

Editorial

Imphal, Monday June 5, 2017

Celebrating Environment Day

The world over, "World Environment Day" is being observed today. And while the event is also being organized by various social organizations and Government departments in the state, a cold hard look at the turn of events over the years indicates more of lip service rather than effective implementation of suggestions and plans when it comes to taking up concrete and sustainable steps to reverse the ill effects arising out of damaging our natural environment. The theme adopted for this year - "Seven Billion Dreams; One Planet; Consume with Care" perhaps encapsulates the growing concern being increasingly felt by one and all. Over the past few years, "Sustainable Development" has emerged as the latest development catchphrase. A wide range of non-governmental as well as governmental organizations have embraced it as the new paradigm of development. An in-depth analysis of the literatures and deliberations on the concept indicates, however, a lack of consistency in its interpretation or implementation. More important, while the inclusive nature of the concept gives it political strength, its current formulation by the mainstream of sustainable development thinking contains significant weaknesses. An inconsequential insight or awareness of the problems of poverty and environmental degradation, and confusion about the role of economic growth and about the concepts of sustainability and participation and the inherent relationship between these factors are some of the key issues which still needed to be addressed if any significant positive outcome is to be expected. The inefficiencies, inadequacies and contradictions in policy making demonstrated in the context of trade, agriculture, and forestry bears testimony to the fact that a more cohesive and sustained effort needs to be taken up. It is further suggested that if the concept of sustainable development is to have any significant impact, politically expedient indecisiveness will have to make way for clarity of purpose and vitality in implementation.

But it is easier said than done. The existing political and social condition in the state calls for more pressing attention such as the improvement of law & order, improvement of economic conditions, not to mention the perennial struggle of sustaining self and family. While these pressing concerns may appear disconnected with the increasing negative impact being demonstrated more clearly with each passing day on the gradually degrading natural environment, the inherent relation between the environment and the social condition cannot be ignored. The interdependence of the two factors, as well as the importance of maintaining a proper balance between progress and environment should be highlighted. Progress at the cost of the environment will still drag us back to the stone age. No amount of man-made structures or infrastructures can replicate the unappreciated benefits provided by the natural environment.

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Pride and Frailty: What Meeteis are of

The saying that Meeteis are lion is not case anymore. Real courage was not seen at the height of fake encounters killings. Particularly male siblings have not displayed their true courage when their dear ones got tortured and killed so unfairly. They have not reacted to the perpetrators as supposed to. They usually succumbed to the challenge and compromise the condition with the perpetrators. In fact, least numbers of human rights workers have come out to respond to the daily killings. **Polarization:** What we generally perceive as an activist and as a public was how responses have to be made towards the social injustices, controversial merger, militarization, human rights violations, mis-governance, corruption, etc. I had been participating meetings and actions ever since ApunbaLup was formed in a Sangoi of the ThangjamManorama's neighbors after she was killed in the summer of 2004. What I found among the civil societies and groups was disputes and distractions. More energy and time have been given to the group oriented-non issues than real issues of the collective endeavor. I had assumed the polarization that active was among less academic community with narrow window outlook whom I had been mingled with. Sooner I got closer to more scholar, intellectual circles of all ages young, middle, old; yet plenty of split and polarization churning

individual ego have been seen. Then the time of social media which yields me more English versed young people of all sexes. I was hopeful to see their neutrality, liberal and more importantly their concern about the existing issues and challenges of contemporary Manipur. Oh my god! They are not less imperative in displaying their Id-ego which gradually repelling themselves from building a synergic force. To work themselves together for a collective bigger cause is appearing a real challenge. This split and polarization cannot be taken for granted with excuse of enjoying democracy since it does not help to mitigate the challenges and move the things forward to favorable direction. **Worst Blood:** Militarization by Indian Government has caused multiple damages to Manipur- ranges from of the sovereignty to human rights. Having said that even though the activities of the Indian armed forces and imposition of AFSPA underlie implications towards the unfavorable atmosphere, the role, behavior and character of Manipur Police Commandos has been found at the worst and at the most condemnable too. The attitude of the individual personnel of Police Commandos is far ugly and brute in comparison with regular Indian army, CRPF and sometimes even with those notorious Assam Rifles. The level

of atrocities, abuse of power, and the manner in which dealing with civilians is much disheartening, so terrifying indeed. They speak same language, eat same food and they have grown up on the same soil and environment. They are the product of the same society which produced the victims of torture and fake encounter likewise. Are they shaped by the precedent behavior of the colonial typical police, or influenced and encouraged by the exemplary actions of legendary IG Romen, CammandoLokhon, Jotin, Mobi, etc. In fact, the most killings and tortures were occurring during the reign of Chief MinisterOkramBibi and DG Y. Joykumar. Ibobi encouraged the police morale so horribly that Joykumalso got rid of reluctance in checking the police excesses prevailed at the time. Thus sooner than later commandos personnel have not cared the damned formalities and words of their senior officers. Even some higher rank English educated officers hesitated to deal with such notorious commandos. Very interestingly army, CRPF and even some Assam Rifles men who speak different language, don't share similarity yet usually deal with the public in less tensed way. They ask questions in responsible manner and in less hostile way. If someone can speak Hindi in functional level there is of course tension free and can deal

such road frisking or house raid somehow. Yes, Assam Rifles are found usually much dangerous particularly if they are coming for late night house raid or operation. For pretty long years, as a student activist, journalist and human rights worker I have been observing general character among the majority of Meeteis. I found rowdy and unrefined attitude among student activists, member of civil societies, local volunteers, even journalists. When they talked to or interrogated suspects of an incident the manner they did likewise. Although I did not know about the Nagas and Kukis well, recently I do know they are not different from the Meeteis'. Pangals are likewise. This is evident that mobocracy is one living example kicked by this same sick trait. The nature of such, our common character connotes various challenges encountered by contemporary Manipur. Hardly have we counted it as a serious heavy concern. This has been a suicidal act upon ourselves. Mere the game of blaming towards the other, external forces, Government of India has not been productive so far. Lack of introspection, retrospection and not acknowledged our own weaknesses do not help us in anyway. **(The writer is an Asst. Professor, University of Suwon, S Korea)**

Contd. from yesterday issue

Nagas Neo-resistance Approach

By- Dr. Aaron Lungleng

The best of times was turned down by the then leaders who plainly rejected the proposal of R. Suisa (1966) which he had deliberately discussed with the Prime Minister of India, Smt. Indira Gandhi who also conveyed her willingness to negotiate a Bhutan type status for Nagaland in a separate entity. The short sightedness blinded by totalitarian insisted to refuse any Naga Leaders to accept anything less than complete/full independent for self-determination of the Naga people. The invincible NNC faded from suzerainty in the Nagas struggle for self-determination soon after the signing of the Shillong Accord in 1975 on the 11th day of the 11th month without any condition accepted the constitution of India and surrendered their arms to the GoI. The dream of the free Naga people to become a sovereign nation and to take her rightful place in Asia's new chapter in history shattered on this very day. It was the representatives of the NNC responsible to the Naga National Government (you name it whatever) that signed the agreement, therefore; it was the NNC that capitulated, betrayed and humiliated the Naga nation in the highest act of treason. Observe whether the allegation to NNC stands logical consistency or otherwise. Had the accord out rightly not been condemned to salvage the Naga nation as well as had not the courage with a vision to form a new revolutionary government (National Socialist Council of Nagalim) in 1980 on the 21st of March, Nagas are left to rootless people without a history, but remain a mere Indian (whether you are a distinct being either in biological or cultural). Own brothers and leaders may forsake but God never forsake! By the grace of the Almighty and by the virtue of visionary statesmanship Isak Chishi Swu and Th. Muivah the Nagas are taken to the greater height from neighboring nations to the international platforms that India cannot hide the Nagas reality any longer, but force to be more pragmatic rather than using colonial abusive policy. Realizing that there is no glory in war and conflict, but, only leads to destruction of humanity by the two national entities, the historic Indo-Naga political imbroglio, a ceasefire and peace talk was agreed upon by the then Prime Minister of India, Narhasimha Rao and President of NSCN, Isak Chishi Swu and Gen. Secretary NSCN, Th. Muivah to settle Naga issues amicably through political means as the matter was purely a political stalemate. Ever since, ceasefire between the Government of India and the NSCN (I-M) extend indefinitely notwithstanding the core issues but to remain elusive subjected to the progress of the talks until the "Framework Agreement" that signed on August 3, 2015. The FA has not yet been publicly known, but NSCN leaders interpreted to it as enduring peaceful co-existence of the two entities within the concept of

share sovereignty. Th. Muivah in his address on its "38th Republic Day" asserted that the historic Framework Agreement recognizes the unique history, identity, sovereignty and territories of the Nagas. It also recognizes the legitimate right of the Nagas to integrate all Naga territories. On the other hand, the prime peace envoys (GoI) wherever they go interpreted according to their suited political conveniences and gain which paramount Indo-Naga peace deal to a mere "Indian electoral politics". On top of that, in the midst of signing the framework to settle Indo-Naga political problem, she is frantically fencing Indo-Myanmar border where half part of Nagalim is conquered by the Myanmar military junta. It is observed that Indo- Naga political problem is not Indian unitary states dispute, but pertaining to modern colonial issues indistinguishable with suppression by might when Nagas refused to join the Indian Union, thus, "Uniqueness of Naga History" stands undisputed and unparalleled with any merged Indian unitary states due to the Naga non - consent to Indian Union ever since before Indian Independent in 1947. So, the Nagas political issues cannot be equally labeled with other struggling people and the doctrine of Indo-Naga political settlement cannot be borrowed by any people that have assented to Indian Union. If Indian constitution is a legal law to the Indian, the GoI should not shy away from confronting what is right from the beginning. Dividing the Nagas is clearly revealed by Nehru "One of their grievances is that under our constitution, we split them up in different political areas. Whether it is possible or desirable to bring them together again is for us to consider. Also, what measure of autonomy we should give them so that they can lead their own lives without any sensation of interferences (Secret personal letter from Nehru to Medhi, No. 1116-PMH/ 56, New Delhi, May 13 1956). Therefore, under no circumstances, integration (the birth rights) of Nagas cannot be stopped by any land and people. Further, as India is a member country of the United Nations Organization as well as a signatory member state of the Global Human Rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Right (UDHR) that enshrine basic Human Rights (Art. XV. Everyone has the right to a nationality. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality). Notwithstanding, UN Assembly resolution 217A (iii) 1948 had declared to observe strictly to sub-commission on prevention of Discrimination and protection of minorities; UDHR preamble 1 (v) whereas, member states pledged themselves to achieve in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for observation of human rights and fundamental freedom. Yet, the largest democracy (India) commitment

to the Global Organization is perceived to sign during her hallucination. Thereby, any agreement with GoI cannot be taken into confidence. Anytime she may provoke the Nagas when her dream to pull Nagas into Indian constitution failed. Her frustration would result in the talks being called off at "any time" and declared Naga national movement to terrorism. Thus, the ceasefire is commended as a slow killing or slow poisoning with a tactical move for ultimate submission. The idea of share sovereignty can be a global model if India is sincere in solving one of the longest political conflict in Asia and the longest cease fire observant in the whole world. But, the Government of India perpetual extension of cease-fire appears to be in term on the pretext of buying time and conceal her motive of extrication under the cover of a long interval. Her signposts weight unitary territorial integrity heftier rather than pursuing enduring neighborhood within the fold of shared sovereignty. It is very vivid that GoI love in continuing the current cease fire as long as possible. Mustn't one need to be curious about the reason behind it? As long as the ceasefire extend, the Nagas are on the losing ground due to various socio-economic aspects while, India reaps enormous tactical gains to draw Nagas into the Indian socio-cultural mainstream as well as advantageous to explore the all Nagas venerable aspects. In the name of development, Indian agencies are working down to night to douse off Naga national spirit besides her gluttonous military that studies the situation minutely from which portion she needs to take the first bite. Another interest of the GoI in the North East is to take the commanding height in ASEAN countries, thus, "Look East/ Act East policy" is projected for India economic as well as political, and security. The objective of cease fire is unsubtly a counter offensive policy, especially vying toward smothering Naga national movement and preparedness against Chinese aggression. These articles focus on a positive approach towards India to be more pragmatic rather than playing divisive cards on the Nagas. It also addresses to either India or Nagas to make a resolute breakthrough of the snarl issue for the sake of peaceful co-existence without further delay. There are no isolated people with isolated freedom- total freedom can be attained only when there is interdependency. The idea to remain dominant aggressor would invite total disintegration and annihilation of her own glory. The hard earned national progressive investment could be easily harvested by contenting nations. India solving Naga political problem devoid of pride and prejudice will surely enhance her struggle to stand as a world matured nation. The statement that appears in the local newspaper, "the framework agreement are said to turn the policies

of confrontation and opposition into the politics of dialogue and cooperation; foe to a friend; suppression of rights to recognition of right; threat of future to the protection of future" (5/13/2017/Nagalang post). Such are the ideas that every peace loving individual-society-nation should praise for and welcome such peaceful moves to co-exist in peace and harmony. The hard earned peace deal will be so dear to be lost again for both the parties in fact, that antagonism among neighbor is a course because one cannot afford to have a sound sleep and a bright leisure day. It is a crucial time for both the parties, but demand respect. No doubt Nagas will be truthful ten hundred times if only India is ready to resolve Naga political problem politically in time before mistrust miasma covered the highway to peace. In the case of cease fire and talk for procrastination and malicious tactics Nagas need not worry but take the opportunity as a sweet time for preparedness to any eventuality. This time break away from political settlement should not border to look back never to negotiate other than leave the Nagas alone. It is rather better to share Nagas' sovereignty with ancestral descent than sharing the living bowl to the unknown and unrelated aliens. It is an established fact that the Nagas struggle for self-determination is not a secessionist movement, but a rebellion to oppressor/aggression move over to the modern day a terror colonialist. Nature exposed the bitter reality of a valor and weeder in any bargain that; it is often the dominant that plays imposition to the weak against their will thereby, resistance begins and the conflict enlarges. In such circumstance, Nagas approach to exist as a free people need to realize the anarchists view and the concepts of "survival of the fittest" explained in elaborated manner. The awoken generation should now despise communal antagonism; mistrust; mislead; instead extend support to one another in cooperation rather than competition and blaming over one another. It has been stated that the fittest is he who not necessarily the best at combating individually, but often the community made up of those best at working together. Nagas might be weaker and lesser in number, but nevertheless, the most efficient is he who opens to prosper further progress. Therefore, if the pursuit of Nagas is political, social, economic and cultural rights- it requires collective responsibility deprived of moderates' intervention; sectional bargaining; egocentrism of any form, but realize the value of union in Christ as one and only to harness the common-share future. **(Concluded)**

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