

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V

SATURDAY, THE 11<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2020 /22ND CHAITHRA, 1942

Bail Appl.No.2236 OF 2020

CRIME NO.146/2020 VITHURA POLICE STATION, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM DISTRICT

PETITIONERS/ACCUSED NOS.1 TO 5:

1. AMEER, S/O.SHAJAHAN, AGED 22 YEARS,  
AL-AMEEN MANZIL, VELICHIKALA,  
NALLOOR VILLAGE, KOLLAM.
2. GIRI KRISHNAN, S/O.BALA KRISHNA PILLAI, AGED 21 YEARS,  
VILAYIL KIZHAKKATHIL, THARAVAD JUNCTION,  
MAILAKKAD, THAZHUTHALA VILLAGE, KOLLAM.
3. MANEESH KANNAN, S/O.MADHUSOODANAN, AGED 23 YEARS,  
THOTTUMAKARA PUTHEN VEEDU,  
NEAR SEEMATTI KANNETTU NUTS FACTORY,  
CHATHANNOOR, CHIRAKKARA VILLAGE, KOLLAM.
4. RAHUL CHANDRAN, S/O.CHANDRA SEKHARAN PILLAI, AGED 21 YEARS,  
RESHMA BHAVAN, NEAR ADICHANALLOOR PANCHAYATH OFFICE,  
ADICHANALLOOR VILLAGE, KOLLAM.
5. SHAFI, S/O.BASHEER, AGED 20 YEARS,  
AHAD MANZIL, NEAR CHERIKKONAM MOSQUE, KANNANALLOOR, MUKHATHALA  
(FROM THODIYIL VEEDU PLAKKAD,  
ADICHANALLOOR VILLAGE, KOLLAM.

BY ADV.SRI.H.NUJUMUDEEN

RESPONDENT/COMPLAINANT:

STATE OF KERALA THROUGH S.H.O OF POLICE,  
VITHURA POLICE STATION, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM DISTRICT  
REPRESENTED BY PUBLIC PROSECUTOR,  
HIGH COURT OF KERALA, PIN-682 031.

BY PUBLIC PROSECUTOR SMT.PUSHPALATHA M.K.

THIS BAIL APPLICATION HAVING COME UP FOR ADMISSION ON 11.04.2020, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY PASSED THE FOLLOWING:

**ORDER**

This application is filed under Section 439 of the Cr.P.C.

2. The applicants herein are accused Nos.1 to 5 in Crime No.146 of 2020 of Vithura Police Station registered under Sections 20(b)(ii)(a), 22(a) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and Section 77 of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

3. Heard the learned counsel appearing for the applicants and the learned Public Prosecutor through Video Conferencing.

4. I have considered the submission and have gone through the records which are made available.

5. The specific allegation of the prosecution is that the applicants herein were found in possession of 11 gms of Ganja and about 21.3 gms Nitrosum and Quetiapine tablets which were kept in 21 small packets. I find that the applicants herein were arrested on 28.02.2020 and the quantity seized is intermediate in nature. No other crimes are reported against the applicants who are in their early twenties. It is trite that the requirement for bail is to secure the attendance of the prisoner and it is the duty of the court to admit the accused to bail, wherever practical, unless there are strong grounds for

supposing that such persons would not appear to take the trial. A presumed innocent person is entitled to have his freedom in the form of bail to enable him to establish his innocence at the trial. (See **G.Narasimhulu v. Public Prosecutor** [AIR 1978 SC 29]). As held in **Nikesh Tarachand Shah v. Union of India** [2018 (11) SCC 1] grant of bail is the rule and refusal is an exception and an accused person who enjoys freedom will be in a much better position to defend himself than if he were in custody.

6. I also take note of the fact that the Nation is facing an unprecedented and extraordinary outbreak of a pandemic and all steps are being taken to ensure that the Court premises do not contribute to the spread of the deadly virus which has taken the life of many people. A lockdown has been imposed and the citizens therein have been advised to practice social distancing and to quarantine themselves. The Hon'ble Supreme Court as well as this Court have suggested measures to reduce the physical presence of lawyers, litigants, court staff, paralegal personnel in courts across the country. Directions have also been issued to decongest the Jails. Directing the appearance of the petitioner in the court below and insisting him to produce sureties and execute bonds will definitely have an adverse effect. In that view of the matter, I am of the

considered opinion that the applicant herein can be granted provisional bail for a period of 30 days from today.

In the result, this application will stand allowed. The Superintendent of the jail wherein the applicants are incarcerated is directed to release the applicants provisionally on bail for a period of 30 days on the applicants executing personal bonds without sureties. The above order shall be subject to the following conditions:

- i. The applicants shall furnish an undertaking before the Superintendent of Jail concerned detailing the permanent place of their abode and the contact numbers of themselves and their near relatives. They shall undertake that they shall strictly comply with the lockdown imposed and the various directives issued by the Central as well as the State Government and that they shall remain in quarantine for a period of 30 days or such extended period as may be notified.
- ii. The Superintendent of Jail shall intimate the release of the applicants to the Station House Officer of the Police Station which has registered the crime.
- iii. On being released from prison, the applicants shall report before the jurisdictional police station and shall furnish a copy of the undertaking furnished before the Jail Superintendent. The SHO concerned shall ensure that the applicants do not leave the premises, where they have undertaken to remain in quarantine

till such time the lockdown period continues in force, otherwise than for emergent situations

- iv. The applicants shall not tamper with the evidence or influence the witnesses in any manner whatsoever. They shall not make any contact with the victim.
- v. The applicants shall not commit any offense while on bail.
- vi. On the expiry of 30 days, ordered as above, or within three days of the withdrawal of the lockdown by the Government, whichever is earlier, the applicants shall appear before the jurisdictional Court and seek regular bail and the Court shall consider their application on its merits and pass appropriate orders.

If the applicants violate any of the conditions above, the Station House Officer may approach the jurisdictional Court and may move an application for cancellation of bail, which shall be considered and disposed of by the said Court, notwithstanding the fact that interim bail has been granted by this Court.

**RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN.V.**  
**JUDGE**