

MHRG010010432025



**State of Maharashtra
Vs.
Prasanna Mohan Pulekar**

Order Below Exh.3 in Special Case No.49/2025

This is a bail application filed by the applicant/accused under Section 483 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (in short “the BNSS”). The applicant is an accused in Crime No.41/2025 registered with Murud Police Station against him under Section 420, 406, 411, 37 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and under Section 3, 4, 5, 21, 22, 23 of Banning of Unregulated Deposit Scheme Act, 2019.

2. The brief facts of the case are that :-

The accused had induced the members of the public to invest money in regulated deposit scheme with assurance of 10% returns. It is alleged that more than 100 investors had been duped by him and had been defrauded for Rs.8,46,66,500/-.

3. Ld. Adv. of the accused submitted that the investigation was over and the charge-sheet had been filed. The accused is the sole earning member of his family. Since he was a resident of Murud, so there were no chances of his absconding and remaining absent for trial. No purpose will be served by keeping him behind bars. The punishment, for the offences, which the accused is charged with, is not death penalty or life imprisonment. Thus, prayed that the accused be released on any terms and conditions deemed fit by

this Court.

4. Ld. DGP vehemently opposed the application and submitted that the accused had received an amount of Rs.9,47,25,000/- from the informant and 161 depositors, and had committed fraud on them. Many of the depositors were from lower middle class of the society. He further submitted that the amount involved was huge. Furthermore, some of the depositors were from Mumbai and were not personally aware about the case and had so not approached the Police. Thus, it was possible that number of depositors, on whom, fraud had been committed, might be increased in near future. The accused had purchased a car and gold from this money. He had not co-operated with the Police during investigation.

5. Ld. DGP Shri. Pawar further submitted that the accused has deployed many agents to collect such amount from the depositors and the agents had absconded. All the agents of the accused were yet to be arrested. The Police was further investigating as to where the accused had deposited the entire money and whether he had purchased immovable properties out of the same. The offence was a white collar crime and no leniency should be shown in such offence. Hence, prayed that application be rejected.

6. The Investigating Officer further added that the amount which had come to the fore was only by way of bank transactions. He submitted that there were other cash transactions as well, which have not yet been traced. He further submitted that forensic audit had been done. Ten agents of the accused who were involved in the crime are yet to be arrested. There was possibility of influencing the 161 witnesses and tampering with the evidence, if

the accused is released on bail. He further submitted that the investigation was in progress and supplementary charge-sheet may be filed by the Police. Hence, prayed that the application be rejected.

7. Heard both sides.

8. Perused charge-sheet.

9. It is seen that serious allegations of duping 161 depositors of huge amount of more than 8 crores, is made out against the accused.

10. Admittedly, the interest of number of simple and gullible people is involved. As informed by the Ld. DGP and the Investigating Officer, the agents of the accused are yet to be arrested and further investigation is in progress. Considering the nature of offence allegedly committed by the accused, the possibility of tampering with the evidence cannot be ruled out, if the accused is released on bail. Thus, following order is passed:-

ORDER

1. Application (Exh.03) is rejected.
2. Inform the concerned Police Station.

Alibag.
Date :-09.10.2025.

Sd/--
Dr.(Smt.)Srishty Neelkanth
Special Judge, Raigad-Alibag.