

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE K.HARILAL

THURSDAY, THE 30TH DAY OF JULY 2015/8TH SRAVANA, 1937

Crl.Rev.Pet.No. 951 of 2015

AGAINST THE JUDGMENT IN CRL.A.NO. 766/2010 of SESSIONS
COURT, THRISSUR DATED 27-11-2012

AGAINST THE JUDGMENT IN CC 1582/2008 of J.M.F.C.,
KUNNAMKULAM DATED 18-09-2010

REVISION PETITIONER(S)/APPELLANT/ACCUSED:

AMMANATH SHAJI MUHAMMED, AGED 47 YEARS,
S/O. SAYITHUMUHAMMOD, KAIKKULANGARA HOUSE,
KUMARANELLUR DESOM, KUMARANELLUR VILLAGE,
THALAPPILLY TALUK, THRISSUR DISTRICT.

BY ADV. SRI.T.RAJASEKHARAN NAIR

RESPONDENT(S)/RESPONDENT/COMPLAINANT:

1. K.V.ABDUL RASSACK, AGED 58,
S/O. MOIDUNNUY MUSALIYAR, RISHAN MANZIL,
KALLAI VALAPPIL HOUSE, GANDHI NAGAR, KUNNAMKULAM,
THRISSUR DISTRICT - 680001.

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

R1 BY ADV. SRI.R.BINDU (SASTHAMANGALAM)
BY ADV. SRI.PRASANTH M.P

R2 BY PUBLIC PROSECUTOR SRI.JIBU P. THOMAS

THIS CRIMINAL REVISION PETITION HAVING BEEN
FINALLY HEARD ON 30-07-2015, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY
PASSED THE FOLLOWING:

K. HARILAL, J.

Crl.R.P. No. 951 of 2015

Dated this the 30th day of July, 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.766 of 2010 on the files of the Sessions Judge, Thrissur. The above appeal was filed challenging the judgment finding that the Revision Petitioner is guilty of the said offence, passed in C.C.No.1582 of 2008 on the files of the Judicial First Class Magistrate's Court, Kunnamkulam. According to the impugned judgment, the Revision Petitioner is sentenced to undergo simple imprisonment till rising of

the court and to pay a compensation of ₹5 lakhs to the complainant and in default to undergo simple imprisonment for three 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 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, seeking time to pay the compensation, I am inclined to grant five 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 ₹5,00,000/- (Rupees Five lakhs only) to the 1st respondent/complainant as compensation under Sec.357(3) of the Cr.P.C. 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 29/12/2015 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. If he had deposited any amount in the trial court towards compensation or fine, the same shall be given credit to and the balance alone needs to be paid as compensation or fine, as the case may be, and in that event, the complainant is allowed to realise such deposit from the court.

The Criminal Revision Petition is disposed of accordingly.

Sd/-
(K. HARILAL, JUDGE)

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P.S. to Judge