# HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT HYDERABAD FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA

(Rule 4 (e) of the High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad for the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION RULE, 2015)

W.P.(PIL) NO. OF 2023

Between:

Forum for Good Governance, (A non-profit organization Regd., vide Registration No. 653 dt.19.10.2009), Having its Registered office at Flat No. 204, G.K.R. Mansion, Saifabad, Lakdikapul, Hyderabad – 500 004 rep. by its Secretary, Sri M Padmanabha Reddy, S/o Sri M Ganga Reddy, aged about 82 years, R/o Villa No. 59, VISTAS Near G.V.K, Kompally - 500 078, Bank A/c. No. 370602010096206 Union Bank of India, Saifabad, Lakdikapool Hyderabad - 500004 Pan Number: AAAAF1653M, Aadhar ID No.572433865174, Mobile No.98492-69105, Email address: ffggapindia@gmail.com

...Petitioner

## AND

- The State of Telangana Rep. by its Special Chief Secretary to Govt Revenue (Land Admin.II) Department, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Secretariat Hyderabad – 500 022
- The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) Rep. by its Commissioner Swarna Jayanti Complex, S.R. Nagar, Srinivasa Nagar, Ameerpet, Hyderabad – 500 038

- The Chief Commissioner of Land Administration (CCLA) Government of Telangana, Nampally Hyderabad – 500 001
- The District Collector Ranga Reddy District, Lakadikapul, Hyderabad – 500 004
- 5) The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Rep. by its General Secretary Bhavani Nagar, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad - 500 034. .....Respondents

# 1. <u>PARTICULARS OF THE CAUSE/ORDER AGAINST WHICH THE</u> <u>PETITION IS MADE:</u>

# i) SUBJECT MATTER IN BRIEF:

Petitioner is filing the present Writ Petition by way of Public Interest Litigation aggrieved by the action of the first respondent in issuing impugned Memo bearing C.No.12425/Land Admin.II (2)/ 2023, dated NIL in allotting prime Government land to an extent of 11 Acres in Survey Nos.239 and 240 of Kokapet Village, Gandipet Mandal, Ranga Reddy District to 5<sup>th</sup> Respondent/BRS political party. Hence this WP (PIL).

# PARTICULARS OF PETITIONER:

2.0 I submit that Petitioner organization (Forum for Good Governance) is a nonprofit organization registered vide Registration No. 653 on 19-10-2009 founded by a few retired All India Service Officers and social activists who have all come together under the leadership of a Retired High Court Judge, with an objective to secure good governance at all levels, to resist the state abdicating its primary responsibility in providing good quality education and health services for all, build public opinion for the overdue electoral reforms, strive for enabling the various constitutional and autonomous institutions of the State to function effectively, campaign for the much-needed decentralization and reforms in administration etc. Copy of registration is filed as (**Annexure P1**) and it is prayed that the same may be treated as part and parcel of this affidavit. The organization runs on the contributions from its founder members and other persons interested in furthering the cause of the forum. I had already collected the relevant documents and filing this Writ Petition (PIL) before this Hon'ble Court.

#### LOCUS STANDI:

I hereby affirm and state on oath that the petitioner herein has no personal interest in the subject matter of this petition. The petitioner hereby undertakes to pay exemplary costs and/or compensatory damages as directed by this Court in the event of a contrary finding upon adjudication by the Court that the writ petition is filed for extraneous/personal considerations or with an oblique motive.

This Hon'ble Court has got both territorial and pecuniary jurisdiction to entertain the above petition under Public Interest Litigation Rules, 2015. The cause of action arose in the State of Telangana which is well within the jurisdiction of this Hon'ble Court.

I further submit that I am not involved in any Civil, Revenue, Criminal Litigation in any capacity before any court or tribunal pertaining to this issue.

#### 3. <u>DECLARATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE PETITIONER:</u>

I, M. Padmanabha Reddy, S/o M Ganga Reddy, aged about 82 years, Occ: Retired Government Officer, and presently functioning as the Secretary of the Petitioner organization, R/o Villa No. 59, VISTAS Near G.V.K, Kompally - 500 078, do hereby swear under oath and sincerely affirm as follows:

- 3.1 That the present petition is being filed by way of Public interest Litigation and the Petitioner does not have any personal interest in the matter. I am a retired All India Services Officer, presently functioning as the Secretary of the Petitioner organization herein and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of this case and able to depose as follows:
- 3.2 That the entire litigation cost including the Advocate's fee and other charges are being borne by the Petitioner. The PAN number of the Petitioner is already mentioned above.
- 3.3. That thorough research has been conducted in the matter raised through this petition. All the relevant documents pertinent to the subject are discovered by the Petitioner to this petition. The Petitioner collected the information through following the procedure stipulated by the Authorities and filing applications under R.T.I. Act.
- 3.4 That to the best of Petitioner's knowledge and research, the issue that is raised was not dealt with or decided and that a similar or identical petition was not filed earlier by the Petitioner.

I submit that, I am filing this PIL after obtaining the relevant documents and after submitting representations, consequently after having been completely satisfied that the Respondents are not making efforts to constitute the State Finance Commission as illegal, arbitrary and violative of Article 243 – I of Constitution of India and consequently to direct the respondent state Government to take immediate steps for appointment of State Finance Commission.

3.5 That the Petitioner understood that in the course of hearing of this Petition, this Hon'ble Court may require any security to be furnished towards costs or any other charges and the petitioner shall comply with such requirements. This issue was not dealt with or decided earlier and I have not filed any

similar or identical petitions earlier.

I also understood that in the course of hearing of this petition, I may be required to furnish any security towards any cost or any other charges and I will comply with such requirement.

#### FACTS IN BRIEF:

4.1. I submit that I read in the newspapers that 11 Acres of prime Government land situated in Survey Nos.239 and 240 of Kokapet village Gandipet Mandal, Ranga Reddy District is alienated to Baratha Rastra Samithi (BRS) - a political party at throw away price. I tried to obtain the relevant orders. The Government of Telangana is handling the issue very secretly. The relevant Government orders of allotment of 11 Acres land were not kept on website of Government of Telangana and not released to press. With great difficulty I could get a (strictly confidential) Memo bearing C.No.12425/Land Admin.II (2)/ 2023, dated NIL which is prepared for alienation of said land for cabinet approval (**Annexure P2**) subsequently. It is learnt that the cabinet has approved.

4.2. I submit that there is no justification in giving away the said valuable land at Rs.3,41,25,000/- per acre whereas the present market value is close to Rs.50 crores per acre.

4.3. In the city of Hyderabad there are excellent Training Centers like, Marri Chenna Reddy Human Resource Development Centre, National Institute for Rural Development, State Institute for Rural development to name a few. That being the case, the request of the 5<sup>th</sup> Respondent/BRS for allotment of 11 Acres of Government land in Sy.Nos.239 & 240 of Kokapet village for establishment of an Institute for Excellence and Human Resource Development focusing on training and personality development cannot be justified. The intension of 5<sup>th</sup> Respondent is to take away prime land at cheap rate and to use it for party activities.

4.4. The said 11 Acres of Government land is with HMDA, Government proposed to resume this land from HMDA and alienate it to 5<sup>th</sup> Respondent political party. In normal circumstances it takes months to get the required orders. Here it appears, undue haste was shown - The 5<sup>th</sup> Respondent political party represented for alienation of land on 12.05.2023 and 4<sup>th</sup> Respondent submitted proposal on 16.05.2023 for alienation to 3<sup>rd</sup> Respondent/CCLA. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Respondent/CCLA submitted a report to Government on 17.05.2023 stating that the proposal of 4<sup>th</sup> Respondent/District Collector is placed before the Telangana

State Land Management Authority (TSLMA) by way of circulation and TSLMA has recommended the above proposal (all in one day). The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana State has agreed the above proposal for placing the alienation proposal before the Council of Ministers. Within five days all these things happened which normally takes four to five months.

4.5. As the Government is secretly doing all these activities, I could not get the G.O. alienating 11 Acres of land to 5<sup>th</sup> Respondent/BRS. However the strictly confidential memo giving all details up to placing before council of Ministers was obtained and enclosed.

4.6. In the last week of May Hon'ble Chief Minister performed Bhoomi puja in the 11 Acres land allotted to 5<sup>th</sup> Respondent/BRS and construction activity, I understand, has commenced.

4.7. The B.R.S. party (earlier TRS) which is in power is misusing the authority and allotting Government lands for party offices in all the districts of Telangana. While there is a big B.R.S. party office on Road No.12, Banjara Hills, in addition to it 2 Acres land is recently allotted to B.R.S. party office for Ranga Reddy District.

4.8 The contention of the 5<sup>th</sup> respondent/BRS requesting for alienation of 11 Acres of Government land to 5<sup>th</sup> Respondent/B.R.S. party for the purpose of establishing an Institute for Excellence and Human Resource Development etc. is only a cover up to justify alienation of prime land. 4.9 I submit that recently the Division Bench of this Hon'ble Court has set aside the land allotment made to private parties at throw away price. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in number of decisions held that Government land belongs to the public and in the whimsical way Government cannot give away the land to the people of its choice. The Government land can be alienation by way of public auction.

### **SOURCE OF INFORMATION:**

The petitioner has collected the information through news published in media and confidential memo issued by Government.

#### 5. <u>NATURE OF EXTENT OF INJURY CAUSED/APPREHENDED</u>:

I submit that because of the impugned order of the Government in resumption of Government land from HMDA and alienating it to a political party which was already allotted spacious area in Banjara Hills is arbitrary, illegal, irregular and misuse of power. Further the present market value of the said 11 Acres land at Kokapet is close to Rs.500 crores, as against this, the said 11 Acres land was alienated for Rs.37,53,75,000/- has resulted in a loss about 460 crores to the State Exchequer. The undue haste with which the 11 Acres land was resumed from HMDA and alienated to a 5<sup>th</sup> Respondent/political party (B.R.S.) is irregular. There is no transparency and justification in the alienation. Therefore, I representing the Forum for Good Governance is filing the present Writ Petition (PIL).

## 6. <u>ANY REPRESENTATIONS ETC., MADE:</u>

I submit that I have not made any representations.

## 7. **<u>DELAY IF ANY</u>**:

I submit that there is NO DELAY in filing this Writ Petition.

# 8. **DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON ARE:**

1. Strictly Confidential Government Memo No.C.No.12425/Land Administration II (2)/2023 dated NIL of Revenue (land administration) department.

2. Newspaper reports

8) (a) In the circumstances stated above, the petitioner has no efficacious alternative remedy except to seek the redressal from this Hon'ble Court seeking the indulgence of this Hon'ble Court to exercise its extraordinary original jurisdiction vested in this Hon'ble Court by virtue of Article 226 of the Constitution of India. I further submit that I had not filed any other writ petition (PIL) or suit before this Hon'ble Court or any authority and the same is pending for substantial relief that is prayed in this writ petition.

### 9. MAIN RELIEF PRAYED IS AS FOLLOWS:

It is respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Court, in the interests of justice be pleased to issue a Writ, Order or Direction, more particularly one in the nature of Writ of Mandamus declaring the action of first respondent in alienating 11 Acres of prime Government land in Survey Nos.239 and 240 of Kokapet Village, Gandipet Mandal, Ranga Reddy District to 5<sup>th</sup> Respondent/Political Party vide impugned Memo bearing C.No.12425/Land Admin.II (2)/ 2023, dated NIL as arbitrary, illegal and against the various judgments of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and set aside the same and pass such other order or orders as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of the case.

### 10. **INTERIM PRAYER:**

It is hereby prayed that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to STAY the allotment of prime Government land admeasuring 11 acres in Survey Nos.239 and 240 of Kokapet Village, Gandipet Mandal, Ranga Reddy District to the 5<sup>th</sup> Respondent/BRS political party and further direct the 5<sup>th</sup> Respondent/BRS political party not to take up any construction activity in prime Government land admeasuring 11 acres in Survey Nos.239 and 240 of Kokapet Village, Gandipet Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, pending disposal of the above WP (PIL) and pass such other order or orders as this Hon'ble Court may deems fit and proper in the circumstances of the case.

#### 12. **CAVEAT:**

I submit that no notice has been received of lodging a Caveat by the Respondents.

### PLACE: HYDERABAD

DATE: 03.07.2023

Signature of Petitioner.

Advocate for Petitioner

### **VERIFICATION STATEMENT**

I, M. Padmanabha Reddy, S/o Sri M Ganga Reddy, aged about 82 years, Occ: Retired Government Officer, and presently functioning as the Secretary of the Petitioner organization, resident of Flat No. 204, G. K. R. Mansion, Lakdi-Ka– Pul, Hyderabad, the Petitioner herein, do hereby on solemn affirmation state and declare that what is stated in the above paragraphs are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and what is stated in the above paragraphs based on the information which I believe to be true and correct.

Solemnly affirm at Hyderabad on this the 03<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2023.

Deponent

Before me,

Advocate, Hyderabad