

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS
DATED : 20.07.2020
CORAM
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE G.K.ILANTHIRAIYAN
Crl. O.P. No.24718 of 2017
and
Crl. M.P. No. 14286 of 2017

1.Shoba,
W/o.Annamalai,
No.8, Anna Street,
Babu Nagar,
Pattabiram,
Chennai - 600 072.

2.Devaraj,
S/o. Saravana Bhavan,
No.6, Murugesan Street,
Sembium,
Chennai - 600 011.

3.Senthil Kumar,
Proprietor M/s.Mahalakshmi Traders,
No.10/11, B.K.Mastri Street, New Colony,
Saidapet West,
Chennai - 600 015.

4.Kolathur Babu alias Prem Babu,
S/o.Muthu,
No.5, Murugesan Nagar,
Kolathur,
Chennai - 600 099.

... Petitioners

State Rep. by
The Inspector of Police, Team XVIII,
Central Crime Branch,
Office of the Commissioner of Police,Vepery,
Chennai - 600 007.

... Respondent

PRAYER: Criminal Original Petition filed under Section 482
Cr.P.C. praying to call for the records and quash FIR No.33 of
2017 on the file of the respondent Police, as against the
petitioners.

For Petitioner : No Appearance
For Respondent : Mr. S.Karthikeyan
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

This petition has been filed to call for the records and quash FIR No.33 of 2017 on the file of the respondent Police, as against the petitioners.

2. It is seen that the respondent police registered case in Crime No.33 of 2017 for the offences under Sections 465, 466, 467, 468, 471, 420 and 120 (B) IPC, as against the petitioners.

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

4. It is seen from the First Information Report that there are specific allegations as against the petitioners 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.

5. 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.

.....
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. In view of the above discussion, this Court is not inclined to quash the First Information Report. Accordingly, this Criminal Original Petition stands dismissed. Since the case is of the year 2017, the respondent is directed to complete the investigation in Crime No.33 of 2017 and file a final report within a period of twelve weeks from the date of receipt of copy

of this Order, before the jurisdictional Magistrate, if not already filed. Consequently, connected miscellaneous petition is closed.

-s/d-
Assistant Registrar

True Copy

Sub-Assistant Registrar

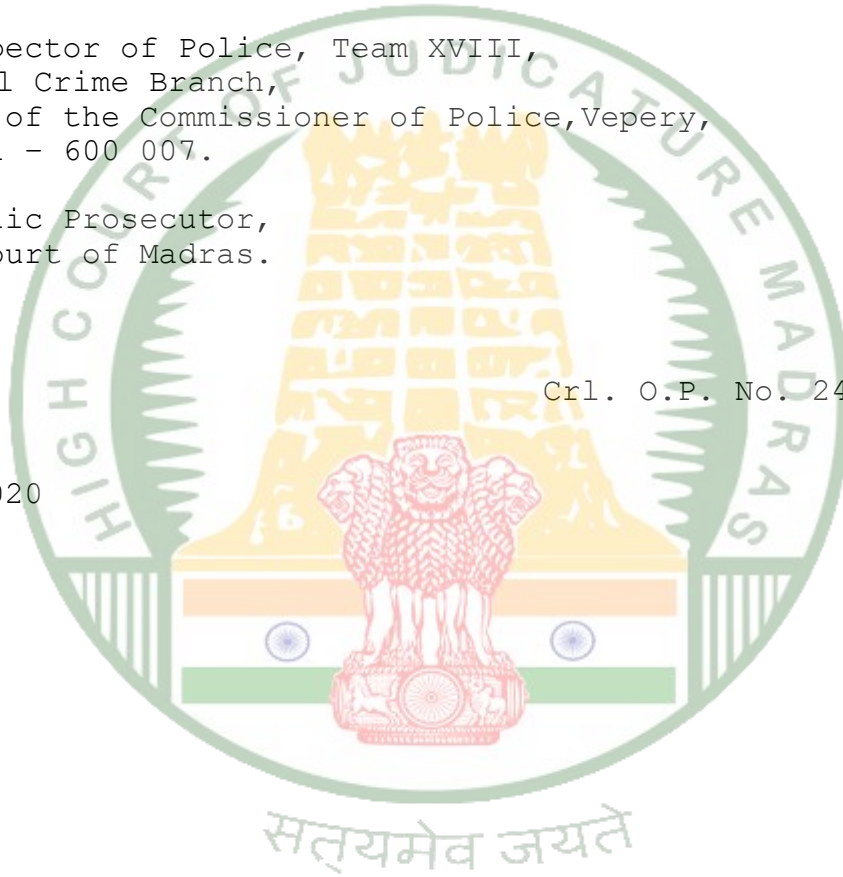
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To

- 1.The Inspector of Police, Team XVIII,
Central Crime Branch,
Office of the Commissioner of Police,Vepery,
Chennai - 600 007.
- 2.The Public Prosecutor,
High Court of Madras.

Cr1. O.P. No. 24718 of 2017

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