



WEB COPY

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 11.08.2021

CORAM:

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE P.VELMURUGAN

CRL.R.C.No.466 of 2021

M.Nithya
D/o, Munusamy

...Petitioner / Owner of the
Vehicle

Versus

The State represented by
The Inspector of Police,
C1, Uthukottai Police Station,
Uthukottai,
Thiruvallur District.

...Respondent / Complainant

PRAYER : Criminal Revision Petition filed under Section 397 and 401 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, to set aside the dismissal order passed on 29.07.2021 in CrI.M.P.No.1709 of 2021 on the file of the District Munsif cum Judicial Magistrate, Uthukottai, Thiruvallur District in Crime No.467 of 2021 on the file of the Inspector of Police, Uthukottai, Thiruvallur district and pass order to return the vehicle MAHEDRA XUV-500 car bearing register number TN 87 A 3762 to the custody of the petitioner herein.

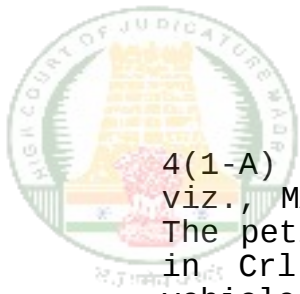
For Petitioner : Mr.V.Vivek

For Respondent : Mr. S.Sugendran
Government Advocate, (Criminal Side)

ORDER

This Criminal Revision Petition has been filed to set aside the dismissal order passed on 29.07.2021 in CrI.M.P.No.1709 of 2021 on the file of the District Munsif cum Judicial Magistrate, Uthukottai, Thiruvallur District in Crime No.467 of 2021 on the file of the Inspector of Police, Uthukottai, Thiruvallur district and pass order to return the vehicle MAHEDRA XUV-500 car bearing register number TN 87 A 3762 to the custody of the petitioner herein.

2. It is the case of the petitioner that the respondent police registered a case in Crime No.467 of 2021 against the petitioner's husband for the offence under Section 4(1) (aa) and



4(1-A) of Tamil Nadu Prohibition Act and seized the vehicle viz., MAHEDRA XUV-500 Car bearing Register number TN 87 A 3762. The petitioner filed a petition under Section 451 and 457 Cr.P.C in CrI.M.P.No.1709 of 2021 seeking interim custody of the vehicle. The learned District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Uthukotai by an order, dated 29.07.2021 dismissed the petition, against which, the present Criminal Revision Case is filed before this Court.

3. The case of the prosecution is that the petitioner's husband was illegally transported 400 numbers of 9 sea horses whisky bottles in the Car bearing Register number TN 87 A 3762 and hence, the case in Crime No.467 of 2021 was registered against him for offence under Section 4(1) (aa) and 4(1-A) of Tamil Nadu Prohibition, Act, 1937 and seized the above said vehicle.

4.The learned counsel for the petitioner would submit that the petitioner is the owner of the vehicle and the petitioner and her husband are no way connected with the alleged offence. Therefore, she seeks interim custody of the said vehicle and that the petitioner would abide by stringent conditions, if any, to be imposed on her.

5. The learned Government Advocate (CrI.Side) appearing for the respondent would submit that since the petitioner's husband was alleged to have used the said vehicle for illegal transportation of liquor bottles, and confiscation proceedings initiated and hence, the vehicle in question cannot be released at this stage.

6.This Court considered the rival submissions and perused the materials available on record.

7.On a perusal of records, it is seen that the respondent police registered the case in Crime No.467 of 2021 against the petitioner's husband for the offence under Section 4(1) (aa) and 4(1-A) of Tamil Nadu Prohibition, Act, 1937 and also seized the vehicle. Pending investigation, the petitioner filed a petition for interim custody of the vehicle, however, the same was dismissed by the Court below.

8.Considering the facts and circumstances of the case and that the vehicle is kept in the open space and exposed to heat, rain and dust and also considering the fact that the Government itself is doing business of selling alcohol through TASMAC Shops, it is very easy for the public to access the subject matter liquor, this Court directs the learned District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Uthukottai, to return the vehicle / Car bearing Register number TN 87 A 3762, to the petitioner, on the following conditions:-



(i)The petitioner shall produce the original RC Book of the vehicle and other relevant records to prove her ownership and the learned Magistrate, on perusal of the RC book and other records, retaining the Xerox copy of the same, shall return the original documents to the petitioner with a view to use the vehicle;

(ii)The petitioner shall not alter or alienate the vehicle in any manner till confiscation proceedings is over;

(iii)The petitioner is directed to deposit a sum of Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only), as non-refundable deposit through RTGS/NEFT in favour of the Joint Secretary & Treasurer, Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund, Finance (CMPRF) Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, Secretariat, Chennai 600 009, Tamil Nadu, India, e-mail: jscprf@tn.gov.in or by Electronic Clearing System (ECS) to Indian Overseas Bank, Secretariat Branch, Chennai 600 009, S.B.Account No.11720 10000 00070, IFS Code IOBA0001172, CMPRF PAN: AAAGC0038F and on such payment and production of proof, the vehicle shall be returned;

(iv)The petitioner shall also give an undertaking that she will not use the vehicle for any illegal activities in future and also to produce the vehicle as and when required by the respondent or the Court below as well as by the District Collector of the District or authorized officer in that behalf by the Government;

(v)The petitioner shall participate in the confiscation proceedings, if any initiated, and shall produce the vehicle, before the confiscation authority. This order is subjected to the confiscation proceedings.

9.With the above directions, the Criminal Revision Case is allowed by setting aside the order passed in CrI.M.P.No.1709 of 2021, dated 29.07.2021 by the learned District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Uthukottai.

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar (CS-V)

// True Copy //

Sub Assistant Registrar

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To

1.The District Munsif cum Judicial Magistrate,
Uthukottai, Thiruvallur District.



2.The Inspector of Police,
C1, Uthukottai Police Station,
Uthukottai,
Thiruvallur District.

3.The Joint Secretary & Treasurer,
Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund,
Finance (CMPRF) Department,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Secretariat, Chennai-9.

4.The Public Prosecutor,
High Court,
Madras.

CRL.R.C.No.466 of 2021

SVI(CO)
RVM(23/09/2021)