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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 29-10-2026

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THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE V. LAKSHMINARAYANAN

CRL.OP.No.23278 of 2026
in
Crl.A.SR.No.17874 of 2026

CNR:{HCMA010677962026}

The State of Tamil Nadu Rep. By
The Inspector of Police,
Vigilance and Anti-Corruption, Chennai.
Crime No.5/AC/2009/HQ.

.. Petitioner(s)

Vs.

V.Lakshmanan,
S/o.Sanjeevepillai, Co-operative Sub Registrar,
O/o.The Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies
(Credit), Kuralagam Chennai. Formerly Special
Officer, Tamil Nadu, Secretariat Staff, Co-operative
Housing Society, Chennai - 9.

.. Respondent(s)

PRAYER

To grant leave to file an appeal to this Hon'ble Court against the acquittal judgment passed by the Special Court for the case under Prevention of Corruption Act, Chennai in CC.No.11 of 2013 dated 16.09.2025 and thus render justice.

For Petitioner(s): Mr.Arun Anbumani
Additional Public Prosecutor

For Respondent(s): Mr.Abudu Kumar Rajarathinam
Senior Counsel
for Mr.S.Ashok Kumar

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ORDER

The case of the prosecution is that A1 was the Special Officer of the Tamil Nadu Secretariat Staff Co-operative Housing Society, Chennai – 600 009, between 27.07.2005 to 26.02.2007. A2 was the President of the said Society between 23.09.1999 to 18.03.2004.

2.Contrary to the rules of allotment that had been made to the society on 18.03.2004, PW11, PW12 and PW15 had been benefitted with allotment of properties. The allotment so made was not even on the market value, but at a highly subsidised rates. Consequently, a final report was filed charging A1 of offences punishable under Sections 120(B), 467, 465 read with Section 471 of IPC and Section 13(2) read with Sections 13(1)(d) and 13(1)(c) of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. Insofar as A2 is concerned, as he passed away on 11.02.2025, the Court rendered the charges as abated against him on 23.04.2025.

3.The prosecution had marched as many as 20 witnesses and marked 33 exhibits. The prosecution revolves around two aspects. Though the allotment orders are dated 18.03.2004, they were pre-dated by A1, after he had assumed office as the Special Officer. Two sets of signatures were produced before the Court. One were the signatures which the prosecution termed as the “admitted

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signature". The Trial Court had come to the factual finding that the signatures had not been proved.

4.Insofar as the allotment that had been made to PW11, PW12 and PW15, the allotment letters themselves had been referred for expert opinion by the Investigating Officer. He had taken a specimen signature of A1 under S1 to S21. The allotment order was marked as Q4 to Q12. PW7 examined the specimen signature along with the disputed signature on the allotment letter and came to a conclusion that they had been written by one and the same person.

5.On this aspect, the learned Judge extracted the judgment of the Supreme Court in ***Santhosh @ Bhure Vs. State (G.N.C.T.) of Delhi, 2023 (4) MLJ (Crl) 1*** and came to the conclusion that as none of the prosecution witnesses takes to their personal knowledge of the accused having written the allotment letters, A1 is entitled to acquittal.

6.The learned Judge has not discussed as to how the evidence and record of PW7 is to be either accepted or rejected. This is a crucial aspect, especially when the evidence of PW7, as extracted by the Court below, shows a positive finding that it was A1 who had written both the allotment letters as well as the specimen signatures.

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7.As I find sufficient strength in the arguments of Mr.Arun Anbumani, this case deserves leave. Accordingly, leave granted.

29-10-2026
(1/2)

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NOTE: Registry is directed to number the appeal.

To

The Special Court for the case under prevention of Corruption Act,
Chennai.

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V.LAKSHMINARAYANAN J.

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