

impugned orders, the respondent KHADC has directed for elections to be held for the post of headman.

3. Ms. A. Kharshiing, learned counsel for the petitioners has drawn the attention of this Court to the first order of this Court dated 11.11.2025 passed in WP(C) No. 140 of 2025, wherein she submits that the directions contained therein, is only for submission of voters list and a Dorbar to be held thereon for finalization of the same, and observers were to be deputed by the office of the Syiem of Khyrim as also the District Council. It is further submitted that the District Council respondent by a letter dated 21.01.2026, had the called for holding of Dorbar to elect the headman, which being against the directions of this Court, had compelled the petitioners to approach this Court again by way of WP(C) No. 17 of 2026, which however on the assurance of the counsel for the KHADC that the meeting sought to be convened was only for finalization of the voters list, the matter was then disposed of.

4. The learned counsel for the petitioners has also submitted today that though the voters list is more or less finalized and that the Dorbar to accept the same is yet to be convened, the respondents Nos. 1, 2 & 3, by a letter dated 18.03.2026 have directed to convene a meeting/Dorbar for the purpose of election of a full-fledged headman of Urksew-Wahpathaw. Pursuant to this, the learned counsel has submitted

that respondent No. 4 (Acting Sordar, Raid Shabong), had issued a notice dated 23.03.2026, for convening of a Dorbar on 31.03.2026, to elect the Headman and submits that the directions contained in the letter dated 18.03.2026 and notice dated 23.03.2026, are in violation of this Court's orders. She further submits that as the election is scheduled to be held on 31.03.2026, she prays that in the interim, the said notice be not given effect to.

5. Thought the official respondents are not present as they have not been served, however looking at the urgency of the matter, as the elections are scheduled for 31.03.2026, the matter has been taken up today. It is seen that the whole issue had initially revolved around the finalization of the voters list where allegations had been made that many non-residents and ineligible persons had been included in the list to participate in the Dorbar. As such, a Dorbar was sought to be held to finalize the voters list, and not for election of a headman.

6. Be that as it may, and as it has been reported that the voters list is more or less been agreed upon, however, as there are no direction or prayer made for allowing elections to be held, a prima facie case has been made out in favour of the petitioners, for interim stay. Accordingly, the letter dated 18.03.2023 as well as the notice dated 23.03.2023, shall remain suspended until the next date.

7. As this order has been passed ex parte, the respondents are at liberty to file application for alteration, modification and vacation of this order.

8. List this matter on 16.04.2026.

JUDGE

Meghalaya
27.03.2026
"V. Lyndem-PS"