

# VERDICTUM.IN

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM  
PRESENT  
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ANIL K.NARENDRAN  
&  
THE HONOURABLE MRS. JUSTICE SOPHY THOMAS

Friday, the 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023 / 24th Bhadra, 1945  
DBP NO. 38 OF 2023

IN THE MATTER OF TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD - REPORT NO. 22 OF 2023 IN PETITION NO.8 OF 2022- APPROVAL FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE DONOR BUILDINGS SITUATED AT SABARIMALA THROUGH SPONSORS, CONSTRUCTION OF ORNAMENTAL GATE AT PAMBA AND REVENUE GENERATING SCHEMES

**PETITIONER:**

TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD,  
REPRESENTED BY ITS CHIEF ENGINEER, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.

BY STANDING COUNSEL FOR TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD

**RESPONDENTS:**

1. THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, LOCAL FUND AUDIT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.  
\*ADDL.R2 IMPLEADED
2. THE HIGH POWER COMMITTEE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF  
SABARIMALA MASTER PLAN, TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD BUILDING,  
M.G.ROAD, OPPOSITE GOVERNMENT AYURVEDA COLLEGE, PUTHENCHANTHAI,  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695 001, REPRESENTED BY ITS MEMBER SECRETARY  
\*IS SUO MOTU IMPLEADED AS THE ADDITIONAL 2ND RESPONDENT VIDE  
ORDER DATED 19/06/2023 IN DBP 38/2023

BY SRI.S.RAJMOHAN, SENIOR GOVERNMENT PLEADER

BY SRI.P.RAMACHANDRAN, AMICUS CURIAE FOR OMBUDSMAN

BY SRI.N.RAGHURAJ, SC, HIGH POWER COMMITTEE FOR IMPLEMENTATION  
OF SABARIMALA MASTER PLAN

THE DEVASWOM BOARD PETITION HAVING COME UP FOR ORDERS AGAIN ON 15/09/2023, UPON PERUSING THE PETITION AND THIS COURT'S ORDER DATED 13/09/2023, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY PASSED THE FOLLOWING.

**ANIL K. NARENDRAN & SOPHY THOMAS, JJ.**

**DBP No.38 of 2023**

**Dated this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023**

**O R D E R**

**Anil K. Narendran, J.**

This DBP is registered based on Report No.22 of 2023 of the learned Ombudsman in Petition No.8 of 2022 filed by the Travancore Devaswom Board seeking approval for the renovation of donor buildings situated at Sabarimala through sponsors, construction of ornamental gate at Pamba and revenue generating schemes.

2. Insofar as the work relating to "Smart Roof for the Holy Steps at Sabarimala Sannidhanam" is concerned, the opinion of the Tanthri is placed on record along with the memo filed by the learned Standing Counsel dated 12.09.2023.

3. Travancore-Cochin Hindu Religious Institutions Act, 1950 enacted by the State Legislature makes provision for the administration, supervision and control of incorporated and unincorporated Devaswoms and of other Hindu Religious Endowments and Funds. As per the provisions under Section 3 of the Act, the administration of incorporated and unincorporated Devaswoms shall vest in the Travancore Devaswom Board.

4. As per Section 15A of the Act, it shall be the duty of the Board to perform the following functions, namely, (i) to see that the regular traditional rites and ceremonies according to the practice

prevalent in the religious institutions are performed promptly; (ii) to monitor whether the administrative officials and employees and also the employees connected with religious rites are functioning properly; (iii) to ensure proper maintenance and upliftment of the Hindu religious institutions; (iv) to establish and maintain proper facilities in the temples for the devotees.

5. Having perused the report of the learned Ombudsman, we deem it appropriate to direct the Special Commissioner, Sabarimala, to conduct an inspection of the donor buildings and submit a preliminary report before this Court, along with a few photographs, by 20.09.2023.

List for further consideration on 20.09.2023.



Sd/-

**ANIL K. NARENDRAN, JUDGE**

Sd/-

**SOPHY THOMAS, JUDGE**

DSV/-