

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. 29046 of 2012 (E)

PETITIONER(S):

**HEMALATHA,
W/O.KRISHNADAS, VARAPURATH HOUSE, CHELEMBRA P.O.,
MALAPPURAM DISTRICT (REGISTERED OWNER OF AN
EXCAVATOR/JCB BEARING REGISTRATION NO.KL-10Z/7014)**

BY ADV. SRI.BABU S. NAIR

RESPONDENT(S):

- 1. THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR,
MALAPPURAM, PIN-676 505.**
- 2. THE SUB COLLECTOR,
PERINTHALMANNA,
MALAPPURAM DISTRICT, PIN-679 322.**
- 3. THE VILLAGE OFFICER,
VAZHAYOOR VILLAGE, MALAPPURAM DISTRICT, PIN-673 633.**

BY GOVERNMENT PLEADER SRI.MUHAMMED SHAFI M.

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

msv/

WP(C).No. 29046 of 2012 (E)

APPENDIX

PETITIONER(S)' EXHIBITS:

**EXHIBIT P1: TRUE COPY OF THE SEIZURE MAHAZAR PREPARED BY THE THIRD
RESPONDENT DATED, 4.12.2012.**

**EXHIBIT P2: TRUE COPY OF THE INTERIM ORDER DATED, 3.4.2009 IN
WP(C)NO.11206/2009 OF THIS HON'BLE COURT.**

**EXHIBIT P3: TRUE COPY OF THE INTERIM ORDER DATED, 7.12.2011 IN
WP(C)NO.31828/2011 OF THIS HON'BLE COURT.**

**EXHIBIT P4: TRUE COPY OF THE INTERIM ORDER DATED, 3.6.2011 IN
WP(C)NO.15058/2011 OF THIS HON'BLE COURT.**

**EXHIBIT P5: TRUE COPY OF THE INTERIM ORDER DATED 11.3.2011 IN
WP(C)NO.7689/2011 OF THIS HON'BLE COURT.**

RESPONDENT(S)' EXHIBITS:

NIL

//TRUE COPY//

P.S.TO JUDGE

Msv/

P.R. RAMACHANDRA MENON, J.

W.P.(C).No.29046 of 2012

Dated this the 9th day of March, 2015

JUDGMENT

The vehicle bearing No.KL-10Z/7014 was seized by the 3rd respondent alleging offence under the MMDR Act/KMMC Rules. The main ground of challenge is that, the respondent is not having the jurisdiction or authority to effect seizure.

2. Heard both the sides.

3. The authority of the 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 **6.12.2012**, the vehicle was caused to be released, **on execution of a simple bond**. In the said circumstance, the further course of action

W.P.(C).No.29046 of 2012

required is to surrender the vehicle before the respondent, so as to enable the 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 it compounded on satisfying the compounding fee of ₹25,000/- within **two weeks** from the date of receipt of a copy of this judgment. 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 compounding the offence, the respondent shall pursue further steps to **seize the vehicle** and proceed with steps for prosecution.

The writ petition is disposed of.

Sd/-

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

rkc