



W.P(MD)No.5455 of 2024

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 07.03.2024

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE G.R.SWAMINATHAN

W.P(MD)No.5455 of 2024

Dharmaraj

... Petitioner

Vs.

1.The District Revenue Officer,
Thoothukudi,
Thoothukudi District.

2.The Inspector of Police,
Civil Supplies CID,
Thoothukudi,
Thoothukudi District.
(Crime No.69/2023)

... Respondents

Prayer : Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying this Court to issue a Writ of Mandamus, to direct the respondents to release the petitioner's TATA 1109 four wheeler bearing registration No. KL 09 AC 0059 seized by the second respondent on 15.07.2023 within the time stipulated by this Court.

For Petitioner : Mr.S.Vishnuvardhan

For Respondents : Mr.K.S.Selvaganesan
Additional Government Pleader for R1
: Mr.A.Albert James
Government Advocate (Crl.side) for R2



W.P(MD)No.5455 of 2024

“17.In our view, whatever be the situation, it is of no use to keep such seized vehicles at the police stations for a long period. It is for the Magistrate to pass appropriate orders immediately by taking appropriate bond and guarantee as well as security for return of the said vehicles, if required at any point of time. This can be done pending hearing of applications for return of such vehicles.

6. Therefore, the first respondent is directed to grant interim custody of the said vehicle to the petitioner subject to the following conditions:-

a) *The petitioner shall pay a sum of **Rs.7,500/-** (Rupees Seven Thousand and Five Hundred only) towards cost in the bank account of **Saksham** (Savings Account No. **50100575869426**, IFSC Code : **HDFC0009496**, HDFC Bank, Race Course Branch, Coimbatore). It will be a non-refundable payment. This amount shall be utilized for leprosy treatment and rehabilitation activities.*

b) *The petitioner shall not alienate or encumber the vehicle till the proceedings are completed.*

c) *The petitioner shall produce all the documents pertaining to the ownership of the seized vehicle. If the petitioner is an agreement holder, he can produce the relevant xerox copies.*



W.P(MD)No.5455 of 2024

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d) As and when the respondents call for the vehicle for enquiry, the petitioner has to produce the vehicle in question and he shall cooperate with the enquiry to be conducted by the respondents.

7. Upon completion of these formalities, the respondents shall grant interim custody of the vehicle forthwith to the petitioner without any delay. If this undertaking given by the petitioner is breached, the petitioner will not be entitled to interim custody of the vehicle in future.

8. The Writ Petition is allowed accordingly. I make it clear that allowing of this writ petition will not have any bearing on the confiscation proceedings that may be initiated by the authorities. There shall be no order as to costs.

07.03.2024

Index : Yes / No

Internet : Yes/ No

rmi

To

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W.P(MD)No.5455 of 2024

G.R.SWAMINATHAN, J.

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W.P(MD)No.5455 of 2024

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