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BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 28.10.2020

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE G.K.ILANTHIRAIYAN

Crl.O.P.(MD)No.16556 of 2016

and

Crl.M.P.(MD)Nos.8128 and 8129 of 2016

Selvaraj ...Petitioner/1st Respondent

-Vs-

1.Rajathurai ... Respondent/Complainant

2.C.Arumugam
Special Sub Inspector of Police,
Anjugramam Police Station,
Anjugramam,
Kanyakumari District. ... 2nd Respondent/2nd Respondent

3.The Special Sub-Inspector of Police,
Anjugramam Police Station,
Anjugramam,
Kanyakumari District. ... 3rd Respondent

Prayer: Criminal Original Petition filed under Section 482 of Code of Criminal Procedure, to call for the records relating to the proceedings in C.C.No.38 of 2015 on the file of the learned Judicial Magistrate Court No.III, Nagercoil and quash the same.

For Petitioner	: Mr.R.Jeyaraj
For R1	: Mr.Vairam Santhosh
For R2	: Mr.I.Pinagash
For R3	: Mr.K.Suyambulinga Bharathi Government Advocate (Crl. side)

O R D E R

This petition has been filed to quash the proceedings in C.C.No.38 of 2015 on the file of the learned Judicial Magistrate Court No.III, Nagercoil, thereby, taken cognizance for the offence under Section 435 IPC, as against this petitioner.

2.The case of the prosecution is that on 22.12.2011, at about 02.30 p.m, due to the previous enmity regarding to the land dispute between the petitioner and the defacto complainant, the



petitioner set out fire on his hut and also threatened him with dire consequences. Hence, the defacto complainant lodged a complaint before the 3rd respondent police. The 3rd respondent police enquired the case and dropped the same as 'mistake of fact'. Hence, the defacto complainant preferred a private complaint before the learned Judicial Magistrate No.III, Nagercoil, Kanyakumari District and the same has been taken cognizance in C.C.No.38 of 2015 under the offence under Section 435 of IPC. Challenging the same, the petitioner preferred this petition.

3.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 defacto complainant lodged a private complaint before the learned Judicial Magistrate No.III, Nagercoil, Kanyakumari District. as against the petitioner and the same has been taken cognizance in C.C.No.38 of 2015.

4.The learned Government Advocate (Crl. Side) would submit that the trial has been commenced and some of the witnesses have been examined in this case.

5. Heard Mr.R.Jeyaraj, learned counsel appearing for the petitioner, Mr.Vairam Santhosh, learned counsel appearing for the 1st respondent, Mr.I.Pinagash, learned counsel appearing for the 2nd respondent and Mr.K.Suyambulinga Bharathi, learned Government Advocate (Crl. Side) appearing for the 3rd respondent.

6. It is relevant to rely upon the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India passed in **Crl.A.No.579 of 2019** dated **02.04.2019** in the case of **Devendra Prasad Singh Vs. State of Bihar & Anr.**, as follows:-

" 12.So far as the second ground is concerned, we are of the view that the High Court while hearing the application under Section 482 of the Cr.P.C. had no jurisdiction to appreciate the statement of the witnesses and record a finding that there were inconsistencies in their statements and, therefore, there was no prima facie case made out against respondent No.2. In our view, this could be done only in the trial while deciding the issues on the merits or/and by the Appellate Court while deciding the appeal arising out of the final order passed by the Trial Court but not in Section 482 Cr.P.C. proceedings.



13. In view of the foregoing discussion, we allow the appeal, set aside the impugned order and restore the aforementioned complaint case to its original file for being proceeded with on merits in accordance with law.

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7. Recently, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dealing in respect of the very same issue in **Crl.A.No.1572 of 2019** dated 17.10.2019 in the case of **Central Bureau of Investigation Vs. Arvind Khanna**, wherein, it has been held as follows:

"19. After perusing the impugned order and on hearing the submissions made by the learned senior counsels on both sides, we are of the view that the impugned order passed by the High Court is not sustainable. In a petition filed under Section 482 of Cr.P.C., the High Court has recorded findings on several disputed facts and allowed the petition. Defence of the accused is to be tested after appreciating the evidence during trial. The very fact that the High Court, in this case, went into the most minute details, on the allegations made by the appellant-C.B.I., and the defence put-forth by the respondent, led us to a conclusion that the High Court has exceeded its power, while exercising its inherent jurisdiction under Section 482 Cr.P.C.

20. In our view, the assessment made by the High Court at this stage, when the matter has been taken cognizance by the Competent Court, is completely incorrect and uncalled for."

8. Further the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India also held in the order dated **02.12.2019** in **Crl.A.No.1817 of 2019** in the case of **M. Jayanthi Vs. K.R. Meenakshi & anr**, as follows:

"9. It is too late in the day to seek reference to any authority for the proposition that while invoking the power under Section 482 Cr.P.C for quashing a complaint or a charge, the Court should not embark upon an enquiry into the validity of the evidence available. All that the Court should see is as to whether there are allegations in the complaint which form the basis for the ingredients that constitute certain offences complained of. The Court may also be entitled to see (i) whether the preconditions requisite for taking cognizance have been complied with or not; and (ii) whether the allegations contained in the complaint, even if



accepted in entirety, would not constitute the offence alleged.

.....

13. A look at the complaint filed by the appellant would show that the appellant had incorporated the ingredients necessary for prosecuting the respondents for the offences alleged. The question whether the appellant will be able to prove the allegations in a manner known to law would arise only at a later stage....."

The above judgments are squarely applicable to this case and as such, the points raised by the petitioner cannot be considered by this Court under Section 482 Cr.P.C.

9. In view of the above discussion, this Court is not inclined to quash the proceedings in C.C.No.38 of 2015 on the file of the learned Judicial Magistrate Court No.III, Nagercoil. The petitioner is at liberty to raise all the grounds before the trial Court. Considering the age of the petitioner, the personal appearance of the petitioner is dispensed with and he shall be represented by a counsel after filing appropriate application. However, the petitioner shall be present before the Court at the time of furnishing of copies, framing charges, questioning under Section 313 Cr.P.C. and at the time of passing judgment. The trial Court is directed to complete the trial within a period of six months from the date of receipt of copy of this Order.

10. Accordingly, this criminal original petition is dismissed. Consequently, connected miscellaneous petitions are also closed.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar ()

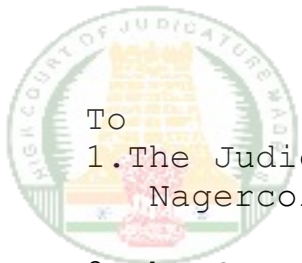
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Sub Assistant Registrar(CS)

Dss

Note : In view of the present lock down owing to COVID-19 pandemic, a web copy of the order may be utilized for official purposes, but, ensuring that the copy of the order that is presented is the correct copy, shall be the responsibility of the advocate/litigant concerned.



To

1.The Judicial Magistrate Court No.III,
Nagercoil.

2.The Special Sub-Inspector of Police,
Anjugramam Police Station,
Anjugramam,
Kanyakumari District.

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

Crl.O.P. (MD) No.16556 of 2016
and

Crl.M.P. (MD) Nos.8128 and 8129 of 2016
28.10.2020

NA (CO)

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