

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. 68 OF 2020

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Manojkumar Arvindbhai Vasava**APPELLANT****VERSUS****Abhijit Jitendrabhai Maheta****RESPONDENT**

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: ORDER BELOW EXHIBIT-1 :

- [1] Present appeal emanates from the judgment of conviction, sentence and compensation dated 14/02/2020 passed by Ld. 4th Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bharuch in Criminal Case No. 2865 of 2018, whereby the present appellant/original accused is convicted for the offence punishable under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instrument Act, 1881.
- [2] Parties have submitted Compromise pursis vide Exhibit-70, inter-alia, mentioning that the dispute is amicably settled between the parties and that there is no dispute with regards to the amount of dishonoured cheque. They further submit that the original complainant has no objection if impugned order is set aside and the original accused is acquitted and they have requested this Court to pass

appropriate orders in view of the amended provisions Section 147 of Negotiable Instrument Act.

[3] It is not in dispute that the parties have amicably settled their dispute regarding the dishonoured cheque forming part of complaint wherein the order of conviction was recorded. Considering the fact that original complainant/present respondent, has no objection if the present appeal is allowed by setting aside the impugned order. As per the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of **Madhya Pradesh State Legal Services Authority versus Prateek Jain and Anr.** reported in **(2014) 10 SCC 690**, it was held by the Hon'ble Supreme Court that where settlement is made in Lok Adalat, the court can reduce or waive amount of costs of compounding. Hence, considering the facts and circumstances of the present case and the fact that the matter is settled in Lok Adalat, I have found it just and proper to waive costs of compounding charge of compounding the offence.

[4] In view of what is stated herein-above and considering the facts and circumstances of the case and as the settlement has been arrived between the parties, this Court has passed the following order in the interest of justice :

: O R D E R :

(1) The order of conviction, sentence and compensation dated 14/02/2020 passed by Ld. 4th Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bharuch in Criminal

Case No. 2865 of 2018 is hereby quashed and set aside and the appellant/original accused is hereby acquitted from the offence punishable under Section 138 of Negotiable Instrument Act. The offence punishable under Section-138 under N.I. Act is ordered to be compounded under the provisions contained under Section 147 of N.I. Act.

- (2) The direction to pay cheque amount as compensation, by the Ld. Trial Court is also set aside.
- (3) With these observations, the Criminal Appeal No. 68 of 2020 stands disposed of accordingly.
- (4) Necessary Yadi of this order be sent to concern Trial Court.
- (5) The R & P if any, be sent back to concerned Trial Court immediately.

Order signed and pronounced in National Lok Adalat on 14th March, 2026.

Date : 14/03/2026
Place : Bharuch
KKC

(P. M. SONI)
5th ADDITIONAL SESSIONS
JUDGE, BHARUCH.
Code No. : GJ00747