

Editorial

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Mockery of the legislation

Without exceptions or let-up across parties that has ruled the country since independence, a continually disappointing and very prominent feature that has been the bane of progress of this country is that legislations framed by successive governments to protect the rights of the common people are often a mockery as the authorities entrusted with their proper implementation has never bothered to put the required efforts to ensure the same, let alone the thought of following up and improving upon them. There had been countless instances where government authorities turned a deaf ear to the cries for justice and relief as per the innumerable provisions provided in the legislations passed by the governments for the protection and safeguarding of the rights of the common people. Almost every single legislations framed by the government ultimately ends up as a convenient tool to protect and further the interest of the rich and influential people as the system is, in practice, no different to a monarchy where those in power and position treat laws and legislations as their weapon of choice for personal and political advantage.

However, with the advancements in information technology, the people today have access to information about the muzzling of the Manipur Private Schools (Registration) Bill, 2017 which got the assent from the governor due to pressure from a highly influential Private School body. In this regard the ruling government till today has not given a clear picture or explanation as to why the legislation passed by the state Legislative Assembly has not been implemented. Notably, the Manipur Private Schools (Registration) Bill, 2017 and the Manipur Coaching Institute (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2017, were passed unanimously in order to streamline the education system and to have proper control over the mushrooming of business oriented private schools and coaching centres. The speculation of the public about the pressure given by the private educational body and the probable nexus between the Education Minister and the body is assumable.

It is not only the Private School regulation and registration Act, but the Manipur Conservation of Paddy Land and Wetland Act 2014 that was passed to conserve the paddy land and wetland and to restrict the conversion or reclamation thereof in order to promote growth in the agricultural sector in the state of Manipur that has been violated by the same private educational institution in blatant disregard of a standing order of the concern SDO issued to the pattadar to stop any construction activity on the agricultural land and restore the land to its original position immediately more than a year back.

Such flagrant violations of government legislation by wealthy and influential persons are nothing new or extraordinary- and therein lies the real concern of the common people. The evident impotency of the state government to enforce its own rules despite overwhelming evidences of violations is a clear indication of a compromised authority and corrupt system. Ironically, the present government is crying hoarse about its intention of uprooting corruption by marshalling support and evidence from the general public, while such a high-profile and clear-cut case has been deliberately overlooked. It is also a given that lawsuits are also being used by the wealthy to defer judgments or buy time to make ignoble arrangements, and the same may very well be taken up by the violator/s to wear out any protests or prohibitions.

If the state government is sincere in its intent to bring about development and efficiency in its administration and governance, it need to dispense such high profile and clear-cut cases swiftly and in a manner that will send out an unmistakable signal of its intolerance for violators of laws and legislations. After all, action speaks louder than words, and for long the people have been looking out for any signs of decisive actions. Hope the wait should not continue else the rot in the trust and belief that was once bestowed by the public might very well erode beyond repair.

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Punishment, Khongoinaba and Kanglei Chanura Kanba Lup Phenomena

By- Cecil Thounoujam

We find the punishment of Khongoinaba in the 16th Century entries of Cheitharol Kumpapa. Scholars have said that this punishment is awarded to women for committing crimes such as the murder of husband, abortion or stealing children. James Johnstone, in his book Manipur and the Naga Hills, states that the convicted woman is stripped to the waist, her breast painted red (most probably lime and turmeric mixture) and tied with a rope around the waist and paraded in the market with people shouting, "come and look at this naughty woman!" These acts have continued for long in Manipur. Now, with smart phones and high speed internet, there is a new add-on to this age-old practice. We now record the videos and circulate the videos of Khongoinaba in the social media. There have been videos of the organizations on "restaurant drives" in the social media with shocking vulgar images of women condemned to violence and stripping for defying social norms. Recently, various incidents of Khongoinaba have surfaced on social media.

What sort of justice we are expecting when attempts are made to strip a woman forcefully and more

importantly, for whom are we doing this. Or, it is just a punishment for violating social norms. Khongoinaba is a form of punishment that has been around for centuries in Manipur. Pothang, Lallup and amang-aseng and many more feudal practices have been discontinued but we still continue to hold on to Khongoinaba. We need to do away with this regressive form of punishment in our society as soon as possible, especially Leikai as an institution should not practice it at all, given that it is an age-old practice. The distinction between progressive and regressive should be made when the society acts through its organizations or a leikai as an institution chooses to do certain things. The feudal patriarchal punishment needs to be done away with if we are moving towards a mannaba khunnei. This punishment reflects the feudal patriarchal norm that society should violate a woman as a punishment for breaking the social norm. It has nothing to do with the question of justice. This form of punishment is only based on retribution. We need to take such regressive measures from our understanding of justice. Kanglei Chanura Kanba Lup Phenomena

When we speak of regressive norms of justice prevailing in the society

and its executions, one organisation comes to mind immediately which symbolizes the most regressive manner in which this society wants to deal with what it sees as a problem. In September 2015, an allegation against an organisation called Kanglei Chanura Kanba Lup surfaced in the social media. It is said that the organisation goes for "restaurant drive" and takes money from the people they catch in these drives. Khurai Lamlong Meira Paibi, Mothers' association and Paragon Club raided the office of Kanglei Chanura Kanba Lup at Khurai Lamlong Keithel and found the allegations true. Secretary of Mother's Association at that time stated that no branch or office of this organisation would be allowed in Khurai given that this organisation is doing such things for earning money. In the month of May 2018 another allegation against Kanglei Chanura Kanba Lup surfaced in social media that the organisation along with people high on intoxicants are going for restaurant drive and have beaten up people with iron rods. A video of the incident also surfaced in the social media. ISTV also reported in December 2018 that five members of this group faced arrest for abducting an ISTV journalist from

a fast food and holding her for ransom. The TV channel also alleged that they attempted to kill her after finding out that she works in the news channel. The channel also reported that members of this organisation have faced arrests earlier also on similar matters.

Recently, a source reported that people who were earlier members of Kanglei Chanura Kanba Lup came to Sagolband and tried settling a matter between a middle-aged man and a nupi manbi on behalf of the wife of the middle aged man. They posed threats and tried to instill fear in the nupi manbi. Afterwards, the members of Kanglei Chanura Kanba Lup asked for money from those who attended the meeting from the side of the nupi manbi.

The practice of Khongoinaba and extortion in the name of saving the culture of society points to serious ills in this society and it indicates that we are still carrying forward regressive norms from the past which must be forgotten if we are seeking for society devoid of oppression and exploitation. The task is not to give way for the strengthening of the foreign norms but to have more reflection on the norms which were born in our land. We need to weed out the regressive and pick the progressive in these indigenous norms.

No "mee" should disturb peace process in Kuki Hills!

By- T H Haokip

The recent media stunts made by an Organisation whose name itself made a mockery of the people they professed to represent, does not deserve discussion on any respectable platform. But for its surprising endorsement by few media house, the contagious Press Release made by FoH needs to be highly condemned so that the hard-earned peace and harmony witnessed in the state, and the country at present is not sabotaged by few people with ulterior motives. The press communique by the so called Federation of Haomee though rightfully regarded by many as just a desperate attempt by few individuals to disrupt the Indo-Kuki peace talks, poses a huge threat to incite people and disturb peace in the Hills of Manipur. Its demonic intention of discrediting the highly commendable job of the Government to hold talks with Kuki militants, which have heralded a long-lost peace in the Hills, could only mean that the

Organisation's main agenda is to let the Hills burn again. The organisation has selectively targeted the Kuki Militants, who demanded an amicable solution under the ambit of the Indian constitution without affecting the integrity of the state whereas they remain silent on the Naga insurgents, whose demands if fulfilled would affect the integrity of the state, a situation all indigenous inhabitants of the state including the Kukis have vehemently opposed but which the Federation of Haomee carefully ignored, revealing the intention of their masterminds. Understandably, no established organisations of the Kuki community even took cognizance of the organisation, let alone refute their fake sermons on indigenous residents when an executive member of the FoH itself is a recent entrant to the state from Burma. This should serve as an eye-opener to the handful of people in FoH, who in this 21st century thought they could fool people by

writing a one-page press release and proclaimed themselves as representatives of the indigenous tribes of Manipur. The Kuki Inpi, an apex body of the Kukis and its sister organisations are presently engaging their time and energy on the commemoration of the Centenary year of Anglo-Kuki war 1917-1919, where the Kukis bravely fought the Mighty British to protect their land and honour. The land the Kukis lived and protected are now bifurcated into different countries. It will not only be to display one's lack of commonsense but also to reveal blatant ignorance to Historical facts in general and of the Kukis in particular to refer the Kukis in India as from Burma and the Kukis in Burma as from India. The fact that the Kuki armed groups have given up their sovereignty demands to integrate their ancestral lands was only to usher in peace at the earliest possible. Few ignorants like "FoH" should know that by terming the Kukis as foreigners, they are in fact supporting the

militants' claim that the Kukis live independently since time immemorial and they are neither a part of India nor Burma but a separate "Kuki Country".

The Federation of Haomee could learn a lesson or two about fighting for indigenous rights from the Kukis, whom they branded as refugee, in their effort to toe into whatever their masterminds dictate even if it meant challenging a well documented history known to all. A faithful advocate to their masters that they are, the Federation of Haomee should atleast know basic history of Manipur before firing all rounds blindfolded in medias, which is totally opposite in reality to how indigenous people like the Kukis fought to protect their land and pride. The Federation of Haomee, while releasing series of unrepresented thoughts and fallacy should refrain themselves from voicing cooked-up histories again, which can disturb peace and harmony of the state in general and the Hills in particular, for which the FoH should only be held responsible.

Big Bang Edge Test - A Pathway to Transform your Academic Aspiration into a Desired Success!

By - R. L. Trikha, Director, FIITJEE

Academic excellence is what every student aspires for and looks forward to attaining the same. Big Bang Edge Test is a unique platform for aspiring students to help them to know and maximize their current inherent potential for National and International Competitive/Scholastic Exams. The test will unleash a whole new set of possibilities for students hoping to scale and set a benchmark in JEE Advanced, JEE Main, Olympiads, KVPY, NTSE, School Excellence and more.

Big Bang Edge Test will trigger a never-ending process of intellectual evolution, creativity and growth for serious students. This will set them on a course for extraordinary growth in terms of ability to evaluate their potential,

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How students will be benefited? The test will showcase students' readiness for the goals they aspire for, such as JEE (Main & Advanced), KVPY, Boards, BITSAT, NTSE and Olympiads.

Big Bang Edge Test is a platform that not only provides aspiring students to carve out a niche for themselves with early joining academic benefits but also enhances their IQ level. Mental ability, develops Logical Thinking, enables Online access to NTSE Test

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1. Position / Rank at National Level along with Rank Potential Index (RPI) for various Competitive & Scholastic Exams.
2. Detailed Analysis of Current Readiness & what students need to do for the aspired goal as well as Intermediate Milestones (Jr. Olympiad, NTSE, X/XII Boards, KVPY, BITSAT, Olympiads).
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