



CRL OP(MD). No.237 of 2024

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BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

(Criminal Jurisdiction)

Date : 09/01/2024

PRESENT

The Hon`ble Mr.Justice M.DHANDAPANI

CRL OP(MD). No.237 of 2024

1.Krishnamoorthi

2.Suresh

3.Govindaraj

... Petitioners/ Accused Nos.1 to 3

Vs

The Inspector of Police,
Pattukkottai Taluk Police Station,
Thanjavur District.
Crime No.498 of 2023.

... Respondent/Complainant

For Petitioners : M/s.P.Surliraja, Advocate.

For Respondent : Mr.B.Nambiselvan, Additional Public Prosecutor

PETITION FOR BAIL Under Sec.439 of Cr.P.C.

PRAYER :-

For Bail in Crime No.498 of 2023 on the file of the Respondent Police.

ORDER : The Court made the following order :-

The petitioners / Accused No.1 to 3, who were arrested and remanded to judicial custody on 22.12.2023 for the offence punishable under Sections 379 of IPC r/w 21(1) of Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation Act), 1957, in Crime No.498 of 2023 on the file of the respondent Police, seek bail.

2.It is the case of the prosecution that $\frac{3}{4}$ units of river sand has been illegally transported by the petitioners in their Bullock Carts.



CRL OP(MD). No.237 of 2024

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3.The learned counsel appearing for the petitioners would submit petitioners are innocent persons and he have not committed any offence as alleged by the prosecution. However, on instruction, he would further submit that the petitioners are ready to deposit any amount to the District Mineral Foundation Trust without prejudice to their rights.

4.The learned Additional Public Prosecutor would submit that the vehicle was seized by the respondent police and there is no previous case pending against the petitioners. He further submitted that if the person is caught with illegal sand in the mining area, he has to be directed to deposit the conditional amount to the credit of Crime number. However, in view of formation of District Mineral Foundation Trust in each district, the amount may be deposited to the credit of the said Trust for rehabilitation in the areas affected by illegal sand mining.

5.In view of the rehabilitation undertaken by the State Government under the Tamil Nadu District Mineral Foundation Rules, 2017, and in order to curb the illegal sand mining activities and also considering the submission made by the learned counsel for the petitioners, this Court is of the opinion that the petitioners are directed to make a non refundable deposit of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) to the credit of the concerned District Mineral Foundation Trust, without prejudice to his rights and contentions. This amount so deposited shall be utilised by



CRL OP(MD). No.237 of 2024

the Trust for rehabilitation works.

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6.It is made clear that the deposit of the amount by the petitioners to the Trust would not amount to admission of guilt. The trial Court shall deal with the case independently on merits without reference to the amount deposited at the stage of bail.

7.Considering the facts and circumstances of the case and also considering the submission made by the learned Additional Public Prosecutor, I am inclined to grant bail to the petitioners.

8.Accordingly, the petitioners are ordered to be released on bail on their executing a bond for a sum of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) each with two sureties each for a like sum to the satisfaction of the learned Judicial Magistrate, Pattukottai, Thanjavur, and on further condition 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 petitioners shall make a non refundable deposit of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) through demand draft to the credit of the Chairman/District Collector, District Mineral Foundation Trust of the concerned District, without prejudice to their defence before the trial Court and the learned Judicial Magistrate,



CRL OP(MD). No.237 of 2024

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petitioners;

after perusing the challan/ receipt, shall accept the sureties furnished by the

(c)the petitioners shall report before the respondent police daily at 10.30 a.m for a period of two weeks and thereafter, as and when required for interrogation;

(d)the petitioners shall not tamper with evidence or witness either during investigation or trial;

(e)the petitioners shall not abscond either during investigation or trial;

(f)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]; and;

(g)if the accused thereafter absconds, a fresh FIR can be registered under Section 229-A IPC.

sd/-
09/01/2024

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09/01/2024

Sub-Assistant Registrar
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai - 625 023.

dss

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CRL OP(MD). No.237 of 2024

TO

1 THE JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE, PATTUKOTTAI, THANJAVUR.

2 DO THROUGH THE CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE,
THANJAVUR DISTRICT AT KUMBAKONAM.

3 THE INSPECTOR OF POLICE, PATTUKKOTTAI TALUK POLICE STATION,
THANJAVUR DISTRICT.

4 THE OFFICER INCHARGE, SUB JAIL, THANJAVUR.

5 THE ADDITIONAL PUBLIC PROSECUTOR,
MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT, MADURAI.

COPY TO

THE CHAIRMAN / DISTRICT COLLECTOR,
DISTRICT MINERAL FOUNDATION TRUST, THANJAVUR DISTRICT.

+1 CC to M/s.S.DEENADHAYALAN, Advocate (SR-364[I] dated 09/01/2024)

ORDER

IN

CRL OP(MD) No.237 of 2024

Date :09/01/2024

RS/ /SAR-(09.01.2024) 5P 8C

Madurai Bench of Madras High Court is issuing
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