

# Editorial

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## A clandestine announcement or does it have another purpose

An announcement made by two persons from the state of Manipur claiming to be representatives of the King Leishemba Sanajaoba regarding the formation of an exile government separated from India during a press conference held at London took everyone by surprise. The two persons – Yambem Biren who introduced themselves as the Chief Minister of Manipur state council and Narengbam Samarjit Minister of External Affairs and Defence of Manipur State Council, under the King of Manipur, was however, clarified by the titular King Leishemba Sanajaoba as false and fabricated. "They came to me seeking authorization for collection of historical elements and records from the British government and I simply said yes and signed and authorization as it is a good work, but I had no idea of what they have announced", Leishemba clarified soon after the news went viral.

Interestingly, the duo reportedly produced a document showing that His Highness the Maharaja of Manipur had authorised them by the Order No. 12 of 2013 dated the March 15, 2013 to solve the political problems of the State of Manipur.

What is more interesting is that Narengbam Samarjit who claimed to be Minister of External Affairs and Defence of Manipur State Council headed by the King of Manipur is also a convener of a political party called NIFDP and had a field candidate in the recent Lok Sabha Election in the Inner Manipur Parliamentary constituency. He is not only the convener of the Political Party but also a business giant who run banking business, marketing, industries among others. Thousands of Manipuri people have trusted his firm called Salai Pvt. Ltd. who gave 3% interest every month to whoever had invested in his company. The banking firm he runs reportedly is registered under the Bombay Money Laundering Act. Unofficial report said that as many as 800 people are being employed at his firm. Many high profile politicians including former MLAs are now members of the political party he established and lead. During last Lok Sabha Election, unofficial source said that the candidate he fielded was financed by him from his firm. Many people wonder how he was able to earn so much money within such a short span and the answer for that from his near and dear one is that – they come from foreign country. To someone who does not understand how foreign fund are invested to NGOs or Bankers, they may have believed, but to those who know little about how to get foreign funding, the kind of story his associate gave was a total lie. No foreign funding come directly to the NGO by skipping the government of India and also the government of the state.

It is at the juncture when people started talking about legitimacy in the modus operandi of Salai Pvt Ltd or the SMART society which gave 3% interest to every investor every month, that Narengbam Samarjit announced the controversial statement of running an exile government that too from Central London.

The kind of attention he drew was in one way appreciative as he is perhaps the only person who tells the history and the reality of the erstwhile kingdom to the world platform. Whatever, he told in front of the international media are all facts and that Manipur's territorial entity and its history has been let known to the world. The conflict between India and Manipur is a long pending issue. Since the time India annexed Manipur there has been movement from armed rebel groups for restoration of the freedom of the erstwhile kingdom. The Government of India till today has never spell any words regarding the conflict. If Samarjit succeed in getting recognition about the existence of an exile government of Manipur by the United Nation it will perhaps get noticed from the world community. But then people still have to wait and watch what will be the outcome of his announcement of an exile government of Manipur.



By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh Faculty, NIELIT, Imphal, Akampat.

Food waste or food loss is food that is discarded or lost unutilized. The cause of food waste or loss is numerous and occurs at the stages of producing, processing, retelling and consuming. Global food loss and waste amount to between one third and half of all food produced. Loss and wastage occurs at all stages of the food supply chain or value chain. In low-income countries, most loss occur during production, while in developed countries much food – about 100kg per persons per year is wasted at the consumption stage. Causes of food waste may be due to poor farmers harvest crops too early in response to a lack of food and money, minimal farming technology such as plows, tractors and pesticides, inadequate market system, markets are often small, overcrowded, unsanitary and lack of proper cooling equipment for fresh produce, meat and fish spoil in hot climates due to lack of proper transportation. On the other hand in the developed countries the causes of food loss are due to farmers produce excess food out of anticipation of poor weather or pest attacks, supermarkets have appearance quality standards as edible foods may be rejected by supermarkets due to crops not being favorable in terms of weight, size or supermarkets display large quantities of products that reach their sell before being sold, bulk sized packaging, large portion meals in restaurants, the attitude that disposing is cheaper than using or re-using, households buy more food than needed.

When food is disposed in a landfill, it rots and becomes a significant source of Methane – a potent greenhouse gas with 21 times

## Food Wastage & its Impacts

the global warming potential of carbon dioxide. Growing and transporting the food that goes to waste emits as much carbon pollutants as 39 million passenger vehicles. When we waste food, we're not just wasting food; we're also wasting all the resources that went into growing it. A report by the NRDC, food waste ends up wasting nearly a quarter of our water supply in the form of uneaten food or over 172 billion dollars in waste water. Each year, as a country we spend over 220 billion dollars, growing, transporting and processing but almost 70 million tons of food that we cultivate ends up going to waste. If the land we cultivate, growing food that goes to waste in US were all in one place, it would over more than 3/4<sup>th</sup> of California. Growing food that goes to waste ends up 21% of our fresh water, 19% of our fertilizer, 18% of our cropland and 21% of our landfill volume. This comes with a heavy carbon footprint as well. The Global food system is responsible for upto 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of all human caused greenhouse gas emissions, making largest contributors to climate change, according to the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research. The fact that we carelessly waste 40% of our food in the US and 33% globally means there is huge potential to reduce our environmental footprint. Big picture energy and transportation tend to be the face of climate change but with food's impact arguably larger it definitely deserves more of a focus. Reducing food waste is environmentally important as it keeps food out of landfills. It makes economic sense at the small scale by lowering household food bills and at the large scale by reducing disposal costs for restaurants, processors and farmers. In fact food wastage gives a big impact on climate, water, land and Biodiversity. Wasting 1.3 billion tons of food causes huge economic losses and a lot of human life, also there are climate as well as environmental issues deeply connected to food waste, according to a report from UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Over 240 million slices of bread are chucked away every year.

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around 5.9 million glasses of milk are poured down the sink every year but it's so easy to use it up, we discard 5.8 million potatoes each year, a staggering 1.3 million apples are thrown away each year. India waste Rs244 corer worth of food a day (Economic Times: June 8-2018). 18% of India's fruit & vegetables production, valued at Rs13, 300 corers is wasted annually, according to Emerson Climate Technology India. According to FAO estimates in The State of Food Security & Nutrition in the World, 2018 report 95.9 million people are undernourished in India. By this measure, 14.8% of the population is undernourished in India. Also 51.4% of women in reproductive age between 15 to 49 years are anemic. 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the World's hungry live in India. 836 million Indians survive on less than Rs20 a day. Over 20 corers Indian will sleep hungry every night. 10 million people die every year of chronic hunger and hunger related diseases. India has a significant proportion of women and children who are malnourished – the causes are manifold. In every minute of every day four children die of hunger in India. Over 7000 Indians die of hunger everyday. Over 25 lakh Indian die of hunger every year. The number of hunger people in India is always more than the number of people below official poverty line. The main cause of hunger Worldwide is poverty. Millions of people around the World are simply too poor to be able to buy food. They also lack the resources to grow their own food, such as arable land and the means to harvest, process and store food. 25,000 people lose their lives every day as a result of hunger. That adds upto roughly 9.1 million people die of starvation each year according to FAO.

While India has been impressive in economic growth in recent year, the country still struggles with widespread poverty and hunger. India's poor population amounts to more than 300 million people, with almost 30% of India's rural population living in poverty. China, unlike India does not produce enough food for its population. While India does produce enough food, it is terribly callous about

storage, wastage, distribution and mass affordability. Hunger exists in India because people cannot access the food, according to Global Hunger Index report. The national Food Security Act 2013 (also known as Right to Food Act) is an Act of the Parliament of India which aims subsidized food grains to approximately 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of India's 1.2 billion people; however it is still a Tiger on the Paper. India is home to 270 million hungry people, the highest in the World. India stands 97<sup>th</sup> in Oxfam's Food Availability Index and 103<sup>rd</sup> in the 2018 Global Hunger Index.

Coming down to our state Manipur, we are facing an acute impact of Scarcity of food grains. The recent buzz in media about PDS under NFSA shows the clarity of the situation. The areas of arable land are reducing at a very high speed in the name of development & industrialization, which is a known fact. Last year's flood as well as scarcity of water during the need hour of rice plants, reduced rice production drastically causing hike in the price of local rice at Rs50- per kg now. The problem will be much grimmer next year as no rain now for the cultivation of rice. At the same time we are still continuing the habit of spoiling foods during UTSAV MANI CHAKOUBA, NAHUTPA, YEIGYA and many other social gathering & party, the result for which has been mentioned above. Again, little agricultural products of our poor farmers like vegetables, fruits etc. are also gone waste most of the time as there is not a single Cold storage in our state to store these products during peak time for using in lean period. Another pathetic situation faced by our poor farmers is that there is no proper market/ price regulation, resulting heavy losses due to regular and frequent price fluctuation of vegetable products. However we can reduce the wastage of food and hunger if: (i) we initiate more food collection drive (ii) Urban farming (iii) sustainable farming (iv) Government intervention honestly (v) birth control (vi) access to credit (vii) access to education. Now, it's concerned for every citizen to think over the issue of food wastage and its effect in a wider spectrum before it is too late.

## Being Vegetarian can fight Climate Change

By: N. Munal Meitei

In Manipur when ocularly survey the number of vegetarian population, it is really very poor. In hill districts the number is again almost negligible. The elders when counted are mostly vegetarians due to the religious or the physiological cause. But on worldwide condition, being vegetarian has become a popular lifestyle. The difference between vegetarians and vegans is that vegetarians don't eat any animal flesh (beef, chicken, fish, etc.), but vegans go further, and don't take anything that comes from an animal (egg, dairy, leather, fur, etc.). World Vegetarian Day is observed on 1<sup>st</sup> October and World Vegan Day is celebrated on 1<sup>st</sup> November every year. It is certain that being vegetarians will make the world a better place not only for animals, but for our health and the environment too. It is a change from an unhealthy to a healthy habit and diet. To become vegetarian lifestyle is the ethical, environmental, health, and humanitarian benefits. During March 2019, we went to a village in Tengnoupal district

(name of the village concealed) for an awareness program on wildlife conservation. When we reach the village, they were having a joint customary village feast. The sad part came when we knew that there was a hunting for the feast on the previous day and a hind was killed. But the saddest part was when it was told that the hind was also a pregnant one. Such is the reality in our hills. In the name of customary, it happened in all the hill villages. Therefore, sorry to say that in our statenot much is expected with my article for becoming vegetarian. But, we have to stand for the truth and the future. Being vegetarian will surely help to combat climate change and reduce further damages to the natural world. The climate crisis is the biggest threat to life on our planet. It may be hard to define a diet that linked health and environmental outcomes but a vegetarian has something to reveal. Apart from global warming, loss of biodiversity is the other major global environmental problem. Such loss is closely linked to the conversion of natural habitats, such as tropical

rainforest being cleared for agricultural and farm lands. The world's forests and other natural habitats are also important carbon sinks. Being vegetarian will help to create a better world because vegetarian diet have proven health benefits, save animals' lives and help to preserve the earth. It reduces the risk of major killers such as heart disease, diabetes, stroke and cancer while cutting the foodborne pathogens. Being vegetarian provide a viable answer to feed the world's hungry through more efficient use of grains and other crops. It saves animals from suffering, the pain and terror of slaughter. It also conserves vital but limited freshwater, fertile topsoil and other precious resources. Being vegetarian preserves irreplaceable ecosystems such as rainforests and other wildlife habitats. It also decreases greenhouse gases that are accelerating global warming and mitigate the ever-expanding environmental pollution of animal farming. Vegetarian food is a balance diet for healthy and sustainable choices that includes diets of nutritional requirements but reducing the environmental footprint. These are the diets that are good for both people and planet. In the world, 20% of total direct carbon emissions are from food

and agriculture. The land-use pattern change may rises up to 30%. Around 70% of all fresh water available is used for agricultural irrigation, which in many cases has a major impact on water quality. Ever expanding agriculture to feed the flooding population is the most significant cause of deforestation – and hence loss of biodiversity – around the world. What we eat and how it is produced have consequences for the whole planet. By changing our diets and by improving production efficiency in the food system, we can make a major change to our environment. Changes in the food system will be a part of the solution, and being vegetarians will have contribution to our economy. One of the most effective ways to care for the planet is to change what we eat and eat to save the earth. The global meat and dairy industry is responsible for as much greenhouse gases as all the direct emissions from all global transportation combined. Greenhouse gases are driving the climate crisis – the biggest threat to the future of our planet. You can reduce your food-related carbon footprint by up to 50% if you go with vegetarian and vegan. Animal farming is destroying our environment. It causes up to 91% of Amazon deforestation. Growing vegetarian food uses 50% less land than animal agriculture. And

a meat and dairy diet is inherently wasteful. Remember that for every 100 calories fed to animals, we receive back only 12 calories by consuming their flesh and milk. Feeding crops to people rather than farmed animals could feed three billion more people. With this, I don't mean, not to rear animals but not to eat animals. The diet replacers from meat may be such as soy, legumes, nuts and oilseeds, and vegetables fats and oils. Meats have a high carbon footprint primarily due to the enteric fermentation in the gut, leading to methane emissions. It's also important to remember that every change on our daily meals has the real-impactand consequences in this complex world. So while reducing meat consumption means less grassland is needed for pasture and less cropland is needed to grow animal feed, which in turn will have more cropland for more food production. The plant-based foods are required not only for climate change mitigation but for public health too. The net zero emission is only possible via a shift towards plant-based diets because the production of meat, dairy and eggs generate much higher levels of greenhouse emissions. Some peoples think that becoming a vegetarian could be too much of a challenge and have to spend much time and labour

to the family while changing the lifestyle and also worried about finding the vegetarian food options. But according to many acclaimed vegetarians, the vegetarians' lifestyle is always beneficial for the health of the human beings, and it fosters environmental protection as well as save the animal lives. Being vegetarian also can lead to reduction in carbon emissions from the food chains. Hence please, don't eat anything that had a mom and don't buy anything with fur, leather, wool, down, or silk and also cosmetics with animal products in them. Don't attend events that use animals as entertainment such as the zoo, circus, rodeo, or animal rides where horses, donkeys, elephants, etc. are used. Therefore to be vegetarians have the best option in the brighter side to save the environment and the future. The government also should encourage adopting the plant-based diet, implementing policies for public sector institutions such as schools, hospitals and caring homes to offer for vegetarian meals. Eat as a vegetarian for a week and taste the future and then you will be doing something for the Planet. This will surely save the climate change and lead to a healthy, sustainable life, that's good for people and the future generation.

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