



IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

DATED THIS THE 24TH DAY OF MARCH, 2026

PRESENT

THE HON'BLE MR. VIBHU BAKHRU, CHIEF JUSTICE

AND

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE C.M. POONACHA

WRIT PETITION NO. 27594 OF 2025 (GM-RES)

BETWEEN:

UMAPATHI S
S/O LATE M SUBRAMANYAM
AGED ABOUT 56 YEARS
ADVOCATE LEX GROUP
NO.40, SNS PLAZA
SHIVANANDA CIRCLE
BANGALORE-560001
PAN AAQPU4590H
AADHAAR NO.726238762844
PHONE 9480017995
EMAIL umapathi@lexgroup.in

Digitally
signed by
NIRMALA
DEVI

Location:
HIGH
COURT OF
KARNATAKA

...PETITIONER

(BY SRI. UMAPATHI S, PARTY-IN-PERSON)

AND:

1. THE STATE OF KARNATAKA
REPRESENTED BY PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
GOVT OF KARNATAKA
REVENUE DEPARTMENT
M S BUILDING
BANGALORE-560001



2. STATE OF KARNATAKA
REPRESENTED BY THE
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
TO GOVERNMENT LAW,
JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS
DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
VIDHANA SOUDHA,
BENGALURU-56001
3. THE REGISTRAR
KARNATAKA LAND GRABBING PROHIBITION
SPECIAL COURTS
III FLOOR, KANDAYA BHAVANA
K G ROAD
BENGALURU-560009

...RESPONDENTS

(BY SMT. NILOUFER AKBAR, AGA)

THIS WP IS FILED UNDER ARTICLES 226 & 227 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA PRAYING TO ISSUE A WRIT OF CERTIORARI OR ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE WRIT, ORDER, OR DIRECTION, QUASHING THE KARNATAKA LAND GRABBING PROHIBITION (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2022 (KARNATAKA ACT NO.30/2022) VIDE ITS GAZETTE NOTIFICATION BEARING NO.DPAL 20 SHASHANA 2022, BENGALURU DATED 13/10/2022 AS PER ANNEXURE-A.

THIS PETITION, COMING ON FOR PRELIMINARY HEARING, THIS DAY, ORDER WAS MADE THEREIN AS UNDER:

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. VIBHU BAKHRU, CHIEF JUSTICE
and
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE C.M. POONACHA



ORAL ORDER

(PER: HON'BLE MR. VIBHU BAKHRU, CHIEF JUSTICE)

1. The petitioner has filed the present petition as a public interest litigation, *inter alia*, impugning the Karnataka Land Grabbing Prohibition (Amendment) Act, 2022. The petitioner states that by virtue of the said legislative amendment, the definition of land is considerably narrowed down to exclude within its scope the lands falling in rural areas. He submits that the definition of 'land' is confined to lands, which fall within the municipal limits.

2. The petitioner, who appears in person, submits that by virtue of the said amendment more than seven thousand cases, which are pending before the Special Court would stand abated. He contends that there is no intelligible differentia between lands falling in rural areas and lands falling in urban areas as far as object of the legislation, the Karnataka Land Grabbing Act, 2011, is concerned.

3. We note that there is no challenge as to the legislative competence to enact the Karnataka Land Grabbing Prohibition (Amendment) Act, 2022. The contention that there is no distinction



between the lands falling in rural areas and urban areas is *ex facie* unmerited. The legislature in its wisdom has considered it apposite to restrict the scope of the Karnataka Land Grabbing Prohibition Act, 2011 to lands as defined under the Act.

4. The contention that the exclusion of rural lands would legitimise encroachment in rural area is also erroneous as recourse to other laws is not foreclosed.

5. The petitioner has also made an allegation of colourable excise of power. However, we find no material to substantiate the said contention.

6. The present petition is accordingly dismissed.

7. All pending applications are also disposed of.

**Sd/-
(VIBHU BAKHRU)
CHIEF JUSTICE**

**Sd/-
(C.M. POONACHA)
JUDGE**

Vmb
List No.: 2 Sl No.: 2