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NOTIFICATION

NO.H.14011/1/2005-DCA(L), the 11th October, 2005. : The undermentioned revised Model Code of Conduct formulated for the Autonomous District Councils, and which receives the approval of Governor, Mizoram on dt. 7.10.2005 is hereby published for the general information and guidance of Political Parties in the Autonomous District Councils.

Sd/-

P. CHAKRABORTY,
Secretary to the Govt. of Mizoram,
District Council Affairs Department.

GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM
DISTRICT COUNCIL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR
THE GUIDANCE OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND
CANDIDATES FOR THE ELECTIONS TO THE
AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT COUNCILS.

I. General Conduct

- (1) No party or candidate shall indulge in any activity which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes and communities, religious or linguistic.
- (2) Criticism of other political parties, when made, shall be confined to their policies and programme, past record and work. Parties and candidates shall refrain from criticism of all aspects of private life, not connected with the public activities of the leaders or workers of other parties. Criticism of other parties or their workers based on unverified allegations or distortion shall be avoided.
- (3) There shall be no appeal to caste or communal feelings for securing votes. Mosques, Churches, temples or other places of worship shall not be used as forum for election propaganda.

All parties and candidates shall avoid scrupulously all activities which are "corrupt practices" and offences under the respective District Council's Constitution, Conduct of Business, etc. Rules, 2002 as amended from time to time, such as bribing of voters, intimidation of voters, impersonation of voters, canvassing in the vicinity of polling stations, holding public meetings during the period of 48 hours ending with the hours fixed the close of the poll, and the transport and conveyance of votes to and from polling station.

- (5) The right of every individual for peaceful and undisturbed home-life shall be respected, however much the political parties or candidates may resent his political opinions or activities. Organising demonstrations or picketing before the houses of individuals by way of protesting against their opinions or activities shall not be resorted to under any circumstances.
- (6) No political party or candidate shall permit its or his followers to make use of any individual's land, building, compound wall etc., without his permission for erecting flag-staffs, suspending banners, pasting notices, writing slogans etc.

- (7) Political parties and candidates shall ensure that their supporters do not create obstructions in or break up meetings and processions organised by other parties. Workers or sympathisers of one political party shall not create disturbances at public meetings organised by another political party by putting questions orally or in writing or by distributing leaflets of their own party. Processions taken out by one party a long places at which meetings are held by another party. Posters issued by one party shall not be removed by workers of another party.

II. Meetings

- (1) The party or candidate shall inform the local police authorities of the venue and time of any proposed meeting well in time so as to enable the police to make necessary arrangements for controlling traffic and maintaining peace and order.
- (2) A Party or candidate shall ascertain in advance if there are any restrictive or prohibitory orders in force in the place proposed for the meeting. If such orders exist, they shall be followed strictly. If any exemption is required from such orders, it shall be applied for and obtained well in time.
- (3) If permission or licence is to be obtained for the use of loudspeakers or any other facility in connection with any proposed meeting, the party or Candidate shall apply to the authority concerned well in advance and obtain such permission or licence.
- (4) Organisers of a meeting shall in variably seek the assistance of the police on duty for dealing with persons disturbing a meeting or otherwise attempting to create disorder. Organisers themselves shall not take action against such persons.

III. Processions

- (1) A party or candidate organising a procession shall decide before hand the time and place of the starting of the procession, the route to be followed and the time and place at which the procession will terminate. There shall ordinarily be no deviation from the programme.
- (2) The organisers shall give advance intimation to the local police authorities of the programme so as to enable the latter to make necessary arrangements.
- (3) The organisers shall ascertain if any restrictive orders are in force in the localities through which the procession has to pass, and shall comply with the restrictions unless exempted specially by the competent authority. Any traffic regulations or restrictions shall also be carefully adhered to.

- (4) The organisers shall take steps in advance to arrange for passage of the procession so that there is no block or hindrance to traffic. If the procession is very long, it shall be organised in segments of suitable lengths, so that at convenient intervals, especially at points where the procession has to pass road junctions, the passage of held up traffic could be allowed by stages thus avoiding heavy traffic congestion.
- (5) Processions shall be so regulated as to keep as much to the right of the road as possible and the direction and advice of the police on duty shall be strictly complied with.
- (6) If two or more political parties or candidates propose to take processions over the same route or parts thereof at about the same time, the organisers shall establish contact well in advance and decide upon the measures to be taken to see that the processions do not clash or cause hindrance to traffic. The assistance of the local police shall be availed of for arriving at a satisfactory arrangement. For this purpose the parties shall contact the police at the earliest opportunity.
- (7) The political parties or candidates shall exercise control to the maximum extent possible in the matter of processionists carrying articles which may be put to misuse by undesirable elements especially in moments of excitement.
- (8) The carrying of effigies purporting to represent members of other political parties or their leaders, burning such effigies in public and such other forms of demonstration shall not be countenanced by any political party or candidate.

IV. Polling Day

All political parties and candidates shall -

- (i) co-operate with officers on election duty to ensure peaceful and orderly polling and complete freedom to the voters to exercise their franchise without being subjected to any annoyance or obstruction.
- (ii) supply to their authorised workers suitable badges or identity cards;
- (iii) agree that the identity slips supplied by them to voters shall be on plain (white) paper and shall not contain any symbol, name of the candidate or the name of the party;
- (iv) refrain from serving or distributing liquor on polling day and during the twenty-four hours preceding it;

no unnecessary crowd to be collected near the camps set up by the political parties and candidates near the camps polling booths so as to avoid confrontation among workers and sympathisers of the parties and the candidate;