

No: COMPT/UPLOK/

*Compt/uplok/BD/413/2023/DRE-1***KARNATAKA LOKAYUKTA, BENGALURU**

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Date: 12/01/2023

**ORDER**

In 'Vijaya Karnataka daily' dated 11/01/2023, a news item with the heading "ಕೊಲೆ ಆರೋಪಿಗಳಿಂದ ಲಕ್ಷಾಂತರ ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಡ್ರಾ" has been published. Instead of repeating the news item, it is useful to extract the same, which reads as hereunder;

"ನರೇಗಾದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದಿರುವ ಭ್ರಷ್ಟಾಚಾರ ಬಯಲಿಗಳೆದ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಕರ್ತ ರಾಮಕೃಷ್ಣ ಕೊಲೆಯಾದ ಶನಿವಾರ ಸಂಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಭಾನುವಾರ ರಾತ್ರಿ 10:30ರ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಚ್.ಎಂ.ಹೊಳೆ ಗ್ರಾಪಂನ ಪಿಡಿಓ ಎ.ಟಿ.ನಾಗರಾಜ್ ಹಣ ಡ್ರಾ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿರುವ ಗ್ರಾಪಂ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಹಾಗೂ ಗ್ರಾಮಸ್ಥರು ಮಂಗಳವಾರ ತಾಪಂ ಇಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ದೂರು ನೀಡಿದರು.

ಕೊಲೆಯ ಎ1 ಆರೋಪಿ ಎ.ಟಿ.ನಾಗರಾಜ್ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆ ತಯಾರಿಸದೆ, ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚರ್ಚಿಸದೆ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ಬಾರದೇ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಶಿವರುದ್ರಮ್ಮ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಆಪರೇಟರ್ ಶ್ವೇತಾ ಜತೆ ಸೇರಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 21 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂ. ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಯೋಜನೆ ಅಡಿ ಏಕಪಕ್ಷೀಯವಾಗಿ ಡಾಂಗಲ್ ಬಳಸಿ ಕುಂತಲ್ಲೇ ನಕಲಿ ವೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಹಣ ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಮಾಡದೆ ಬೋಗಸ್ ಬಿಲ್ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಸಿ ಹಣ ಡ್ರಾ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂದು ಗ್ರಾಪಂ ಸದಸ್ಯ ರಂಗಪ್ಪ, ಶರಣಪ್ಪ, ಶಿವಣ್ಣ, ಕಲೀಲ್ ಸಾಬ್, ವೀರೇಶ್, ಎಚ್.ಸಿ. ನಾಗರಾಜಯ್ಯ, ರತ್ನಮ್ಮ ಮಲ್ಲಾಪುರ, ನಾರಾಯಣರಡ್ಡಿ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಅನೇಕರು ಆಕ್ರೋಶ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದರು.

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ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಖಾತೆ ಸ್ಥಗಿತ: “ಎಚ್.ಎಂ.ಹೊಳೆ ಮತ್ತು ಗುರುಸಿದ್ದಾಪುರ ಹಾಗೂ ಗುತ್ತಿದುರ್ಗ ಗ್ರಾಪಂಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಖಾತೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕೂಡಲೇ ಸ್ಥಗಿತಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಎ.ಟಿ.ನಾಗರಾಜ್ ಅವರು ಶನಿವಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಭಾನುವಾರ ಡ್ರಾ ಮಾಡಿರುವುದು ತಿಳಿದು ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಹಣ ಪಾವತಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ವೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳು ನಮ್ಮಿಂದ ತಪ್ಪಾಗಿದೆ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಸರಕಾರದ ಖಾತೆಗೆ ಜಮೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇವೆಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಎ.ಟಿ.ನಾಗರಾಜ್ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದು.” ಎಂದು ತಾಪಂ ಸಿಇಒ ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರ್ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

2. The news item extracted above indicates that on Saturday at evening when the social activist Ramkrishna, who had unveiled the corruption taken place under MNREGA scheme was murdered and on Sunday at 10:30 p.m, the PDO of H.M.Hole Grama Panchayathi, Sri.A.T.Nagaraj, has withdrawn amount. The members of the Grama Panchayathi and the villagers after verifying this have given complaint to Executive Officer, Taluk Panchayathi on Tuesday. Further the news item indicates that A.T.Nagaraj who is accused no.1 in the above said murder without preparing action plan and without getting it passed in the general body meeting and without bringing it to the notice of members of the grama panchayathi colluding with Shivarudramma, President of the grama panchayathi and Shwetha, Computer operator has got released Rs. 21 lakhs in his favour. That they had unilaterally transferred the money by using dongle to fake vendors under 15<sup>th</sup> financial plan. Further the news items indicates that Rangappa, Sharanappa, Shivanna, Kalel Sab, Veeresh, H.C.Nagarajaiah,

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Rathnamma Mallapura and Narayana Reddy who are the members of the grama panchayathi have expressed their anger that without doing any work they have created the bogus bill and got the amount drawn. Further the news items indicates that all bank accounts pertaining to H.M.Hole and Gurusiddapura and Guthidurga grama Panchayathi have been freezed immediately. That A.T.Nagaraj has drawn the amount on Saturday and Sunday and the vendors to whom the amount has been disbursed have come forward admitting the mistake and have told that they are ready to deposit the same to the Government account. That Chandrashekar, CEO of Taluk Panchayathi has stated that appropriate steps will be taken against A.T.Nagaraj.

3. On perusal of the above news item it reveals that A.T.Nagaraj, PDO of H.M.Hole grama Panchayathi who is also arrayed as accused no.1 in the murder case of social activist Ramkrishna colluding with the President and computer operator of H.M.Hole grama Panchayathi have misappropriated Rs. 21 lakhs by creating bogus bills and causing huge loss to the Government exchequer misusing their office amounting to misconduct on the part of the concerned officials. Hence, it is necessary to take up investigation under Karnataka Lokayukta Act.

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4. The object of the Karnataka Lokayukta Act 1984 (hereinafter referred to as 'K.L.Act') is to redress the grievance of the public as a consequence of mal-administration and also to prevent mal-administration in the State Administration. The misappropriation done by the Government servants in doing the public works falls within the meaning of 'mal-administration' under Sec.2(10) of the K.L.Act.
5. Therefore, I am of the view that it is desirable to consider the news item published in 'Vijaya Karnataka' as source material to exercise the power conferred on me under Sec. 7(2) and 9(3)(a) of the K.L. Act. Accordingly, I exercise my suo-motu power and the office is directed to register this proceedings as suo-motu proceeding.
6. With a view to examine the issues raised in the news item referred to above, I am of the view, that it is necessary to implead the officers mentioned herein below as parties/respondents to this proceeding and issue notice to them and call for the comments from them.

1	Executive Officer, Taluk Panchayathi, Jagalur Taluk, Davanagere District.
2	Smt. Shivarudramma, President of H.M.Hole Grama panchayathi, Jagalur Taluk,



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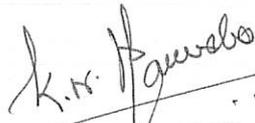
	Davanagere District.
3	Sri. A.T.Nagaraj, Panchayath Development Officer, H.M.Hole Grama panchayathi, Jagalur Taluk, Davanagere District.
4	Shwetha, Computer operator, H.M.Hole Grama panchayathi, Jagalur Taluk, Davanagere District.

7. The officers/officials referred to above are impleaded as respondents.

8. The matter is referred to the Superintendent of Police, Karnataka Lokayukta, Davanagere to conduct investigation and to submit a report regarding the factual position with regard to the allegation stated above.

9. Send copies of this order to the Superintendent of Police, Karnataka Lokayukta, Davanagere along with the copy of news item published in 'Vijaya Karnataka' for necessary action.

Call on 06/02/2023.

  
.. 12/01/23  
(Justice K.N.Phaneendra)  
Upalokayukta  
Karnataka State.

10. ARLO- (Complaint section);





