

## Morning News Script

0730 hrs

28<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

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Nagaland government has given 72 hours deadline to the NHIDCL to immediately clear the landslide debris at Dzudza area and reopen the National Highway 29 for regular traffic. In a notice issued to the Executive Director (P), NHIDCL on Monday, the state government expressed its grave concern over the repeated failures by NHIDCL and its contractors to clear debris and restore traffic on the highway, which is the lifeline to the State capital of Kohima and several other districts of the State. The decision follows after a high-level meeting held on August 26 chaired by the Chief Secretary of Nagaland. The government said, despite the extensive support and cooperation from the state machinery and local communities, NHIDCL has consistently failed to address the problem effectively. As a result, the state government directed NHIDCL a 72-hour deadline to clear the landslide debris and open NH-29 for regular traffic. The state government has made it clear that if NHIDCL does not meet the deadline, it will deploy required machinery and manpower to open the road and the cost incurred for these operations will be billed to NHIDCL.

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The Fifth Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly witnessed several legislators debating over the three-decade-old Nagaland Liquor Total Prohibition (NLTP) Act, 1989. Majority of the legislators advocated for revoking the Act, while some sharing the Christian perspective objected to the concept of reviewing the Act. Participating in the discussion yesterday, Minister Temjen Imna Along, Advisor Dr. Kekhrielhoulie Yhome viewed that enforcement of the Act has instead encouraged bootleggers with availability of spurious liquor in every nook and corner of the state leading to health hazards. Along said times have changed and it is necessary for all into the problems which are affecting the society. He said, the government of the day has to take a decisive decision knowing very well the pros and cons of the Act. Yhome opined 33 years is a long time, and lifting of prohibition will not increase the

existing flow of liquor. He observed that there is a common feeling that lifting of prohibition will create anarchy and bring people lesser away to God and disharmony. Yhome reminded that no civilisation has been destroyed by booze or liquor. Similarly, Advisor K.T. Sukhalu joining the discussion said that 34 years is not a matter of joke and observed since the day NLTP Act came into force, liquors have been flowing in every nook and corner of the state. MLA Nuklutoshi argued that the Act was not only a complete failure but had actually caused more problems for the state and its citizens. He asserted that Church and politics should play their respective role. While acknowledging that the government has failed in many ways, Nuklutoshi said Church too had failed on its part while doing nothing on alcohol related issues such as creating awareness & workshops, instead pressuring the government for more stringent measures. Strongly voicing for lifting of the Act, MLA Achumbemo Kikon was of the view that if the state continue the prohibition, people will look for more alcohol however if it is open in the market, there will be a proper regulation in terms of selling and acquiring. Kikon also suggested to form a committee, comprising various experts, including recovering alcoholics to study into it. However, some of the members including Kudecho Khamo, Kudecho Khamo, P. Longon, Kuzholuzo Nienu while sharing the Christian perspective objected to the concept of reviewing the Act. KG Kenye Jwenga Seb, TN Mannen, Dr. Neisato Mero, Dr. Sukhato Sema, and Dr Tseilhoutuo Rhutso also participated in the discussion.

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MLA Y. Mhonbemo Humtsoe has asked the state government for immediate action to resolve long standing issues surrounding the exploration and extraction of oil and natural gas in Nagaland. He said that the state's abundant natural resources should be leveraged for the benefit of all Nagas. Speaking during a zero-hour discussion on "The Exploration and Extraction of Oil And Natural Gas in the State of Nagaland" at the Assembly Session yesterday, Humtsoe highlighted that with the goodwill and support of every Naga, especially the members of the Assembly, Nagaland could one day achieve economic independence and transform the state for future generations. Particularly focusing on the Changpang Oil Block in Wokha District, which was allocated to the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation in 1973 by the Government of India, he said the block, spanning 12 square kilometers and encompassing the villages of Changpang and Old Tssori, saw the drilling of 31 wells

by ONGC, with production of crude oil beginning in 1980. Of the 31 wells, 21 produced high-quality crude oil, and 2 produced gas. The MLA further proposed that if Assam and Nagaland agree to share the royalty proceeds from the DAB oil fields equally, Nagaland could potentially receive 276.50 crore rupees as its share. Further, the MLA urged the government to take immediate steps to resolve the issues and harness the state's natural resources for the common good.

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