



Crl.O.P.No.27783 of 2024

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 06.11.2024

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THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE A.D.JAGADISH CHANDIRA

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1. Lagaram

2. Krishnakumar

3. Mathankumar

... Petitioners

Vs.

The State represented by,
The Inspector of Police,
Kachirapalayam Police Station,
Kallakurichi District.

(Crime No.420 of 2024).

... Respondent

PRAYER: Criminal Original Petition filed under Section 483 of BNSS, pleaded to enlarge the petitioners on bail, in connection with the Crime No.420 of 2024, pending investigation on the file of the respondent Police.

For Petitioners : Mr.C.Deepakkumar

For Respondent : Mr.Leonard Arul Joseph Selvam
Government Advocate (Crl.Side)

ORDER

This Criminal Original Petition has been filed by the petitioners/A3 to A5, who were arrested and remanded to judicial custody on 14.10.2024, seeking



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bail in Crime No.420 of 2024 registered for the offence under Section 24(1) of the Cigarette and other Tobacco Products Act, 2003 r/w Section 123 of BNS.

2. The case of the prosecution is that the accused were found to be in illegal possession of 12.250 kilograms of banned tobacco products. Hence the case.

3. Learned counsel appearing for the petitioners submitted that the petitioners are innocent persons and they have been falsely implicated in this case. He also submitted that the petitioners are only employed under the main accused and they are in no way connected with the alleged offence. He further submitted that the petitioners are in custody from 14.10.2024 and they are ready to abide by any stringent conditions that may be imposed by this Court. Hence, he prayed for grant of bail to the petitioners.

4. Learned Government Advocate (Crl.Side) appearing for the respondent police submitted that the petitioners/A3 to A5 along with other accused were found to be in illegal possession of 12.250 kilograms of banned tobacco products. He further submitted that there is no previous case against the petitioners, however, he opposed for granting bail to the petitioners.



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5. At this juncture, the learned counsel for the petitioners submitted that the petitioners, without prejudice to their defense and contention, are ready and willing to deposit an amount of Rs.10,000/- each as non-refundable deposit to any welfare scheme of the Government or any other organization. Hence, he prayed for grant of bail to the petitioners.

6. Heard the learned counsel appearing for the petitioners and the learned Government Advocate (Crl.Side) for the respondent Police and perused the materials available on record.

7. On considering the voluntary submission made by the learned counsel for the petitioners, the petitioners are directed to deposit a sum of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten thousand only) each as non refundable deposit to "The Dean/Medical Officer, Government Mohan Kumaramangalam Medical College Hospital, Salem", without prejudice to their rights and contentions before the trial Court.

8. Merely because the petitioners deposit the said amount, it would not



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amount to admission of their guilt. Therefore, it is open to the trial Court to deal with the case independently.

9. Taking into consideration the above facts and circumstances of the case, the submissions made by the learned counsel on either side and also considering that there is no previous case against the petitioners, this Court is inclined to grant bail to the petitioners with certain conditions.

10. Accordingly, the petitioners are ordered to be released on bail on condition to make a non-refundable deposit of **Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only)** each to the credit of "**The Dean/Medical Officer, Government Mohan Kumaramangalam Medical College Hospital, Salem**", without prejudice to their rights and contentions before the trial Court and on such deposit and production of proof, the petitioners are ordered to be released on bail on their executing separate bond each for a sum of **Rs.15,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Thousand only)** with **two sureties**, each for a like sum to the satisfaction of the learned **Judicial Magistrate No.I, Kallakurichi**, and on further conditions that:

[a] the sureties shall affix their photographs and Left



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Thumb Impression in the surety bond and the Magistrate may obtain a copy of their Aadhar card or Bank pass Book to ensure their identity;

[b] the petitioners shall report before the respondent Police, everyday at 10.30 a.m., until further orders;

[c] the petitioners shall not abscond either during investigation or trial;

[d] the petitioners shall not tamper with evidence or witness 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 petitioners in accordance with law as if the conditions have been imposed and the petitioners 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 abscond, a fresh FIR can be registered under Section 269 B.N.S.

06.11.2024

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A.D.JAGADISH CHANDIRA.,J.



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To

1. The Judicial Magistrate No.I,
Kallakurichi.
2. The Inspector of Police,
Kachirapalayam Police Station,
Kallakurichi District.
3. The Central Prison,
Cuddalore.
4. The Public Prosecutor,
High Court of Madras.

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