



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : **10.01.2020**

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MRS. JUSTICE T.KRISHNAVALLI

CrI.R.C(MD)No.4 of 2020

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Mutheeshwaran

... Petitioner/Petitioner/2nd Accused

Vs.

State Rep.by

The Inspector of Police,

Kandamanur Vilakku Police Station,

Theni District.

(Crime No.174 of 2019)

... Respondent/Respondent/Complainant

Prayer : This Criminal Revision has been filed under Section 397(1) r/w 401 of Criminal Procedure Code, to set aside the order dated 17.12.2019 passed in Cr.M.P.No.4343 of 2019 on the file of the Principal Sessions Court, Theni in Crime No.174 of 2019 on the file of the respondent police.

For Petitioner

: Mr.C.Vakeeswaran

For Respondent

: Mr.A.P.G.Ohm Chairma Prabhu

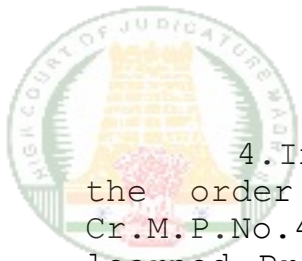
Government Advocate (CrI.side)

O R D E R

The petitioner claims to be the owner of the Tractor along with Trailer, bearing Registration No.TN-32-B-3438. According to the petitioner, the alleged vehicle was seized by the respondent on 21.08.2019 in connection with a case in Crime No.174 of 2019 for the offence under Section 379 of IPC and Section 21(4) of Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957. Seeking return of the said vehicle, the petitioner filed a petition before the learned Principal Sessions Judge, Theni, for interim custody. The learned Judge, by order dated 17.12.2019 has dismissed the same. Challenging the said order, the petitioner is before this Court with this petition.

2.Heard the learned counsel appearing on either side and perused the materials available on record.

3.The only ground upon which the lower Court has dismissed the petition is that the R.C. book of the said vehicle stands in the name of previous owner. It is well settled that during the pendency of confiscation proceedings, the vehicle needs to be returned to the person, who is entitled to have. This return will have no impact on the confiscation proceeding, as the confiscation proceeding is an independent proceeding.



4. In view of the above, this Criminal Revision is allowed and the order of the learned Principal Sessions Judge, Theni in Cr.M.P.No.4343 of 2019, dated 17.12.2019, is set aside and the learned Principal Sessions Judge, Theni, is directed to return the vehicle to the petitioner subject to the confiscation proceedings on the following conditions:-

(a) The petitioner shall produce the original Registration Certificate of the vehicle;

(b) The petitioner shall deposit a sum of Rs.20,000/- (Rupees Twenty thousand only) to the credit of Crime No.174 of 2019 on the file of the learned Principal Sessions Judge, Theni, within a period of one week from the date of receipt of a copy of this order;

(c) The petitioner shall not make any alteration of the vehicle;

(d) The petitioner shall produce the same before the Court as and when required until final order is passed in the confiscation proceedings.

5. The Authority under the Tamil Nadu Prohibition Act may proceed with the confiscation proceedings and the petitioner shall obey any order that may be passed in the said proceeding by the authority.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar

// True Copy //

/ /2020

Sub Assistant Registrar(CS)

vsd

To

1. The Principal Sessions Court,
Theni.

2. The Inspector of Police,
Kandamanur Vilakku Police Station,
Theni District.



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

+1 CC to Mr.C.VAKEESWARAN, Advocate (SR-1430[F] dated 10/01/2020)

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