



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 27.11.2019

CORAM:

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THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE **G.K.ILANTHIRAIYAN**

CrI.O.P.(MD)No.22045 of 2018

and

CRL.M.P(MD).No.10245 of 2018

Palammal

... Petitioner/Sole Accused

Vs.

1.The State Represented by its
Inspector of police,
Marthandam Police Station,
Kanniyakumari District.
(Crime No.494 of 2018)

...1st Respondent/Complainant

2.Sundaralingam
The Sub Inspector of Police,
Marthandam Police Station,
Kanniyakumari District.

..2ndRespondent/Defacto Complainant

PRAYER: Criminal Original Petition is filed under Section 482 of Cr.P.C., to call for the records in Crime No.494 of 2018 on the file of the respondent police and quash the same.

For Petitioner : Mr.T.A.Ebenezer

For R1 : Mr.K.Suyambulinga Bharathi
Government Advocate (CrI.Side)

ORDER

This petition has been filed to quash the F.I.R. in Crime No.494 of 2018 on the file of the first respondent police.

2.The learned Counsel appearing for the petitioner would submit that the petition is an innocent person and she has not committed any offence as alleged by the prosecution. Without any base, the first respondent police registered a case in Crime No.494 of 2018 for the offence under Section 6 of Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Smoking & Spitting Act, 2003, and Section 24 (1) of the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of



Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003, as against the petitioner. Hence he prayed to quash the same.

3.The learned Government Advocate(Crl.Side) would submit that the investigation is almost completed and the respondent police have only to file final report.

4. Heard the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner and the learned Government Advocate (Crl.Side) appearing for the respondent.

5.Considering the fact that the investigation is almost over, this Court cannot quash the First Information Report at this stage. It is also relevant to rely upon the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India passed in **Crl.A.No.255 of 2019** dated **12.02.2019 - Sau. Kamal Shivaji Pokarnekar vs. the State of Maharashtra & ors.**, as follows:-

"4. The only point that arises for our consideration in this case is whether the High Court was right in setting aside the order by which process was issued. It is settled law that the Magistrate, at the stage of taking cognizance and summoning, is required to apply his judicial mind only with a view to taking cognizance of the offence, or in other words, to find out whether a prima facie case has been made out for summoning the accused persons. The learned Magistrate is not required to evaluate the merits of the material or evidence in support of the complaint, because the Magistrate must not undertake the exercise to find out whether the materials would lead to a conviction or not.

5. Quashing the criminal proceedings is called for only in a case where the complaint does not disclose any offence, or is frivolous, vexatious, or oppressive. If the allegations set out in the complaint do not constitute the offence of which cognizance has been taken by the Magistrate, it is open to the High Court to quash the same. It is not necessary that a meticulous analysis of the case should be done before the Trial to find out whether the case would end in conviction or acquittal. If it appears on a reading of the complaint and consideration of the allegations therein, in the light of the statement made on oath that the ingredients of the offence are disclosed, there would be no justification for the High

<https://hcservices.ecourts.gov.in/hcservices/> Court to interfere.



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9. Having heard the learned Senior Counsel and examined the material on record, we are of the considered view that the High Court ought not to have set aside the order passed by the Trial Court issuing summons to the Respondents. A perusal of the complaint discloses that prima facie, offences that are alleged against the Respondents. The correctness or otherwise of the said allegations has to be decided only in the Trial. At the initial stage of issuance of process it is not open to the Courts to stifle the proceedings by entering into the merits of the contentions made on behalf of the accused. Criminal complaints cannot be quashed only on the ground that the allegations made therein appear to be of a civil nature. If the ingredients of the offence alleged against the accused are prima facie made out in the complaint, the criminal proceeding shall not be interdicted."

6.It is seen from the First Information Report that there is a specific allegation as against the petitioner, which has to be investigated. Further the FIR is not an encyclopedia and it need not contain all facts. Further, it cannot be quashed in the threshold. This Court finds that the FIR discloses prima facie commission of cognizable offence and as such this Court cannot interfere with the investigation. The investigating machinery has to step in to investigate, grab and unearth the crime in accordance with the procedures prescribed in the Code.

7.This Criminal Original Petition is dismissed. However, the first respondent police is directed to complete the investigation and file the final report within a period of four weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order. Consequently, connected miscellaneous petition is close.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar

// True Copy //

Sub Assistant Registrar(CS)

dss



To

1.The Judicial Magistrate No.I, Kuzhithurai.

2.The Inspector of police,
Marthandam Police Station,
Kanniyakumari District.

3.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.

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and
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JMN(16.12.2019) 4P : 4C