



Press Release

16.02.2023

Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has arrested M Sivasankar, former Principal Secretary to the Kerala Chief Minister under PMLA, 2002, in connection with the Livelihood Inclusion Financial Empowerment (LIFE) Mission Scam.

A money laundering case has been recorded by ED on the basis of FIR registered by CBI, ACB, Kochi and Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB), Thiruvananthapuram against M/s Unitac Builders and Developers Private Limited and M/s Sane Ventures LLP and others under Prevention of Corruption Act for suspected pecuniary advantage obtained by some persons from the Life Mission Project and illegal gratifications received by various persons including some public servants.

When a UAE based charitable organization named Red Crescent approached the UAE Consulate General, Trivandrum offering to donate a fund of 10 Million Dirhams in Kerala for Charity Purpose, the officials of UAE Consulate General, Thiruvananthapuram approached the Kerala Government through Sivasankar, the former principal secretary to the then Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan with regard to the funds offered by Red Crescent and after multiple discussions, it was decided to build flats under LIFE Mission Project with these funds. The Life Mission team and the representatives of Red Crescent signed the MoU on 11.07.2019 in the presence of the then Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sivasankar, UAE Consul General and other department Secretaries.

A conspiracy was hatched by a Consulate employee Swapna Suresh with connivance of Sandeep and Sarith and active support of Sivasankar to generate commission as bribe from the funds donated by Red Crescent by awarding the LIFE Mission project to M/s Unitac Builders and Developers private limited and M/s Sane Ventures LLP run by Santhosh Eappen.

ED has summoned Sivasankar and confronted him with the material evidences for which he was evasive in his answers and non co-operative in his approach due to which ED has arrested him on 14.02.2023. After Arrest, Sivasankar has been produced before the Hon'ble Special Court for PMLA cases, Ernakulam and the Hon'ble Court has granted the ED custody of the accused till 20.02.2023.

Further investigation is under progress.