

THE HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE T.SUNIL CHOWDARY

Crl.P.M.P.Nos.4794, 4795 & 4796 of 2017

AND

CRIMINAL PETITION No.4867 of 2017

COMMON ORDER:

1 This Criminal Petition is filed under Section 482 of Cr.PC to quash the proceedings against the petitioners/Accused Nos.1 to 8 in S.T.C.No.62 of 2015 on the file of the Juvenile Justice Board-cum-II Additional Judicial First Class Magistrate, Eluru, West Godavari District registered for the offences punishable under Sections 143, 509, 506, 342 IPC under Section 366 r/w 511 of IPC r/w 149 IPC.

2 Crl.P.M.P.Nos.4794 is filed to permit the second respondent to compound the offences. Crl.P.M.P.Nos.4795 is filed to permit the first petitioner, being the General Power of Attorney holder of Petitioner Nos.2 to 8, to prosecute the above Criminal Petition on their behalf and Crl.P.M.P.Nos.4796 is filed to permit the second respondent to compromise the matter with the petitioners.

3 The first petitioner on his behalf and on behalf of the petitioner Nos.2 to 8 in the capacity of General Power of Attorney Holder of the petitioner Nos.2 to 8 is present. The General Power of Attorney Holder of the second respondent, who is none other than the father of the second respondent is present. Sri Cheruku Ravidner Rao learned counsel identified the first petitioner. Sri Ch.Dhanamjaya, learned counsel identified the second respondent.

4 The General Power of Attorney Holder of the second respondent i.e. her father submitted in the open court that he voluntarily entered into compromise with the petitioners at the

advice of elders. He further submitted that nobody compelled or forced him to enter into compromise with the petitioners. He further submitted that the marriage of his daughter is fixed on 28.07.2017. The General Power of Attorney as well as the wedding card are filed. The offences under Sections 509 and 342 are compoundable whereas the offence under sections 143, 506, 366 and 149 of IPC are non-compoundable.

5 In **Shiji alias Pappu v Radhika**¹, the Supreme Court held as under:

“It is manifest that simply because an offence is not compoundable under Section 320 CrPC is by itself no reason for the High Court to refuse exercise of its power under Section 482 CrPC. That power can in our opinion be exercised in cases where there is no chance of recording a conviction against the accused and the entire exercise of a trial is destined to be an exercise in futility. There is a subtle distinction between compounding of offences by the parties before the trial court or in appeal on the one hand and the exercise of power by the High Court to quash the prosecution under Section 482 CrPC on the other. While a court trying an accused or hearing an appeal against conviction, may not be competent to permit compounding of an offence based on a settlement arrived at between the parties in cases where the offences are not compoundable under Section 320, the High Court may quash the prosecution even in cases where the offences with which the accused stand charged are non-compoundable. The inherent powers of the High Court under Section 482 CrPC are not for that purpose controlled by Section 320 CrPC.”

6 In **Gian Singh v State of Punjab**², the apex Court observed as under:

“..... In this category of cases, High Court may quash criminal proceedings if in its view, because of the compromise between the offender and victim, the possibility of conviction is remote and bleak and continuation of criminal case would put accused to great oppression and prejudice and extreme injustice would be caused to him by not quashing the criminal

¹ (2011) 10 SCC 705

² (2012) 10 SCC 303

case despite full and complete settlement and compromise with the victim. In other words, the High Court must consider whether it would be unfair or contrary to the interest of justice to continue with the criminal proceeding or continuation of the criminal proceeding would tantamount to abuse of process of law despite settlement and compromise between the victim and wrongdoer and whether to secure the ends of justice, it is appropriate that criminal case is put to an end and if the answer to the above question(s) is in affirmative, the High Court shall be well within its jurisdiction to quash the criminal proceeding.”

7 Taking into consideration the factum of settlement arrived at between the parties, this court is of the view that even if the proceedings are allowed to continue, the first respondent may not support the case of the prosecution. No purpose will be served in keeping the matter pending in view of the settlement arrived at between the parties.

8 Having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case and also the principle enunciated in the cases cited supra, I am of the considered view that it is a fit case to quash the proceedings.

9 In the result, CrI.P.M.P.Nos.4794, 4795 and 4796 of 2017 are ordered. Consequently, the criminal petition is allowed, quashing the proceedings against the petitioners/Accused Nos.1 to 8 in S.T.C.No.62 of 2015 on the file of the Juvenile Justice Board-cum-II Additional Judicial First Class Magistrate, Eluru, West Godavari District Miscellaneous petitions, if any pending in the criminal petition, shall stand closed.

T.SUNIL CHOWDARY, J.

5th July, 2017.

Kvsn