

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE K.HARILAL

THURSDAY, THE 18TH DAY OF JUNE 2015/28TH JYAISHTA, 1937

Cr1.Rev.Pet.No. 631 of 2004 ()

CRL.A 183/2003 of ADDITIONAL SESSIONS JUDGE (ADHOC-I),
ERNAKULAM DATED 09-12-2003

CC 491/1997 of J.M.F.C., KOLENCHERY DATED 22-02-2003

REVISION PETITIONER(S)/APPELLANT/ACCUSED.:

LEELA DAMODARAN, W/O.K.P.DAMODARAN,
AGED 48 YEARS, PUTHENPURAYIL VEEDU
KARIMUGAL PUTHENCROUZ P.O. ERNAKULAM.

BY ADVS.SRI.PRAKASH P.GEORGE
SRI.A.RAJAGOPALAN
SRI.K.V.VIJAYAKUMAR

RESPONDENT(S)/COMPLAINANT AND STATE.:

1. M.R.HARIDASAN, MEDACKAL HOUSE,
AMBALAMEDU P.O. ERNAKULAM.

2. STATE OF KERALA, REP. BY THE
PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, HIGH COURT OF KERALA, ERNAKULAM.

R2 BY PUBLIC PROSECUTOR SRI.JIBU.P.THOMAS.

THIS CRIMINAL REVISION PETITION HAVING BEEN FINALLY
HEARD ON 18-06-2015, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY PASSED THE
FOLLOWING:

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K.HARILAL, J.

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Crl.R.P.No.631 of 2004

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Dated this the 18th day of June, 2015

ORDER

This Revision Petition is filed challenging the concurrent findings of conviction entered and the sentence imposed on the Revision Petitioner for the offence punishable under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 (for short, 'the N.I. Act') in Criminal Appeal No.183/2003 on the files of the Additional Sessions Judge (Adhoc-I), Ernakulam. The above appeal was filed challenging the judgment finding that the Revision Petitioner is guilty of the said offence, passed in C.C.No.491/1997 on the files of the Judicial First Class Magistrate's Court, Kolenchery. According to the impugned judgment, the Revision Petitioner is sentenced to undergo simple imprisonment for one day till rising of the court and to pay compensation of ₹45,000/- to the complainant under

Section 357(3) Cr.P.C and in default, to undergo simple imprisonment for two months.

2. The Revision Petitioner reiterated the contentions which were raised before the courts below and got rejected concurrently. The learned counsel urged for a re-appreciation of evidence once again, which is not permissible under the revisional jurisdiction unless any kind of perversity is found in the appreciation of evidence. The Revision Petitioner failed to point out any kind of perversity in the appreciation of evidence or illegality or impropriety in the findings whereby the trial court convicted him.

3. The courts below had concurrently found that the complainant/1st respondent had successfully discharged initial burden of proving execution and issuance of the cheque; whereas the Revision Petitioner had failed to rebut the presumption under Section 118(a) and 139 of the N.I. Act which stood in favour of the 1st respondent. So also, it is found that the debt due to the 1st respondent was a legally

enforceable debt and Ext.P1cheque was duly executed and issued in discharge of the said debt.

4. This Court is satisfied that the courts below had meticulously evaluated the evidence on record. I do not find any kind of illegality or impropriety in the said findings or perversity in appreciation of evidence, from which the above findings had been arrived. Therefore, I am not inclined to re-appreciate entire evidence once again and I confirm the concurrent findings of conviction.

5. The Revision Petitioner submits that the sentence imposed on the Revision Petitioner is disproportionate with the gravity and nature of the offence contemplated under Section 138 of the N.I. Act.

6. The Supreme Court, in the decision in **Kaushalya Devi Massand v. Roopkishore** (AIR 2011 SC 2566), held that the offence under Section 138 of the N.I. Act is almost in the nature of civil wrong which has been given criminal overtone, and imposition of fine payable as compensation is

sufficient to meet the ends of justice. Further, in **Vijayan vs. Baby** (2011(4) KLT 355), Supreme Court held that the direction to pay the compensation by way of restitution in regard to the loss on account of the dishonour of the cheque should be practical and realistic. So, in a prosecution under Section 138 of the N.I. Act, the compensatory aspect of remedy should be given much priority over punitive aspect.

7. Having regard to the nature and gravity of the offence, in the light of the decisions quoted above and submission made at the Bar, I am inclined to grant three months time to pay the compensation. Consequently, this Revision Petition will stand disposed of subject to the following terms.

i. The Revision Petitioner shall undergo simple imprisonment for one day till rising of the court.

ii. The Revision Petitioner shall pay a compensation of Rs.45,000/- (Rupees Forty five thousand only) to the 1st respondent/complainant within a period of 'three' months

from today.

iii. The Revision Petitioner shall appear before the Trial Court to suffer substantive sentence of simple imprisonment as ordered above on or before 18th September, 2015 with sufficient proof to show payment of compensation .

iv. In default, the Revision Petitioner shall undergo simple imprisonment for a period of two months.

The Criminal Revision Petition is disposed of accordingly.

Sd/-
K.HARILAL, JUDGE.

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P.A to Judge