

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE P.R.RAMACHANDRA MENON

WEDNESDAY, THE 18TH DAY OF MARCH 2015/27TH PHALGUNA, 1936

WP(C).No.8500 of 2015 (J)

PETITIONER:

**MUHAMMED SHAFI.T.K,AGED 38 YEARS,
S/O.SUBAIR,THAVARAKKADAN HOUSE,
CHETHULLOOR MURI,EDAVANNA VILLAGE,
MALAPPURAM DISTRICT.**

BY ADV. SRI.AJITH MURALI

RESPONDENTS:

- 1. THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR,MALAPPURAM-676505.**
- 2. THE REVENUE DIVISIONAL OFFICER,
ERANADU TALUK,MANJERI,MALAPPURAM DISTRICT,
PIN-676505.**
- 3. THE VILLAGE OFFICER, ARREKODU VILLAGE,
MALAPPURAM DISTRICT-676505.**
- 4. THE SUB INSPECTOR OF POLICE,
ARREKODU POLICE STATION,
MALAPPURAM DISTRICT-676505.**

R1 TO R4 BY GOVT. PLEADER SRI.K.C.VINCENT.

**THIS WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) HAVING COME UP FOR ADMISSION
ON 18-03-2015, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY DELIVERED THE
FOLLOWING:**

pk

W.P(C) NO.8500/2015

APPENDIX

PETITIONER'S EXHIBITS:

**EXT.P1:THE TRUE COPY OF THE MAHAZER PREPARED BY THE 3RD
RESPONDENT DATED 15.3.2015.**

**EXT.P2:THE TRUE COPY OF THE REPORT PREPARED BY THE 3RD
RESPONDENT DATED 15.3.2015.**

EXT.P3:THE TRUE COPY OF THE REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE.

**EXT.P4:PHOTO COPY OF THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY THE PETITIONER
BEFORE THE 3RD RESPONDENT DATED 16.3.2015.**

RESPONDENT'S EXHIBITS:

NIL

//TRUE COPY//

P.S. TO JUDGE

pk

P.R. RAMACHANDRA MENON, J.

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W.P.(C). No. 8500 of 2015

Dated this the 18th day of March, 2015

JUDGMENT

Petitioner is the owner of the vehicle bearing Reg. No. **KL-10-AK-1650**, which was seized by the 3rd respondent/Village Officer alleging illegal transportation of 'Ordinary earth' in contravention of the relevant provisions of the 'MMDR Act, 1957'/'KMMC Rules. Later, it was handed over to the 4th respondent/S.I. of Police and now the vehicle is kept in the premises of 3rd respondent's office. The learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner would like to have the offence compounded and that the above mentioned vehicle might be caused to be released after accepting the compounding fee. Ext.P4 is the application submitted in this regard.

2. The issue involved in this case is, whether the petitioner, who has been proceeded against in respect of the offences under the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Kerala Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2015 is entitled to have the offence compounded in view of the desire expressed from the part of the petitioner in this regard.

3. Heard the learned Government Pleader as well.

4. Section 23A of the 'Act' and the relevant Rules enable the parties to have the offence compounded. The Rules specifically stipulate that any offence under the Rules can be compounded subject to the satisfaction of the maximum fine prescribed under the Rules, which is stated as Rs.5,000/-. But in respect of the transportation of sand/earth without any valid pass/sanction, it is stated as an offence under the 'Act' by virtue of the incorporation of Section 4(1A), for which separate penalty is provided under the 'Act' itself. It was in the said circumstance, that this Court has passed orders enabling the parties to have interim custody of the vehicle, on satisfaction of a sum of Rs.25,000/-, also directing the concerned respondent to consider the application for compounding, if any.

5. A question arose before this Court as to whether the prosecution proceedings could be pursued further, once the offence is compounded in accordance with the relevant provisions. This issue has already been considered and decided by this Court in **2013 (1) KLT 600 (Digil v. Sub Inspector of**

Police), holding that, once the offence is compounded, there cannot be any further prosecution proceedings.

6. In view of the willingness expressed from the part of the petitioner to have the offence compounded, conceding the guilt, this Court finds it fit and proper to direct the 4th respondent to compound the offence, if the petitioner files an application and satisfies a sum of **Rs. 25,000/-** towards compounding fee. It is ordered accordingly. On satisfaction of the compounding fee, the vehicle shall be released to the petitioner forthwith. It is made clear that once the offence alleged against the petitioner is compounded, no prosecution proceedings shall be pursued against him.

The writ petition is disposed of accordingly. The petitioner shall produce a copy of this judgment along with a copy of this writ petition before the concerned respondent for further steps.

**P.R. RAMACHANDRA MENON,
JUDGE.**