



W.P.No.39041 of 2024

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 02.01.2025

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE **M.SUNDAR**
and
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE **K.RAJASEKAR**

W.P.No.39041 of 2024

A.Murugesan

... Petitioner

VS

- 1.The Collector
District Collector Office
Vellore District – 632 009
2. The Revenue Divisional Officer
District Collector Office
Sathuvachari
Vellore District – 632 009
3. The Project Director
District Collector Office
Sathuvachari
Vellore District – 632 009
4. The Assistant Director for Panchayats
District Collector Office
Sathuvachari
Vellore District – 632 009
5. The Regional Development Officer
District Collector Office
Sathuvachari
Vellore District – 632 009

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6. Mr.Senthil
Panchayat President
Panchayat President Office
Genganallur
Anaikkattu Taluk
Vellore District – 632 101

7. The Tahsildhar
Anaikkattu Taluk
Vellore District – 632 101

8. Mr.Deepak
S/o.Ethiraj

... Respondents

Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of The Constitution of India praying to issue a Writ of Mandamus directing respondents 5 and 7 to consider the petitioner's representation dated 01.07.2024 on the directions issued by the 1st, 3rd and 4th respondents and direct the 8th respondent to remove the encroachment in the 20 feet public pathway.

For Petitioner : Mr.A.M.Packianathan Easter

For Respondents : Mr.T.K.Saravanan
Govt. Advocate for R1 to R7

ORDER

[Order of the Court was made by **M.SUNDAR, J.,**]

This order will now dispose of the captioned 'Writ Petition' ['WP' for the sake of brevity].

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2. Mr.A.M.Packianathan Easter, learned counsel on record for writ petitioner is before us.

3. Adverting to a representation from the writ petitioner dated 01.07.2024, learned counsel for writ petitioner submitted that there is alleged encroachment in public pathway at 'S.F.No.129/1A, Ganganallur Panchayat, Anaikkattu Taluk, Vellore District' [hereinafter 'said land' for the sake of convenience and clarity] by R8 before us. To be noted, R8 is a private respondent.

4. Considering the obtaining position, we are of the view that the captioned WP can be disposed of by ordering notice to respondents (R1 to R7) and putting in a safety valve / adequate protection qua alleged encroacher i.e., R8.

5. Issue notice to official respondents i.e., R1 to R7.

6. Mr.T.K.Saravanan, learned Government Advocate accepts notice for R1 to R7.



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7. In the light of what has been alluded to supra and considering the limited scope of the captioned WP, with the consent of both sides, main WP was taken up.

8. It was submitted by learned Government Advocate that G.O.(Ms)No.64, Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Land Disposal Wing, dated 08.02.2022 has been put in place, wherein and whereby Divisional Monitoring Committee, District Monitoring Committee and State Steering Committee have been constituted *inter alia* for a single point reporting / monitoring system qua Government lands.

9. In the light of the narrative thus far, we deem it appropriate to refer the matter to the Divisional Monitoring Committee headed by Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO), Sathuvachari, Vellore District, the second respondent herein, in the light of G.O.(Ms)No.64, Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Land Disposal Wing, dated 08.02.2022.



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10. This Court directs the jurisdictional Divisional Monitoring Committee to examine if there is encroachment qua said land. The Divisional Monitoring Committee shall also ensure that adequate and ample opportunity is given to persons concerned more particularly alleged encroacher (R8) before taking a call. In this regard, we are acutely conscious that the matter is being disposed of in Admission Board without notice to alleged encroacher and therefore, this safety valve is put in place. To be noted, all the rights and contentions of alleged encroacher are preserved for being raised before the Committee concerned which shall consider the same on its own merits and in accordance with law untrammelled by this proceedings in this Court, within a period of twelve weeks from today i.e., by 27.03.2025.

11. The Divisional Monitoring Committee qua G.O.(Ms)No.64, Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Land Disposal Wing, dated 08.02.2022, shall (if it comes to the conclusion that there is encroachment) report the encroachment for further action (for removal of encroachment which again shall be after giving adequate and ample opportunity to alleged encroachers).



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12. It is open to the WP petitioner and/ or anyone concerned with this matter to come to this Court on the same issue even with a similar / same prayer if there are any change of circumstances.

13. We make it clear that we have not expressed any view or opinion as to whether there is encroachment or not qua said land as it turns on facts and it is for the Divisional Monitoring Committee to take a call on this aspect of the matter. We also make it clear that this exercise will not apply to patta land and it will apply only to public land, if there is any encroachment in public land.

14. Captioned WP is disposed of with the aforementioned observations and directives in the aforesaid manner. There shall be no order as to costs.

(M.S.,J.) **(K.R.S.,J.)**
02.01.2025

Index : Yes / No
Neutral Citation : Yes / No
gpa



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