

## **DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN(J)**

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### **SUO MOTU PROCEEDINGS**

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Dated this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021

### **O R D E R**

When the Court assembled today, Sri.A.V.Jojo, a learned counsel, brought to my notice that the Mathrubhumi Newspaper of today (13/10/2021) carries on its first page, a report relating to a family, who is alleged to have been subjected to harassment, including by Police Officers.

2. This Court certainly is aware that every story has two versions. But, going by the report, this is certainly a matter which should engage the attention of this Court.

3. Therefore, I am of the view that a comprehensive report requires to be obtained from the Commissioner of Police Kochi, within whose jurisdiction the Police Station referred in the report is functioning.

4. Resultantly, I direct the Registry to take on record the report in the Newspaper and obtain orders from the

Honourable Chief Justice to register a *suo motu* writ petition, arraying The State of Kerala represented by the Secretary, Home Department; The Director General of Police, Kerala; The State Police Chief, Kerala and the Commissioner of Police, Kochi City, as the initial respondents.

5. The Commissioner of Police, Kochi will, in the meanwhile, look into the aspects mentioned in the newspaper and file a report in a sealed cover before this Court, after making all necessary enquiries as are apposite.

Taking note of the fact that very serious allegations are made against certain Police Officers by the family, who are reportedly not from Kerala, I deem it appropriate to list this matter quickly, so that there is no travesty of justice, if the facts mentioned in the news report are finally found to be true.

List this matter for further consideration on 25.10.2021 and the Police Commissioner will ensure that the family in question is not subjected to any further harassment or vexation in any manner whatsoever.

Needless to say, since this Court is only responding to the request of a learned counsel of this Court, based on a paper report, I clarify that all pending action in the matter can be allowed, but without causing any unnecessary harassment or vexation to the family members.

Since, it is Sri.A.V.Jojo, who has brought this information to the notice of this Court, I may consider appointing him as an *Amicus Curiae*, in case, it is found that further action is necessary.

Sd/-  
**DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN**  
**JUDGE**

NR/13/10/21