



CRL OP(MD). No.5649 of 2024

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BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

(Criminal Jurisdiction)

Date : 15/04/2024

PRESENT

The Hon`ble Mr.Justice B.PUGALENDHI

CRL OP(MD). No.5649 of 2024

Esakkimuthu

... Petitioner/ Accused No.1

Vs

The Inspector of Police,
Perumalpuram Police Station,
Tirunelveli City,
Crime No. 291/2023.

... Respondent/ Complainant

For Petitioner : M/s.Saravanakumar.C,
Advocate.

For Respondent : Mr.M.Sakthi Kumar,
Government Advocate (Crl.Side)

PRAYER :-

For Anticipatory Bail in Crime No. 291 of 2023 on the file of the respondent Police.

ORDER : The Court made the following order :-

The petitioner, apprehending arrest at the hands of the respondent police in connection with the case in Crime No.291 of 2023 for the offence under Section 379 of

IPC and Section 24(i) of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act,

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CRL OP(MD). No.5649 of 2024

1957, has filed this petition, seeking anticipatory bail.

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2. The case of the prosecution is that the petitioner has illegally transported 3 units of Saral sand by using Tipper Lorry and JCB.

3. The learned counsel appearing for the petitioner submits that the petitioner is an innocent person and he has not committed any offence as alleged by the prosecution.

4. The learned Government Advocate (Crl. Side) appearing for the respondent submits that there are two accused in this case, the petitioner is arrayed as A1 and A2 in this case was arrested and subsequently, released on bail. The investigation is yet to be completed. However, he fairly submits that the petitioner is not having any previous case.

5. Considering the nature of minerals involved and also considering the fact that the petitioner is not having any previous case, this Court is inclined to grant anticipatory bail to the petitioner.



CRL OP(MD). No.5649 of 2024

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6. Accordingly, this Criminal Original Petition is allowed and the petitioner is ordered to be released on bail in the event of arrest or on his appearance within a period of fifteen days from the date of receipt of a copy of this order, before the concerned learned Judicial Magistrate, on condition that

(i) the petitioner executes a bond for a sum of Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand), with two sureties each, for a like sum to the satisfaction of the learned Judicial Magistrate No.I, Tirunelveli;

(ii) The petitioner and the sureties shall submit a copy of their Aadhaar Card or any other identity card issued by the Government in proof of their residence address;

(iii) The petitioner shall appear before the respondent police daily at 10.30 am for a period of two weeks and thereafter shall appear as and when required by the respondent police. He has to co-operate for the investigation.

(iv) The petitioner shall not misuse the liberty granted to him by indulging in any further offence and shall not tamper with the prosecution witnesses.



CRL OP(MD). No.5649 of 2024

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(v) On violation of any of the above conditions by the petitioner, the respondent police shall move an application for cancellation of the anticipatory bail.

7. It is needless to say that any tool or instrument or vehicle used for illegal quarrying / transportation of sand is liable to be seized under Section 21(4) of the Mines and Minerals(Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and any vehicle or instrument or tool which has been seized under Section 21(4) of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, is liable to be confiscated under Section 21(4-A) of the Act.

8. Though the above provision mandates the authorities to confiscate the tool or instrument or vehicle involved in the commission of the offence of illegal quarrying / transportation of sand, the authorities have not invoked the provision under Section 21(4-A) of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and therefore, a Division Bench of this Court in W.P.No.19936 of 2016, etc., batch has emphasized the need for confiscation of the vehicles. Consequently, the Government has also issued certain directions to the authorities of Revenue, Police and Forest and Geology and Mining departments to seize the vehicles and for confiscation of the same in G.O.Ms.No.170, Industries (MMC-II) Department, dated 05.08.2020.

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CRL OP(MD). No.5649 of 2024

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Therefore, the respondent police is directed to proceed further as per Section 21 (4-A) of the Mines and Minerals(Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and as per the guidelines issued in G.O.Ms.No.170, Industries (MMC-II) Department, dated 05.08.2020.

sd/-
15/04/2024

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/04/2024

Sub-Assistant Registrar (CS -I/ II / III / IV)
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai - 625 023.

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TO

1.THE JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE NO.I, TIRUNELVELI;

2 DO THROUGH THE CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE, TIRUNELVELI.

3. THE INSPECTOR OF POLICE,
PERUMALPURAM POLICE STATION, TIRUNELVELI CITY,

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

+1 CC to M/s.C.SARAVANA KUMAR, Advocate (SR-4472[I] dated 16/04/2024)

ORDER

IN

CRL OP(MD) No.5649 of 2024

Date :15/04/2024

RK/JGB(18/04/2024) 5P / 6C

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