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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 12.03.2020

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE G.K.ILANTHIRAIYAN

Cr1.O.P.No.5680 of 2020

B.Santhamani

... Petitioner

Vs.

1.The Superintendent of Police,
Junction Road,
Race Course Post,
Coimbatore - 18.

2.The Inspector of Police,
Karamadai Police Station,
Coimbatore.

... Respondents

PRAYER: Criminal Original Petition is filed under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, to direct the second respondent police to register the case on the basis of the complainant given by the petitioner, dated 06.11.2017.

For Petitioner : Mr.D.Rajagopal

For Respondent : Mr.M.Mohamed Riyaz,
Additional Public Prosecutor.

O R D E R

This Criminal Original Petition has been filed to direct the second respondent police to register a case on the complaint of the petitioner dated 06.11.2017.

2. Heard Mr.D.Rajagopal, learned counsel for the petitioner and Mr.M.Mohamed Riyaz, learned Additional Public Prosecutor for the respondent.

3 It is the case of the petitioner/complainant that she is in possession and enjoyment of the land situated Survey No.271/1 Gandhi Nagar, Karamadai Village, Kovai Main Road, Coimbatore, measuring to an extent of 8 acers and 64 cents. While so, on 17.10.2017, one Nagaraj and his two sons has trespassed into the land of the complainant and had cut down the trees. When the petitioner informed that the land belonged to her, they left the place. Again on 05.11.2017,



the said persons came to the land in question and started ploughing the land. In this regard, the petitioner had given a complaint to the second respondent police and since, no FIR was registered, the petitioner filed a private complainant on the file of the learned Judicial Magistrate, Mettupalayam under Section 156(2) Cr.P.C. The learned Judicial Magistrate, had directed the second respondent police to investigate the case and register the FIR within a period of two weeks. Despite the said direction the second respondent police is yet to receive the case. Hence this petition.

4 In view of the Judgment of the Hon'ble Division Bench of this Court in CrI.O.P.(MD)No.13681 of 2018 and batch of cases, dated 20.09.2018, the petition of this nature is not maintainable before this Court. The relevant portion of the said order is extracted herewith:-

"35. Accordingly, we answer the references in the following manner, while giving certain directions:

(i) Section 482 Cr.P.C. cannot be invoked in all circumstances.

(ii) It is not an alternative remedy to Section 156(3) Cr.P.C. but a repository of inherent power.

(iii) The normal course of remedy on a failure or refusal to record the information is Section 156(3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure after due compliance of Section 154(3) Cr.P.C.

(iv) A petition can be filed invoking the inherent jurisdiction of this Court only after the completion of 15 days from the date of receipt of the information by the Station House Officer. The Registry shall not receive any petition before the expiry of 15 days aforesaid.

(v) No petition shall be entertained without exhausting the remedy under Section 154(3) Cr.P.C.

(vi) An informant can send substance of the information to the Superintendent of Police on knowing the decision of the Station House Officer in not registering the case and proceeding with the preliminary enquiry. After conducting the preliminary enquiry, the Station House Officer's decision in either registering the compliant or closing it will have to be intimated to the informant immediately and in any case not later than 7 days. Once such a decision is made, the informant cannot invoke Section 482 Cr.P.C. as the remedy lies elsewhere.



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(vii) The directions issued by the Director General of Police in the circulars referred are to be strictly complied with by all the Station House Officers.

(viii) The affidavit to be filed shall contain particulars regarding the date of complaint, receipt and the date of sending substances of the information to the superintendent of Police under Section 154 (3) Cr.P.C. and its receipt. The Registry shall not number any petition without due compliance.

(ix) This Court is not bound to direct the police to register the complaint in all cases notwithstanding the breach of time table furnished in Lalitha Kumari's case.

(x) The judicial Magistrates, while dealing the petitions under Sections 156(3) Cr.P.C. are directed to keep in mind the narratives in Lalitha Kumari's case with specific reference to the cases, which might require a preliminary enquiry before issuing a direction to investigate and after careful perusal of the complaint. The other directions issued by the learned Single Judge in Sugesan Transport's case are upheld.

(xi) Eschewing Section 156(3) Cr.P.C. is only on exceptional and rarest of rare cases. Monstrosity of the offence, extreme official apathy and indifference, need to answer the judicial conscience, and existence of hostile environment are few of the factors to be borne in mind to bring a case under the rarest of rare one."

However, liberty is granted to the petitioner to work out his remedy in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Hon'ble Division Bench in the decision referred supra.

4. With the above direction, this Criminal Original Petition is disposed of.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(CO-MDU)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

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To

1.The Superintendent of Police,
Junction Road,
Race Course Post,
Coimbatore - 18.

2.The Inspector of Police,
Karamadai Police Station,
Coimbatore.

3. The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.

+1cc to MR.D.Rajagopal, Advocate SR.21993

Cr1.O.P.No.5680 of 2020

LN(CO)
CB(10/07/2020)