

Editorial

Imphal city is changing but traffic problem still a menace

Imphal city is changing, administrators and government official (except some few) are trying to make the city change towards the better direction. Everyone knows it will need time. After all Rome was not built in a day. It will take time but it will take less time if the present sincere officers in the government keep continuing their work the way they are doing at present under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh.

Frequent road accident have drew the attention of the government and finally after finding some irregularities in the issuing of driving license, the state transport department is doing the appropriate way to issue driving license. Imphal Times had earlier brought up issues of school children riding motor vehicles, particularly two wheelers bike to their schools. Everybody knows students in schools are less than 18 years in age except for one or two who fails in the exam. Now as per the new regulation being seen taken up by the transport department, people now sees hope that those who are qualified/eligible to drive will only get the license to drive motor vehicle. This perhaps is another means to reduce the road mishaps, which was frequent in the state of Manipur.

Extending life by establishing Imphal Evening, Elected representatives simplicity and the coming down of VIP and WVIP culture is indeed a sign that shows that the new government is moving towards the right direction. Having said so there are certain area where people are not satisfied. There are demands, bands and agitation still seen. Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had rightly stated that in the running of the government there will be issues and problem. These issues and problems need to be look after and the government is looking on it.

Today we in the Imphal Times is bringing the notice of the state government to have some attention of the traffic regulation in Imphal city. Good works are seen being taken up by the transport department in qualifying individuals to drive their vehicles. Police department too help the transport department authority to give penalty to those driving vehicle without proper valid license for driving vehicles. These few initiatives are worth appreciations.

But who are actually following the traffic regulation in the roads of Imphal City. At any of the junction where traffic police are assigned none of the vehicle follows the rules and regulation of how to stop vehicle on the directives of the traffic police. Except for one or two drivers none stopped before the line drawn near the Zebra crossing when a signed to stop the vehicle was shown.

So far, no vehicle which violated the traffic rules has been given penalty. Above these some people riding big and luxuries car do not even care the signal to stop or proceed directed by the traffic police on duty. These specific area should be a matter of great concern for those maintaining the traffic regulation and these personnel whoever be them should be empowered to give penalty to those violating the regulation.

Recently the state government has appointed separate SP for the Traffic Control Police. To us, we consider the duty of the traffic police to enforce strict rule in driving and to punish those seen violating the traffic rules and regulation while driving or even parking the vehicles. They are not supposed to waste their time checking the documents of the vehicles as this is purely the duty of the transport department authority.

We are expecting better and systematic traffic control system in Imphal city at least.

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More State News

Message of the Acting Chairman P R E P A K, on occasion of 40th Raising day

(The message by acting president of the proscribed group is produced here in toto as we felt it necessary for those in the government to understand what is the organisation thinking. the content produced here is not related with the ideology of this newspaper)

With the arrival of the XL Foundation Day of People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak, PREPAK, we offer Revolutionary Salute to all the indigenous people of the hills and valley who have been living together as brothers and sisters with love and amity since time immemorial, all comrades of the party, member parties of CorCom and leaders of all fellow revolutionary organizations of WESEA. Greetings to all respected journalists who are working tirelessly day and night in the print and electronic media on the occasion of the XL Foundation Day of PREPAK.

When Kangleipak (Manipur) becomes an independent and sovereign country without depending on others, she will be able to advance all round development and stand as a distinct nation in the world. PREPAK firmly believes that with self-determination and self governance, we can make Kangleipak (Manipur) a prosperous and egalitarian nation. So in order to restore the lost independence of Kangleipak, and to bring self-rule, it's the inescapable primary duty of every Kanglei (Manipur) citizen to root out the colonial rule of India.

However, it's the paid soldiers of India and those rulers, who are steering them, and their policies that we are confronting today. To defeat India, we need to take the struggle for liberation to the international level politically and make it known to the world community, and our brave revolutionaries should carry on the struggle with more dedication and sacrifice.

There is no other alternative. Therefore, time has come for all our fellow countrymen to join the united struggle for liberation. When the struggle can be raised completely, the severe impact of colonial rule given continuously by enemy India could be faced, and Kangleipak could be led toward independence. Thus we, the revolutionary parties, need to move ahead toward the right direction of struggle for liberation with more dedication and sacrifice so that people won't lose faith. To do this, we need to think of better ideas and strategies which are relevant with the modern times.

In order to make it more convenient in keeping the people of Kangleipak as colonial people, India, as part of its various covert plots, has been trying not only to break into pieces the age-old boundary but has also been driving wedges amongst the indigenous communities to divide them. As a result of India's divisive policies, mean and selfish thoughts have emerged amongst the Kanglei people who have lived together with love and brotherhood for 2000 years. This is itself India's "divide and conquer" policy. On the other hand, India has been following the same British policy of "divide and rule" to separate the people of hills and valley so as to keep them apart. Since all means of survival had been removed, the close affinity and dependency on each other that used to prevail since the early times has also almost disappeared, brotherhood has been almost forgotten, and people have been forced to consider the outsiders as friends. Thus if we allow ourselves to be trapped and caught in the dragnet set by India to shatter, divide and create tension among the Kanglei people, we all shall sink deep without being able to rise ever again. People need to be reminded that if we had existed as an independent and developed nation, today's situation wouldn't have arisen at all. A number of different communities in the world are living together peacefully and prosperously. In our land, Kangleipak too, people of different communities can live together with love and peace. The hostility and mistrust that emerged

among the people of the hills and the valley, who have coexisted for thousands of years, had been created in a short span that is only after India forcibly annexed Kangleipak on 15 October of 1949.

It is true that as a result of India's divide and rule policy, various complaints coming from the hills brethren seriously affect the unity and integrity of our nation. In this regard, it's necessary for hills and valley people to sit together and thrash out the differences amicably. In issues such as Separate State or Alternative Arrangement, ethnic identity, extent of participation in administration, resources, question of land ownership, etc will have to be discussed.

Causes of conflict amongst the communities, manner and proportion of participation in administration, mode and extent of using resources, ethnic identity and question of land ownership, etc are all creations of the Constitution of the colonial government. Being unhappy and dissatisfied over these organs framed by colonial master, India, creating tension and conflict among ourselves arose out of thoughtlessness. For this, our educated experts, intellectuals and civil society leaders need to have far-sighted visions beyond the Constitution of the colonial masters. Not a single answer to questions of various communities would be found within the Constitution of India. PREPAK firmly believes that if these issues are discussed beyond the colonial Constitution, a situation and a solution could be found for all the communities to co-exist as before.

But as of now, all the communities are bound by the Constitution of colonial India that doesn't suit the soil of the region. It will never be possible to bring a new social order, new political and economic system as long as we remain as colonized part of India. This is where restoration of independence of all the indigenous communities becomes the most important agenda in order to have a government as all Kanglei people desire. Even while the struggle for liberation is going on, it's necessary for all communities to have a vision of socio-political and economic system that would be installed in future. Such united vision of all communities and working together with sincerity can surely unite our people. Only giving lip-service can never bring unity. When we can unite the movements being launched separately by different communities as one, we can defeat colonial India easily.

Motherland Kangleipak is today lagging behind in every sphere, filled with myriad shortages, and has become a debilitated society bearing the extreme suffering from the impact of colonial rule. In short, education in our society has not been able to rise above the colonial level and has not been able to produce fit people who love their motherland.

Besides the walls of differences between man and man are rising unabated. Nobody seems to be able to produce one's own ideas. Everybody seems to be crazy about own dreams and ideas that do not last long. The nation that once did not have to depend on others for survival has been reduced to the level of a beggar who can't live without begging for everything.

Despite having taken several resolutions to protect agricultural land, aptly regarded as the backbone of a nation in self-sustenance, the puppet government that dances to the tune of the colonial masters has not translated its decisions into practice. Thus arable lands are dwindling day by day. The number of educated but unemployed youths is almost touching a million-mark. As the number of confused and desperate youths gets higher, many of

them are drowning in drugs and other intoxicating substances. As the capacity to think among the youths is apparently lacking, many of them live an ephemeral life, not knowing logic and reason. As if there is no one to rule, to look after the affairs of the society, the Indian colonial rule is creating a situation for continuous influx of outsiders into the land threatening to erase the unique identity of the indigenous people. To save the indigenous population, several student organizations are compelled to carry on mass movement, and in doing so, the students can't get to study with full attention. For this movement, many students have sacrificed their lives, and many have been maimed and living a crippled life. All these incidents fall in line just as the colonial master, India desires. They planned it to happen. The degree of corruption is mounting day by day. This has destroyed the will to work, and human value is falling. The only way to save from this horrifying state of changes is to free ourselves from the colonial chain and bring an egalitarian society.

India is a country where racist mindset and communalism exist, religious differences, discrimination and untouchability prevail, and corrupt and criminals rule. A clear example of this is the directive of the Supreme Court of 12 September, 2017 wherein Chief Justice J Chelameswar ordered the Government of India to set up Fast Track Courts to look into the properties and wealth of the MPs and MLAs, and to settle the pending criminal cases against them as fast as possible.

Though India is said to be the largest democratic country in the world, it has refused to honour the earnest appeals of many nations including the United Nations itself to repeal AFSPA 1958 enforced in the North East including Kangleipak and Jammu and Kashmir to suppress the struggles for restoration of independence and sovereignty of the peoples of the respective regions. Under AFSPA 1958, thousands of innocent men and women including children had been killed in J&K and the North East. Many had been apprehended and tortured to death while their bodies had been hidden never to be found. Many had been turned into maimed and crippled. In Kangleipak alone, since the time AFSPA 1958 was enforced, more than 20,000 people had been killed. At present, cases of 1528 fake encounters, in which the Indian Occupation Forces and the State Force had arrested and killed 1528 people, are pending in the Supreme Court. There are many other incidents that had not been added in these cases of fake encounters. However as the trials have been delayed, those accused personnel are moving around freely as if they are not guilty. Reports of many Judicial Inquiries had been submitted to the authority but their recommendations had not been acted on till date. Since the leader of Hijoibul Mujahiddin, Burha Wani, who was fighting for the liberation of Kashmiri people, was killed by the Indian security forces, students, men and women including children of Kashmir rose as one and launched an intense movement which has become a movement of the people of the whole of Kashmir.

In order to quell the intense movement of people of Kashmir, security forces fired from pellet guns injuring many people. Many of them had succumbed to their injuries while many others have become maimed and disabled. At least 88 people have become blind due to the incident. Out of 6000 people who were hit by the pellets, 1100 people sustained injuries in their eyes. In protest against the incident, the Amnesty International, India has launched a campaign against use of pellet guns. While carrying out the most brutal acts in Kashmir and the North East, India is claiming itself to be the largest democracy in the world and trying to project itself as a compassionate country which complies with the International Laws. In a country where press is described as the fourth pillar of democracy, the life of senior journalist Gauri Lankesh couldn't be saved and many other journalists have been killed under

different circumstances. These incidents drew the attention of the UN which did not take kindly the indifference of the Indian government to safeguard the lives of journalists. Moreover, since the secret agenda and efforts of India to destabilize and occupy the neighbouring countries gradually came to be realized, countries that had good relations with colonial India have distanced themselves. Our Kanglei people should understand such detestable trait of colonial master India.

On the other hand, except for keeping Kangleipak as its border post to safeguard the border since 1949, India has not taken a single significant step during this long period for the people of this region to stand on their own feet. Yet the Mayang leaders are trying to fool and pretend to love the people of the North East by raving that without development of the North East, India cannot be called a developed country. But conscious people of Kangleipak can never believe such blarney. Though the South East Asian countries have made preparations to jump on the bandwagon for the new policy to make the most out of it, as for the Kanglei people, neither India nor the puppet government of Kangleipak has taken any step so far. Everything remains in darkness.

Even as preparations are being made not only for the Act East Policy but also for the Trans Asian Highway, nothing has been done to develop the border town. More or to make it a neat and clean city with all basic necessities for a person to live. Now also the town is filled with lots shortages and remains as a dirty village. As we don't have our own productions, Kanglei people may not have anything better to do than acting as porters to carry the loads of the visitors. However what PREPAK wishes to place before the people is that unless we know how to tap the benefits and steer the policies to our own advantages, those outsiders, who come into our land in the garb of visitors under their said policies, may get to settle down here for good. The indigenous people may face the risk of disappearing in the oblivion of history while many jobless Kanglei women might become dead alive without human values, who sell their bodies for survival, and the land might become the capital of different diseases.

Meanwhile, it would be better for future generations to think twice on the movements of all kinds that would eventually get closer into the framework of the colonial master India. The present day conflict of rights, benefits, shares and quotas is a natural outcome of Kangleipak having been a colonial state of India. While fighting among ourselves for the little crumbs of benefits handed out by the colonial master, the bond of brotherhood is loosening day by day. When we can get out of the colonial grip of India and stand on our own as a separate sovereign nation, set up our own free government and chalk out our development plans, would we be able to live together with love and peace. We Kanglei (Manipur) people were never and will never be Indians. The people's liberation movement is also not a demand for separation from India which was born only in 1947. It is an assertion for returning the freedom and sovereignty of Kangleipak (Manipur) that has a more than 2000 years old history that was forcibly taken away in contravention of international laws and without the approval of the people. So PREPAK sincerely and earnestly urges all the people of hills and valley of Kangleipak (Manipur) to escape from the trap of influence and charms of the enemy and carry on a united struggle for liberation against Indian rule. If we have the united strength and courage of hills and valley people in our hands, we shall be able to defeat India and regain independence of our country that was snatched away by India in 1949. If people of hills and valley stand united as one, no power on earth can ever defeat us.

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