

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE K.HARILAL

TUESDAY, THE 23RD DAY OF JUNE 2015/2ND ASHADHA, 1937

Crl.Rev.Pet.No. 741 of 2015

AGAINST THE JUDGMENT IN CRL.A.NO. 304/2013 of III
ADDITIONAL SESSIONS COURT, KOZHIKODE, DATED 21-10-2014.

AGAINST THE JUDGMENT IN ST 1110/2010 of J.M.F.C-I,
PERAMBRA DATED 31-05-2013.

REVISION PETITIONER(S)/APPELLANT/ACCUSED:

MATHEW JOSEPH @ MATHAI, AGED 51 YEARS,
S/O.JOSEPH, AMMUMMANIL HOUSE, CHEMBANODA PO.,
PILLAPERUMANNA DESOM, KOYILANDY TALUK, KOZHIKODE.

BY ADVS.SRI.SANTHARAM.P
SMT.REKHA ARAVIND

RESPONDENT(S)/RESPONDENTS/COMPLAINANT & STATE:

1. SUBAIR, AGED 34 YEARS,
S/O.IBRAHIM HAJI, PILACHERY HOUSE, MUTHUVANACHA PO
KUTTIADI VIA KOZHIKODE.

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

R2 BY PUBLIC PROSECUTOR SRI. JUSTINE JACOB

THIS CRIMINAL REVISION PETITION HAVING COME UP
FOR ADMISSION ON 23-06-2015, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY
PASSED THE FOLLOWING:

K. HARILAL, J.

Crl.R.P. No.741 of 2015

Dated this the 23rd 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.304 of 2013 on the files of the III Additional Sessions Judge, Kozhikode Division. The above appeal was filed challenging the judgment finding that the Revision Petitioner is guilty of the said offence, passed in S.T.No.1110 of 2010 on the files of the Judicial First Class Magistrate's Court-I, Perambra. According to the impugned judgment, the Revision Petitioner is sentenced to undergo simple

imprisonment till the rising of the court and to pay a fine of ₹8 lakhs. In default of payment of fine, the accused is sentenced to undergo simple imprisonment for a period of three months. If the fine amount is realised, it will be given to the complainant as compensation under Sec.357(1) of the Cr.P.C.

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 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.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 Sec.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, if this revision petition is found liable to be dismissed.

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 compensation, I am inclined to grant six 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 fine of ₹8,00,000/- (Rupees Eight lakhs only) within a period of six months from today to the 1st respondent as compensation under Sec.357(1) of the Cr.P.C.

iii. The Revision Petitioner shall appear before the Trial Court to suffer substantive sentence of simple imprisonment as ordered above on or before 23/12/2015 with

sufficient proof to show payment of compensation.

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

v. Warrant, if any pending in execution of the sentence imposed on the revision petitioner/accused under the impugned judgment, shall be kept in abeyance for a period of six months from today.

The Criminal Revision Petition is disposed of accordingly.

Sd/-
(K. HARILAL, JUDGE)

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P.S. to Judge

