

HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA
AT SHILLONG

PIL No.4/2024

Date of Order: 10.02.2025

Kaustav Paul	Vs.	State of Meghalaya & ors
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Coram:

Hon'ble Mr. Justice I.P. Mukerji, Chief Justice
Hon'ble Mr. Justice W. Diengdoh, Judge

Appearance:

For the Petitioner	: Ms. K. Decruse, Adv
For the Respondents	: Mrs. T. Yangi B., AAG with Mr. E.R. Chyne, GA Mr. Philemon Nongbri, Adv for R/4&5

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| i) | Whether approved for reporting in Law journals etc.: | No |
| ii) | Whether approved for publication in press: | Yes |

Note: For proper public information and transparency, any media reporting this judgment is directed to mention the composition of the bench by name of judges, while reporting this judgment/order.

By our order dated 27th November, 2024 in a public interest litigation (PIL) concerning relocation of the zoo in Shillong and for measures to deal with street dog menace in public places, we had expressed our satisfaction with the steps taken by the government for shifting the zoo in Shillong to a location about 35 kms from the city.

Only the birds could not be shifted. They were also likely to be shifted to the new location after construction of a cage type enclosure.

Shillong Municipal Board was directed to file an action taken report with regard to the construction of a shelter to keep the street dogs. The Shillong Municipal Board has filed an affidavit affirmed on 5th February, 2025.

It appears from this affidavit that the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department of the State government has a shelter for dogs and was approached by the Municipal Board to accommodate the animals captured by them. In response to a letter dated 3rd January, 2025 of the Board, the Director of the Department by his letter dated 16th January, 2025 had informed him that the Board was given responsibility to provide a shelter and not the State and that the above facility was being used for animal birth control programme.

However, it is very heartening to note that the Municipal Board soon thereafter invited tender for construction of a dog shelter home, has awarded the contract in favour of a party and that construction of the shelter has started which is expected to be completed within the next 30 days.

We direct the Municipal Board to ensure as far as possible that this construction is completed within the above stipulated time and the street dogs are provided shelter there.

In the meantime, the State through the Secretary, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department is directed to verify the

authenticity of the Director's statement that shelter for street dogs cannot be provided at the shelter of the department and if it is possible to keep the street dogs there, shall cooperate with the Board so that pending start of operation of the Board's shelter, the street dogs captured by the Board are accommodated in the State's dog shelter.

List this PIL once again on 12th March, 2025.

Both the Shillong Municipal Board and the State are to file short affidavits to indicate action taken in terms of this order.

(W. Diengdoh)
Judge

(I.P. Mukerji)
Chief Justice

Meghalaya
10.02.2025
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