Serial No. 15
Regular List

HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA
AT SHILLONG

Crl.M.C. No. 258 of 2026

Date of Decision: 26.10.2026
Uploaded on: 26.10.2026

Shri. Drulesh Sangma,
Son of Smti. Tipony D. Sangma,
Resident of Tillagaon Village,
South West Khasi Hills District,
Meghalaya.

…….. **Applicant(s)**

-Vs-

1. The State of Meghalaya, represented by
The Public Prosecutor/Special Public Prosecutor.

2. The Officer-in-Charge,
Ranikor Police Station,
South West Khasi Hills District,
Meghalaya.

…… **Respondent(s)**

Coram:

Hon'ble Mr. Justice W. Diengdoh, Judge

Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. Bhattacharjee, Judge

Appearance:

For the Petitioner/Applicant(s) : Ms. I.M. Lyngdoh, LAC.

For the Respondent(s) : Ms. I. Lyngwa, Addl. PP.

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

ii) Whether approved for publication

in press: Yes/No

Per W. Diengdoh, (J):

JUDGMENT (ORAL):

1. Heard Ms. I.M. Lyngdoh, learned Legal Aid Counsel for the applicant, who has submitted that the applicant has preferred an appeal before this Court against the impugned judgment and related order of sentence dated 30.06.2025 passed by the Court of the learned Special Judge (POCSO), South West Khasi Hills District, Mawkyrwat in Special POCSO Case No. 24 of 2021, whereby, he was convicted and sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a period of 20(twenty) years with fine of ₹ 50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand) only, and in default thereof, to undergo simple imprisonment of 2(two) months for the offence punishable under Section 5(j)(ii)(l)(n)/6 of the POCSO Act. For the offence punishable under Section 506 IPC Second Part, the applicant is also sentenced to undergo simple imprisonment for a period of 7(seven) years with fine of ₹ 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only, and in default of payment of fine, to undergo further simple imprisonment of 1(one) week.

2. However, while preferring an appeal, a delay of 412 days has occurred, since the applicant was not in a position to engage a private counsel. As such, due to circumstances which is beyond the control of the applicant, he could not prefer an appeal within the prescribed period of limitation. It was only when a legal aid was accorded to him that the related appeal has been filed. This

being the case, the learned Legal Aid Counsel prays that this Court may be pleased to condone the delay in filing the related appeal.

3. Ms. I. Lyngwa, learned Addl. PP appearing for the State respondent has no objection to the prayer for condonation of the delay.

4. On consideration of the submission made, we are persuaded to allow this application on being satisfied that the grounds cited for the delay contain sufficient cause. Accordingly, the delay of 412 days in preferring the appeal is hereby condoned.

5. Registry is directed to diarize the appeal and list it for admission after 1(one) week.

6. Misc. Case disposed of.

(B. Bhattacharjee)
Judge

(W. Diengdoh)
Judge

Verified
Digitally signed by: DARIKORDOR NARY
Signed On: 26-10-2026 17:53:21 IST