

HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA
AT SHILLONG

PIL No. 8 of 2023

Date of order: 31.08.2023

Champer M Sangma vs The 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. Deb, Adv.

For the Respondents : Mr K. Khan, AAG with
Mr S Sengupta, Addl Sr GA [For R 1-5]
Mr M.Z. Ahmed, Sr Adv. with
Mrs B. Dutta, Sr Adv. [For R 6]

Subject to the respondent No. 6 paying costs assessed at Rs. 1,000/- in course of this week, the time to file its affidavit is extended by a week from date. The deposit of costs will be condition precedent for the affidavit being received.

2. The other respondents should also file their affidavits, particularly the respondent Nos. 7 and 8 within a week from date with similar costs of Rs. 1,000/- each.

3. It is high time that punitive steps were taken by this Court in the matter pertaining to the illegal mining of coal in the State and the complicity of officials all around in such matter despite the prohibition

in place from or about the year 2016 pursuant to orders of the National Green Tribunal and the Supreme Court.

4. The State's affidavit should also be filed within a week from date by taking into account the orders that have been passed in the suo motu proceedings instituted by this Court in March, 2022 and the orders passed in the related matters pursuant to several interim reports being filed by Justice Katakey (retired) who was engaged by this Court to oversee the adherence to the orders of prohibition and the disposal of the previously illegally-mined coal.

5. The matter will appear a fortnight hence for further consideration.

6. List on September 27, 2023.

(W. Diengdoh)
Judge

(Sanjib Banerjee)
Chief Justice

Meghalaya
31.08.2023
"Sylvana PS"