

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

(Through Video Conference)

Original Application No.93 of 2023 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion **SUO MOTU** based
on the news item published in 'The Hindu'
Thiruvananthapuram E-edition dated 07.06.2023,
**"Study finds disturbing evidence of marine
plastic pollution off Kerala coast"**

Date of hearing: 14.07.2023.

CORAM:

HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE Dr. SATYAGOPAL KORLAPATI, EXPERT MEMBER

For Applicant (s): **Suo Motu by Court.**

For Respondent(s): **Mr. G. Vignesh represented
Mr. Prabhu for R1.
Mr. G. Vignesh represented
Mr. E.K. Kumaresan for R2.**

ORDER

1. There was a news item published in 'The Hindu', Thiruvananthapuram E-edition dated 07.06.2023 under the caption **"Study finds disturbing evidence of marine plastic pollution off Kerala coast"**.

2. The news item states that a European Union - funded project in University of Kerala to document underwater diversity finds plastic bottles, bags, fishing nets, and fragments of single-use plastics beyond 40 meter depth off Kerala coast.
3. As the plastics dumps have been reported in shallow waters which is after the study conducted by the University of Kerala, we take Suo Motu cognizance of the matter and issue notice to the (1) Member Secretary – Kerala SCZMA, and (2) Additional Chief Secretary – Department of Environment for the time being.
4. Let notice be issued to all the respondents through the Tribunal along with a copy of the news item.
5. The learned counsel Mr. G. Vignesh representing Mr. Prabhu accepts notice on behalf of Respondent No.1 and Mr. G. Vignesh representing Mr. E.K. Kumaresan accepts notice on behalf of Respondent No.2.
6. Let the matter be listed on **31.07.2023**. In the meanwhile, the respondents are directed to file their respective responses.

Sd/-
Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-
Dr. Satyagopal Korlapati, EM

O.A. No.93/2023 (SZ)
14th July, 2023. Mn.

Copy to

- 1) **Member Secretary**
Kerala State Coastal Zone Management Authority (KSCZMA)
4th Floor, KSRTC Bus Terminal
Thampanoor, Thiruvananthapuram
Kerala.
- 2) **Additional Chief Secretary**
Department of Environment
Directorate of Environment & Climate Change (DoECC)
4th Floor, KSRTC Bus Terminal
Thampanoor, Thiruvananthapuram
Kerala.

