

Evening News Script

1920 hrs

27th August 2024

THE HEADLINES

1. Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio says government will further discuss issue of NLTP Act with public leaders
2. Two-day fifth session of 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly ongoing
3. MLA Kevipodi Sophie calls upon state government to take corrective actions to address issue of National Highway-29 from Kohima to Mao
4. And, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio launches Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance programme



Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio said the government will have further discussion on the issue of NLTP Act with the civil societies and public leaders. Delivering the concluding remarks on the discussion pertaining to Health Hazards of Spurious Liquor” today, Rio said unregulated alcohol in the black market is often of poor quality and poses severe health risks, including poisoning and death. He said regulation will allow for strict quality measures, reducing the incidence of health complications associated with unsafe alcohol consumption. The Chief Minister also said, instead of pointing fingers at one another, it is time for all to come together and reason together collectively and bring a resolutely address to this problem and free the society from hazards of spurious and illicit liquor. Rio

maintained all should have an open mind and positively share views and inputs to make the community healthy and resilient.



Advisor of Excise, Labour & Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Moatoshi Longkumer today said, the NLTP Act 1989 was enforced with high expectation of bringing about a social change and a peaceful environment. He, however, lamented that the success of the NLTP Act has been widely deemed impaired due to many factors such as lack of awareness campaign on adverse effect on alcohol consumption, lack of providing alternative income to local brewers and smuggling of supply due to porous border with Assam. He said this while initiating the discussion on the issue pertaining to Health Hazards of Spurious Liquor” on the first day of the fifth session of the NLA. Highlighting the negative consequences of NLTP Act 1989, the Advisor pointed to illegal bootleggers and formation of syndicate suppliers. He noted that spurious and inferior quality of alcohol is causing serious health hazard leading to untimely death of users. He added that hundreds of illegal liquor outlets in and around Dimapur and Kohima alone have flourished in the guise of cold drink shops, operating openly without fear of law enforcement and public outrage. He also said, the Prohibition has adversely affected the economy on sectors like Tourism, Hotels industry, Hospitality sector and Horticulture. Taking these into account, Longkumer said, a revisit on NLTP Act 1989 will be an important step and added that in an event of an Amendment, the Department should intensify the enforcement of NLTP Act 1989.



The two-day fifth session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly, NLA commenced today with NLA Speaker Sharingain Longkumer making obituary reference to the passing away Mhao Humtsoe, M. C Konyak, and Zhetovi

Sema, former members of the house. During the question hour, the members deliberated on various issues PMAY-G housing scheme, Status of National Highways, Job Reservation for Backward tribes, delimitation and census. The House also took up discussion on matters of urgent public importance pertaining to “Health Hazards of Spurious Liquor”. Raising the matter, Advisor Moatoshi Longkumer, Minister Temjen Imna Along and Advisor Dr. Kekhrielhoulie Yhome expressed concern on the failure of the Nagaland Liquor Total Prohibition Act of 1989. The first day will also witness introduction of several bills and laying of annual reports. Discussions are still underway.



MLA Kevipodi Sophie said, it is time for the state government to review its agreement with the central government and take corrective actions to address the issue of National Highway-29 from Kohima to Mao. He said this during the Question hour of the fifth session of 14th NLA that commenced today. He maintained that the road stretch continues to remain in a deplorable condition and has gone from bad to worse after being taken over by NHIDCL. To this, Sophie said, the state government must be involved in facilitating, monitoring, and controlling the activities of the concerned agencies, rather than allowing them to operate with unchecked authority granted by the central government. He said, NH-29 (now NH-2/A-1) is the first National Highway in Nagaland and is economically and strategically vital not only to Nagaland but also to Manipur, Myanmar, and other neighbouring ASEAN countries. The MLA therefore, viewed that if the land terrain does not permit the construction of a four lane road, an alternative 2-lane parallel road up to Mao Gate should be proposed for consideration to fulfil the commitments of the Act East Policy.



Deputy Chief Minister and Minister in charge of PWD (National Highways), T R Zeliang, said the Technical Fact Finding Committee on the National Highway-29 (New NH-2/A-1) from Lerie to Mao Gate is yet to submit its observations or recommendations. In a reply to a starred question on the first day of the Assembly session today, Zeliang said, in accordance with the Term of Reference, documents relating to the ongoing project have been sought from NHIDCL. He said, directions from Competent Authority for providing such documents to the Committee have been received by the office on 14th of August. Zeliang added that the relevant details have been sought on 16th of August from appropriate agencies involved in the project implementation and supervision. He further informed that details will be forwarded to the Technical Fact Finding Committee once they are obtained after compilation. Zeliang also informed that the reconstruction of 2-Lane road at the road stretch is underway within existing ROW.



Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio officially launched the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP), a World Bank supported central sector scheme of Government of India. The key intervention of RAMP is to enhance MSME firm capabilities, promote Make in Nagaland products, enhancing access to Finance and market, among others. Speaking at the event, Rio said while his Government has made significant stride in empowering youth and entrepreneurs, it is still faced with the challenge of unemployment among educated youths. In this, Rio said the state must shift its focus towards nurturing economic growth of businesses which will in turn generate jobs. He implored the legislators to prioritize support for entrepreneurs, saying this will reduce the heavy reliance on Government jobs. He said, economic progress in Nagaland can

only be achieved by creating businesses and establishing a circular flow of income both within and beyond the state. Noting that businesses in Nagaland have predominantly centred around trade and retail, Rio expressed happiness at the gradual shift towards manufacturing and industrialisation. However, he said, there are still many in the unorganized sector. It is crucial that these businesses are formalised and incorporated into the mainstream economy so that they can avail the benefits of various schemes and grants, he added. Rio expressed confidence that with the support provided through central schemes such as RAMP, PM-Vishwakarma, UNNATI, Nagaland will be well positioned to make meaningful contributions to the country's economy. Rio further exuded optimism that the RAMP Programme will inspire both public sector and entrepreneurs to take bold steps to advance progress and prosperity of the State.

