

IN THE COURT OF SESSIONS, ERNAKULAM DIVISION

Present:-

Sri. K.K.Balakrishnan, Sessions Judge

Monday, 28th day of September, 2026/6th Aswina, 1948

BA No.2097/2026

(Crime No.734/2026 of Kalamassery Police Station)

Petitioner/

Accused No.1:

Anto Augustine, aged 37 years, S/o.Late Augustine,
Moongananiyil House, Thrikkaipetta P.O.,
Wayanad District.

By Advs. S Rajeev, Visakh Johnson

Respondent/

Complainant:

1. State of Kerala, represented by Station House Officer, Kalamassery Police Station through Public Prosecutor, District & Sessions Court, Ernakulam, Pin-682011.
2. P.Vikraman IPS, Superintendent of Police, Crime Branch, Kozhikode, Kozhikode City, Pin-673004.

By Public Prosecutor Sri. Manoj G Krishnan

This petition filed u/s.482 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita praying this Court to grant anticipatory bail to the petitioner.

This petition coming on for hearing on 26.09.2026 and the Court on 28.09.2026 passed the following:

ORDER

This petition is filed under Section 482 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, by A1 in Crime No.734/2026 of Kalamassery Police Station. The offence alleged against the accused is under Section 318(2), 318(4), 61 and 3(5) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS).

2. The case of the prosecution in brief is as follows : Petitioner is the authorized signatory of Reporter Broadcasting Private Limited

(RBC Pvt. Ltd.). He along with other accused, in furtherance of a criminal conspiracy hatched prior to 20.12.2024, with the intention of cheating the government and the general public, incorporated illegal and false clauses in the agreement dated 20.12.2024 entered into with the Argentine Football Association, thereby deceived the government of Kerala and others and causing wrongful gain to the accused. Further, on 26.09.2025, the accused took steps to have the Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium at Kaloor, owned by the government and under the control of the Greater Cochin Development Authority (GCDA), handed over to RBC and to waive security deposit of ₹5 crore. Thus, based on the said allegations, Kalamassery Police registered this crime against the petitioner and co-accused, alleging the offences stated above. Apprehending arrest in this crime, the petitioner approached this court with the present petition.

3. The petitioner submitted that the allegations in Crime No. 734/2026 arise out of a commercial and contractual transaction relating to the proposed Argentina Football event, in which the petitioner acted only as an authorised signatory of M/s. Reporter Broadcasting Company Private Limited and derived no personal gain to him. The transaction was undertaken pursuant to Government Orders, official permissions and communications, that the agreement with the Argentina Football

Association was entered into with the knowledge and approval of the competent authorities. The use of the Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium was effected through the concerned government and statutory authorities. There was no fraudulent inducement or wrongful gain and the company itself paid USD 14.5 million to the Argentina Football Association, obtained the requisite permissions, and, upon failure of the proposed event, initiated arbitration proceedings for recovery of the money paid. The allegations are substantially founded on documentary evidence already available with the authorities. He is ready to cooperate with the investigation and produce all relevant records, Custodial interrogation is unnecessary and he is ready to abide any conditions imposed by this court in the event of granting pre arrest bail. So, pleaded to grant pre-arrest bail to him.

4. The investigating officer filed report that there is no need of arrest of the petitioner at this stage and if necessary notice as per the provisions of law will be issued to him. So, the investigating officer pleaded to dismiss the petition.

5. Heard both sides and perused the case diary submitted by the investigating officer.

6. The learned counsel for the petitioner reiterated the facts narrated in the petition repeating that the petitioner was falsely

implicated in the case. After the report of the Investigating Officer learned counsel pleaded to issue direction to the Investigating agency to issue notice under Section 35 (3) of BNSS to the petitioner if any coercive step is initiated.

7. The learned Public Prosecutor reiterated what investigating officer reported. Hence, pleaded to dismiss the petition.

8. I have perused the case diary and report of the prosecution. Considering the report of the investigating officer, I am of the view that there is no basis for apprehension of the petitioner that he will be arrested in the above crime. So, petition is only liable to be dismissed. In case the respondent wants to proceed against the petitioner in the above crime, notice u/s. 35(3) of BNSS shall be issued.

In the result, this petition is dismissed.

Dictated to the Confidential Assistant, transcribed and typed by him, revised and corrected by me and pronounced on this the 28th day of September, 2026.

Sd/-
K K Balakrishnan
Sessions Judge

Appendix:

Annexure A1	15.09.2026	Truecopy of FIR in Cr.No.734/2026 of Kalamassery Police Station
Annexure A2	20.12.2024	Truecopy of the agreement signed by the Argentina Football Association and accused No.2.

Annexure A3	17.02.2024	Truecopy of GO(Rt) No.50/2024/ S& YA issued by the Sports & Youth Affairs (A) Department, Government of Kerala
Annexure A4	16.12.2024	Truecopy of letter No.RBC/FIN/G-04-24-25 issued by Director of M/s.Reporter Broadcasting Company Private Limited to the Minister of Sports, Government of Kerala
Annexure A5	24.12.2024	Truecopy of GO (RT) No.294/2024/ S&Y issued by the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs
Annexure A6	31.12.2024	Truecopy of letter issued M/s.Reporter Broadcasting Company Private Limited to the Principal Secretary, Government of Kerala, Ministry of Sports & Youth Affairs.
Annexure A7	07.01.2025	Truecopy of GO(Rt) No.10/2025/S&YA issued by the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of Kerala
Annexure A8	06.11.2024, 07.11.2024	Truecopy of printout of the e-mail communication between the Minsiter for Sports, Government of Kerala and the Argentina Football Association
Annexure A9	06.11.2024	Truecopy of Agreement executed between AKGSMA and the Argentina Football Association
Annexure A10	06.11.2024	Truecopy of the Invoice No.351 issued by the collection agency of AFA to AKGSMA
Annexure A11	05.06.2025	Truecopy of Form A2 along with outward remittance message
Annexure A12	04.06.2025	Truecopy of Form A2 along with outward remittance message
Annexure A13	24.02.2025	Truecopy of the outward remittance approval letter issued by RBI
Annexure A14	10.01.2025	Truecopy of NOC issued by Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India

Annexure A15	24.09.2025	Truecopy of Report on handing over/taking over of Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium and premises at Kaloor
Annexure A16	10.12.2025	Truecopy of the criminal complaint
Annexure A17	03.06.2026	Truecopy of case management hearing notice issued by the Court of Arbitration for Sports, Lausanne Switzerland

Typed by: Sindhu S.T
Comp.by:

BA No.2097/2026
Order dated: 28.09.2026