

Editorial

Saturday, February 9, 2019

Contd From Yesterday Issued

Sincerity matters

“Where a society has chosen to accept democracy as its creedal faith, it is elementary that the citizens ought to know what their government is doing.” -Justice P N Bhagwati

Easier is said than done - the saying still stands true. Like the nail float in water with the plank, a rowdy sometimes saves his or her life from being spoiled. Saying so, it is always the wisdom of the captain of the ship that the crew managed to sail their ship to the destiny amidst storms and whirlpools. But then had the crew member lacks discipline Columbus could never have landed in America’s soil to discover the country which becomes the most powerful country in the world today.

The state is more like a ship in the vast stormy ocean. In democratic state like Manipur, Chief Minister is similar to the captain of the ship. It is his wisdom that will sail towards a better direction. It is his command and qualities that will make his crew member follow rules and regulations frame by him. It is only at the time that all the crew members go by their respective assignment that the ship will reach destination. Similar, is with the running of the state, whether it goes upwards or falls, depends on the wisdom of the Chief Minister and his team.

But then, it is the Indian electoral system that stands as a hurdle to decide on which way to chose for a better society. Every elected representative needs a second thought to say no to his electorate. Particularly, the system practice in India showed that without some clique of strong supporters, it will become difficult for one to become Chief Minister as first thing that is important is to get elected as an MLA.

The present uproar and the mass protest are rising up catastrophe. Protests once more become a way of life.

Good governance is perhaps the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development. But sometimes the effort to bring good governance remains as a dream with the kind of hurdles from his supporters whom the man in the top post cannot deny as without them it will be difficult to get elected again.

Numbers of middle men including relatives are now the talk every people of the state. What more prove is required than checking the bank balance and the properties of these people in this nearly 2 years government? Good leader falls, not because of his personality but because of those around him.

Coming back to what is going on in the state; everybody knows the amount being asked by these middlemen for the recruitment of Police constable.

On the other hand some of the promises are still yet to be fulfilled as stated by the Chief Minister himself. The more the promises are delayed the more people will criticize.

Well, instead of defending, it’s best to come out of the grove and stand with the people.

Let’s make sure that we do have a real leader.

Passing of three Bills for the protection of Native People;

Violence erupted in CCPur District after the three bills for the protection of Manipur people - the Protection of Manipur Peoples Bill 2015; the Manipur Land Revenue and Land Reforms (Seventh Amendment) Bill 2015, and the Manipur Shops and Establishment (Second Amendment) Bill 2015 were passed in the floor of the Manipur State legislative Assembly (MSLA) without any debate on 31st August 2015. With the said three bills being introduced in the MSLA, printed rumours in Manipuri and local tribal dialect containing 10 points, labelling it as the ‘Meitei JCILPS Bill’ started circulating in the vicinity of the District Headquarter area of CCPur. Its contents were reproduced herein free English translation: 1. Howsoever rich you are, you could not buy even a piece of land in Meitei land; 2. Any business enterprise could no longer be taken up (Shop & Estd. Act); 3. The advantage of getting State Government employment would no longer be there; 4. Our sons and daughter would not get admission in MBBS/Engineering and other professional course; 5. We would not be allowed to buy land even in Lamka which we took pride as our own; 6. Our students would no longer get Tribal fellowship; 7. Whatever benefits we so far get from the government would no longer be available; 8. Those tribals who possessed land at Imphal and other valley area would face immense hardship. Many of them would be dispossessed from the land they bought and settle; 9. The Land for which we took pride for possessing ‘pucca patta’ would no longer be hill areas. Government would have the power to forfeit it by enacting any laws; and 10. Various documents would be asked to produce to just prove that we are natives of Manipur not outsiders. Your sons would no longer get the admission if you couldn’t produce the approved referral documents. One among the said referral Documents: Where did your forefathers inhabit before 1951? Even if it was in Manipur, could you produce relevant documents to prove it? Even if you produce, did it either existed in or matched with Government records? You become ‘outsider’ when you lack any of those. If you were outsider.... “Outsider from where?” The Bill mired into controversy, not primarily because of its contents but mainly, by labelling it as anti-tribal, an opportune moment was crafted out of the situation to push the polarised ethnic agendas. The otherwise innocent people were deliberately mobilised and incited against the bill to spark the already highly charged atmosphere. When the first day casualties of anti ILPS agitation which happened in the intervening night of 31st August 2016 were reported, six houses belonging to local MLAs and Ministers of the district were set ablaze. Seven including six protestors were killed on the spot, four in firing by security forces, two charred by the arson fire, and one died due to road accident. At the sight were casualties happened, Assam Rifles (AR) was deployed in the frontline on that intervening night. 23 Jawans of AR were also reportedly injured due to stone pelting. The reinforcement of the state force

came only in the second day. Two more were killed the next day in police firing when the rioting mob reportedly tried to set ablaze the CCPur Police Station. Of all the six died due to bullet wounds only the two killed on 1st September 2015 were certain to have died of police bullets. But those masterminding the Anti-ILPS protest deliberately projected as if all the nine death casualties were due to police firing.

Naga cohorts including the political party and frontals as well found the opportune moment to exhibit solidarity with the Anti-ILP Bills protestor from the CHIKMZ Community in CCPur. Joint Action Committee against Anti Tribal Bills (JACAATB) together with the Outer Manipur Tribal Forum (OMTF) in protest against the passing of the said three bill resolved to boycott INC and disallow to have any activities in the tribal areas and their office be locked with immediate effect. The Naga organisations which exhibited solidarity for the stated cause of ‘Tribal Unity’ against the ‘communal government’ of Manipur included the UNC. The continuing agitation and the refusal to give a ceremonial burial to those 09 killed even after the prospects of bill becoming an act was ruled out with the President of India withholding his assent on 11 May 2016 exposed the intention of those sticking to protest. The Union Home Minister and Senior BJP Leader, Shri Rajnath in his speech at the election rally on 2nd March at Churachandpur alleged the INC of ‘playing the politics of coffin’ by ‘creating division among different communities and by confusion’. He also assured of a CBI investigation of the alleged police firing during protests demanding roll-back of three ‘anti-tribal’ bills passed by the Manipur Assembly. Kukis and Hmars have eventually declared the severing of ties with JACAATB just ahead of observing the second anniversary of the Anti-ILP protest started in 31st August 2015. With it covert rift within becomes overt. Many Kukis particularly Thadous had been very critical with the enthusiastic opportunism of the UNC and other Naga frontals which at one time had the impudence of serving Quit Notice to the Kukis in Manipur hills. In fact, those communities who disapproved the movement being piloted by the UNC and its cohorts dissociated themselves. Later, JACAATB constitutes only of the UNC, other Naga frontals and CCPur based organisations belonging to the communities who were traditionally ally of UNC. The JACAATB had made a five-point declaration pertaining to the 11th MAE 2017. The declarations included - to refrain from casting their votes in favour of the boycotted tribal MLAs who still chose ‘to turn a blind eye to the cries and sentiments’ of their tribal electorates even after more than one whole year of unrelenting protests; to declare public boycott, till further notice, on all the sitting tribal MLAs who refused to feel the pulse of the tribal populace and declined to resign in spite of the mounting pressure from the general public to do so; The tribal MLAs includes D. Korungthang of Tengnoupal AC; Janghemlung Panmei of Tamenglong; Victor

Keishing of Phungyar, Gaikhannang of Nungba; M.K. Preshaw of Chingai; Dr. Chaltonlien of Tipaimukh; Yamthong Haokip of Saikul (ST); Vungzagin Valte of 56 Thanlon (ST); Francis Ngajokpa of 49 Tadubi; T. Manga Vaiphei of Henglep; Nemcha Kipgen of Kangpokpi; Phungzathang Tonsing of Churachandpur; Ngamthang Haokip of 51 Saitu (ST); T.N. Haokip – 59 Saikot (ST); Z. Kikhonbou Newmai of Tamei and Giansuanhou Singang AC. The stricture against the INC candidate by the JACAATB led to the abandoning of the party by three sitting MLAs in Churachandpur District. They were Phunzathang Tonsing of Churachandpur AC, Manga Vaiphei of Henglep AC, and V. Valte of Thanlon AC. There have been comment that in the 11 MAE 2017, United People’s Front (UPF), a conglomerate group of ‘Zomi’ armed outfit existing in SoO was closer to BJP so as to continue the ‘political dialogue’ with the GoI on ‘Kuki political issues’. As regards Ms. Nemcha Kipgen of Kangpokki AC who also had abandoned INC for BJP, she being the wife of UPF Chairman, ST Thangboi, her changing loyalty might not be due to strictures by the JACAATB.

So O with CHIKMZ Outfit: Suspension of Operation (SoO) with the ‘Kuki’ and ‘Zomi’ armed groups in Manipur was preceded by ‘Cessation of Operations’ agreement with the union government which comes to effect from 01 August 2005. After a gap of three years, SoO between the conglomerate groups of ‘Kuki’ and Zomi Outfits namely the Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and the United People’s Front (UPF), the state government and the central government was signed at Delhi on 22 August 2008. After remaining lull for more than 10 years, the Central Government initiated the first ever political dialogue with the UPF and the KNO. The UPF, together with the KNO together controls about 10 Assembly segments in the hills. And also, there have been reports of the SoO armed conglomerate group favouring BJP candidate, and the. Together with the creation of new districts, the ongoing political dialogue with the centre on Kuki-Zomi political issues was also a vital determinant factor which could influence the outcome of the MAE 2017 in the areas controlled by the respective armed conglomerate groups of the KNO and the UPF. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (UMHA), GoI had sanctioned over Rs.4,40,20,000/- to the GoM for payment of stipends to the cadres of SoO signatory the KNO and UPF. In the second round of the tripartite talk involving the GoI, KNO and UPF and the GoM, held on 19 October 2016 at New Delhi, UPF and KNO submitted a document titled ‘A case statement for a separate State for the Kuki/Zo people’. The

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proposed state included Sadar Hills, Chandel, Churachandpur and the ‘ancestral lands of the Kuki/Zo people in Jiribam’. On 2nd March, Senior BJP Leader and Union Home Minister, Rajnath Singh, just two days ahead of the First phase 11th MAE 2017 while at Churachandpur, delivering the final stroke of the first phase election assured to solve the political problem of the Kuki-Zomi people promising political solution for the ‘Kuki’, ‘Zomi’ groups under SoO. The demand for ‘separate state’, ‘separate administration’ have also been sporadically raised by organisations like JACAATB, Kuki Inpi, Kuki State Demand Committee, and others.

Results and Outcome:

As expected, following a hung verdict with neither the INC nor the BJP getting absolute, there was a tussle between the INC and the BJP to form the newly elected government. Okram Ibobi, the incumbent Chief Minister was re-elected by the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) Meeting as the CLP leader for the fourth time. He later staked claim to form the newly elected government, insisting that the INC being the largest party should first be invited. INC also claimed to have the support of all the four elected NPP MLAs in its bid to form a new government. On the other hand, N. Biren had been unanimously elected as the leader of the BJP Legislature Party and also declared as their official Chief Ministerial candidate. The BJP leadership also approached the Governor and staked to form a government at the strength of having the support of 32 MLAs. The Governor, on 14th March invited the BJP led coalition to form the government. Accordingly, N. Biren Singh was sworn in as Chief Minister on 15 March, thereby ending the 15 years of INC rule in Manipur. N. Biren’s BJP led government won the floor test on Monday 20th March with the support of 32 MLAs in the 60 member Legislative Assembly. The Ministry expanded with the induction of three more ministers, all from BJP. Chief Minister N. Biren later appointed 12 MLAs as Parliamentary Secretaries and Government Chief Whip and Economic Affairs and Human Resources Advisor to CM had also been appointed from among the BJP MLAs. As its immediate outcome, the 139 days old economic Blockade imposed by the UNC was lifted with effect from the midnight of Sunday, 19th March following the tripartite talks involving the State Government, Central Government and the UNC.

- (Concluded) -

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I have Lost my Original Certificate bearing Roll no. 10819 of 2008 issued by BOSEM on the way from langol to Airport on 5th February 2019 at around 9:30am. Finder are requested to handover the same to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Heishnam Brojeshwori
Langol

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