

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

PIL No.71 of 2021

Shri Rinku Khumukcham, aged about 48 years, s/o late K.Raghumani Singh, a resident of Keishamathong Elangbam Leikai, PO & PS Imphal, Imphal West District, Manipur, PIN 795001.

... Petitioner

-Versus-

1. The State of Manipur through the Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur, Manipur Secretariat, South Block, PO & PS Imphal, Imphal West District, Manipur 795001.
2. The Chief Engineer, Public Works Department Government of Manipur, Khoyathong, PO Imphal, PS City, Imphal West District, Manipur 795001.
3. The Imphal Municipal Corporation, through its Executive Officer, Imphal Municipal Corporation, PO Imphal, PS City, Imphal West District, Manipur 795001.
4. The Union of India through the Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Transport Bhawan, 1, Parliament Street, New Delhi 110001.

... Respondents

BEFORE

HON'BLE THE ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE MR.MV MURALIDARAN
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE A.GUNESHWAR SHARMA

For the Petitioner :: Mr.M.Rakesh, Advocate

For the respondents :: Mr.Dimal Kumar, Advocate
(Jr. to Mr.Lenin Hijam, A.G)

Mr.Y.Nirmolchand, Sr.Advocate
Mr.S.Samarjeet, Sr.PCCG,
Mr.Ch.Robinchandra, Advocate
Mr.Shyamcharan, Advocate,
Mr.S.Jhalajit, Advocate and
Mr.H.Prabirkumar.

Date of hearing/ Order :: 21.02.2023

ORDER

A.Guneshwar Sharma,J.

The present Public Interest Litigation, concerning the problems faced by the pedestrian and vehicular movement due to unregulated erection of flagpoles and signboards etc, has been filed by the petitioner, who is a renowned Editor of English Daily, Imphal Times, praying inter alia, the following reliefs:

- “(i) to admit this writ petition and issue Rule Nisi:
- (ii) to issue a writ in the nature of Mandamus or any other appropriate writ or order for directing the Respondents to remove all unauthorised display boards, hoardings, placards and banners with poles, flag with poles, which abuts the highways, public streets pedestrian pavements forthwith;
- (iii) to issue a writ in the nature of Mandamus or any other appropriate writ or order for directing the Respondent No.1 to formulate a comprehensive set of guidelines thereby indicating the appropriate measures necessary to discourage and completely stop the practice of putting billboards, flagpoles etc. in the public places, which impedes pedestrian and vehicular movement;
- (iv) to issue any other appropriate writ or order or direction which the Hon’ble Court deems fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case.”

[2] The petitioner also filed MC (PIL) No.6 of 2022 for impleading the six major Political Parties in the PIL. When the matter was taken up on 21.02.2023, Mr.Dimalkumar, learned Jr. to Mr.Lenin Hijam, learned A.G, Manipur, produced an order dated 19.12.2022 passed by the Deputy Secretary (Home), Government of Manipur, constituted State Level Monitoring Committee, comprising the Commissioner (Home/P), Government of Manipur as Chairman, all Deputy Commissioners of all Districts of Manipur, all Superintendents of Police of all Districts of Manipur and Deputy Secretary (Home), Government of Manipur as convenor. The

Committee was constituted in pursuant to the direction of this Court vide order dated 14.12.2022 passed in MC (PIL) No.6 of 2022; Ref PIL No.71 of 2021. The order dated 19.12.2022 is reproduced hereinbelow:

“
GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR
SECRETARIAT:HOME DEPARTMENT

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR
Imphal, the 19th December, 2022

H-3608/4/2022-HD-HD: In pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Manipur vide its order dated 14.12.2022 as passed in MC (PIL) No.6 of 2022 (Rinku Khumukcham Vs State of Manipur & Ors) with PIL No.71 of 2021 and to ensure efficient and effective enforcement of the Government orders of even number dated 15.12.2022 regarding regulation, control and removal of illegal structures, advertising hoardings, signboards, banners etc in the public places including Government buildings and Structures, National Highways, Roads etd; the Governor of Manipur is pleased to constitute the State Level Monitoring Committee comprising of the following officers/Members with immediate effect in public interest:

1.	Commissioner (Home/P), Government of Manipur	Chairman
2.	All Deputy Commissioners of all Districts of Manipur (IW/IE/TBL/BPR/JBM/KPI/SPT/TML/NNY/CDL/TPL/CCPur/PZL/KJG/UKL/KCG	Member
3.	All Superintendents of Police of all Districts of Manipur (IW/IE/TBL/BPR/JBM/KPI/SPT/TML/NNY/CDL/TPL/CCPur/PZL/KJG/UKL/KCG	Member
4	Deputy Secretary (Home), Government of Manipur	Convenor

2. Terms of reference of the Committee are given below:
 - i. The Committee will look into all issues of unauthorised hoardings, sign boards, banners, statues etc being put up by various organizations, individuals, associations etc over State/National Highways and other means of public access;
 - ii. The Committee shall meet once in every month or as frequently as required if need arises;
 - iii. The Committee shall submit report of its activities to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Manipur at quarterly basis or on requisition by the Chief Minister's Office; and
 - iv. the Committee shall supervise the actions taken by District team led by District Magistrate in this regard.
3. The Committee may co-opt any other appropriate officer as deem fit for efficient functioning, as and when his/her service is required;
4. These issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

Sd/-
Dr.Mayengbam Veto Singh
Deputy Secretary, (Home),
Government of Manipur."

[3] Mr.Dimalkumar, learned counsel submits that with the issuance of order dated 19.12.2022, the prayers in the PIL are substantially complied. Mr.M.Rakesh, learned counsel for the petitioner also agrees to this submission.

[4] In view of issuance of the order dated 19.12.2022, we are of the view that the direction made in the PIL are substantially complied as the Committee has to look into the issues of unauthorized hoardings, sign boards, banners, statues etc being put up by various organizations,

individuals, associations etc over State/National Highways and other means of public access.

The Committee is also mandated to meet every month as frequently as required if need arises and the Committee shall also submit report of its activities to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Manipur at quarterly basis or on requisition by Chief Minister's office. The Committee shall also supervise the actions taken by the District team led by the District Magistrates.

In view of the above, the PIL and the connected Misc Case, are, accordingly, closed and disposed of.

JUDGE

ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE

FR/NFR
Priyojit

RAJKUMAR
R PRIYOJIT
SINGH

Digitally signed
by RAJKUMAR
PRIYOJIT SINGH
Date: 2023.04.21
10:06:06 +05'30'