



Crl.O.P.No.13343 of 2023

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Dr.G.JAYACHANDRAN,J.

This Criminal Original Petition is filed by one of the accused alleged to have cheated the *de facto* complainant to the tune of Rs.40 lakhs.

2. When the bail petition was taken up for consideration, the learned counsel for the *de facto* complainant intervened and saying that he is a Government employee and deposited Rs.40 lakhs to the accused. However, the *de facto* complainant is not able to explain the source of amount alleged to have given. Therefore, the Investigating Officer is directed to investigate the source of income of the *de facto* complainant first and proceed.

3. As far as the bail of A3 is concerned, she claims that she is the wife of A1. While A1 has already been granted bail, she as a mother of two children unable to take care of the children and therefore, seeks bail. The said bail is opposed by the learned Government Advocate (Crl.Side). As far as A1 is concerned, bail was granted under Section 167 (2) of Cr.P.C., since investigation could not be completed within the time stipulated under the statute and the reason for delay in completing the investigation is that already

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eight victims have come forward to give statement about how they are cheated by the accused persons. The investigation is also disclosed that there are few more victims. Hence the Investigating Officer requires further time to complete the investigation.

4. In the light of the above facts, this Court directs the Investigating Officer to take note of the directions given above regarding the *de facto* complainant and other investors and file final report as early as possible. So far as the bail petition is concerned, taking note the gravity of offence, release of the petitioner at this stage may hamper the investigation.

5. Hence, this Criminal Original Petition is dismissed.

16.06.2023

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