005

Copy with copy of  
Schedule forwarded to: - The CE, CoPT,  
" The SE(CM) CoPT,  
" The FA&CAO  
" The AE(Sanitary)  
" Works Wing, CE's office.



4590002922 /



## SCHEDULE OF QUANTITIES

Name of Work: <b>Cleaning the SER Area near Kannangattu Bridge by removing the garbage.</b>					
Item No	Description of Work	Approx. Quantity	Unit	Rate Tendered In figures & words	Amount (Rs)
10	<b>Cleaning SER area by removng garbage</b> Cutting, sectioning & levelling earth JCB  Cutting, sectioning & levelling the earth heaps, vegetation-growth, waste materials etc. complete using JCB including all labour and consumables etc as per the directions of the Engineer-in-charge.	96.000	H	1194.18 Rupees One Thousand One Hundred Ninety Four Paise Eighteen Only	114,641.28
<b>TOTAL</b>					114,641.28
<b>( Rupees One Lakh Fourteen Thousand Six Hundred Forty One Only)</b>					

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website-www.keralapcb.nic.in

## KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

DISTRICT OFFICE -1, ERNAKULAM

GANDHINAGAR, KOCHI - 682 020

കേരള സംസ്ഥാന മലിനീകരണ നിയന്ത്രണ ബോർഡ്

ജില്ലാ ഓഫീസ്-1, എറണാകുളം

ഗാന്ധിനഗർ, കൊച്ചി - 682 020

PCB/EKM/DO-1/GEN-21/2020

Regd A/d

Dated: 03.12.2021

From

Environmental Engineer  
District office-1  
Ernakulam

To

M/s Cochin Port Trust  
Willingdon Island  
Kochi



Sub: Solid waste dumping – Willingdon Island- reg

Ref.: Complaint received on 02.12.2021

Sir,

Board had received complaint against the dumping of solid wastes in the land near to Kannangattu- Thevara Bridge. Board had conducted enquiry in the site and noted that huge quantity of plastic wastes seen dumped in the land owned by the Cochin Port. It is also noted that the solid waste seen spread over the land for land filling. It is understood that the land filling work is done by the contractor engaged by Cochin Port. The unscientific dumping of solid wastes and land filling causes environmental degradation including the pollution of water bodies due to leachate generated from the solid wastes and is violation of Section 24 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 197 and is violation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

Hence, it is hereby informed to immediately stop the work on land filling of the solid wastes and also to comply the following directions.

1. The wastes shall be segregated and disposed as per the Solid Wastes Management Rules, 2016 in consultation with the Local Body.

2. CCTVs shall be installed in the site for surveillance.

The action taken in this regard shall be intimated to this office urgently.



Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Jey", written over a horizontal line.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

1. The Member Secretary, KSPCB
2. The Chief Environmental Engineer, KSPCB, Regional Office, Ernakulam
3. The Commissioner of Police, Kochi City
4. The Secretary, Kochi Corporation

A small, handwritten mark or signature in blue ink, possibly initials, located in the lower-left quadrant of the page.





Photo 1 - A view of the dump site very near to Kochi kayal where thick mangrove Forest are seen along the banks.

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Photo 2 - Solid waste including plastic are seen dumped along the area

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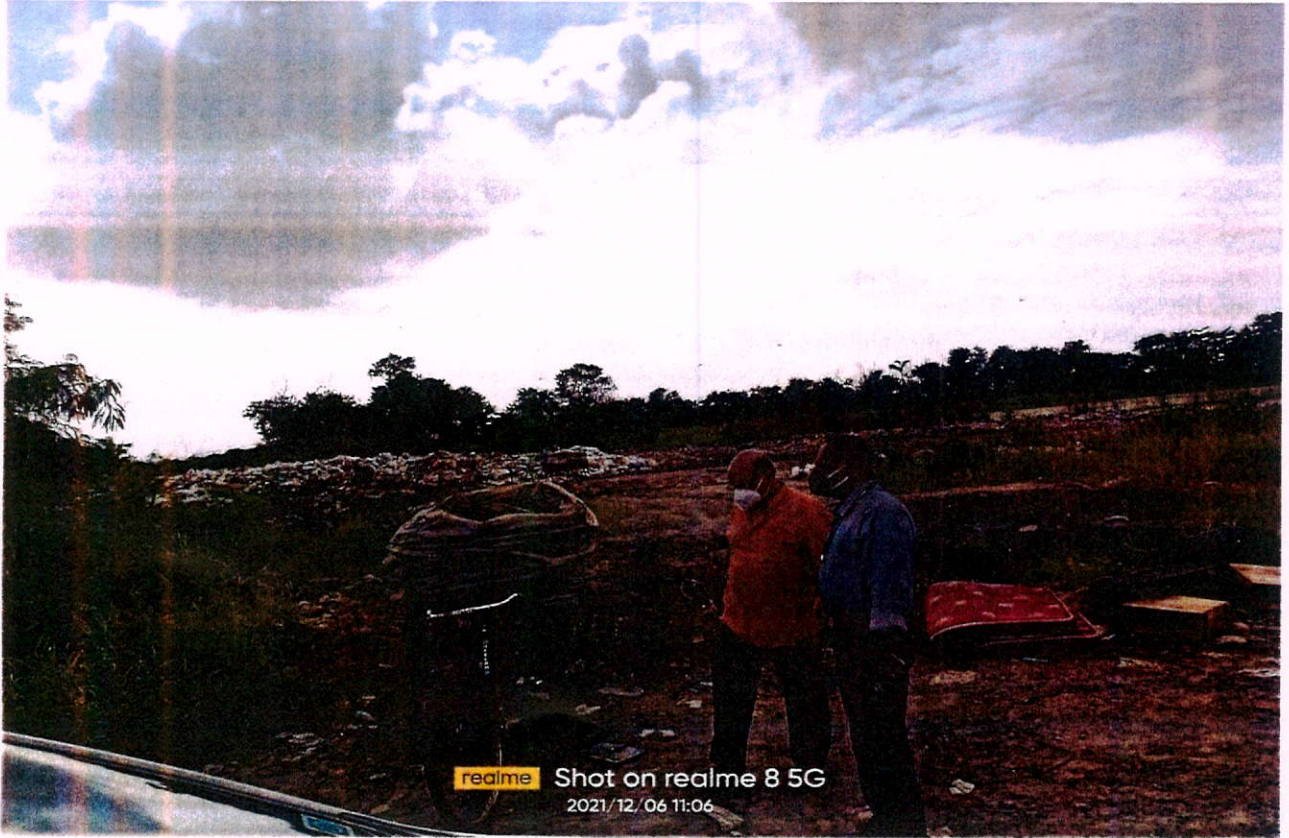


Photo 3 - Chairman, SLMC is visiting the area.

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Photo 4 - A view of a water body along the rear side of the dumping area.

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