



WEB COPY

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED :20.10.2021

CORAM:

THE HON'BLE Mr. JUSTICE P.VELMURUGAN

Criminal Revision Case No.633 of 2021

Sasi Kumar

... Petitioner

Versus

State Rep.by
The Inspector of Police,
Moolanur Police Station,
Thiruppur District,
Crime No.502 of 2021.

... Respondent

Criminal Revision Case filed under Sections 397 and 401 of Criminal Procedure Code, to set aside the order passed in CrI.M.P.No.1558 of 2021 dated 04.09.2021 on the file of the Judicial Magistrate, Dharapuram and further direct the respondents to return the petitioner's vehicle 'Maruthi Alto Car' bearing Registration No.TN 37 BB 2587 seized in Crime No.502 of 2021 on the file of the respondent police.

For Petitioner : Mr.C.Durairaj
for Mr.S.Silambu Selvan

For Respondents : Mr.S.Sugendran
Government Advocate (CrI.Side)

O R D E R

This Criminal Revision Case has been filed against the order dated 04.09.2021 passed in C.M.P.No.1558 of 2021 by the learned Judicial Magistrate, Dharapuram.

2.It is the case of the petitioner that the respondent police registered a case in Crime No.502 of 2021 against the petitioner for the offence under Sections 4(1) (a) of Tamil Nadu Prohibition Act and seized the four wheeler viz. Maruthi Alto Car bearing registration No.TN-37-BB-2587. The petitioner filed a petition under Section 451 and 457 Cr.P.C in C.M.P.No.1558 of 2021 seeking interim custody of the vehicle. The learned Judicial Magistrate, Dharapuram, by an order, dated 04.09.2021 dismissed the petition, against which, the present Criminal Revision Case is filed before this Court.



3.The case of the prosecution is that on 20.06.2021 when the respondent/police checking the vehicles near Kilanguntal Check Post at about 4.00 p.m they intercepted four wheeler viz., Maruthi Alto Car bearing registration No.TN-37-BB-2587 and interrogated the petitioner. On suspicion, they searched the vehicle and found 30 liquor bottles and arrested the petitioner and also seized the vehicle.

4.The learned counsel for the petitioner would submit that the petitioner is the owner of the vehicle, due to lock down restrictions, the petitioner for his own consumption had taken the said liquor bottles. However, the respondent police wrongly presumed that the petitioner has illegally transported the said liquor bottles for sale and he is no way connected with the alleged offence. Therefore, the petitioner seeks interim custody of the said vehicle and that he would abide by stringent conditions, if any, to be imposed on him.

5.The learned Government Advocate (Cr1.Side) appearing for the respondent would submit that since the petitioner was alleged to have used the said vehicle for illegal transportation of liquor bottles. He would further submit that show cause notice was issued to the petitioner and confiscation proceedings is going to be 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 the records, it is seen that the respondent police registered the case in Crime No.502 of 2021 against the petitioner for the offence under Sections 4(1)(a) of Tamil Nadu Prohibition Act and also seized the said vehicle. Pending investigation, the petitioner filed the 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 TASMAL Shops, it is very easy for the public to access the subject matter liquor, this Court directs the learned Judicial Magistrate, Dharapuram to return the vehicle bearing Registration No.TN-37-BB-2587 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 his 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.1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh 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: jscmprf@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 he 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 dated 04.09.2021 passed in CrI.M.P.No.1558 of 2021 by the learned Judicial Magistrate, Dharapuram.

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar (CS-VI)

// True Copy //

Sub Assistant Registrar

ms

To

1.The Judicial Magistrate,
Dharapuram.

2.The Inspector of Police,
Moolanur Police Station,
Thiruppur District.



3.The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.

Copy to

1.The Joint Secretary & Treasurer,
Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund,
Finance (CMPRF) Department,
Government of TamilNadu,
Secretariat, Chennai.

2.The Branch Manager,
Indian Overseas Bank,
Secretariat Branch,
Chennai-9.

3.The District Collector,
Dharapuram.

+1CC to Mr.S.Silambu selvan, Advocate, SR.No. 53713

Cr1.R.C.No.633 of 2021

GPL(CO)
B.VC (29/10/2021)