

# Editorial

Friday, December 28, 2018

## Controlling the school transporters : is the authority serious

The school children are somehow relief as winter vacation is underway. The children are relieved not only from their hard days of school homework but of course – a real relief from the jam pack school van.

Some few years back at an almost a catastrophic incident where 15 children were on the verge of being suffocated to death inside the van that was taking them to school should be an eye-opener for the multitude of van services transporting students for almost all the schools in the state, the unfortunate part is that people of the state as well as those in the government have almost forgotten.

Everybody knows that the school transporter render is immense, and for most parents, a vital one considering the limited transport facilities being provided for the public, which invariably leads to the only other alternative of undertaking the job of taking the kids to school and back home upon themselves, putting a huge strain on their time and efforts. Add to it the cold winter months and the long rainy days, not to mention the scorching summer, and the task becomes daunting for those of us who cannot afford a four wheeler, or to take out or synchronise the time to their schedule.

But in as much as these van services are becoming an indispensable part of the support system, unwanted and unwarranted incidents that poses danger to the safety of the children have been on the rise. The Union/Association overseeing the regulations and rules of these service vans are apparently more interested in safeguarding their own interest and profitability to the point of neglecting the basic safety norms and regulations to be observed-if they ever had one to start with. Treating the young children with more sensitivity and care and not as mere commodities of their trade could go a long way in preventing such mishaps in the future. The urge to pack in more children in the van which translates to more income for the drivers should be curbed.

A proper framework and guidelines should be drawn up in consultation with various authorities to make these kind of mistakes and oversights a thing of the past. The association/ Union of these van services should take the responsibility to see that these steps are taken up at the earliest. No one can afford to expose the unsuspecting and vulnerable children to such unnecessary risks ever again. The drivers should be sensitized on the issue so that they can understand and appreciate their role in the scheme of things. Regular monitoring by the school authorities as well as the Union or Association with feedbacks from the students availing the services of these vans could keep the drivers on the alert and be a reassuring measure for the parents and guardians as well. Our children are our treasure, precious and versatile. It is for us to see that they are provided with the safest and best atmosphere we possibly can manage to, for learning and growing up to be responsible and successful citizens who will make our society a little more better.

They are the future, to be nourished and protected. Everybody has a stake in their safety. Every single one of us.

**Courtesy Beyond the Horizon**  
**By: Dr. Malem Ningthouja**

The visible trend is being discussed as follows: (1) Topographically, Nagas inhabit geo-strategically important buffer along the international border regions of India and Myanmar. This region— which is rich in labour, carbon reserves, precious minerals and stones, forest products, market potential, potential of military bastions and international inland transit route for flow of capital and commodity— became the target of occupation by the States that acted as facilitator of economic plunder by finance capital.

(2) Economically, capitalism transplanted from above had outgrown Nagas' primitive communism and the relative freedom. It places the Nagas in a colonial relation of production, where the 'external' monopoly market forces retarded the development of the mode of production, which is the preconditions of building a economic self-reliant Nagas economy.

Underdevelopment and economic dependent on commodity import, therefore, renders the Nagas weak and vulnerable.

(3) Nagas political economy become infested with counterproductive (pre-capitalist form) of accumulation of wealth by the upper class who relied on State and finance capital for economic and political powers. Instead of direct investment in constant capital (commodity production) for extraction of surplus value; they serve as the agents who extract a portion out of the absolute super value of capitalist plunder in Nagas soil. This trend of *rentier bourgeoisie* — whose wealth are derived from the overall capitalist plunder, corruption, illicit trade, and usury capitalism — perpetuates a colonial situation.

(4) Capitalist rent (grant or fund for keeping Nagas subsistence economy beyond the horizon March 2018 March 2018 beyond the horizon functional), particularly in the Indian segment of Nagas homeland, had trickledown effect in descending manner at various levels among the middle and lower classes. While Nagas 'national' movement is yet to materialise 'sustainable development' agenda, people adopted individual course to fulfilling economic demands. Competition for employment in 'private' and 'public' sectors and a culture of begging fund from State treasury and capitalist institutions became widespread. As land and productivity had not been improved, many became disoriented (alienated) from their land (or homeland) in search of other better means of earnings.

Emigration for education and white collar jobs in Indian metropolitan cities and elsewhere become rampant. They, thus, became fodder feeders of capitalist service sector and physically disoriented from Nagas 'liberation' movement.

(5) There is a bulk of co-opted reactionary political barons, counterrevolutionary Nagas 'intellectuals' and opportunist NGO activists, who became influential in serving as mouthpiece of bourgeoisie

democracy and finance capitalism. On the other hand, Nagas 'national' leadership had not comprehensively addressed the structural constraints that are responsible for the material conditions of underdevelopment and the corresponding growth of individual opportunism and sectarian forces that keep Nagas perpetually disunited.

When crucial ideological questions have not been raised and when subversive roles of internal agencies have not been exposed; there is no effective check and balance against the tendency of ideological corruption and adventurist political demagogue, which often culminated in promoting counterrevolution and sectarianism amongst Nagas. This makes Nagas highly vulnerable to divisive forces. As a result, the subjective conscience to build a pan Nagas stable community could not be converted into an objective reality. This is the 'unique' characteristic feature of all underdeveloped colonial and semicolonial societies where capitalist plunder takes place with the support of an extensive network of local agents who operate in the guise of development and globalisation.

(6) The 'post-truth' of globalisation (bourgeoisie propaganda) has blinded many. Many confuses capitalist growth of few successful entrepreneurs and a microscopic 'parasites' with the revolutionary path to liberty, equality and fraternity. Many are being misinformed by the propaganda that made to believe that progress and peace could be achieved only by the means of subservient roles under the command of powerful States, which in reality functions as the instrument of oppression of big capital. The truth has to be unveiled.

Today, India's Act East Policy which is predominantly manifested in deceptive forms of 'aggressive' dams, trans Asian Highways, exploration of carbon reserves, extraction of mineral resources, construction of market complexes, recruitment in military and paramilitary forces, expansion of administrative buildings, military barracks and police posts, etc. — has found an inroad without any constructive debate on the fate of 'indigenous' communities and ecology.

This profit driven policy— enforced from above by the combined forces of the Indian State and other South East Asian States, whose primary objective is to facilitate finance capitalism of advanced countries, so as to rapidly recover from the recession that began with the meltdown of US dollar in 2008 and also to counter balance Chinese capitalism— had shown enormous amount of forced displacement of indigenous peoples, land and resource alienation, destruction to cultural ecology and environment, long term negative repercussion on sustainable development, militarisation and violation of 'human rights', and increasing sectarianism amongst the parasitic classes whose diabolic individual opportunisms are camouflaged by emotive propaganda of tribal rights and community identity.

The temporary boon at various levels — which are the immediate results of capitalist cosmetic funding in the name of 'shared incentives' under the concurrent list, infrastructural constructions, and job opportunity; which had created a face value of attraction to many, but legitimises massive misappropriation of wealth out of which a microscopic section of exploiters will accrue unequal share of tricked down benefit in descending order — will strengthen the grips of market forces in the long run. Will there be economic justice in the process? The apprehension is that majority of indigenous peoples (including the Nagas) will be subordinated, impoverished and become self-suicidal in internal strives (internecine conflict) in the competition of extracting subsistence wealth from the capitalist booty.

Nagas are not the exception when it comes to domination by capitalist State and finance capitalism. Their immediate neighbourhood communities live in similar conditions of underdevelopment, subjections, internal contradictions, and vulnerability. Collectively, they are being forced located at the underdeveloped bottom of global economic and political hierarchy.

Though, there has been destructive tendencies of politically motivated conflicts amongst them; they are geodemographically interconnected in such a manner that they can't remain isolated and insulated from one another. These communities will remain as proximate neighbours, no matter one likes it or not. The interconnection is so strong that that a particular historical event that would affect or effect a neighbour automatically would have similar repercussion on immediate neighbours. Will they learn to convert these commonalities into mutually agreeable terms amongst progressive forces, so as to carry out the significant historical task of building unity across boundaries to defending development, peace and unity vis-a-vis the plunder by external forces? At this crucial juncture of onslaught by finance capitalism, Nagas questions need to be seriously addressed by the progressive Nagas who wish to build a society that would be freed from all forms of subjugation, oppression and exploitation. Will 'freedom loving' Nagas give free pass to the international finance institutions and the capitalist States that facilitate the process of capitalist plunder? Will they defend their land, market, natural resources, cultural, development, peace and people's democracy? Will they overcome the problems of: (a) emigration of Nagas and corresponding drain of wealth and brain, and (b) the immigration of 'alien' skilled labour and monopoly traders and intrusion by big capital? In this regard, the stage of Nagas revolutionary movements needs to be objectively studied by taking into account the following crucial points;

(a) structural constraints and dynamics within Nagas society; (b) Nagas' relationship with immediate neighbours, (c) Nagas relationship with powerful capitalist States, market forces

and finance capitalism. Nagas need to concentrate on finding the most effective course to defending and promoting 'sustainable development'. This will require efforts to improve means of production and release of forces of production; so as to resist colonial relation of production and capitalist plunder of Nagas labour and resources. This effort, however, cannot be an isolated process restricted to Nagas alone. None of the co-existing communities fulfils the objective criteria to survive in isolation and progress in a compartment of its own. On the one hand walls of chauvinism, sectarianism and reactions, which have become endemic in all communities had to be broken down. On the other hand, 'sustainable development' agenda had to be carried out in cordial cooperation with the progressive forces amongst immediate communities.

Progressive Nagas must fulfil this primary historical task— an important historical leap that will not only expose the moribund system but also strengthen the ideals of people's democracy — to create a unique history of successful resistance to all forms of subjugation, exploitation and oppression.

Endnotes:  
The article was published in *Amelioration*, Nagas Students' Federation, 2017. IPost-truth: Refers to the situation where deceitful emotive propaganda arouses and controls public mind, which turn is being used for the purpose of legitimising vested policies.

2 A capitalist mode of welfare society to be established based on spiritual appeal for peace and social order through reforms and adjustment without challenging the capitalist mode of production.

3 Finance Capitalism: An advanced stage of capitalism, in which financial institutions or financiers (merging of bank and industrial capitals are merged) commanded over economic and political policies for extraction of super-profit.

4 Globalisation: A deceptive terminology that covers up exploitative character of finance capitalism. I used it interchangeably with the term imperialism or finance capitalism.

5 Missionary civilizing mission.

6 Egalitarian society based on simple modes of production. The Nagas are economically an egalitarian society. Private property and commodity relation are predominant. Individual opportunism becomes the ideological thriving force of amassing wealth for individual growth and vested satisfaction.

8 A society that does not have sound economic system can neither defend political freedom nor promote cultural identity.

9 Predominantly composed of contractors, political leaders, higher grade bureaucrats and officials.

10 Economic development conducted without depletion of natural resources; that meets the needs of the present, setting the limit of needs, and without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

11 Who live on the labour and resource of the exploited sections

Development as welfare; i.e., all round improvement in the means of production, forces of production, relation of production and distribution of products.

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