

# Editorial

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## Blowing the gaff on greed

Perhaps the worst attribute that has debased saints and sinners alike is the almost unquenchable desire to have more regardless of the actual need hence the accepted concept that men's greed knows no bound.

The urge to take in that bit more than what is rightfully ours has been the genesis of so much evils and ills in the society. Such a habit also infringes on other's rights and privileges. Yet almost always, it turns out that it is those who are more knowledgeable and informed individuals who are doing the dirty deeds of infringing.

The issues of kickbacks and underhand deals in Government contracts and supplies are nothing new. It has been the bane of many otherwise respectful and well-meaning leaders and powerful figures. But when such issues do break out, it never fails to elicit amazement and anger from the public, and are also a source of amusement for many, given the efforts and thoughts that is being invested in pulling out such schemes and also the ingenious ways employed for the same- tactics, had these been utilized legally and for the good, would have definitely made a visible positive impact on the development of the society. For every act of misappropriation, favoritism and underhand dealings, a few in power and influence must have bypassed the law of the land went ahead with an arrangement which would definitely have enriched them and their near ones who were privy to the whole operation. Handouts must have been made to ensure silence. It would not be possible to carry out such feats without the consent and collusion of minister/s and departmental heads.

The sheer audacity of inflating the cost, as is almost always the case, way above the market price also signals a deep and critical rot in the financial control and management that has been going on for years, if not decades. The public, which are left seething with anger are waiting and watching for the damage control exercises that is bound to follow suit eventually with or without the agitations, sit-in-protests and demonstrations, and it would be foolish and physically risky for the Government and the perpetrators to assume that they will continue to be mute spectators forever.

There had been instances when the public spontaneously decided to set things in the right order, unable to wait for the reluctant enforcers and judiciary to sit up and act. These instances clearly underline the inefficient and ineffective methods of reigning in its employees and controlling the affairs of the state. There has not been any exemplary punishment which only emboldens the unscrupulous people to commit bigger and more serious hoaxes and crimes given the uncomfortable fact that the risk of being found out can be negotiated. The onus to prove its honest intentions of bringing in better Governance should be put squarely on the Government. There had been enough promises and empty assurances. It is time to shut up and act out.

The public now will not have it any other way. Not when the time to choose their next representatives is just about a couple of months away.

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## Protective Thinking: Social Background leading to RIIN, Can RIIN save Nagaland?

By: Mr. Pakinrichapbo (Advocate)

Much have been written and spoken on Registration of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN) led by civil society organizations, individuals from various backgrounds giving their expert opinion on why RIIN is necessary and how to carry out RIIN, at the same time creating more confusion day by day at the absence of clear cut guideline/rules laid down by the State Government to set up RIIN. The drama unfolded following the Nagaland Government decision to go ahead with RIIN shows that State Government is not well prepared for carrying such complicated task of preparing a master list for bonafide indigenous inhabitant of Nagaland nor seem to have effective mechanism to contain its numerous loopholes surrounding this RIIN. The State Government continues to commit blunder after blunder by publishing the notification to set up RIIN without laying down any guideline, failing to include indigenous Kuki and Dimasakachari tribal organizations in the list of Tribal Hohos and organizations invited for consultative meeting with the state government on 17.07.19, expecting civil society organizations to pressurize the government to stick to 01.12.1963 cut off year to decide who is indigenous inhabitant of Nagaland and bringing up draft

format of RIIN sticking to 1963 as a cut off year.

When State government itself is not clear on how to carry out its policy what can we expect, except chaos and disgruntlement from every corner? In the act of protecting one right, one should not violate other basic rights.

### Social Background

The PDA led Nagaland Government hurried push for registration of indigenous inhabitants of Nagaland reveals the mindset of the confused, helpless and anxious Nagas of Nagaland and the deficiency of practical idea to effectively deal with the rising populations of legal and illegal migrants from mainland India and Bangladesh. Not to forget the prosperity of the migrants especially the business community are always seen as a threat by the indigenous groups.

The debate of checking the high influx of illegal migrants has been going on for long time. In the near past, concerned, indigenous citizen group had formed association, young rugged individuals taken law in to their hand by checking defaulters of ILP and some even report in face book of slapping ILP defaulters, in most cases, the victims were Illegal Bangladeshi Immigrants (IBI) running a small shops for migrants whether be legal or illegal running big shops can't be touch, sharing ideas and debating in social media to tackle influx of illegal migrants with no positive results. Sometime the debate will shift focus

from illegal migrants to non indigenous Nugas mainly from Manipur, such debate often triggered by Rongmei tribe recognition issue.

It is not wrong to conclude that the certain section among the indigenous Naga sub tribes of Nagaland seeks protection not only from the legal and illegal migrants but from the non indigenous Naga tribes whose presence in the state are equally seen as a threat. Past accommodative spirit based on Naga brotherhood now in death bed as a result of old age and multiple chronic ailments thanks to unsettled Indo-Naga peace talks, only Nagas of Nagaland policies favoured and implemented by high and mighty of Nagaland, misuse of different armed factions. In such ground reality, the idea of Nagas without border popularised by FNR and NSF will quietly take back seat. The policies of state administrations will supersede Naga Nationalism. Nagaland being a capital for all Naga tribes needs to show that all Naga tribes are welcomed without ILP in Nagaland, applying tribe colour in lands ownerships system and government policies will create deeper fragmentation in the long run even among Nagas of Nagaland.

I wish, I may be proven wrong but post execution of RIIN; regional feeling will grow manifold beyond control, Naga nationalism, peace talk will carry little meaning until the final settlement arrives if it's meant

to be and satisfies some leading dominant Naga tribes of Nagaland. But now it appears majority of Nagaland based indigenous tribes have lost hope in political negotiations and will go to any length to protect and preserve its limited state resources, for high and mighty greatest excuse to play regional politics is to bring out the card of limited resources and go on diverting state limited resources to their kitchen not caring to equally share resources among fellow recognized indigenous people, also deny state privileges and rights to non-indigenous groups of people including Nagas settling in the state for several decades but originally from outside Nagaland state.

Nagaland government has stated the RIIN is not to target traders (includes legal and illegal migrants), so who is their target now?

Nagas being a part of the minorities in India had never shied away of attacking BJP lead Central Government of violating minorities rights on several occasions. Time has come to show how Nagaland Government will treat its minorities living in the state. Not forgetting the established rules that the kind of Democratic Government is known by how it treats their minorities and its commitment to respect and protect minority rights. Whether the tyranny of the majority will prevail as usual or minority rights will be respected by giving administrative safeguards to the minorities. (To be contd)

## Recycling of Plastic Waste & its application



By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh, Faculty, NIELIT, Imphal

Plastic recycling is the process of recovering scrap or waste plastic and reprocessing the material into useful products. Since the vast majority of plastic is non-biodegradable, cycling is a part of global efforts to reduce the plastic in the waste stream, especially the approximately 8 million tons of waste plastic that enters the Earth's Ocean every year. Compared with lucrative recycling of metals and similar to the low value of glass, plastic polymers recycling is often more challenging, because of low density and low value. There are also numerous technical hurdles to overcome when recycling plastic. When different types of plastics are melted together, they tend to phase separate, like oil and water and set in these layers. The phase boundaries cause structural weakness in the resulting material: meaning that polymer blends are useful in only limited applications. The two most widely manufactured plastics, polypropylene and polyethylene behave this way, which limits their utility for recycling.

Recently the use of block copolymers as "molecular stitches" or "macromolecular welding flux" has been proposed to overcome the difficulties associated with phase separation during recycling. The percentage of plastic that can be fully recycled rather than down cycled or go to waste can be increased when manufacturing of packaged goods, minimize mixing or packaging materials and eliminate contaminants. The use of biodegradable plastic or plastic which can be organically recycled

or can be composted in Industrial composting is increasing for certain short lived packaging applications. Biodegradable plastics are plastics that can be decomposed by the action of living organisms, usually bacteria. Before recycling, most plastics are sorted according to their resin type. In the past, plastic reclaimers used the resin identification code (RIC), a method of categorization of polymer type which was developed by the Society of Plastic Industry in 1988. Some plastic products are also separated by color before they are recycled. The plastic recyclable are then shredded. These shredded fragments then undergo processes to eliminate impurities like paper labels. The materials melted are often extruded into the form of pellets which are then used to manufacture other products. Recycling also keeps plastic out of landfills where it can take 500 years to break down. Plastic pyrolysis can convert petroleum based waste streams such as plastic into fuels and carbons. Heat compression takes all unsorted cleaned plastic in all forms, from soft plastic bags to hard industrial waste and mixes the load in tumblers. The most obvious benefit to the method is that all plastic is recyclable, not just matching form. For some waste plastics, technical devices called recyclebots enable a form of distributed recycling. Post-consumer polyethylene terephthalate (PET or PETE) containers are sorted into different color fractions and baled for onward sale. PET recyclers further sort the baled bottles and they are washed and flaked or flaked and washed. Non-PET fractions such as caps and labels are removed during the process. The clean flake is dried. Further treatment can take place e.g melt filtering and pelletizing or various treatments to produce food-contact approved recycled PET (RPET). RPET has been widely used to produce polyester fibers. One used of this recycled PET is to create fabric to be used in clothing Industry. The recycled PET thread or yarn can be used either alone or

together with other fibers to create a wide variety of fabrics. Traditionally these fabrics are used to create strong, durable, and rough products such as jackets, coats, shoes, bags, hats and accessories, since they are usually too rough for direct skin contact and can cause irritation. Other major outlets for RPET are new containers (food-contact or non-contact) produced either by molding into bottles and jars or by thermoforming APET sheet to produce clamshells, blister packs and collation trays. High density polyethylene (HDPE) is a commonly recycled plastic. HDPE's highly crystalline structures makes it a strong high density moderately stiff plastic. Often, it is typically down cycled into plastic lumber, tables, road side curbs, benches, trucks cargo liners, trash receptacles, stationery (e.g rulers) and other durable plastic products and is widely in demand. Expanded polystyrene (EPS) scrap can easily be added to products such as EPS insulation sheets and other EPS materials for construction applications. When it is not used to make more EPS, foam scrap can be turned into clotheshangers, Park benches, flower pots, toys, rulers, stapler bodies, seedling containers, picture frames and architectural molding from recycled polystyrene (PS). Recycled EPS is also used in many metal casting operations. Rastra is made from EPS that is combined with cement to be used as an insulating amendment in the making of concrete foundries and walls. Since 1993 American manufacturers have produced insulating concrete forms made with approximately 80% recycled EPS. Israel have shown that plastic films recycled from mixed municipal waste streams can be recycled into useful household products such as buckets. Similarly agricultural plastics such as mulch film, drip tape and silage bags are being diverted from the recycled waste streams and successfully recycled into much larger products

for Industrial applications such as plastic composite railroad ties. Historically these agricultural plastic have primarily been either landfilled or burned on-site in the fields of individuals' farms. CNN reports that Dr.S.Madhu of Kerala Highway Research Institute, India has formulated a road surface that includes recycled plastics, aggregate bitumen (asphalt) with plastic that has been shredded and melted at a temperature below 220°C (428°F) to avoid pollution. This road surface is claimed to be very durable and monsoon rain resistant. Keeping in mind, lack of manufacturing opportunities in Manipur, a father-son duo from Manipur, decided to start a manufacturing unit of their own. After years of hard work, Sadokpam Itombi Singh and his father Sadokpam Gunakanta have established a successful operation of recycling program at Sagolbamsadokpam Ikaoin Imphal. SJ Plastic Industry, started by Mr Itombi, could build pipes, other household items, tubes and flower pots from plastic waste. "Plastic is very important and how to dispose is also equally important" Mr Itombi said. Currently as many as 120 types of plastics have been identified in Manipur alone. Out of 120, almost 30 are recycled in Manipur while the remaining are sent to Delhi and Guwahati after compression process. On 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018, Chairman Manipur Pollution Control Board also sent a written intimation to the Manipur Public Works Dept. giving instruction to make use of plastic waste in road construction mandatory in the state as is done in Kerala. It will be a good step forward if Government of Manipur execute this practice in reality to avoid the threat of plastic pollution in our Environment. Plastic are recyclable, we need to make conscious efforts to recycle such waste so that they can be used for other purpose, instead of allowing them to pollute our water bodies and land.

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