

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE P.V.KUNHIKRISHNAN

FRIDAY, THE 08TH DAY OF MAY 2020 / 18TH VAISAKHA, 1942

**BA NO.2290 OF 2020**

**(Crime No.463/2020 of Fort Police  
Station,Thiruvananthapuram)**

**Petitioner/ 4th Accused:**

Sreekumar.S, aged 56 years, S/o Sivasankara Pillai, residing at Sreehari veedu,TC 92/2371(3) Anayara Mokkaadu Lane, Anayara Ward, Anayara P.o, Kadakampalli village, Thiruvananthapuram-695029

By Adv. Prabha R. Menon

**Respondent/State:**

1. State of Kerala, represented by  
Public Prosecutor, High Court of Kerala,  
Ernakulam.Kochi-31
2. The Station House Officer, Fort Police Station,  
Thiruvananthapuram -695023

By P.P. Sri.Ajith Murali & Santhosh Peter(Sr)

THIS BAIL APPLICATION HAVING BEEN FINALLY HEARD ON  
08.05.2020, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY PASSED THE FOLLOWING:

**P.V.KUNHIKRISHNAN, J**

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B.A.No.2290 of 2020  
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Dated this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020

**O R D E R**

This Bail Application filed under Section 439 of Criminal Procedure Code was heard through Video Conference.

2. Petitioner is the 4<sup>th</sup> accused in Crime No.463/2020 of Fort Police Station, Thiruvananthapuram registered alleging offences punishable under Sections 120B, 465, 468, 471, 419, 406 and 420 of the Indian Penal Code. Petitioner was arrested on 29.2.2020 and he is in custody.

3. The prosecution case is that the 4<sup>th</sup> accused, who is a document writer colluded and conspired with the other accused in his office and created forged documents and played fraud on the Sub Registrar's Office, Chalai.

4. The counsel for the petitioner submitted that the petitioner is only a document writer and he is not involved in this case. This is a dispute between the 1<sup>st</sup> accused and the defacto

complainant. He also submitted that he is in custody from 29.2.2020. The learned counsel for the petitioner also submitted that the 1<sup>st</sup> accused and the 5<sup>th</sup> accused were released on bail.

5. The learned Public Prosecutor submitted that if this Court is granting bail to the petitioner, stringent conditions may be imposed.

6. After hearing both sides and considering the fact that the co-accused were already released on bail and also considering the fact that the petitioner is in custody from 29.2.2020 onwards, I think that this bail application can be allowed.

7. Moreover, considering the need to follow social distancing norms inside prisons so as to avert the spread of the novel Corona Virus Pandemic, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Re: Contagion of COVID-19 Virus In Prisons case (Suo Motu Writ Petition(C) No.1 of 2020)** and a Full Bench of this Court in **W.P(C)No.9400 of 2020** issued various salutary directions for minimizing the number of inmates inside prisons.

8. Moreover, it is a well accepted principle that the bail is the rule and the jail is the exception. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Chidambaram. P v Directorate of Enforcement (2019 (16)**

**SCALE 870)**, after considering all the earlier judgments, observed that, the basic jurisprudence relating to bail remains the same inasmuch as the grant of bail is the rule and refusal is the exception so as to ensure that the accused has the opportunity of securing fair trial.

9. Considering the dictum laid down in the above decision and considering the facts and circumstances of this case, this Bail Application is allowed with the following directions:

1. The Superintendent of Jail concerned where the petitioner is incarcerated is directed to release the petitioner on bail on executing a self bond ensuring that they will appear before the Court concerned as and when required, if he is not in detention in any other case. It is further directed that the Superintendent of Jail should get the bail bond from the petitioner as stipulated in Section 441 Cr.P.C.

2. The Superintendent of Jail concerned shall also get the phone number and the address at which the petitioner would be

residing after his release.

3. The Superintendent of Jail concerned, immediately after release of the petitioner will forthwith forward the bail bond obtained from the petitioner to the jurisdictional Court.

4. The petitioner immediately after release from the prison, report before the Station House Officer of the Jurisdictional Police Station and shall furnish his phone number and the place where they are going to reside. The Station House Officer concerned shall keep a vigil on the whereabouts of the petitioner and shall ensure that the petitioner do not violate the terms of the undertaking.

5. The petitioner shall appear before the Investigating Officer as and when required. The petitioner shall co-operate with the investigation and shall not threaten or attempt to influence the witnesses or tamper with the evidence.

6. The petitioner shall within one week from the commencement of the functioning of the jurisdictional court, if the court is not functioning at present, execute a bond for Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only) with two solvent sureties each for the like sum to the satisfaction of the jurisdictional Court.

7. The petitioner shall strictly abide by the various guidelines issued by the State Government and Central Government with respect to keeping of social distancing and other directions in the wake of declared lock-down.

8. If any of the above conditions are violated by the petitioner, the jurisdictional Court can cancel the bail in accordance to law, even though the bail is granted by this Court.

**P.V.KUNHIKRISHNAN  
JUDGE**

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