HC-KAR

NC: 2026:KHC:59286
CRL.P No. 16020 of 2026

CNR: KAHC010732172026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

DATED THIS THE 22ND DAY OF OCTOBER, 2026

BEFORE

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE G BASAVARAJA

CRIMINAL PETITION NO. 16020 OF 2026

BETWEEN:

SRI. L. MURALIDHARA
S/O. K.L. LAKKANNA,
AGED ABOUT 52 YEARS,
WORKING AS OFFICE ASSISTANT,
REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OFFICE,
TUMAKURU CITY - 572 101.
R/O. 4TH CROSS, SUBHASHNAGARA,
NELAMANGALA TOWN,
NELAMANGALA TALUK - 562 123
BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT.

...PETITIONER

(BY SRI. SIDDARAMAIAH V.B, ADVOCATE)

AND:

Digitally signed by LAKSHMINARAYAN N
Location: High Court of Karnataka

1. THE STATE OF KARNATAKA
REP. BY LOKAYUKTHA POLICE,
TUMAKURU CITY,
BEHIND D.C. OFFICE,
NEXT TO T.B. HOSPITAL,
12TH CROSS ROAD,
TUMAKURU - 572 101
REPRESENTED BY SPECIAL PUBLIC PROSECUTOR,
HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA BUILDING,
BENGALURU - 560 001.
2. SRI. UMASHANKAR S.C.
S/O. CHIKKAMUNIYAPPA
AGED ABOUT 69 YEARS
R/AT, NO.39, HEGGERE,

ABBAIAH LAYOUT
BEHIND RAJU BRICKS FACTORY
MARUTHI VILAS, TUMAKURU TALUK
TUMAKURU DISTRICT - 572 107.
(DELETED VIDE ORDER DATED 22.10.2026)

…RESPONDENTS

(BY SRI. B. LETHIF, ADVOCATE FOR R1;
VIDE ORDER DATED 22.10.2026, R2 IS DELETED)

THIS CRL.P IS FILED U/S 439 OF CR.PC (FILED U/S 483 BNSS) PRAYING TO GRANT REGULAR BAIL TO THE PETITIONER HEREIN BY DIRECTING THE 1ST RESPONDENT LOKAYUKTHA POLICE TUMAKURU TO RELEASE THE PETITIONER WITH RESPECT TO THE CRL.MISC.NO.1503/2026 REGISTERED FOR THE ALLEGED OFFENCE P/U/S 7(a) OF P.C ACT 1988 (AMENDMENT 2018) ON THE FILE OF THE VII ADDL.DIST. AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AND SPL.JUDGE AT TUMAKURU REGISTERED ON THE COMPLAINT OF 2ND RESPONDENT.

THIS PETITION, COMING ON FOR ORDERS, THIS DAY, ORDER WAS MADE THEREIN AS UNDER:

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE G BASAVARAJA

ORAL ORDER

The petitioner has filed this petition under Section 483 of BNSS, 2023 for grant of regular bail.

2. I have heard the arguments on both sides.

3. On the basis of the complaint filed by one Sri.Umashankar S.C., Lokayuktha Police have registered the case in Crime No.10/2026 of the Tumakuru Police

Station, Tumakuru against the accused-Murulidhara for the offence punishable under Section 7(a) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (amendment 2018).

4. It is submitted that petitioner was arrested on 07.10.2026 and produced before the Special Judge. The application was filed under Section 483 of BNSS, the same was rejected by the Special Judge on 15.10.2026. Being aggrieved by this order, the petitioner has filed this petition.

5. The alleged commission of offence is not punishable with death or imprisonment for life. The petitioner is not required for custodial interrogation. The petitioner is working as an Office Assistant in Revenue Department, Deputy Commissioner Office, Tumakuru City.

6. Considering the nature and gravity of offence and the prior antecedents of this petitioner, without expressing any opinion on merits. I proceed to pass the following:

O R D E R

(i) The criminal petition is ***allowed***.

(ii) The petitioner/accused is directed to be enlarged on bail in Crime No.10/2026 of the Tumakuru Police Station, Tumakuru against the accused-Murulidhara for the offence punishable under Section 7(a) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (amendment 2018), subject to the following conditions:

a) The petitioner/Accused shall execute a personal bond for a sum of Rs.1,00,000/- with one surety for the likesum, to the satisfaction of the jurisdictional Court;

b) The petitioner/Accused shall appear regularly on all the dates of hearing before the Trial Court unless the Trial Court exempts his appearance for valid reasons;

c) The petitioner/Accused shall not directly or indirectly threaten or tamper with the prosecution witnesses;

d) The petitioner/Accused shall not involve in similar offences in future;

Registry is directed to communicate this order to the concerned trial Court.

Sd/-
(G BASAVARAJA)
JUDGE

TIN
List No.: 1 Sl No.: 20