

WP(MD). No.23417 of 2026

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

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Dated : 19/08/2026

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THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE B.PUGALENDHI

WP(MD). No.23417 of 2026

A.Velanganni Joseph

... Petitioner

Vs

1. The Principal Secretary to Government,
Higher Education Department,
Chennai - 600009.

2. The Convener,
Syndicate Committee,
Madurai Kamaraj University,
Palkalai Nagar, Madurai - 625021.

3. Dr.S.Muhaiah,
The Registrar, (I/c),
Madurai Kamaraj University,
Palkalai Nagar,
Madurai – 625021.

... Respondents

[3rd respondent amended vide order dated 19.08.2026
in WMP(MD)No.17701 of 2026]

PRAYER :-

Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India,
praying this Court to issue a Writ of Quo Warranto, directing the 3rd
respondent, namely, Dr.S.Muhaiah, to show cause, under what authority

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he continues to hold the post of Registrar (i/c) in 2nd respondent Madurai Kamaraj University and pass such further or other orders.

[Prayer amended vide order dated 19.08.2026

in WMP(MD)No.17702 of 2026]

For Petitioner : Mr.V.R.Kamalanathan
for Mr.P. Baburaj
For Respondent : Mr.J.Barathan
Additional Advocate General
assisted by Mr.C.Jeganathan
Special Government Pleader for R1

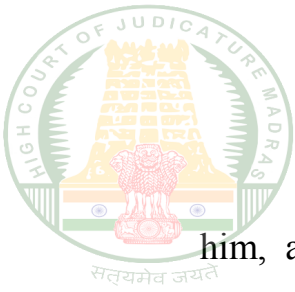
Mr.Isaac Mohan Lal
Senior Counsel
for Mr.R.Ragatheeshkumar for R3

ORDER

The petitioner has filed this petition in the nature of Writ of Quo Warranto against the third respondent, namely, Dr.S.Muthaiah, Registrar (i/c) of Madurai Kamaraj University, contending that he does not possess the required qualification.

2.The learned Senior Counsel appearing for the third respondent University states that the third respondent is acting only as a Registrar In-charge on a temporary basis and that he possesses all the required qualifications and was appointed by a competent authority. According to

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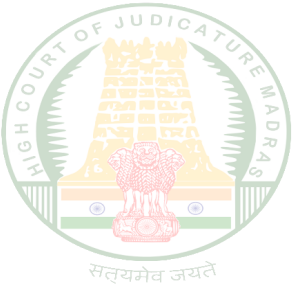


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him, a notification has been issued for the appointment of a regular Registrar on 02.06.2026. The last date for submitting applications was also fixed as 08.07.2026. Applications have been received, and the process of appointing a regular Registrar is underway.

3. During the course of arguments, the learned counsel on either side submitted that, in the State of Tamil Nadu, there are no Vice-Chancellors in almost 14 Universities and that most of the Universities are now administered by the Registrars In-charge, with all the decisions being taken by the Convenor Committee.

4. Though this Court is not inclined to entertain this writ petition, considering the submissions made across the Bar that there have been no Vice-Chancellors in almost 14 Universities for several years, this Court expects a report on this from the first respondent/Secretary to Government. This Court also directs the learned Additional Advocate General to get instructions from the first respondent regarding the reasons for not filling up the posts of Vice-Chancellors and the steps taken by the present administration to fill up the posts.



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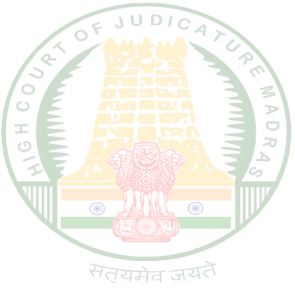
19.08.2026

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Note: Issue order on 20.08.2026

To

The Principal Secretary to Government,
Higher Education Department,
Chennai – 600009.



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B.PUGALENDHI, J.

sjj

ORDER
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Date : 19/08/2026