

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM  
PRESENT  
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE A. BADHARUDEEN**

**Monday, the 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 2025 / 24th Bhadra, 1947  
IA.NO.1/2025 IN WP(C) NO. 14599 OF 2020 (Y)**

**APPLICANTS/RESPONDENTS 1 TO 3:**

- 1. STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY CHIEF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695 001.**
- 2. DIRECTOR VIGILANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION BUREAU, PMG, OPPOSITE VIKAS BHAVAN BUS DEPO, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695 001.**
- 3. STATE POLICE CHIEF, POLICE HEADQUARTERS, VAZHUTHACAUD, VAZHUTHACAUD P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

**RESPONDENT/PETITIONER:**

**M.S. ANIL, AGED 43, S/O. SASIDHARAN, MANNATHAMPARAMBU, MARARIKKULAM NORTH P.O., CHERTHALA, ALAPPUZHA, PIN-688 523.**

Application praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed therewith the High Court be pleased to review and revise the order of this Hon'ble Court dated 29/07/2025, and also permit the replacement of Sri.S.Sasidharan IPS the Superintendent of Police, VACB, Central Range Ernakulam with Kartick.K., IPS, DIG, VACB, Vigilance Directorate, Thiruvananthapuram.

This Application coming on for orders upon perusing the application and the affidavit filed in support thereof, and this Court's orders dated 29.07.2025 & 22.08.2025 in WPC and upon hearing the arguments of SPECIAL GOVERNMENT PLEADER for the Applicants in I.A./Respondents in WP(C), SRI.D.ANIL KUMAR, Advocate for Respondent in I.A./petitioner in WP(C), the court passed the following:

**A.BADHARUDEEN, J.**

-----  
**I.A.No.1 of 2025**  
**in**  
**W.P.(C).No.14599 of 2020**  
-----

Dated, this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2025

**ORDER**

This is a petition filed by the respondents in this writ petition and the prayer in this petition is to review and revise the order of this Court dated 29.07.2025 and also to permit the replacement of Sri.S.Sasidharan IPS, the Superintendent of Police, VACB, Central Range, Ernakulam with Karthick K, IPS, DIG, VACB, Vigilance Directorate, Thiruvananthapuram to lead Special Investigation Team to continue the investigation and further investigation.

2. The reasons for review and revision of the order of this Court dated 29.07.2025 could be gathered from paragraph Nos.6 and 7 of the affidavit in support of this petition and the same read as under:

“6. It is respectfully submitted that, the

**I.A.No.1 of 2025 in  
W.P. (C) .No.14599 of 2020**

**2**

Government have examined the matter in detail, the allegations in the case necessitate the investigation across the State of Kerala, Sri. S. Sasidharan was transferred in the meanwhile and he is no longer in VACB as he was posted as Additional Director, KEPA. Therefore, Government felt that it is appropriate to form a special investigation team led by a Senior Officer in the Vigilance Department having the authority to conduct effective, just and fair state level investigation and further investigation. Government is of the firm view that, if the investigation of the case is entrusted with Sri. Karthick K, IPS, DIG in Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau, the investigation can be completed within the stipulated time so as to ensure the compliance of the order of this Honble Court. There is neither willful laches nor negligence on the part of the Government in not complying with the direction of this Hon'ble court dated 29/07/2025.

7. In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to review and revise the order of this Hon'ble Court dated 29/07/2025, and also permit replacement of Sri. S. Sasidharan IPS the Superintendent of Police VACB Central Range, Ernakulam with Karthick K IPS, DIG, VACB, Vigilance Directorate, Thiruvananthapuram thereby facilitating effective reconstruction of the

I.A.No.1 of 2025 in  
W.P. (C) .No.14599 of 2020

3

special investigation team and ensuring the expedient continuation and culmination of the investigation in VC No. 5/2016 of VACB, Southern Range, Thiruvananthapuram to which a separate petition is preferred.”

3. In response to this petition, the writ petitioner filed an objection, narrating the history of the case with particular reference to the order dated 29.07.2025. In paragraphs 4 and 5 of the objection, the change of the Investigating Officer, as sought for, is strongly opposed. Paragraphs 4 and 5 read as follows:

“4. The present affidavit filed in support of I.A. No.1/2025 is totally silent as to why the Government made a volt-face. It only says that "Government felt that it is appropriate to form a special investigation team led by a Senior Officer in the Vigilance Department having the authority to conduct effective, just and fair state level investigation and further investigation. The government is of the firm view that, if the investigation of the case is entrusted with Sri. Kanhick K, IPS, DIG in Vigilance and Anti Corruption

**I.A.No.1 of 2025 in  
W.P. (C) .No.14599 of 2020**

**4**

Bureau, the investigation can be completed within the stipulated time so as to ensure the compliance of the order of this Hon'ble Court. There is neither wilful ladies nor negligence on the part of the Government in not complying with the direction of this Hon'ble Court dated 29.07.2025". It is submitted that the Government cannot -feel it appropriate" when this Court has already recorded a finding that Sri. S. Sasidharan IPS should continue. The affidavit also gives a hint of future events to take place under the guise of "further investigation."

5. The conduct on the part of the Government in taking such a position is vitiated by malice in law. Sri. Vellappally Natesan, one of the accused, involved in this case is a big gun in the political arena of Kerala. His clout in the corridors of power is widely known. Sri.Pinarayi Vijan, the Honourable Chief Minister is very close to Sri.Vellappaly Natesan. The proximity between the two is well known. Recently they shared dais on 3/9/2025. Sri.Pinarayi Vijayan praised Sri.Vellappaly Natesan profusely. True copy of news item published in the newspaper namely "The Hindu" dated 3/9/2025 is produced herewith and marked as Exhibit-P3. In the same event Sri.Pinarayi Vijayan adorned a turban on Sri.Vellappaly Natesan. True copy of the photos

**I.A.No.1 of 2025 in  
W.P. (C) .No.14599 of 2020**

**5**

published by Mathrubhumi daily dated 3/9/2025 in connection with the event reported in Exhibit-P3 is produced herewith and marked as Exhibit-P4. It is submitted that Vigilance Department is coming under Home Ministry and the Chief Minister is in charge of it. The incident of the Chief Minister sharing dais with an accused who is facing investigation in several cases speaks volumes. Investigation of the crime registered in 2016, which is the subject matter of writ petition, is not completed solely to benefit Sri.Vellappally Natesan. The attempt to change the investigating officer is only because he (the present investigating officer) is refusing to toe the line of the government. The attitude of the Government shows that it has scant respect for the orders of this Court. The Government is undermining the rule of law.”

4. In this matter, on 29.07.2025, this Court passed an interim order, which reads as follows:

“These petitions relate to the alleged misappropriation of Government funds under a State-wide Micro Finance Scheme. The Government appointed Dr.J.Himendranath IPS as the Investigating Officer, as per the directions of this Court. As per G.O

I.A.No.1 of 2025 in  
W.P. (C) .No.14599 of 2020

6

(Rt) No.4102/2024/GAD dated 10.09.2024, Sri.J.Himendranath IPS was posted as Superintendent of Police, Crime Branch, Kottayam. However, the Government authorised Sri.J.Himendranath IPS to continue with the investigation and suggested two options, either (a) to permit Sri.J.Himendranath IPS to continue with the investigation.

or

(b) to entrust the investigation to Sri.S.Sasidharan IPS, the Superintendent of Police, VACB, Central Range, Ernakulam.

2. As per order dated 04.11.2024, this Court permitted the Government to entrust the investigation to Sri.S.Sasidharan IPS, the Superintendent of Police, VACB, Central Range, Ernakulam.

3. Sri.S.Sasidharan IPS submitted a report regarding the present status of the investigation. In the report, he has submitted that he has been transferred to the post of Assistant Director (Administration), KEPA, as per G.O (Rt) No.3194/2025/GAD dated 24.07.2025. He has also sought permission to relieve from the post of investigating Officer and to take up the responsibilities at KEPA.

4. Heard both sides.

5. The Director of Vigilance through the learned Special Government Pleader submitted that

**I.A.No.1 of 2025 in  
W.P. (C) .No.14599 of 2020**

**7**

the investigation can be entrusted to the present incumbent in the VACB, Central Range, Ernakulam, or to Sri.S.Sasidharan IPS.

6. Sri.S.Sasidharan IPS is present before the Court. He has been investigating this case since November 2024. The report shows that he has submitted factual reports in various cases investigated by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) under his leadership before the Director of Vigilance, and the former Director issued certain instructions to the SIT members regarding the preparation of factual reports in the cases. The officer submits that the investigation is now almost in its final stage and he will be able to complete the investigation, following the instructions given by the former Director, within three months from this day.

7. The learned counsel for the petitioners also suggested that Sri.S.Sasidharan IPS, having conducted investigation for a substantial by long period be entrusted with the investigation. Therefore, this Court feels that continuation of Sri.S.Sasidharan IPS as the Investigating Officer is highly required to complete the investigation in a time bound manner. The Government is directed to issue necessary orders entrusting the investigation in Crime No.VC 05/2016/SRT with Sri.S.Sasidharan IPS. It is made

I.A.No.1 of 2025 in  
W.P. (C) .No.14599 of 2020

8

clear that the Special Investigation Team constituted for the purpose of completing the investigation will continue. The investigation in this case shall be completed within three months from this day.

8. Government shall issue orders in this regard on or before 31.07.2025.

Post on 01.08.2025.”

5. It is pointed out by the learned Special Government Pleader appearing for the petitioners in I.A.No.1/2025 that the replacement of Sri.S.Sasidharan IPS from the charge of investigation, so as to put the same at the hands of Sri.Karthick K, IPS, DIG, VACB is sought for since Sri.S.Sasidharan IPS has been transferred from VACB as Assistant Director (Administration) at the Kerala Police Academy. According to the learned Special Government Pleader, the change of the investigating officer due to his transfer would not prejudice the investigation in any manner, and therefore, this petition is liable to be allowed.

I.A.No.1 of 2025 in  
W.P. (C) .No.14599 of 2020

9

6. Zealously opposing the prayer, it is pointed out by the learned counsel for the respondent in this petition, who is the writ petitioner that in paragraph No.6, the intention behind replacement of the investigating officer has been stated to form another special investigation team led by a senior officer of the Vigilance Department, having the authority to conduct effective, just and fair state level investigation and further investigation.

7. According to the learned counsel for the respondent, the intention behind replacement is to change the Special Investigation Team at present and go for further investigation in a case where earlier investigating officer readily agreed to file report within a period of three months as the investigation was almost complete. He reiterated the contention raised in paragraph No.5 as the reason for the replacement of the investigating officer and according to him, the intention is to spoil the investigation.

I.A.No.1 of 2025 in  
W.P. (C) .No.14599 of 2020

10

8. On perusal of the order dated 29.07.2025, which was sought to be reviewed and revised, in paragraph No.6 of the order, this Court observed the presence of Sri.S.Sasidharan IPS who investigated this crime till November, 2024. The officer reported before the Court that the investigation was almost in its final stage and he would be able to complete the investigation, following the instructions given by the former Director, within three months. In paragraph No.5 of the order, the submission made by the learned Special Government Pleader under instruction from the Director (Vigilance) also recorded by the Court, stating that the petitioner herein conceded entrustment of the investigation to Sri.S.Sasidharan IPS. Generally, when officers are transferred, the succeeding officers will continue the investigation. In the instant case, multiple cases have been under investigation, involving huge scam of money, and Sri.S.Sasidharan IPS investigated the crime for a pretty long

I.A.No.1 of 2025 in  
W.P. (C) .No.14599 of 2020

11

period in continuation of Dr.J.Himendranath IPS, the former investigating officer. When considering the particular nature of this case, Sri.S.Sasidharan IPS is able to file final report, as agreed, within three months if he will be allowed to continue the investigation as per order dated 29.07.2025 and change in the investigation team as sought for in the present petition would lead to complications, as the new investigating officer will take much time to study and proceed with the investigation of this case of a complicated nature, involving huge financial scam. That apart, the respondent raised apprehension in the matter of fair investigation in the event of change in the investigating officer, which is at the fag end as submitted by Sri.S.Sasidharan IPS, particularly stating that the prime accused herein is a big gun in the political arena of Kerala, having clout in the corridors of the Chief Minister's office. Some newspaper reports showing their close association and profused exalt and applause on him by

I.A.No.1 of 2025 in  
W.P. (C) .No.14599 of 2020

12

the Chief Minister also have been placed by the learned counsel for the respondent in support of his contention. Anyhow, this Court is not inclined to accept those newspaper reports, as the same are matters of proof by evidence. However, this Court is inclined to address the apprehension voiced by the respondent, doubting delay in the investigation by changing the investigating team at the fag end while ensuring free and fair investigation of this crime, which is at the knock off stage, within a time bound manner and without much delay. I hope that Sri.S.Sasidharan IPS is able to complete the investigation if three months time more will be given to him. Most importantly, the change of investigating agency at the fag end definitely would delay the investigation of multiple serious crimes all over the State of Kerala, involving a huge scam of money. Therefore, in the interest of justice, it is necessary to allow Sri.S.Sasidharan IPS to continue the investigation and file final report/reports

I.A.No.1 of 2025 in  
W.P. (C) .No.14599 of 2020

13

within a period of three months from the date on which he will take charge of the investigation again, as ordered on 29.07.2025. Therefore, this petition is found to be meritless and is liable to be dismissed.

9. In the result, IA.No.1 of 2025 stands dismissed with direction to the Chief Secretary/Home Secretary/competent empowered officer, State of Kerala to issue order permitting investigation to be continued by Sri.S.Sasidharan IPS in this case within a period of seven days from today and the learned Special Government Pleader is directed to send a copy of this order to them today itself by e-mail for the compliance.

10. On issuance of the order, Sri.S.Sasidharan IPS is directed to complete the investigation and file final report/reports within three months from the date of getting charge of investigation.

I.A.No.1 of 2025 in  
W.P. (C) .No.14599 of 2020

14

Post on 22.09.2025 awaiting order entrusting investigation to Sri.S.Sasidharan IPS already ordered without fail.

**Sd/-  
A. BADHARUDEEN,  
JUDGE**

nkr

