
Salim Kumar B.S Vs State Of Kerala

Criminal Miscellaneous Petition No. 207 Of 2020

Court: High Court Of Kerala

Date of Decision: Nov. 10, 2021

Acts Referred:

Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 " Section 482#Indian Penal Code, 1860 " Section 353#Kerala Police Act, 2011 " Section 118(a)#Kerala Protection of River Banks and Regulation of. Removal of Sand Act. 2001 " Section 20

Hon'ble Judges: Sophy Thomas, J

Bench: Single Bench

Advocate: I.V.Pramod, K.V.Sasidharan, Saira Souraj P., Devi Shri R

Final Decision: Allowed

Judgement

Sophy Thomas, J

1. The petitioner is the sole accused in Crime No.112 of 2013 of Badiadka Police Station registered for an offence punishable under Section 118(a) of

the Kerala Police Act (for short 'the KP Act').

2. The allegation is that on 26.02.2013, when the petitioner was called to the Police Station for the purpose of identifying an accused, he was under the

influence of alcohol. Badiadka Police registered crime against him and he was charge sheeted under Section 118(a) of the KP Act. Now it is pending

before JFCM-II, Kasaragod as C.C.No.422 of 2017.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner would submit that petitioner is a Village Assistant and he was called to the Police Station at 07.00 p.m., in order

to identify an accused, against whom a case was registered under Section 353 of IPC and Section 20 of the Kerala Protection of River Banks and

Regulation of Removal of Sand Act (for short 'the Sand Act'). Since that accused was a stranger to him, he could not identify him, and only because

of that fact, Police registered this crime against the petitioner. So his prayer is to quash Annexure-A3 charge sheet.

4. In order to attract an offence punishable under Section 118(a) of the KP Act, a person should be found in a public place in an intoxicated manner or

rioting condition incapable of looking after himself. The definite case of the prosecution is that as requested by Police the petitioner reached Badiadka

Police Station for the purpose of identifying an accused. The very fact that the petitioner reached the Police Station, when he was asked to be present

there, itself will negative the case of the prosecution that he was incapable of looking after himself even if it is taken for argument sake that he had

consumed alcohol at that time. Admittedly the petitioner is a Village Assistant and he was invited to the Police Station for identifying an accused.

Annexure-A1 will not show that the petitioner committed rioting or misbehaved himself in the Police Station. The only allegation in the F.I.R was that

he was intoxicated and was unable to control himself. The 161 statements of the witnesses are to the effect that the petitioner challenged the Police

and committed rioting inside the Police Station. The available records will not show that the petitioner was sent to doctor for a clinical examination, or

to show that his blood test was conducted to prove that he was intoxicated. The records show that he was subjected to Alco-quant test using

Alcometer. All the witnesses are Police Officers except CW7 Saseendran, who was the accused arrested under the Sand Act, to identify whom the

petitioner was called to the Police Station.

5. Section 118 (a) of KP Act, reads as follows:

“118. Penalty for causing grave violation of public order or danger:- Any person who.-(a) “is found in a public place, in an intoxicated manner or rioting

condition or incapable of looking after himself---“

6. The word 'intoxicated' is not defined under the Act. The meaning of the word 'intoxicated' as given in Advanced Law lexicon by P.Ramanatha

Aiyar is that “a man is intoxicated whenever he is so much under the influence of spirituous or intoxicating liquors that it so operates upon him, that

it so affects his acts or conduct or movement, that the public or parties coming in contact with him could readily see and know that it was affecting

him in that respect.

7. Consuming liquor in a private place without causing nuisance or annoyance to anybody will not attract any offence. Mere smell of alcohol also

cannot be construed to mean that the person was intoxicated or was under the influence of any liquor. A diminished ability to act with full mental and

physical capabilities because of alcohol or drug consumption; drunkenness, will come under the definition of intoxication as per Blacks Law dictionary.

8. The expression 'rioting condition' used in Section 118 (a) would mean that the person was behaving in a way that is violent and/or not in control.

Behaving in a noisy and/or violent or tumultuous manner may come within the expression 'rioting condition'. The behaviour which is contrary to law,

which may tend to disturb the sense of morality of the public or which may affect the public peace or decorum may also be termed as riotous or

disorderly behaviour. If a person's behaviour is such that, it was causing nuisance to the public or is offensive, likely to affect the decorum, that may

also be a relevant factor to decide whether the accused was in a rioting condition or incapable of looking after himself.

8. Now coming to the condition that 'incapable of looking after himself' envisaged under Section 118 (a) of the KP Act, weakening of self control,

weakening of self awareness, and incapacity to know or realize the consequences of the action etc are relevant factors. Incoherent speech, unsteady

gait, staggering etc., and the manner in which he conducts himself towards fellow men are also relevant factors to hold whether the accused person

was in proper control of himself. {Reliance placed on the decision in Shybu Mathew v. State of Kerala [2012 (1) KLT 653]}

9. According to the petitioner, he was called to the Police Station at 07.00 p.m. on 26.06.2013 for identifying an accused and since he failed to identify

the accused as requested by the Police, a false case was foisted against him. Even if it is taken for argument sake that the petitioner had consumed

alcohol, the available facts and materials are not sufficient to suggest that, he was not able to control himself or he committed rioting inside the Police

Station causing nuisance. He reached Police Station, only because he was asked to be present there. Prosecution has no case that the petitioner is

having any criminal antecedents.

In the result, this CrI.M.C is allowed and the proceedings in C.C.No.422 of 2017 pending before JFCM-II, Kasaragod against the petitioner stand

quashed under Section 482 Cr.P.C. Petitioner is discharged and he is set at liberty.