

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR
AT IMPHAL**

WP(C) No. 638 of 2022

Thangjam Ibotombi Singh

... Petitioner

Vs.

State of Manipur & ors.

... Respondents

B E F O R E

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AHANTHEM BIMOL SINGH

16-08-2022

Heard Mr. M. Devananda, learned counsel appearing for the petitioner.

Issue notice, returnable within four weeks.

Mr. A. Vashum, learned Government Advocate accepts notice on behalf of respondents No. 1 to 3 and Syed Murtaza Ahmed, learned counsel accepts notice on behalf of respondent No. 5, hence no formal notice is called for in respect of the said respondents.

Petitioner is to take steps for service of notice upon respondent No. 4 by speed post within one week.

The simple case of the petitioner is that the election of the office bearers of the Imphal East District Football Association should be conducted in terms of the provisions of the Constitution of Imphal East District Football Association, Mapal Kangjeibung, Imphal and as the process of election of the office bearers of the Imphal East District Football Association under challenge in this writ petition, having been done under the regulation of the Imphal East District Football Association, the same deserves to be interfered with by passing necessary interim orders. On the other hand, the stand taken by the State respondents as well as respondent No. 5 is that as the said Constitution, which has been annexed and relied on by the petitioner, is not an approved document in terms of the Manipur Societies Registration Act, the election for the office bearers of the Imphal East District Football Association have been done under the "regulation"

of the Imphal East District Football Association, which has been approved by the Office of the Registrar of Societies in terms of the provisions of the Societies Registration Act.

Since there is dispute as to which of the documents, i.e., “the Constitution” or “the Regulation” of the Imphal East District Football Association is the valid document and to settle the said dispute, this court passed an order on 27-07-2022 in WP(C) No. 544 of 2022, WP(C) No. 469 of 2022 and WP(C) No. 517 of 2022 directing the Registrar of Societies to undertake a verification process from the records maintained by its office to find out which of the aforesaid documents is the existing, valid and applicable documents for governing or regulating the election of the members of the Managing Committee of the Imphal East District Football Association and to submit a report to this court. In compliance with the order passed by this court, the learned Government Advocate placed before this court a letter dated 03-08-2022 of the Registrar of Societies, Manipur wherein it has been clearly and specifically stated that the aforesaid “Constitution” annexed in the present writ petition was not acknowledged by the Office of the Deputy Registrar of Societies and hence, not a valid document and that the regulation of the Imphal East District Football Association is a recognized document.

In view of the clarification submitted by the Registrar of Societies, Manipur, this court do not find any ground or reason for interfering with the process of election impugned in the writ petition as the same have been done in terms of the provisions of the valid and recognised “regulation”. Accordingly, this court declined to pass any order at this juncture.

List this case again on 13-09-2022.

JUDGE

Devananda