



Cr1.O.P.No.28991 of 2024

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 20.11.2024

CORAM

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

Cr1.O.P.No.28991 of 2024

Mani @ Manikandan

... Petitioner

Vs.

The State represented by
The Inspector of Police
Shevapet Police Station
Salem City
(Crime No.541 of 2024)

... Respondent

PRAYER: Criminal Original Petition filed under Section 439 of Cr.P.C., to
enlarge the petitioner on bail in Crime No.541 of 2024 on the file of the
respondent police

For Petitioner : Mr.J.Franklin

For Respondent : Mr.Leonard Arul Joseph Selvam
Government Advocate (Cr1.Side)



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ORDER

This Criminal Original Petition has been filed by the petitioner, who was arrested and remanded to judicial custody on 02.11.2024, seeking bail in Crime No.541 of 2024 registered for the offences punishable under Section 6 & 24(1) of Cigarette and other Tobacco Products Act 2003 and Section 77 of the Juvenile (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

2.The case of the prosecution is that the petitioner was found in possession of 163.5 kgs of banned tobacco products worth about Rs.1,24,520/-. 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 only for statistical purpose. Hence, he prayed for grant of bail to the petitioner stating that the petitioner is ready to abide by any stringent conditions that may be imposed by this Court.

4.Learned Government Advocate (Crl. Side) appearing for the respondent police while opposing for grant of bail to the petitioner submitted



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that the petitioner was found in possession of 163.5 kgs of banned tobacco products worth about Rs.1,24,520/- and there are seven previous cases pending against the petitioner, in which two are under COTPA Act.

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.25,000/- as non-refundable deposit to any welfare scheme of the Government or to any shelter home. Hence, he prayed for grant of bail to the petitioner.

6.Heard the learned Counsel appearing for the petitioner 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 petitioner, the petitioner is directed to deposit a sum of Rs.25,000/- (Rupees twenty five thousand only) as non refundable deposit to **"The Dean/Medical Officer, Government Medical College Hospital, Mundiampakkam"**, without prejudice to his rights and contentions before



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the trial Court.

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8. Merely, because the petitioner has deposited 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.

9. Taking into consideration the facts and the submissions made by the learned counsel appearing for the parties, taking note of 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.25,000/- (Rupees twenty five thousand only)** to the credit of "**The Dean/Medical Officer, Government Medical College Hospital, Mundiampakkam**", without prejudice to his rights and contentions before the trial Court, 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



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Judicial Magistrate No.III, Salem 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;

[b] the petitioner shall appear before the respondent police daily at 10.30 am., 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 abscond, a fresh FIR can be registered under Section 269 of B.N.S.

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A.D.JAGADISH CHANDIRA.,J.
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To

1.The Judicial Magistrate No.III,
Salem

2.The Superintendent
Central Prison, Salem.

3The Inspector of Police
Shevapet Police Station
Salem City

4.The Public Prosecutor,
High Court of Madras.

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