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HC asks Vigilance Director to file FIR against VM Radhakrishnan, others in Malabar Cements case



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The Kerala High Court has directed the state Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB) to file an FIR against industrialist V M Radhakrishnan and others in the Malabar Cements Limited (MCL) corruption case.

Directing the VACB to file an FIR, the Court said: “All are equals before the law, and nobody should be treated as more equal.”

The court castigated the director for not filing a case against the industrialist. Several UDF and LDF leaders, including CPI (M) central committee member Elamaram Kareem had faced allegations in the case earlier.

The Vigilance Department had conducted quick verification against various officials in the company based on a complaint of alleged corruption filed by Joy Kaitharath.

Due to inaction in registering FIR, the petitioner had approached the high court and the government had told the Court that an FIR had been registered against the accused, following which the petition was closed earlier. But it was later found that an FIR was not registered and the petitioner again approached the high court.

“This is a case where in the Director and the Additional Chief Secretary are stooping before the accused. It is not clear whether it is as per the directives of the government, or not. That cannot be expected from the government as well as the Director. The Director washes his hands by addressing the Additional Chief Secretary. This is not the way the matter ought to have been treated by the Director,” Justice Kemal Pasha had said (<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/kochi/Malabar-Cements-graft-HC-ultimatum-to-file-FIR/2016/07/09/article3520489.ece>) coming down on VACB.

Malabar Cements has been in the news for several years for alleged corruption. The suspicious death of Palakkad-based V Saseendran, the whistle blower in a Rs 350cr corruption scam in MCL, had triggered a huge controversy in 2011.

Before the mystery of his death was solved, another employee of MCL and a key witness in Saseendran murder, P Satheendra Kumar also suspiciously killed in an accident. Though police have claimed that it was an accident his wife and activists have protested and alleged that Sathendra Kumar's death was a murder