



WP(MD)No.17641 of 2023

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

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DATED : 21.07.2023

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE B.PUGALENDHI

WP(MD)No.17641 of 2023 and
WMP(MD) No.14747 of 2023

Mohamed Anish

... Petitioner

Vs

1.The Regional Passport Officer,
Regional Passport Office,
Bharathi Ula Veethi,
Race Course Road,
Madurai - 625 002.

2.The Superintendent of Police,
O/o.The Superintendent of Police,
Tenkasi District.

3.The Inspector of Police,
Puliankudi Police Station,
Tenkasi District.

... Respondents

Prayer: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying this Court to issue a Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus to



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call for the records pertaining to the impugned notice in Letter Ref.No. SCN/315245505/23 dated 11.07.2023 passed by the Respondent no.1 and quash the same as illegal, consequently directing the respondent no.1 to reissue the passport to the petitioner forthwith based on his application in File No. MD2075513929523 dated 27.06.2023.

For Petitioner : Mr.A.Mohamed Riyaz
For R1 : Mr.Karthikeya Venkatachalapathy
Central Government Standing Counsel
For R2 & R3 : Mr.P.Kottaichamy
Government Advocate

ORDER

The petitioner's application for renewal of passport was not considered by the Passport Authority, on the ground that a criminal proceeding is pending as against this petitioner before the Criminal Court.

2.Mr.Karthikeya Venkatachalapathy, learned Central Government Standing Counsel takes notice for R1. Mr.P.Kottaichamy,



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learned Government Advocate, who takes notice for the respondents 2 & 3 submits that a case in Crime No.649 of 2020, on the file of the Puliangudi Police Station is pending as against the petitioner for the offences punishable under Sections 143,283,269,270 of IPC and Section 3A of Tamil Nadu Town Nuisance Act, 1889. He further submits that now the case has been charge sheeted and pending on the file of the Judicial Magistrate Court, Sivagiri in STC No.60 of 2023. The next date of hearing is 02.08.2023.

3.The Passport Authority can refuse the passport and any travel documents under Section 6 of the Passport Act, 1967. Section 6(2)(F) of the Act would be relevant and the same is extracted as under:-

“6.Refusal of passports, travel documents, etc-

...

(2)Subject to the other provisions of this Act, the passport authority shall refuse to issue a passport or travel



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document for visiting any foreign country under clause (c) of sub-section (2) of section 5 on any one or more of the following grounds, and on no other ground, namely -

...

(f) that proceedings in respect of an offence alleged to have been committed by the applicant are pending before a Criminal Court in India.”

4.The above provision enables the Passport Authority to refuse the passport or travel document to an applicant on the ground that proceedings in respect of an offence alleged to have been committed by the applicant is pending before a Criminal Court.

5.The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has issued a statutory notification in GSR.570(E) dated 25.08.1993 with certain guidelines by providing relief to those applicants against whom criminal proceedings are pending before the Courts that they can obtain the passport by obtaining No Objection Certificate from the



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concerned Court and also by filing an undertaking as prescribed in the notification.

6. Ordinarily, the duration of a passport as per Rule 12 of the Passport Rules is for a period of 10 years. In the event if the applicant is facing any criminal proceedings, the passport may be issued by restricting the period. Therefore, the Passport Authority is not justified in not deciding the application filed by the petitioner for renewal of passport by referring the pendency of any criminal case before the Court.

7. Accordingly, this writ petition is disposed of with the following directions:-

- i. The petitioner shall file an affidavit of undertaking along with substantive sureties to ensure his availability for the trial, before the concerned Court



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where the case is pending. The Court, on satisfaction and after ensuring his availability for the trial, shall issue a No Objection Certificate to the petitioner enabling him to get his passport renewed.

- ii. The petitioner, thereafter, shall file an affidavit under GSR.570(E) along with a No Objection Certificate obtained from the concerned Court before the Passport Authority. On such presentation of the application, the Passport Authority shall consider the same and renew the passport for a temporary period depending upon the requirement.

No costs. Consequently, connected Miscellaneous Petition is closed.

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NCC : Yes / No.
Index : Yes / No.
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B.PUGALENDHI, J.

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