

HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA
AT SHILLONG

PIL No. 17 of 2021 with
PIL No. 9 of 2024

Date of order: 12.06.2025

Philip Khrawbok Shati	vs	State of Meghalaya & ors.
Andrew Aibok Jyrwa	vs	The State of Meghalaya & ors.

Coram:

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

Appearance in PIL No. 17/2021:

For the Petitioners : Mr. T. Dkhar, Adv.
Vice Mr. H.L. Shangreiso, Sr. Adv.

For the Respondents : Mr. K. P. Bhattacharjee, GA
Mr. S.P. Mahanta, Sr. Adv.
Mr. M. Lyngdoh, Adv.
Ms. K. Gurung, Adv.
Mr. E. Lalsangluaia, Adv.
Vice Mr. Philemon Nongbri, Adv.

Appearance in PIL No. 9/2024:

For the Petitioners : Mr. N. Syngkon, Adv. with
Ms. L. Phanjom, Adv.

For the Respondents : Mr. K.P. Bhattacharjee, GA
Mr. E. Lalsangluaia, Adv.
Vice Mr. Philemon Nongbri, Adv.

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| i) | Whether approved for reporting in Law journals etc.: | Yes/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.

This public interest litigation (PIL) involves identifying street vending areas, relocating areas permitted to be used for street vending, regulation of traffic in general, allocating and relocating parking spaces, clearance of as much road area as possible to allow free movement of vehicles and overall implementation of policies and plans to make the capital of Meghalaya-Shillong region, a modern, clean and well administered city.

By our order dated 8th May, 2025, we had taken on record the report by the government showing action in terms of our earlier order. The petitioner was given an opportunity to file a response to the said report by an affidavit by 15th May, 2025.

By our order dated 21st May, 2025, we extended the time for the petitioner to file the said affidavit dealing with the report filed by the State government. The affidavit affirmed on 2nd June, 2025 has been filed by the petitioner.

There is some substance in the statements made in that affidavit. It appears that although the government has taken steps for registration of authorised vendors, identification and allocation of vending zones with a plan for erection of several hundred stalls and adopted the policy to relocate these vendors to those vending zones, the scheme, christened Meghalaya State Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Scheme, 2023 has not been implemented. As a result, the problem of illegal occupation of road space and footpath and congestion continues. Special danger is caused to school going students who are unable to use the footpath and are compelled to walk on the road exposing themselves to traffic accidents.

Learned Advocate appearing for the State assures the Court that the government is keen to implement the above policy and scheme expeditiously.

In view of such submissions made, we are prepared to give his client a chance to carry out our order and the commitments expressed in its report.

We adjourn these petitions till 3rd July, 2025. By 1st July, 2025, the respondents-State shall file an affidavit showing action taken in terms of our order and the above scheme and circulate a copy thereof to the Advocate-on-Record for the petitioner. In the said report, the State might also deal with the statements made in the affidavit filed by the petitioner today.

(W. Diengdoh)
Judge

(I.P. Mukerji)
Chief Justice

Meghalaya
12.06.2025
"Sylvana PS"