

# Editorial

Tuesday August 21, 2018

## Unfolding the Shrewd game to the impasse at Manipur University

It was only after 79 days that the concern government authority including that of the MHRD and State authority agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding as per the demand of the Manipur University Community after three days of marathon talk. The pain and anguish of staying away from its normal duty will only be felt by those who are facing the circumstances and even journalists feel uncomfortable when away from duty for even 3 days. No wonder those book worm in the Manipur University would have felt the same when they were compelled to stay away from their favorite work for 79 + days now. That was why on August 16, a day after the nation celebrated the Independence Day, Manipur University community particularly those in MUSU, MUSA and MUTA finally found some relief after the representative of the Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD), Govt. of India acknowledge on what the MU community have been demanding for such a long period.

The joy of the gesture from the MHRD representatives and the state government was not only felt to the MU community but to all the people of the state. The long impasse that had been giving a headache to the state government had finally found a way for settling if only the state government authority stopped blind support to any kind of shrewd game played by the MHRD representative.

Well lip service can never be treated as official as per the rules of law of the country. And we have seen many a times on how we the people of the state have been cheated by thousands of assurance by the authority on various issues from time to time. Even memorandums of understanding signed by the authority have many times been dumped in dustbin. This has been reminded as the way the office memorandum notified by the in-charge Registrar of the Manipur University speaks volume on how he had been instigated to play another shrewd game to the community of Manipur University.

The notification of the MHRD which superseded the earlier notification by reconstituting the 3 member fact finding committee by 2 member enquiry committee chaired by a retired acting Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court with another member from among the retired Vice Chancellors of a University fulfilled only a part of the agreement which was signed between the MU community, representative of the MHRD, Govt. of India and a representative of the state government.

The counter point which comes up from the Manipur University Communities who are demanding removal of the VC AP Pandey is that while welcoming the reconstitution of the earlier fact finding committee, the game being played to mislead the people is easily sighted. As this newspaper had time and again stated that, playing tricks to the MU community will not work. The kind of game can be played with the common people to garner support from them during election time but not with the community which has been researching the human establishment.

Yesterday the MUSA, MUTA and MUSU have released a statement which stated why they are not satisfied with the new order from the MHRD (Imphal Times produce the story in today's edition).

And today major newspapers today carried news items base on the office memorandum notified at the strength of the present Registrar-in-Charge which says that the memorandum of understanding signed between the Joint Secretary of the MHRD, Govt. of India, Commissioner of the State Higher and Technical Education, Manipur University teachers', Students and staffs bodies in the presence of the Chief Minister has been approved by the Minister of HRD and that the leave of the Prof. AP Pandey has been related with the ongoing enquiry.

It is public now on how the Registrar-in-charge and the in-charge VC Prof. Vishwanath had been intimidated by the Joint Secretary to clarify the matter. It was not at all an official order but a mere email communication which is no difference from a verbal conversation through electronic device. As mentioned earlier, there were many occasion which MoUs signed between the government authority and that of the agitating groups are often landed in the dustbin, there are thousand reasons to ponder on the authenticity of the so call "Office Memorandum". On the other hand lack of sincerity is easily notice and more over it is no difficult to dissect reasons for issuing such "order" which skipped two major points agreed in the Memorandum of Understanding. The memorandum of understanding is shrewdly carpeted and a game which is seen by only the people who have six eye is seen playing with support from "YES SIR" mentality state government.

The way the MHRD is dealing with the ongoing impasse at Manipur University reflected the mindset of those in the Central government towards the people of the state.

Those in the state government including the chief minister as well as those in the Central government particularly those in the MHRD should know that "you can fool some people for some times, but you can't fool all the people for all the times".

## Open letter Minister of Education and Department of Education Govt. of Manipur, India.

Dear Sir,

We are group of educators living and working abroad. We compare the education policy and system abroad and back home in Manipur. We believe it is possible to do better with you, your team as well as we, the people at the grass-root level to get ready our youths in job market to get benefit to the individuals as well as to our state. We would like to propose the following points in education system to bring changes and upgrade our human resource sector.

### 1. Adopt No Fail Policy

This will benefit in the long run. Literally speaking we do not let students fail in Thailand. If fail because of ill, accident or whatever reasons students can come and take test as special case on the following day. We thought fail means we remove unqualified candidate and maintains quality. However failing system in exam brings more harm than benefit. It will bring a tremendous psychological effect for the whole life to the individuals. This makes high drop out rate from school. A bad taste of failure is the main cause of emotional torture, depression, diverting attention to drug, crime etc, and sometimes leads to suicide. Instead, please introduce a grading system that those who cannot achieve a particular grade-score, just put them into compulsory vocational training course. Whether good or bad, keeping students without failing for 10-12 years at school will make them at least able to read, write, do some basic maths which is necessary for a common men. Weaker students might not able to become a doctor or engineer, but they must have something for survival and it is important right as a citizen which is very important for nation building. If students cannot become a doctor or an engineer, that is no problem. Let us send our

children to suitable disciplines such as carpentry skill, farming skill, mechanic, animal rearing skill, dress making, repairing different things etc. This is what developed countries are doing. Doctors, engineers or lawyers constitute only a fraction of population in a society. Let us stop education system supporting for only a few students who will become doctor or engineer, and also an education system that makes them believe that they will work in government sector. Let us open doors of opportunities in many fields for academically weaker students and they might even be smarter in other skills. The present education system causes some individual schools adopt a policy that they jump over some of the class IX subjects neglecting the value of learning of that particular subjects in order to see the good result only in matriculation. This sacrifice and short term vision will harm in long run and that will bring serious effect in nation building. We should not focus learning only for the result of exams. A student who failed in academic field might excel in sports, business or other fields. There are numerous examples of individuals who could not achieve well academically but they become leaders in the world of business, such as Apple's former boss Steve Jobs, Microsoft's former boss Bill Gates, and Facebook's boss Mark Zuckerberg. Please consider to remove the mistakes existing currently in our education system in Manipur. Let us plan for long term education policy. You took right step by introducing a system that there would not be common class 10 exam under the board, however it seems you reverted your decision to our original common exam system. Board is doing excellent job, but board exams also become carrier stopper to individuals. Here

in Thailand, they do not have board exam for class X and XII.

### 2. Mass Education

We need mass education. We cannot sacrifice huge population of students knocking out them from school in the name of maintaining quality. What we are seeing here abroad is very different from India. Almost everyone except some disable people can read, write, do basic maths for their daily business. This can be achieved because of education policy as literally they do not have failing system in their education. They support students and giving training is more important. In our system, exams and evaluation is more important. They put students at suitable field if they do not achieve particular grade score. We need this in our system too. Also, please do not detain kids at the same level more than one year. There is wrong belief of the people that promoting all the students will bring down the quality of education. Detaining kids more years at the same class underestimate individuals' self confidence and ability when they are grown up. Mental strength, psychological health of individual is equally important as physical strength. Marking students fail will lose the individuals' confidence. Better and more capable students will be absorbed in a more intellectually capable field of study, and lower able students will be engaged in low skill area with proper education in any specific area.

### 3. Strong Foundation of Primary Education

We need special attention to primary education. Children who did very good primary level is more likely to go to better middle/high school. Those students who do very well in high school again are more likely to go to better college and university. So, we need to pay more attention to primary education that lays foundation which is seemingly given less important in our country than other

countries from parents or authority's side. Healthy nursery and primary education will shape better strength of our youths.

### 4. Focus on Opening More Vocational Schools

Let us focus on opening different vocational schools. This is what people do in more developed countries. Support the students up to 12<sup>th</sup> standard, no matter what they are- good or bad. At the end of 12<sup>th</sup> standard, send them to different vocational schools rather than tagged them failed and useless individuals even if students cannot achieve particular grade-score. This policy will keep them move on their education. By the time they are 18 or 19 years old, they will start thinking for their future career. But in our present education policy, weaker students are removed from school system before they are able to think of their own future career. Make any vocational skill importance, meaningful and give their place, and employ them at the right place. What we are trying to say here is- For example, a student studies a vocational training about electricity and power management. If there is a job vacation in electricity department, employ this right candidate rather than recruiting someone who has studied biology. It is time to stop employing wrong candidates but putting right candidate at the right place.

### 5. Teaching a Competitive Job

Make teaching a competitive job. Competitive jobs means pay good salary and make it rewarding job to teacher. Doctors, engineers, MBAs, civil servants and whoever must go through school system and are under the guidance of teachers on top of the students' personality. There is huge contribution of teacher than any other authorities to produce good citizen tut for now teaching is not good and respectable like doctors, engineers, and civil servants. We request you to bring some changes on this perspective. **Contd. on Page 4)**

## Manipur: The Boiling Bowl of Ethnicity

By- Dr. Aaron Lungleng (... Contd. from yesterday)

The Kuki INPI needs to refrain from propagating false genesis to the younger generation, because imagination is more beautiful than reality. Reality is harsh and freezing, therefore, it is always the best not to play politics at the cost of their thousands future. So, usher peaceful coexistence rather than provoking the generosity of the landlord. Today's, false propagators will pass away, but it is their generations to harvest the impregnated concocted lies. Deviation from reality- the future of the Kukis refugees' status blight as Rohingas of Rakhine, Burma and the Tibetans refugees in India in the aftermath of the Indo-Nagas political settlement. It is strongly convicted that even though Kukis (Thadous) are refugees, they are well treated as equal and gives equal opportunity in all spheres of life within Nagalim. Such hospitality will never earn equally from other nations. Ones' civilization cannot trace from others evolution and claim the areas surpassing their own genesis (migration, decent, customs, tradition and belief). What human don't want? - Unlimited! Restraining ones want in reverence to others' wants make living undemanding to access, gain peace and harmony. Further, if one is a brother nothing remains other than saying- what belong to me is yours; my achievement is ours and vice versa. The only thing we lack is consciousness in tracing common descent and heritage. This should be the common exercise for the Nagas and the Meitei and expose accommodating gesture towards the other.

### 2. Civil Organization:

In respect of social organizations, there are a

number of organizations said to be working for the general, whereas in the truest sense, it exposes that they represents for a section of the community even if it bears the great nomenclature envisage the whole state. There seems to have no commonness and a united platform in Manipur to address social issues jointly. Instances like; AMUCO (All Manipur United Committee Organization), UCM (United Committee Manipur) etc. are valley based organization represented by Meitei confided to fight for Meitei community is strongly seen over and over again. On the other hand, the ATSUM (All Tribal Student Union Manipur, UNC (United Naga Council) etc. Do not hinder nor interfere in the aspirations of the Meitei but the socio-cultural and political identity of the tribe and the Nagas in particular. The later Chin-Mizo-Kuki have several civil organizations. During the Mizo Accord all the contiguous areas of Chin-Mizo could not materialize so Chin-Mizo living in Churapur district does not perform as a puffer society between the Meitei and the Nagas nor the Kukis who scattered in the Valley and the Hill cannot act as an intermediate community between the autochthonous aboriginal. Besides, civil organization, social media and human rights activist are also undoubtedly bias in their own ethnic line. **3. Political and administrative quandary:** In a democratic system of government, some of the ethical ideals of democracy are equal representation meaning, that all groups are fairly represented adequately and accurately by all communities to safeguard diversity. Again, democracy must cooperate and compromise to protect the individual / groups'

rights to be indifferent. For this, a climate of tolerance is critical. It invests long-term fair policy, thereby promoting good governance to create conditions for economic growth and sustainable development focus on the future generations' prospects. Despite the principle of majority rule, it centered on the maintenance of decentralized and local government bodies.

In a democracy, it needs to understand that all levels of government should be accessible to, and equally represents the people to develop dynamic democratic State. Such insight, lack in Manipur political and administrative policies, as the elucidation shows the lopsided representation in the Manipur Legislative Assembly and unfair policies of the Manipur government. The 4 valley districts have 40 seats while the 5 hill districts have 20 seats. If Imphal East and Thoubal have 11 and 10 seats respectively why don't Senapati, which has more population, but given just 6 seats? How about Churachandpur and Bishnupur to have 6 seats, which is more or less the half of Senapati district pollution? Ukhrul, the second largest district, with a population of almost 2 lacs has just 3 representatives which mean around 60,000 and Chandel around 70,000 people are represented by 1 MLA. While in the valley the 1 MLA represents for around 40,000 people. Mao has 52,128 voters, while 55-Tipaimukh has just 17,478 voters. Some of the constituencies in the Imphal Valley have a population of just around 20,000. The population ratio of the valley and hill districts is approximately 58/42 but the representation in the State Legislative Assembly it is 40/20. This is one of the simple example how valley framed malicious policy to rule

the state according to their convenience. In fact, the valley (Meitei) is less than the trials, but due to absorbing the tribal population in the valley makes the majority in population for first hand priority. On the other hand, when it comes to the state share (quota), more than 60 percent will be left to the Meitei Generals while the remaining 40 will be allotted for OBC/ST in various states' civil services. Such are the pull and push policies of an iniquitous state holding community.

The valley districts occupy just 9 percent of the total area of the state, which is only 2,238 Sq.km but the most of the funds of the state, almost all funds are kept for development purposes in the valley districts and negligible percent will be allotted to the Hills. The philosophy of the valley inhabitants in aspects of development is very much visual like placement of all the state/central institutions in the valley, e.g., Medical Institute (RIMS), Universities inclusive of Polytechnic, IIT, Tribal University, IGNOU, Colleges (Imphal), Sports stadium/complex etc. are all centered within Imphal in the radius of Meitei reached. Not only that, in any tenders or in (contract work) in the Hills without the Meiteis involvement in the given work will not materialize is an open secret.

To conclude, the boiling bowl needs to control through the search of peaceful coexistence as a common brother and realize that they hold a common future. Peace and Love is not one sided so the search for prosperity should be from both angles so as to find a common end.

### (Concluded)

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