

At the Right to Information Commission of Sri Lanka

Rajendra Wijesinghe v. Agrarian Development District Office, Kalutara

RTICAppeal/39/2017 (*Appeal heard as part of the meeting of the Commission on 29.08.2017*)

Acting Chairperson: Ms. Kishali Pinto-Jayawardena

Commission Members: Mr. S.G. Punchihewa

Dr. Selvy Thiruchandran

Present at Hearing: Piyathissa Ranasinghe, Director General, Right to Information Commission

Appellant: Mr. Rajendra Wijesinghe

Notice issued to: Designated Officer, Department of Agrarian Development, District Office, Kalutara

Appearance/ Represented by:

W. D. R. I. Rodrigo Assistant Commissioner of Agrarian Development, Agrarian Development District Office Kalutara (Designated Officer)

Lalith Siriwardena, Attorney-at-Law, Department of Agrarian Development District Office, Kalutara

Mr. W. D. R. I. Rodrigo Assistant Commissioner of Agrarian Development, Agrarian Development District Office, Kalutara (Designated Officer) and Lalith Siriwardena Attorney-at-Law, Agrarian Development District Office, Kalutara were present. The Appellant was absent.

The Appellant requested a comprehensive inspection on relevant work, documents and records as well as notes, extracts or certified copies of the documents or records in relation to action taken subsequent to

1. Letter dated 26.04.2013 from the Deputy Commissioner Legal- Agrarian Development to Assistant Commissioner, Agrarian Development, Kalutara District (In this letter the Appellant who was at the time Deputy Commissioner (Legal) of the Department of Agrarian Development asks the Commissioner of the Department of Agrarian Development to make inquiry/investigation into whether illegal land reclamation is taking place in relation to a particular land and if such is happening to take legal action.)
2. Letter dated 13.06.2013 by the Assistant Commissioner, Agrarian Development, Kalutara District to the Appellant. The letter states that the relevant details of the matter mentioned in his letter dated 05.05.2013 have been forwarded to the Ministry of Economic

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Development, GA Kalutara and the Commissioner General of the Department of Agrarian Development and that once a response is received he will take necessary action.

The Public Authority stated that it is still unable to trace the any documents in relation to the information request. Further, the only information ascertained as per the Panadura District Office of the Public Authority is that such a land is in fact in existence.

Interim Order

The Appellant is not present despite notices sent to him by registered post. The matter is converted to a documentary appeal for the consideration as to whether the matter is necessary to be considered as an in person appeal again in the future. The Public Authority is directed to call the Appellant for a discussion and to ascertain from him exactly what information he wants as the request he has made is not clear and to send a copy of the exact information requested once ascertained.
