

HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA
AT SHILLONG

PIL No. 8 of 2022

Date of order: 26.06.2023

Champer M. Sangma vs State of Meghalaya & ors

Coram:

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjib Banerjee, Chief Justice
Hon'ble Mr. Justice W. Diengdoh, Judge

Appearance:

For the Petitioner : Mr S. Dey, Adv.
Mr S. Deb, Adv.

For the Respondents : Mr K. Khan, AAG with
Mr S. Sengupta, Addl Sr GA
Ms R. Colney, GA
Dr N. Mozika, DSGI with
Ms A. Pradhan, Adv. [For R 13]
Mr P. Bora, Sr. Adv. [For R 14]

The State seeks some time despite having received the petitioner's affidavit on June 19, 2023.

2. The petitioner submits that illegal mining and the illegal transportation of illegally-mined coal continues merrily in the State of Meghalaya and even the death of two coal workers from Assam in the South Garo Hills district has gone unnoticed and has not been reported in the newspapers in the State. Counsel for the petitioner submits that he has confirmation in such regard from a Superintendent of Police in one of the neighbouring districts of Assam. However, Counsel submits that

the relevant Superintendent has since become wiser and has not answered any further phone calls.

3. The petitioner claims to have video footage of the illegal mining activities and the transportation of the illegally-mined coal. The petitioner should ensure that such video footage can be viewed in Court when the matter appears next. A senior government official should be present to immediately respond to whatever is revealed from the relevant video footage.

4. On behalf of the respondent No. 14, it is submitted that a copy of the petitioner's latest affidavit should be forwarded to it. The petitioner claims that a soft copy of the relevant affidavit has been emailed to Mr Bora, but Mr Bora denies receipt. It is also submitted on behalf of the petitioner that local Advocate previously representing the respondent No. 14 declined to receive the copy of the affidavit. Since it is submitted on behalf of the respondent No. 14 that local Advocate, Mr S.A. Sheikh represents the respondent No. 14, Advocate for the petitioner should forward a copy of the latest affidavit to Mr Sheikh in course of the day.

5. It is pointed out on behalf of the Union that one of the kingpins has been identified in the petitioner's affidavit. The State will do well to take note of such fact and take appropriate steps in accordance with law.

6. List on July 4, 2023.

(W. Diengdoh)
Judge

(Sanjib Banerjee)
Chief Justice

Meghalaya
26.06.2023
"Sylvana PS"

