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Crl.O.P.No.27865 of 2024

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 07.11.2024

CORAM

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

Crl.O.P.No.27865 of 2024

Sempulingam

... Petitioner

Vs.

The State represented by,
The Inspector of Police,
Thudiyalur Police Station,
Coimbatore District.
(Crime No.358 of 2024).

... Respondent

PRAYER: Criminal Original Petition filed under Section 483 of BNSS, pleaded to enlarge the petitioner on bail, in Crime No.358 of 2024, on the file of the respondent Police.

For Petitioner : Mr.W.Camyles Gandhi

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

ORDER

This Criminal Original Petition has been filed by the petitioner, who was arrested and remanded to judicial custody on 19.10.2024, seeking bail in Crime No.358 of 2024 registered for the offence under Section 24(1) of Cigarette and other Tobacco Products Act r/w 123 of BNS.



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2. The case of the prosecution is that the petitioner along with other accused was found to be in illegal possession of 800 grams of banned tobacco products, worth Rs.5,,000/-. Hence the case.

3. Learned counsel appearing for the petitioner submitted that the petitioner is an innocent person and he has been falsely implicated in this case. He also submitted that the petitioner is in custody from 19.10.2024 and he is also ready to abide by any other stringent conditions that may be imposed by this Court. Hence, he prayed for grant of bail to the petitioner.

4. Learned Government Advocate (Crl.Side) appearing for the respondent police submitted that there are totally three accused in this case and the petitioner herein is arrayed as A3. He further submitted that the petitioner along with other accused was found to be in illegal possession of 800 grams of banned tobacco products, worth Rs.5,,000/-. He further submitted that A1 and A2 were arrested and enlarged on bail. He further submitted that there are two previous cases, similar in nature, pending against the petitioner, however, he opposed for granting bail to the petitioner.



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

6. Heard the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner and the learned Government Advocate (CrI.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 petitioner, the petitioner is directed to deposit a sum of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten thousand only) as non refundable deposit to "The District Legal Service Authority, Coimbatore", without prejudice to his rights and contentions before the trial Court.

8. Merely because the petitioner deposits the said amount, it would not amount to admission of his guilt. Therefore, it is open to the trial Court to deal with the case independently.



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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 the period of incarceration undergone by the petitioner, this Court is inclined to grant bail to the petitioner with certain conditions.

10. Accordingly, the petitioner is ordered to be released on bail on condition to make a non-refundable deposit of **Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only)** to the credit of "**The District Legal Service Authority, Coimbatore**", without prejudice to his rights and contentions before the trial Court and on such deposit and production of proof, the petitioner is ordered to be released on bail on his executing a bond 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, Coimbatore** and on further conditions that:

[a] the sureties shall affix their photographs and Left 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;



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

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

[d] the petitioner 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 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 269 B.N.S.

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A.D.JAGADISH CHANDIRA.,J.

drl

To

1. The Judicial Magistrate No.I,
Coimbatore..
2. The Inspector of Police,
Thudiyalur Police Station,
Coimbatore District.
3. The Superintendent,
Central Prison, Coimbatore
4. The Public Prosecutor,
High Court of Madras.

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