

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE K.HARILAL

MONDAY, THE 1ST DAY OF JUNE 2015/11TH JYASHTA, 1937

Crl.Rev.Pet.No. 555 of 2015 (D1)

**CRL.A 242/2014 of ADDL. DISTRICT & SESSIONS COURT - V, KOLLAM
ST 16/2013 of J.F.C.M.COURT- II, KARUNAGAPPALLY**

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REVISION PETITIONER(S)/APPELLANT/ACCUSED:

**ANILKUMAR, AGED 36 YEARS,
S/O.PODIYAN, PERAKKATHARAYIL KOIPPALLIBHAGOM MURI,
VALLIKUNNAM VILLAGE, MAVELIKARA.**

BY ADV. SRI.PRASAD CHANDRAN

RESPONDENT(S)/COMPLAINANT/STATE:

- 1. SOMARAJAN, AGED 50 YEARS,
S/O.PARAMESWARAN, ACHARY PANACHOOR VEEDU,
VAYANKOM MURI, OACHIRA VILLAGE, KARUNAGAPPALLY.**
- 2. STATE OF KERALA,
REPRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR,
HIGH COURT OF KERALA, ERNAKULAM.**

R2 BY PUBLIC PROSECUTOR SRI.JIBU P.THOMAS

**THIS CRIMINAL REVISION PETITION HAVING COME UP FOR ADMISSION ON
01-06-2015, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY PASSED THE FOLLOWING:**

OKB

K.HARILAL, J.

Cr1.R.P. No.555 of 2015

Dated this the 1st day of June, 2015.

O R D E R

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.242/2014 on the files of the court of the V Additional District & Sessions Judge, Kollam. The above appeal was filed challenging the judgment finding that the revision petitioner is guilty of the said offence, passed in S.T.No.16/2013 on the files of the Judicial First Class Magistrate's Court-II, Karunagappally. According to the impugned judgment, the revision petitioner was sentenced to undergo simple imprisonment for one day till rising of the court and to pay a fine of Rs.3,80,000/-to the complainant and the fine amount,

if realised, was ordered to be given to the complainant as compensation under Section 357 of the Cr.P.C. and in default, to undergo simple imprisonment for six months.

2.The learned counsel for 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 the 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.P2 cheque 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 at. Therefore, I am not inclined to re-appreciate entire evidence once again and I confirm the concurrent findings of conviction.

5.At last, the learned counsel for 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. The learned counsel

further sought for some time to pay the compensation as he is unable to raise the said amount forthwith due to paucity of funds.

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 v. 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 of the opinion that the direction to pay fine can be converted to compensation payable directly to the complainant and I do so. The revision petitioner is given six months time to pay the compensation. Consequently, this revision petition will stand disposed of subject to the following terms in modification of the judgment passed in appeal:

- i. The revision petitioner shall undergo simple imprisonment for one day till rising of the court.
- ii. He shall pay a compensation of Rs.3,80,000/- (Rupees Three lakhs and eighty thousand only) to the 1st respondent/complainant, under Section 357(3) of the Cr.P.C., within a period of six months from today.
- iii. He shall appear before the Trial Court to suffer the substantive sentence of simple imprisonment as ordered above on or before 2/12/2015 with sufficient proof to show payment of compensation.
- iv. In default, he shall undergo simple imprisonment for a period of four months.

The Criminal revision petition is disposed of accordingly.

Sd/-
K. HARILAL, JUDGE

okb.