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W.P.(MD)NO.13552 OF 2024

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 26.06.2024

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THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE G.R.SWAMINATHAN

W.P.(MD)No.13552 of 2024 AND

W.M.P.(MD)No.11944 of 2024

Karthi

... Petitioner

Vs.

1. The Regional Passport Officer,
Regional Passport Office,
New Municipal Complex,
7th Cross Thillai Nagar,
Tiruchirappalli – 620 018.

2. The Inspector of Police,
Aranthangi police station,
Pudhukottai District.
(Crime No.257 of 2017)

... Respondents

Prayer: Writ petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus, to call for the records pertaining to the impugned notice in letter Ref. No.SCN/318152365/24 dated 05.06.2024 passed by the first respondent and quash the same as illegal, consequently directing the first respondent to reissue the passport to the petitioner forthwith based on his application in file No.TR2066564556324 dated 20.05.2024.

For Petitioner : Ms.S.Prabha
For R-1 : Mr.R.Ganeshkumar,
Central Government Standing counsel.

For R-2 : Mr.A.Albert James,
Government Advocate.

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ORDER

Heard both sides.

2.The petitioner seeks re-issuance of passport. He has submitted an application before the jurisdictional passport officer. Apprehending that it may not be processed in view of his involvement in a criminal case, the present writ petition came to be filed.

3.When the matter was taken up for hearing, the learned Government Advocate (Crl. Side) submitted that the criminal case registered against the petitioner is pending at the FIR stage.

4.It is well settled that when the case is pending only at the FIR stage, there is no impediment for the Regional Passport Officer to grant relief.

5.The petitioner has to appear before the jurisdictional police and file an affidavit indicating his contact details. The petitioner apart from furnishing his residential address must also give his WhatsApp



mobile number, e-mail ID. This is because, if any adverse final report is filed and the same is also taken on file by the jurisdictional criminal court, it should be possible to serve summons on the petitioner with the available details. The petitioner shall give an undertaking that the prosecution initiated against him will not be stalled on account of his absence from India. He should undertake that summons can be served on him through E-mail/WhatsApp. If necessary, the petitioner will have to execute a special vakalat in future so that he can be represented by his counsel in the proceedings in terms of Section 205 of Cr.P.C.

6. Upon the passport authority being satisfied that such an undertaking affidavit has been filed before the jurisdictional police, the jurisdictional Regional Passport Officer shall process the petition-mentioned application and re-issue passport subject to fulfilment of the other usual formalities. This writ petition is allowed on these terms. No costs. Consequently, connected miscellaneous petition is closed.

26.06.2024

NCC : Yes / No
Index : Yes / No
Internet : Yes/ No
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To:

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Tiruchirappalli – 620 018.
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5

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G.R.SWAMINATHAN,J.

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