

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE P.R.RAMACHANDRA MENON

MONDAY, THE 9TH DAY OF MARCH 2015/18TH PHALGUNA, 1936

WP(C).No. 13445 of 2013 (E)

PETITIONER:

**SHIBU K PAUL, S/O.POULOSE K.K.,
AGED 38 YEARS, KAKKADAN HOUSE,
MALAYIDAMTHURUTH P.O.,
KIZHAKKAMBALAM VILLAGE,
KUNNATHUNADU TALUK, ERNAKULAM DISTRICT.
(OWNER OF JCB BEARING REGISTRATION
NO.KL-17-B-5696 AND LORRY BEARING
REGISTRATION NO.KL-41-E-9662).**

BY ADV. SRI.P.M.ZIRAJ

RESPONDENT(S):

- 1. VILLAGE OFFICER, KIZHAKKAMBALAM,
ERNAKULAM DISTRICT, PIN - 683562.**
- 2. REVENUE DIVISIONAL OFFICER,
MUVATTUPUZHA, ERNAKULAM DISTRICT, PIN - 686661.**

BY GOVERNMENT PLEADER SMT.ANITHA RAVINDRAN

**THIS WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) HAVING BEEN FINALLY HEARD
ON 09-03-2015, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY DELIVERED
THE FOLLOWING:**

mbr/

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APPENDIX

PETITIONER(S)' EXHIBITS:

**EXHIBIT-P1: TRUE COPY OF THE MAHASAR PREPARED BY THE
FIRST RESPONDENT DATED 23.05.2013.**

RESPONDENT(S)' EXHIBITS:

- NIL

/TRUE COPY/

P.S. TO JUDGE

mbr/

P.R. RAMACHANDRA MENON J.

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Dated, this the 9th day of March, 2015

JUDGMENT

The vehicles bearing No. **KL 17 B 5696** and **KL 41 E 9662** were seized by the **1st respondent/Village Officer** alleging offence under the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act and the Kerala Minor Mineral Concession Rules. The main ground of challenge is that, the 1st respondent is not having the jurisdiction or authority to effect seizure.

2. Heard both the sides.

3. The authority of the 1st respondent to effect seizure has already been considered by this Court and the power and competence has been upheld as per the decision reported in **Aloshias C. Antony Vs. Government of Kerala** [2014(1) KLT 536]. The said decision was rendered, also taking note of the nature of offence which is a 'cognizable' one (notwithstanding anything contained in the Cr.P.C) as stipulated in Section 21(6) of MMDR Act, 1957 and also placing reliance on the judgment rendered by a Division Bench of this Court in **Construction Materials Movers Association V. State of Kerala** [2008 (4) KLT 909]. In the said circumstance, there is no tenable

ground to call for interference.

4. When the matter came up for consideration on 29.05.2013, the vehicles were caused to be released, on satisfaction of a sum Rs.25,000/- for each vehicle and on execution of a simple bond. In the said circumstance, the further course of action required is to surrender the vehicle before the 1st respondent, so as to enable the 1st respondent to produce it before the concerned Magistrate having jurisdiction over the area and to proceed with steps for prosecution, unless the offence is sought to be compounded.

5. The petitioner expresses desire to compound the offence by virtue of the enabling provisions under the relevant provisions of law. This Court finds it fit and proper to permit the petitioner to have the offence compounded on satisfying the compounding fee of Rs.25,000/-. The amount ordered to be paid as per the interim order dated 29.05.2013 shall be treated as compounding fee and offence shall be treated as compounded. Once the offence is compounded, no prosecution proceedings will lie in view of the law declared by this Court in **Digil Vs. Sub Inspector of Police** [2013 (1) KLT 600]. It shall be reported to the concerned Magistrate, if the crime has already been reported. If there is any failure in

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satisfying the compounding fee, the 1st respondent shall pursue further steps in connection with the prosecution before the concerned Magistrate having jurisdiction over the area.

The writ petition is disposed of.

Sd/-

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

kmd