

Serial Nos. 08
Weekly List

HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA
AT SHILLONG

PIL No. 4 of 2021 with
MC(PIL) No. 2 of 2021

Date of order: 16.12.2024

Registrar General, High Court vs State of Meghalaya & ors.
of Meghalaya

Coram:

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

Appearance:

For the Petitioner : Mr. P. Yobin, Amicus Curiae with
Mr. A. Dkhar, Adv.

For the Respondents : Mr. A. Kumar, AG with
Mr. A.H. Kharwanlang, Addl.Sr.GA
Dr. N. Mozika, DSGI with
Ms. K. Gurung, Adv.

i) Whether approved for Yes/No
reporting in Law journals etc.:

ii) Whether approved for publication Yes
in press:

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 concerns development and expansion of the Shillong Airport. To be more specific, the issue involved is extension of the runway and development of infrastructure and other facilities in and around the airport.

In our view, this development of the Shillong Airport is key to advancement of this State in all respects. It could facilitate the operation of larger, heavier and more sophisticated jet aircrafts, carrying both passengers and cargo. This would further the economic and tourism development of the State.

Learned Advocate General submits that measures had been taken for acquisition of land which is required for this development work but that till date, the land could not be handed over to the airport authorities.

Dr. N. Mozika, learned Deputy Solicitor General of India appearing for the Airports Authority of India submits that the Director General of Civil Aviation is considering the proposal and plan for expansion of this airport.

Mr. P. Yobin, learned Amicus Curiae submits that the development and expansion of the airport should be speedily completed and that the Director General of Civil Aviation should be noticed. To this, Dr. N. Mozika submits that the Directorate of Civil Aviation is working in collaboration with the Airports Authority of India and that a separate notice is not required.

We are of the view that it is high time that concrete steps are taken for extension of the runway, development of infrastructure and other facilities and overall expansion of this Shillong Airport.

We direct the State government to take all steps so that the requisite area of land is acquired and handed over to the Airports Authority of India, preferably within three months from date.

We also direct the Director General of Civil Aviation, in collaboration with the Airports Authority of India to approve and implement a complete plan, resulting in the above expansion of this airport within three months of acquisition and handing over of land to the Airports Authority of India by the State government.

List this PIL once again on 14th April, 2025 to consider the action taken by the respondents. It is desirable that the action taken shall be embodied in a report to be submitted by the Airports Authority of India and the State government.

(W. Diengdoh)
Judge

(I.P. Mukerji)
Chief Justice

Meghalaya
16.12.2024
"Sylvana PS"