

submits, is directed against an order dated 15-09-2025, whereby the District Council respondents have directed for a referendum to be held with regard to the selection/election of the Sordar of Mawkynrew/Mawlein Pyllun. It is submitted that this being against the established custom, inasmuch as, it is not the public that elects the Sordar of Mawkynrew/Mawlein Pyllun, but only the Mukhim clan, learned counsel prays that at this stage, some interim order be passed, inasmuch as, the matter if carried forward will affect the customary practices prevailing in Mawkynrew/Mawlein Pyllun.

Mr. C.C.T.Sangma, learned counsel for the respondents No. 1-4, submits that the direction contained in the impugned letter is for the public to select the Sordar of Mawkynrew/Mawlein Pyllun by way of a referendum, and it is as per the Khasi Hills Autonomous District (Nomination, Succession and Election of Syiem, Deputy Syiem, Lyngskor, Bakhraw, Sordar Shnat Raid, Longsan Mansam Shnat Raid, Rangbah Shnong or Sordar Shnong and Administration of Khyrim Syiemship) Act, 2024, and as such there is no illegality in the same.

Having heard the learned counsel for the parties on the prayer for interim stay, it is noted that what has been projected is that the office of the Sordar of Mawkynrew/Mawlein Pyllun is different from the Sordar of Mawkynrew/Mawlein villages, and is of a different office wherein the general public elect the incumbents, whereas the referendum being sought

is for a specific office which is not open to general election, as it is a customary office and involves other duties and rituals.

As the matter deserves further consideration, it is provided that till the next date, the letter dated 15-09-2025, directing that a referendum be held within one month, will not be given effect to.

List this matter on 16-10-2025.

Chief Justice (Acting)

Meghalaya
26.09.2025
"Samantha PS"