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BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

(Criminal Jurisdiction)

Date : 01/10/2021

PRESENT

The Hon`ble Mr.Justice B.PUGALENDHI

CRL OP (MD) . No.14868 of 2021

Venkatesan

... Petitioner/Accused
(Rank Not Known)

Vs

State rep.by
The Inspector of Police,
Kumbakonam Taluk Police Station,
Kumbakonam,
Thanjavur District.
(Crime No.1508 of 2020).

... Respondent/Complainant

For Petitioner : M/s.Suresh Kannan C, Advocate.

For Respondent : M/s.P.Kottai Chamy,
Government Advocate (Crl.Side)

PETITION FOR ANTICIPATORY BAIL Under Sec.438 of Cr.P.C

PRAYER :-

For Anticipatory Bail in Crime No.1508 of 2020 on the file of the Respondent Police.

ORDER : The Court made the following order :-

The petitioner, who apprehends arrest at the hands of the respondent police for the alleged offence punishable under Section 379 IPC and Section 21(1) of Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, in Crime No.1508 of 2020, seeks anticipatory bail.

2.The prosecution case is that the petitioner has illegally transported one unit of river sand by using DOST Van bearing Registration No.TN-21-AL-6855. Hence, the complaint.



3.Learned Counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner is an innocent and has not committed any offence as alleged by the prosecution, but, a false case has been foisted as against him. However, to show his *bona fide*, he is prepared to pay a sum of Rs.15,000/- to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

4.Learned Government Advocate(Crl.side) appearing for the respondent police submitted that the petitioner has illegally transported one unit of river sand and hence, the case was registered. He further submitted that the petitioner has no previous case pending against him.

5.Considering the nature of mineral involved, the antecedent of the petitioner and his willingness to pay a sum of Rs.15,000/- to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, this Court is inclined to grant anticipatory bail to the petitioner. Accordingly, this Criminal Original Petition is allowed on condition that the petitioner shall pay a sum of Rs.15,000/-(Rupees Fifteen Thousand Only) to the credit of Government of Tamil Nadu, CMPRF in IOB, Secretariat Branch, Chennai-9 (Account No.11720 10000 00070, IFSC Code: IOBA0001172), without prejudice to his rights and contentions before the trial Court and produce the receipt / acknowledgment before the learned Judicial Magistrate No.II, Kumbakonam.

6.On production of such receipt / acknowledgement, the petitioner is ordered to be released on bail in the event of arrest or on his appearance, within a period of fifteen days from the date of receipt of a copy of this order, before the learned Judicial Magistrate No.II, Kumbakonam, on condition that the petitioner shall execute a bond for a sum of Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five thousand only) with two sureties each for a like sum to the satisfaction of the learned Magistrate concerned and on further conditions that:

[a]the petitioner and the sureties shall affix their photographs and left thumb impression in the surety bond and the learned Judge may obtain a copy of their Aadhaar card or bank pass book to ensure their identity.

[b]the petitioner shall report before respondent police daily at 10.30 am., until further orders.

[c]the petitioner shall not tamper with the evidence or witness either during investigation or trial.

[d]the petitioner shall not abscond either during investigation or trial.

[e]On breach of any of the aforesaid conditions, the learned Magistrate/Trial Court is entitled to take appropriate action against the petitioner in accordance with law as if the conditions have been imposed and the petitioner released on bail by the learned



Magistrate/Trial Court himself as laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in **P.K.Shaji vs. State of Kerala [(2005)AIR SCW 5560]**.

[f]If the accused thereafter absconds, a fresh FIR can be registered under Section 229-A IPC.

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7.It is needless to say that any tool or instrument or vehicle used for illegal quarrying/ transportation of sand is liable to be seized under Section 21(4) of the Mines and Minerals(Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and any vehicle or instrument or tool which has been seized under Section 21 (4) of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, is liable to be confiscated under Section 21(4-A) of the Act.

8.Though the above provision mandates the authorities to confiscate the tool or instrument or vehicle involved in the commission of the offence of illegal quarrying/transportation of sand, the authorities have not invoked the provision of 21 (4-A) of the Mines and Minerals(Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and therefore, a Division Bench of this Court in W.P.No.19936 of 2016, etc., batch has emphasized the need for confiscation of the vehicles. Consequently, the Government has also issued certain directions to the authorities of Revenue, Police, Forest, Geology and Mining departments to seize the vehicles and for confiscation of the same in G.O.Ms.No.170, Industries MMC-II Department, dated 05.08.2020. Therefore, the respondent police is directed to proceed further as per Section 21 (4-A) of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and as per the guidelines issued in G.O.Ms.No.170, Industries MMC-II Department, dated 05.08.2020.

Sd/-

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/ /2021

Sub-Assistant Registrar (C.S.IV)
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai - 625 023.

ssb

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.



1. JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE NO.II,
KUMBAKONAM.

2. -DO- THRO THE CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE,
THANJAVUR AT KUMBAKONAM.

3. THE INSPECTOR OF POLICE,
KUMBAKONAM TALUK POLICE STATION,
KUMBAKONAM, THANJAVUR DISTRICT.

4. THE ADDITIONAL PUBLIC PROSECUTOR,
MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT,
MADURAI.

COPY TO:

THE OFFICER INCHARGE,
CHIEF MINISTER PUBLIC RELIEF FUND,
SECRETARIAT, CHENNAI-9.
IOB, Secretariat Branch, Chennai-9
(Account No.11720 10000 00070,
IFSC Code: IOBA0001172)

+1. CC to M/S.SURESH KANNAN C Advocate SR.No.6861

ORDER

IN

CRL OP(MD) No.14868 of 2021

Date :01/10/2021

SP/SKN/SAR IV/06/10/2021/4P/7C