

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED:03.08.2020

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE G.K.ILANTHIRAIYAN

CRL.O.P.No.6677 of 2020
and Crl.MP.No.3678 of 2020

1. P.Devaraj, aged 57 years,
S/o.Perumal,
Residing at Door No.166,
Srinivasa Nagar North,
Thiruvanaikoil,
Tiruchirapalli - 620 005.
2. Chithirai Valli, aged 52 years,
W/o.P.Devaraj,
Residing at Door No.166,
Srinivasa Nagar North, Thiruvanaikoil,
Tiruchirapalli, - 620 005.
3. Varalakshmi, aged 30 years,
D/o.P.Devaraj,
Residing at Door No.166,
Srinivasa Nagar North,
Thiruvanaikoil, Tiruchirapalli - 620 005.
4. Ramachandiran, aged 48 years,
S/o.Krishnan, Kottarakundu Village,
Malayalapatti Village,
Veppanthattai Taluk,
Perambalur District.

... Petitioners

.Vs.

1. The Sub Inspector of Police,
Arumbavur Police Station,
Perambalur District.
2. Dharmakannu, aged 52 years,
S/o.Ponnusamy,
Malayalapatti Post,
Veppanthattai Taluk,
Perambalur District.

... Respondents

PRAYER: Criminal Original Petition filed under Section 482 of Cr.P.C. praying to call for the records on the file of the 1st respondent and quash the FIR No.216 of 2019, dated 02.11.2019, as far as the petitioners are concerned.

For Petitioner : Mr.B.Satish Babu

For Respondents

For R1 : Mr.S.Karthikeyan
Additional Public Prosecutor.

For R2 : No Appearance

O R D E R

This petition has been filed to quash the F.I.R. in Crime No.216 of 2019 registered by the first respondent police for offences under Sections 498(A), 147, 294(b), 323 of IPC, as against the petitioner.

2. The learned Counsel appearing for the petitioner would submit that the petitioner is an innocent person and he has not committed any offence as alleged by the prosecution. Without any base, the third respondent police registered a case in Crime No.216 of 2019, for the offences under Sections 498(A), 147, 294 (b), 323 of IPC and 4 of TNPWH Act, as against the petitioner. Hence he prayed to quash the same.

3. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor would submit that the investigation is almost completed and the respondent police have only to file final report.

4. Heard Mr.B.Sathish Babu, learned counsel appearing for the petitioner and Mr.S.Karthikeyan, learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the first respondent.

5. It is seen from the First Information Report that there are specific allegations as against the petitioner to attract the offences, which has to be investigated in depth. Further the FIR is not an encyclopedia and it need not contain all facts and 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.

6. It is relevant to rely upon the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India passed in CrI.A.No.255 of 2019 dated 12.02.2019 in the case of 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 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."

7. In view of the above discussion, this Court is not inclined to quash the First Information Report. Accordingly, this Criminal Original Petition stands dismissed. However, the petitioner's counsel submitted that there is a counter complaint filed by the petitioner and the same was registered in Crime No.216 of 2019. Considering the above submissions, the first respondent is directed to follow the procedures laid down under 588 A of Police Standing order and complete the investigation in Crime No.216 of 2019 and file a final report within a period of three months from the date of receipt of copy of this Order, before the jurisdiction Magistrate, if not already filed. Consequently, connected miscellaneous petition is closed.

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

To

1. The Sub Inspector of Police,
Arumbavur Police Station,
Perambalur District.

2. The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.

+1cc to M/s.T.Banumathy, Advocate, Sr.No.26029

Cr1.O.P.No.6677 of 2020

nrl (co)
rr ii (17/09/2020)