

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE K.HARILAL

MONDAY, THE 8TH DAY OF JUNE 2015/18TH JYAISHTA, 1937

Cr1.Rev.Pet.No. 694 of 2015

AGAINST THE JUDGMENT IN Cr1.A 425/2013 of ADDL.DISTRICT &
SESSIONS COURT - V, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM DATED 11-12-2014

AGAINST THE JUDGMENT IN CC 709/2008 of JUDICIAL FIRST CLASS
MAGISTRATE COURT -I, ATTINGAL DATED 30-09-2013

REVISION PETITIONER(S)/APPELLANT/ACCUSED :

NARAYANAN KUTTY V.M, AGED 60 YEARS
S/O.C.K. KESAVAN NAIR, PROPRIETOR
ORIENTAL OFFSET PRINTERS, CHIRAKULAM ROAD, STATUE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.

BY ADV. SRI.M.RAMASWAMY PILLAI

RESPONDENT(S)/STATE AND COMPLAINANT:

1. STATE OF KERALA
REPRESENTED BY ITS PUBLIC PROSECUTOR
HIGH COURT OF KERALA, ERNAKULAM-682 031.

2. M. KAMALA DEVI,
W/O. SUKUMARAN NAIR, JANAKI VILLA, PALACE ROAD
ATTINGAL - 693 001.

R1 BY PUBLIC PROSECUTOR SRI.JIBU.P.THOMAS.

THIS CRIMINAL REVISION PETITION HAVING BEEN FINALLY
HEARD ON 08-06-2015, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY PASSED THE
FOLLOWING:

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K.HARILAL, J.

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Crl.R.P.No.694 of 2015

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Dated this the 8th 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.425/2013 on the files of the Additional District & Sessions Judge-V, Thiruvananthapuram. The above appeal was filed challenging the judgment finding that the Revision Petitioner is guilty of the said offence, passed in C.C.No.709/2008 on the files of the Judicial First Class Magistrate's Court-I, Attingal. 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 fine of ₹1,00,000/-. In default, to undergo simple

imprisonment for three months. If the fine amount is realised, the same shall be given to the complainant as compensation under Section 357(1)(b) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

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/2nd 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 2nd respondent. So also, it is found that the debt due to the 2nd respondent was a legally enforceable debt and Ext.P1 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. 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 sometime to pay the fine 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 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, expressing willingness to pay the fine, I am inclined to grant 'five' months time to pay the fine. Consequently, this Revision Petition will stand

sentenced as follows.

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

ii. The Revision Petitioner shall pay ₹1,00,000/- (Rupees One lakh only) to the 2nd respondent/complainant as compensation under Section 357(1)(b) of the Code of Criminal Procedure within a period of five 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 9th November, 2015 with sufficient proof to show payment of compensation .

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

The Criminal Revision Petition is disposed of accordingly.

K.HARILAL, JUDGE.

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P.Ato Judge