

**Respected Speaker and Honourable Members,**

It is both my privilege and pleasure to address this august House on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the 5<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of Mizoram. I extend my hearty welcome to all the Hon'ble Members and I also convey my sincere greetings to all of you and to the people of Mizoram. I am sure that the deliberations of this august House will strengthen the secular and democratic fabric of a free society intrinsic in our people and our State.

Since my assumption of office last year, there has been a perceptible change in all spheres of governance. We are all a living testimony of the rapid pace of development. My Government has strived to bring a qualitative change in the life of the people but this pace has to be accelerated on a higher plane. The initiative of the Hon'ble Members of this august House along with the consistent support of our pro-active populace, I am sure, can usher in this new era of prosperity. I would like to remind the Hon'ble Members that it is their inalienable duty to ensure that development ventures of the Government are enjoyed at the cutting edge level.

1. The overall law and order situation in Mizoram during 2006-2007 remain largely peaceful and under control. The number of crime registered in the year 2006 has been considerably decreased compared to the previous year because preventive measures taken by Mizoram police and the active support of the public especially the NGOs. As many as 3,048 cases were registered in 2006 as compared to 3,756 in 2005 showing a decrease of incidence of crimes by 18.85 %. There was no major outbreak of law and other problem barring a few minor incidents. Joint operation team of Assam Rifles and Mizoram Police launched an operation against the BLFM militants and arrested the 4 (four) top leaders on the night of 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2006. A group of disgruntled elements tried to form a militant outfit called ZO (Chin-Lushai) Self Determination Front and the Police apprehended the 5 (five) top leaders along Indo- Bangladesh border on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2006. The Mizoram Police has shown relentless effort to control undesirable activities in the entire State and as a result, 804 (eight hundred and four) BLFM militants have surrendered with their arms and ammunition. They were brought to Sidon/Damparengpui transit camp from Naising Para on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2006 under Police escort. Under Police Modernization Scheme 2006-2007, different types of buildings including the new police Training Centre at Thenzawl are being constructed with a total amount of Rs. 238.81 lakhs. Working equipments for Forensic Science Laboratory, Mizoram Police Radio Organisation (MPRO), Fire & Emergency Services and for Security Unit are also being purchased. Under Police Housing 2006-2007, IGP residence, SP/CO residences, different types of residential

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quarters for supervisory level, upper and lower subordinate staff, are under construction. Office buildings for SPs of Kolasib, Mamit, Lawngtlai, CO 2-MAP Lunglei and CO 2-IR Bn. Khawzawl are also under construction. As desired by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the 2<sup>nd</sup> IR Bn. had been released from its Headquarters at Khawzawl on September 2006 for further deployment in the state of Chhatisgarh. To strengthen the Mizoram Police, the Ministry of Home Affairs has sanctioned Rs. 17.00 crores in March, 2006 for raising of a new 3<sup>rd</sup> IR Bn. of Mizoram. The wages of Mizoram Home Guard Volunteers was increased from Rs. 3000/- to Rs. 3830/- per month. A noble act worth mentioning is that 133 (one hundred thirty three) Volunteers and Staff donated blood on the occasion of Raising Day of Home Guard on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2006.

2. My Government is concerned with the alarming increase of drug trafficking and substance abuse and contravention of the Prohibition laws. The Excise and Narcotics Department have nabbed 508 drug traffickers and abusers and also arrested 3,025 persons for contravention of the Prohibition Laws from the start of the current financial year upto January, 2007. Revenue amounting to Rs. 136.82 lakhs was collected during the same period against a target of Rs. 136.00 lakhs.

3. The economy of Mizoram is primarily agrarian with agriculture contributing about 28% of the NSDP and 70 % of employment. The production of rice have increased by 4% over the last year and the productivity of High Yielding Variety (HYV) increased from 1,225 Kg/ha during last year to 1,970 kg/ha. There has been commendable achievement in respect of HYV seed replacement and the seed replacement of HYV certified paddy has increased to 20% in 2006-2007 as against 8% over the last year. Apart from agricultural inputs, agricultural machineries like tractors, power tiller, paddy reapers, transplanter, portable water pump set, sprinkler irrigation, drip irrigation systems are being distributed at subsidy to the farmers. Basic changes have also been brought under distribution of fertilizers by involving private channels. More emphasis is given on Organic Farming and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) for which uses of bio-fertilizers, bio agents and vermi composting are encouraged for sustainable agriculture. During 2006-2007, the Agriculture and Minor Irrigation Department has strengthened its infrastructure facilities to facilitate overall development. Establishment of State Pesticide Testing Laboratory (SPTL), strengthening of State Biological Control Laboratory (SBCL), Bio-fertilizer Production Unit, seed and Soil testing laboratory, construction of Multi chambered Cold Storage of 3500 MT capacity for storing of agricultural produces are the prime institutional achievement. To control the upsurge of rodents due to bamboo flowering, preventive measures have been taken by distributing rodenticides to the farmers. To generate employment in the rural areas, the Department had ventured

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on diversification of crops, Organic farming and contract farming through Public Private Partnership (PPP). The department entered tri-partite contract farming on Maize and Soya bean with Veterinary Department and farmers with a buy-back guarantee and incentive support. The Department also implements Oil Palm Development Programme on 75:25 Central and State share basis since 2004-2005. The total area under Red Oil Palm cultivation is 769 ha. The department has signed MoU with private firms for cultivation and processing of Red Oil Palm at Kolasib, Mamit, Lunglei, Lawngtlai, Sechhip, Aizawl and Saiha districts. A Special Central Assistance to State Plan Fund Programme of Control of Shifting Cultivation have been implemented in 61 (Sixty one) projects under WDPSCA with a total treatment target of 30,000 ha. for the entire five year project period. Mizoram Intodelhna Programme (MIP) continues to be implemented for upliftment of shifting cultivators. Passion fruit and Jatropha cultivation have been encouraged for which 11,956 qtls GI wire for passion fruit development and 1,000 qtls of Jatropha seeds have been distributed to cover 2,192 and 25,000 families respectively. An additional area of 350 ha of potential flat land has been converted to rice cultivation and 140 kms. of potential area connectivity have been constructed. Under Minor Irrigation, during the year (2006-2007), 29 (twenty nine) on-going projects and 61 (sixty one) new projects are being taken up. The total outlay for Minor Irrigation Scheme is Rs. 3153.00 lakhs. To maximize utilization of Irrigation potential area created in Minor Irrigation Projects, various works on Command Area Development have been taken up which amounts to Rs. 15.00 lakhs, envisaged for the year 2006-2007.

4. During 2006-2007, the Horticulture Department procured organic manures, bio-fertilizers, plant protection measures and equipments, horticulture tools and implements to the tune of Rs. 4.00 lakhs from the State Plan funds and were distributed at 50% subsidy sale to the poor and needy farmers. One Divisional Horticulture Officer's quarter at Serchhip was constructed at a cost of Rs. 5.00 lakhs. The existing potential area connectivity was maintained with an expenditure of Rs. 2.00 lakhs during the said year. The Department continues to maintain existing Mushroom Laboratories at Chite, Champhai, Lunglei, Tuidam and Thingdawl with an expenditure of Rs. 2.20 lakhs during the year. Under Twelfth Finance Commission (+TFC), an area of 1,025 ha. under passion fruit is being covered with an expenditure of Rs. 400.00 lakhs. Plant Health Clinic and Leaf Analysis Laboratory have diagnosed 200 (two hundred) plant diseases on flowers and vegetable crops. Timely action and field operations on plant protection measures were carried out successfully in the rural areas including Integrated Pest Management on citrus orchards. The first export consignment of Anthurium-cut-flowers were dispatched to Al-Locrits International Llc, U.A.E and to Heathrow International Airport, London on August and October 2006 respectively through Zopar Exports Pvt. Ltd.

5. The Soil and Water Conservation Department was allotted a sum of Rs 400.00 lakhs under Plan Scheme during 2006-2007. During the year, the main execution of works are maintenance of departmental plantations like coffee, tea, rubber and large cardamom ; and construction of terraces, water harvesting tanks and gab ionic check dams at various departmental and private farmers' land. During 2007-2008, the approved Annual Plan outlay for the department is Rs. 320.00 lakhs. Major works that will be undertaken are hillside terracing, construction of water harvesting dams, nursery and cash crop plantation, erosion control in jhumland and engineering works for drainage line erosion prevention.

6. The scope and extent of rural development activities is far-reaching and encompasses every individual in rural Mizoram. Assistances under Rural Development Department have been packaged through programmes, schemes and projects. Under the scheme of Indira Awas Yojana, a total number of 1,162 houses have been constructed during 2006-2007 (upto the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the year). S.G.R.Y generated a total of 6.28 lakhs mandays and 1,282 nos. of community infrastructures were constructed during the year. Under S.G.R.Y., a total number of 140 Self Help Groups (SHG) were formed and 65 members were assisted in economic activities during the same period. The BADP continues to meet the special development needs of the people living near international borders. During 2006-2007, a sum of Rs. 949.00 lakhs was expended for construction of community infrastructures. Under BAFFACOS, Bamboo Link Roads are constructed in order to extract bamboos before their gregarious flowering and a total of 1,264 kms. at the cost of Rs. 30.00 lakhs has been completed during the year 2006-2007. under the scheme of PMGY (GA) a total of 1,450 houses are due to be constructed along with an amount of Rs. 35.25 lakhs. Under Social Education scheme, development works that were carried out by the department during 2006-2007 are construction of internal road at Tuikual 'S', Aizawl, Special Blind School at Durtlang, construction of retaining wall near Pamuma's house at Bungkawn Vengthar, Aizawl, roofing of Indoor Stadium at Tuikual, construction of Community Halls at New Diakkawn Kolasib, Kulikawn, Zuangtui and South Hlimen and reconstruction of Community Hall at Kanghmun.

7. The Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs continues to ensure food security in the State. The Government of India has reduced the monthly allotment of rice from 6,810 MT to 2,446 MT from April 2006 and due to this, the department has to purchase 3,000 MT rice per month at a higher price from the open market. Similarly, our monthly wheat allotment was also reduced from 1,010 MT to 624 MT from June 2006. Due to the

efforts made by the department, an additional allocation of 300 MT has been received since October 2006. Sugar allocation of 691 MT per month was lifted and distributed to the public. The 'State Co-ordination Committee on Quality Control' continues to do their best to keep standard purity of cement and standard quality of iron rod. There is a Legal Metrology wing under the department who is actively engaged with enforcement of weight and measures, quality control and package rules. Due to their earnest effort, the purity of POL and tampering of Gas has been minimized. Under the scheme of 'Integrated Project on Consumer Protection' the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution have released central assistance of Rs. 141.00 lakhs during the year. Out of this, Rs. 78.00 lakhs will be utilized for construction of office building of District Fora at Champhai, Serchhip, Lunglei, Saiha, Lawngtlai, Mamit and Kolasib while the remaining balance of Rs. 63.00 lakhs will be utilized for procuring assets for the Consumer Fora.

8. The Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department has a total of Rs. 632.10 lakhs under Animal Husbandry and a total of Rs. 40.00 lakhs under Dairy Development for the year 2006-2007. During 2006-2007, seven buildings and quarters have been constructed. During this period, awareness and preparedness works to encounter possible outbreak and entry of bird-flu had been taken and due to this, entry of the dreaded disease in the State was not noticed. The Department also distributed 10,000 chicks and 40 (forty) breeding boars on 50% subsidy as Grants-in-aid to the farmers, 100 (hundred) biogas plants were installed for different dairy farmers. The proposed outlay for 2007-2008 is Rs. 856.00 lakhs under Animal Husbandry and Rs. 44.00 lakhs under Dairy Development. The main thrust area during 2007-2008 shall be to assist livestock farmers by giving subsidies in animal feed and livestock and poultry breeding stocks. Mixed farming of livestock with agricultural/horticultural crops shall be encouraged by utilizing farm-yard manure in line with the policy of organic farming.

9. The Fisheries Department continues to undertake fresh water aquaculture including marketing and training. Under NEC programme, one Fish Seed Hatchery-cum-Fish Farming Unit is under construction in private sector at Darlak, Mamit District with an allocation of Rs. 11.15 lakhs and is targeted for completion by the end of March, 2007. The Department has introduced 33 units of experimental projects on Integrated Fish Culture and Polyculture of Giant Freshwater Prawn covering 10 villages in various districts with the aim of disseminate the technology to the rural areas, 60 (sixty) lakhs of major carp fish seeds have been distributed to the private pisciculturists free of cost for boosting up fish production in the State while another 70 (seventy) lakhs of fish seeds is targeted for distribution during 2006-2007. Through the Fish Farmers Development

Agency, it is anticipated to bring in 933 ha of water area under fish culture by supply of inputs to around 2,300 fish farmers and to create another 20 ha of new fish ponds. An additional yield of 1,500 MT of fishes is anticipated under the programme. The Department has supplied 75 MT of ice blocks to the fish farmers and sellers at 50% subsidized rate for marketing of fishes besides providing Cold storage facilities through 3(three) Ice Plants and 2(two) Cold Storages at Bawngkawn, Kolasib and Bilkhawthlir, 3(three) Fish Farmers Training Centres are being established at Lengpui, Lunglei and Saiha. With a proposed outlay of Rs. 250.00 lakhs, the main thrust during 2007-2008 is to bring in additional water areas by constructing 130 ha of new ponds and renovation of 300 ha of existing ponds. Besides, supply of inputs to the fish farmers for fish culture under Fresh Water Aquaculture (CSS) will benefit around 1,300 families. The cumulative effort would yield an estimated fish production level of 4000 MT by end 2008. Further, it is envisaged to develop the cold water and riverine fisheries by assisting fish farmers for construction of 65 (sixty five) Cold Water Fish Farming units as well as 12 units for cage/pen fish culture during 2007-2008.

10. My Government gives due importance to the development of Sericulture industry in the State as it is one of the alternatives to replace the devastating Jhum cultivation. In spite of our shortcomings, the overall developmental activities in terms of acreage of food plant, production of seeds, cocoons and raw-silk during the past few years had been satisfactory. Apart from the normal plan scheme, the department had also been implementing certain Catalytic Development Schemes through the Central Silk Board during the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup> plan. As of today, there are more than 5,000 families who have directly and indirectly involved in sericulture activities. During 2007-2008, the area under plantation is estimated to be 10,000 ha. of land which the department proposes to implement through MIP. The 'Sericulture Training Institute' at Zemabawk had been upgraded with the assistance of the Central Silk Board. Two cluster projects covering 100 acres each, one at Khamrang village and the other covering Keifang, Dilkhan and Sihfa villages for the development of bivoltine mulberry silkworm will continue during 2007-2008.

11. In order to further the industrial base of Mizoram, the Bamboo Development Agency (BDA) entered into a joint venture agreement with M/S Zonun Mat Ply (P) Ltd. where the Government has, through the Agency contributed Rs. 233.50 lakhs. The Mizoram Venus Bamboo Products Pvt. Ltd is also almost into commercial production. A trade agreement for export of 80,000 MT of bamboo chips and bamboo poles was also made between BDA and Nittol Group of Bangladesh. In order to decentralize bamboo sector development, 7(seven) Bamboo Chip and Strip Clusters are being set up under private sector and

the generation of 75 MT production of bamboo chips can be supplied to Cachar Paper Mill. Software Technology Park is to be set up by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology for which we are in the process of identification of a suitable place. With growing skills and advancement of local entrepreneurs, the Mizoram Pavillion bagged Gold Medal for Excellence in Display in the 26<sup>th</sup> Edition of India International Trade Fair, 2006. Mizoram KVI Board, MIFCO and ZIDCO have been given plots of land in the New Capital Complex for construction of their corporate offices. Office buildings for new District Industrial Centres are also under construction while finalization of land for such new offices at Lawngtlai and Mamit is expected shortly. Exploration of oil and natural gas near Hortoki by the ONGC is almost complete. A further exploration in two geological blocks is underway for which the concerned Central Ministry is in the process of selecting global tenderers. The Industries Department is considering establishment of 100 MT capacity pulp and paper mill within Mizoram during the next five years and the feasibility of establishing Special Economic Zones (SEZ) will also be explored. To augment infrastructural support to rural entrepreneurs, one more Integrated Infrastructure Development Centre at Zote is on the anvil. With the intervention of Central Government, establishment of Entrepreneur Development Institute; Regional Institute of Fashion Technology and Design; and Apparel Training and Design Centre are conceived to be taken up in the new Five Year Plan.

12. My Government continues to work towards improvement of power supply through the Power and Electricity Department. The Aizawl East Sub-Station at Mualpui under the scheme of 'Improvement of Sub-Station and Distribution Network within Aizawl Town' was inaugurated on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2006. under the scheme of improvement of Sub-Transmission and Distribution network in Aizawl, 33/11 KV Sub-Station, Aizawl West along with 10.50 Km 33 Kv D/C line from Luangmual to Tlangnuam was inaugurated on August, 2006. DoNER has approved construction of 33 kV Double Circuit Transmission line between Kolasib and Serlui 'B' SHP at an estimated cost of RS 315.00 lakhs. Preliminary survey was completed and the work is expected to be completed within 2007-2008. The Serlui 'B' (12 MV) Hydel Project is estimated at Rs 135.20 crores and the total expenditure at present is Rs. 88.04 crores and is scheduled for completion in December, 2007. The Maicham II (3MW) SHP is estimated at Rs. 1887.80 lakhs but due to time and cost overrun, revised estimate amounting to Rs 2524.80 lakhs is being prepared and it is scheduled for completion in June 2007. Similarly, the Lamsial (500KW) SHP which is estimated at Rs 445.00 lakhs. The total expenditure incurred is Rs. 447.00 lakhs but due to time and cost overrun revised estimate is being prepared and is scheduled to be commissioned during 2007. Moreover, DoNER has also approved construction of 132 kV Double Circuit transmission line between Kolasib and Melriat Sub-Station at an estimated cost of Rs 2151.00 lakhs. Preliminary survey was completed and the

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work is expected to be completed within December 2008. DoNER has also approved construction of 132 kV Single Circuit line from Khawzawl to Champhai at an estimated cost of Rs 590.00 lakhs and is expected to be completed by December, 2009. It may also be mentioned that NEC has approved construction of 132 kV Central Sub-Station at Melriat at an estimated cost of Rs 1341.44 lakhs. Under the scheme of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), REC Ltd. has approved DPR for electrification of all villages and provisions of electricity to all households within five years. The approved amount for this work is Rs 102.00 crores for the eight districts of Mizoram. The Department achieved the highest ever revenue from sale of power amounting to Rs 7,773 lakhs at a sale rate of Rs 2.38 per unit during 2005-2006. This achievement may be the result of Revision of Power Tariff as well as Availability Based Tariff (ABT).

13. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highway has entrusted the Public Works Department with the development and maintenance of three National Highways namely, NH-44 'A', NH-150 and NH-154, having a total length of 328 kms. Improvement of riding quality in most of the stretches have been completed. Notable achievement among them are completion of Sairang-Langkaih sector and that of Kolasib-Buhchang upto Bairabi. DPR is prepared to connect Aizawl from Silchar by 4 lane road and also to connect all the district headquarters by 2 lane roads. The PMGSY road project started in Mizoram from 2000-2001. The works are sanctioned and executed in phase-wise on yearly basis. Phase-I (200-2001) Phase-II (2001-2002) and Phase-III (2003-2004) comprising of 49 roads with a total length of 565.34 kms. have been completed. Phase-IV (2004-2005) covering 14 roads with a total length of 294.63 kms. is targeted to be completed by March, 2007. Phase - V (2005-2006) covering 34 roads with a length of 494.13 kms. for an amount of Rs. 12,199.57 lakhs had been sanctioned and work has commenced. The DPR for Phase-VI amounting to Rs. 165.00 crores has been technically approved and is being processed for approval. Construction of roads under NEC fund was started way back from the 5<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan and 601.00 kms. of roads have been black topped and completed. During 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan period, nine roads and two bridges with a total length of 246.55 kms. are approved and work is in progress. Under Non-Lapseable Central Pool of Resources, five road schemes having a total length of 119.00 kms. at a cost of Rs 5,659.50 lakhs have been sanctioned and they are expected to be completed during 2006-2007. In addition to above road schemes, construction of 4(four) bridges on various roads are being taken up and they are expected to be completed during 2006-2007. Recently, sanctions have been obtained from DoNER for construction of bridges over River Tuikum on Chhingchhip-Hmuntha road, over River Tuisa on Kawlhem-Vaikhawtlang road and over River Lungmullui on Lengpui-W. Serzawl road. From World Bank loan, the department is taking up major improvement of 184 kms. of State Roads



and rehabilitation and maintenance of 300 kms. of road. The project is expected to be completed by July, 2008 and there is a budget provision of Rs. 80.00 crores during this year. Under Economic and Inter-State Road, two road schemes and construction of one bridge are being taken up at the total cost of Rs. 1,231.58 lakhs. Out of these schemes, one road scheme namely improvement of Rengtekawn to NH-154 has been completed and the other two schemes are also expected to be completed during 2006-2007. Under NABARD loan scheme, two roads namely, construction of Reiek-W. Lungdar road and Rawpuichhip-Buarpui road, have been completed. Under RIDF-XI, three more Rural Road Projects namely, Hnahthial-Tarpho road, Tuntukawn-Tarpho road and Lawipu-Tlawng road are being taken up at the estimated cost of Rs. 2,052.49 lakhs. Under anti-erosion and flood control scheme, the department is constructing check dams, toe walls and retaining walls in various parts of Mizoram. Construction of Mizoram House at Vasant Vihar, New Delhi at an estimated cost of Rs. 928.40 lakhs and construction of staff quarters at Mizoram House, Guwahati at the cost of Rs. 206.90 lakhs, have been completed. Construction of Assembly Annexe Building at Aizawl, new Secretariat building at Khatla. Excise Commissioner Office and various other buildings are in progress. Moreover, construction of Mizoram House at Shillong and reconstruction of Mizoram House at Chanakyapuri, New Delhi are being taken up during the year. Construction of Speaker Bungalow at Old Chief Minister's Bungalow is being taken up at the cost of Rs. 110.00 lakhs.

14. The Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department continues to provide adequate safe potable water supply and appropriate sanitation facilities to the people. Under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) during 2006-2007, the Government of India had fixed target of covering 134 habitations. Out of these, 47 (forty seven) habitations have so far been covered. Important among them is the commissioning of Kawthah Pumping Water Supply Scheme costing Rs. 142.88 lakhs on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2006. During 2006-2007, 38 (thirty eight) schemes have been targeted for taking up under Swajaldhara. The implementation of works to provide water supply to rural schools continues and it is contemplated to achieve cent per cent coverage within March, 2007. The implementation of Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) by the department which started in 2005-2006 continues and during 2006-2007, 16,209 latrines in individual households of BPL families, 8,950 latrines in individual households of APL families, 145 women sanitary complex, 461 Schools toilets and 154 toilets for Balwadis were constructed. Under Urban Water Supply Programme, two major schemes, the Composite N. Kawnpui Water Supply Scheme and the Greater Mamit Water Supply Scheme were commissioned during 2006-2007. Implementation of Greater Champhai Water Supply Scheme amounting to Rs. 1371.00 lakhs (Rs. 2270.10 lakhs Revised Estimate) is in good progress. The implementation of Greater

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Aizawl Water Supply Scheme Phase-II amounting to Rs. 7180.00 lakhs (Rs. 11347.00 lakhs Revised Estimate) is in progress. The scheme is expected to be commissioned before the end of the current financial year.

15. The Government of Mizoram has bifurcated Health and Family Welfare Department into two Directorates namely, Hospital and Medical Education and Health Services. All district hospitals, TB hospital, Kulikawn hospital, Falkawn Referral Hospital, College of Nursing, Aizawl and School of Nursing, Lunglei are placed under the purview of Directorate of Hospital and Medical Education. The National Cancer Control Programme has been set up in Mizoram. Under this Programme, there are Regional Cancer Registry and Pain and Palliative Care Centre. With the fund provided by NEC, Accidents and Trauma Centers at Serchhip and Kolasib has been started. For bio-medical waste management and for disposal of hospital waste, the Incinerator at Saiha had been commissioned while the Incinerator at Kolasib is presently being installed and likely to be commissioned soon. With the fund provided by DoNER, construction of 200-bedded Civil Hospital, Lunglei is in good progress and likely to be completed within this current financial year. With the approved cost estimate of Rs. 3.71 crores, construction of OPD at Civil Hospital, Aizawl is in progress and shall be completed within this current financial year. With the approval of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, the existing Nursing School has been upgraded into College of Nursing and it has already started functioning temporarily at Civil Hospital, Aizawl. Approval has been given for up gradation of Community Health Care (CHC) of the district headquarters into district hospitals. For implementation of Mental Health Programme, establishment of Institute of Human Behavior and Allied Sciences (INHUBUS) is proposed during 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan.

16. The Directorate of Health Services have taken up construction of doctor's quarters, Sub-Centre buildings, health worker's quarters and renovation of different buildings at different places with an amount of Rs. 56.57 lakhs. Proposal for construction of another 20 (twenty) different buildings at different places is on the anvil. The reconstruction of the PHC at Phuldungsei has been completed and occupied. The upgradation and construction of 10-bedded PHC into 30-bedded at Thingsulthliah and Lengpui are completed. Construction of Isolation Ward at Kolasib with an amount of Rs. 7.99 lakhs has been completed. The upgradation of Health Worker's Training School at Kulikawn with an amount of Rs. 20.00 lakhs has been taken up and will be completed soon. Renovation of Aizawl Civil Hospital with an amount of Rs. 17.24 lakhs has been taken up and work is in progress. Reconstruction of Buarpui PHC is to be taken up soon. Under Malaria Control Programme, 82.41 % of household in the State were sprayed with DDT and

97,000 bednets have been impregnated with insecticides to control malaria. There are now, 1,207 Drugs Distribution Centers (DDC) and 210 Fever Treatment Depot (FTD). The National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) continues and under the Revised National TB Control Programme, 3,360 patients have been put under treatment from 2005-2006 and each patient has been administered TB drugs under direct supervision (DOTS). Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) which was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on April, 2005, the department has prepared Programme Implementation Plan (PIP), highlighting all the proposals for infrastructure strengthening of the Health Care system in Mizoram. As envisaged by NRHM, State Health Mission had been constituted at the state level, a District Health Mission at the village level and a Village Health Mission at the village level. Hospital Management Committee called "Rogi Kalyan Samities" had been formed in each and every Hospital, CHC & PHC. This will increase people's participation in managing Health Centre/Institution at every level and the people will run their hospitals. The construction of Nursing School and Hostel at Lunglei has started with the estimate cost of RS. 323.56 lakhs under European Commission supported sector investment programme. The department has set up a State Drug Testing Laboratory of Ayush under the sponsorship of the Centre which can be utilized to prove the local medicinal claims of traditional healers. A comprehensive BAFFACOS Action Plan has been prepared for effective implementation of the programme.

17. The School Education Department continues to strive towards excellence at all levels and gives due importance to honing the skills of both the teaching and student community. For training of teachers, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Government and the Cambridge University of International Examination (UCIE), 9(nine) Training Centres have been opened in 9(nine) different schools, 6 in Aizawl and 3 in Lunglei. 1,259 teachers have been given training during the current year. For Hindi education, sanction of fund for appointment of 687 Primary School Hindi Teachers is now in active process in addition to 500 Primary School Hindi Teachers already appointed. Adult Education wing of the department caters to the need of illiterates and continuing education of neo literates. During the last five years, 400 Continuing Education Centre have been established in the State for achievement of its goal. In order to attain the highest literacy percentage in India, a project called Eradication of Residual Illiteracy Project (ERIP) have been implemented and we hope to achieve the target before the end of the current year. Mid-day Meal Scheme continues to be implemented and during the current year, 93,192 students in 1,367 schools were the beneficiaries. In order to enhance the professional capacity of teachers, 6 (six) Mini-DIETs have been started to Kolasib, Champhai, Serchhip, Mamit, Lawngtlai and Saiha districts. Training has been given to 1,028 teachers

from different High Schools and Higher Secondary Schools under Adolescence Education Programme. Science, Mathematics, English and Early Childhood Care Education Training have also been given to the teachers during 2006. During the year 2006-2007, Pre-Matric Merit Scholarship was disbursed to 172 High School students totaling Rs. 3,09,600 and 408 Middle School students amounting to Rs. 4,89,600. Pre-Matric Special Scholarship was also disbursed to 4,521 High School students amounting to Rs. 43,40,160 and 11,433 Middle School students amounting to Rs. 82,31,760. Besides these, the department also finances students studying at Sainik School, Imphal, RIMC Dehradun, Banasthali at Jaipur, children of Armed Forces and provides National Scholarship to 195 High Schools and Hostel Stipend to 123 High Schools. In order to implement the Mizoram Education Act, 2003 the following Rules were laid in the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Legislative Assembly and published as The Mizoram Education (Transfer & Posting of School Teachers) Rules, 2006. The Mizoram Education (Grants-in-Aid for General Maintenance of Private Schools) Rule, 2006 The Mizoram Education (Establishment & Management of Private High Schools) Rules, 2006 and The Mizoram Education (Establishment & Management of Private Higher Secondary Schools) Rules, 2006. The Mizoram Board of School Education (MBSE) has published and issued a new curriculum for HSLC and HSSLC along with the scheme of examinations and question designs for HSLC and HSSLC examinations. Translation and printing of NCERT materials on skill development in Mizo language was carried out during this year. In compliance with the Supreme Court's order of making environmental education in schools mandatory, the subject is introduced as compulsory subject from classed I to XII.

13. My Government continues to strive for excellence in higher and technical education. A sign of improvement in quality of higher education is the grade given by National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC). Accordingly, Hrangbana College is now awarded grade B++, Govt. Kolasib College grade C++, Aizawl West College C+ grade, Champhai Govt. College B and Govt. Aizawl College B+ grade. PMS for ST/SC 2005-2006 session was given to 25,607 students for which Rs. 1006.89 lakhs was disbursed during 2005-2006. During 2006-2007, Rs. 1153.02 lakhs was released by Government of India for 17,570 students which is being disbursed to the students. Entrance examination for various technical courses had been conducted and seat allotment is being given as per the receipt or Central Pool Quota for Mizoram. Mizoram Law College has been upgraded to Deficit Grant-in-Aid status on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2006. Upgradation of Kamalanagar College, Chawngte into Deficit Grant-in-Aid status is being processed. During 2006-2007 31 Lecturers were recruited for Deficit Colleges and have joined their new place of postings. Aizawl West College, Lawngtlai College, Hnahthial College, Aizawl North College, Johnson College, Mamit College and Khawzawl College have been granted permanent affiliation by the Mizoram

University during 2005-2006. Under the 3<sup>rd</sup> Technician Education Project, construction of Technical building at Chaltlang at the cost of Rs. 56.60 lakhs, the construction of Mizoram Polytechnic Lunglei at the cost of Rs. 1054.78 lakhs and the construction of Wornen Polytechnic, Aizawl at the cost of Rs. 1070.08 lakhs, have been completed. For extension of the Project, Rs. 200.00 lakhs have been allotted during 2006-2007.

19. The Department of Art and Culture with its archival repository, public libraries, museums and the Tribal Research Institute have remained a pivot in the preservation, promotion and conservation of heritage and cultural values of the State and its people. The Tribal Research Institute alone have published three books on Marriage Customs, Mizo Folk Tales and on Ethnic Group of Pang Tribe and reprinted one rare book for scholars. The revenue realized from the sale proceeds of the publications is Rs. 1.53 lakhs. The State Archives organized Archival and Records Exhibition at Serchhip and Kolasib respectively during October-November 2006. Simultaneously, the State Museum also put up Museum Exhibition on the same occasion. District Museum at the Saikuti Hall Complex, Lunglei has been inaugurated. State Museum Extension building work is coming up for which the Central Government has sanctioned Rs. 3.00 crores. The Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata have extended both financial and physical assistances for strengthening and improvement of public libraries in Mizoram. The construction of State Library building at a cost of Rs. 1.25 crore has started at the New Capital Complex. The District Library buildings at Kolasib and Champhai are progressing with the financial assistance of Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation. The Institute of Music and Fine Arts have conducted two batches of 3-months Certificate Course in Modern Music and Mizo Traditional Dances during the current year and 27 boys and 28 girls have successfully completed the courses.

20. The Social Welfare Department continues to implement various welfare activities in regards to giving assistance to the handicapped, women empowerment, upliftment of women and children, the aged and the disabled, and in the field of social defense. The department also implements ICDS and Special Nutrition Programme. The pension amount per beneficiary under the National Old Age Pension (NOAPS) has been raised from Rs. 75/- to Rs. 200/- per month w.e.f 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2006 and the State Government intends to contribute Rs. 50/- per month per beneficiary w.e.f 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2006 so as to enable the Old Age Pension beneficiaries to receive Rs. 250/- per month. Under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution for development of tribal regions, Rs. 381.44 lakhs has been provided by the Central Government for execution of infrastructural development of rural areas in Mizoram. During the year, the Government of India have released Rs. 459.38 lakhs for construction of 525 Anganwadi Centres.

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21. Consequent upon launching of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) for the development of Aizawl City and UIDSSMT & IHSDP in the district headquarters, my Government has created the Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation Department. The new department will take up schemes on a large scale for implementation of various urban development schemes. The Aizawl Development Authority (ADA) has also started functioning recently. The ADA will take up meaningful control of buildings in accordance to the City Master Plan to check uncontrolled development of the city. Improvement and strengthening of Aizawl City roads with an amount of Rs. 2,400 lakhs is in progress and most of the existing roads will be upgraded in the near future. Rs.2,400 lakhs have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Urban Development for the construction of 150 units of government quarters at New Capital Complex at Khatla. Construction of Bus Terminal known as Ch. Chhunga Bus Terminal at Thuampui Veng at a cost of Rs. 1,800.00 lakhs was recently inaugurated. Solid Waste Management Project is presently taken up near the erstwhile Tuirial Airfield and expected to be completed within eighteen months time.

22. The Land Revenue and Settlement Department have conducted cadastral survey operation to notified towns and summary survey to agricultural lands of rural areas. The Land surveyed and records so prepared are also computerized for efficient land management and tax administration. The department has completed survey, settlement and preparation of land records with computerization works for 3,15,660 land holdings. For early completion of survey and settlement operation, the department has also taken up an aerial survey and satellite imagery of Aizawl district. In order to strengthen the survey operation of the department, 25 trainees were sent to Survey Training Institute, Hyderabad and 18 new posts of Surveyor-III were created. Rate of land revenue and taxes were revised and the department have collected Rs.240.77 lakhs during 2005-2006.

23. Mizoram, which is presently a peripheral state of the country devoid of any reliable transport linkage shall be transformed into the "Corridor to the East". In ardent pursuance to the "Look East Policy" the Government of India has agreed to take up two major projects which will transform the economy of Mizoram. The Rs.7,459 million Kaladan Multi Modal Transport Project envisage to link the N.E. States with Sittwe Port in Myanmar which will provide the much needed access to the seas for the land locked North Eastern States. This project route, which will utilize NH 54 in Mizoram will surely transform the economy of Mizoram as vital linkages will be provided for export of Mizoram's surplus, while on the other hand, imports could be made at cheaper rate as distance and cost will be drastically decreased. The second major project is the

Triangular road connecting Rih to Kalemryo via Tiddim and Falam. To boost international trade, the Government of India has agreed to finance up gradation of road network in Myanmar linking Rih, opposite Zokhawthar. In the initial stage, upgradation of road from Rih to Falam and Tiddim will be taken up. The Rs.711.47 crore detailed Project Report prepared by BRTF has already been submitted for necessary approval and funding. Besides these two projects, all possible actions have also been taken up by the Government of Mizoram to move in tandem with such developments for developing border trade through the notified Land Custom Stations of Mizoram at Zokhawthar and Tlabung. A Composite Land Custom Station building taken up at a cost of Rs.422.08 lakhs at Zokhawthar is nearing completion. Development of an Integrated Check Point (ICP) at Tlabung will also be accelerated. Besides these, the Trade and Commerce Department has 158 markets under its management. The Government has immensely benefited as nominal market fees and rentals realized from the users have handsomely contributed towards the state exchequer. The department along with its corporation, the Mizoram Agriculture Marketing Corporation Ltd. (MAMCO Ltd.) together has taken all possible measures to solve the perennial problems of agricultural marketing. Provision of facilities for wholesale and retail sale of agri-horticulture products have been emphasized and as a result, 6(six) Agriculture Wholesale Assemblage markets and 50 (fifty) Rural Primary Markets have been constructed across the state. A special provision to protect the marginal farmers against exploitation from middlemen and traders has been put in place. The Mizoram State Agriculture Marketing (Regulation) Act, 1996 is also being replaced by the Mizoram State Agriculture Marketing(Regulation and Development) Bill, 2006 so that development oriented markets and special markets could be established as per the national standards. Centrally sponsored schemes and projects such as the Macro-Management Scheme and the Market Intervention Scheme have been availed to support producers and traders involved in agri-business activities.

24. The Department of Relief and Rehabilitation was recently been renamed as Department of Disaster Management and Rehabilitation as a pro-active strategy to include pre and post disaster management including preparedness, mitigation, response and reconstruction. As per the provisions of the National Disaster Management Act, 2005, State Disaster Management Authority, State Executive Committee and District Disaster Management Authority were constituted. As per the existing instruction of Government of India. State Steering Committee at the State Level. District Disaster Management Committee, Block Level Disaster Management Committee in each R.D.Block and the Village Level Disaster Management Committees in almost all villages have been constituted. The department has been strengthened by the

addition of one Deputy Director post and further strengthening of the department is under the active consideration of my Government. Four (4) posts of Field Officers (on contract basis) under the UNDP have been processed to be filled up shortly. The department has procured and distributed, during the current financial year, about 42,000 silpaulins/tarpaulins for protection of houses vulnerable to landslides. All development departments have been requested to earmark at least 5 per cent of their Plan Budget for Disaster Management. Water diving materials for life saving and salvaging drowned dead bodies and materials of Search and Rescue for training purpose are being procured. The State EOC is being strengthened by the Government of India by providing them with VSAT equipments. All district EOCs are being provided with internet communication facilities. The department, during this year, has Rs.677 lakhs under CRF Scheme which is meant for giving immediate relief to the victims of disasters and natural calamities. A high level from the State has recently visited the Andaman to study the effects of Tsunami and the reconstruction and relief measures taken by the UT Government there.

25. To cope with the all round development and future expansion within and outside the State, the Transport Department is making effort for up gradation and modernization of its activities. As recommended by the Disaster Management Committee, the Directorate building has to be reconstructed and Rs.50.00 lakhs have been provided in 2006-2007 for demolition, project preparation and reconstruction of the building. The other work taken up by the department is upgradation of MST Workshop for which Rs.14.00 lakhs is provided in the Annual Plan 2006-2007. The averaged buses in the department's fleet were replaced by 2 (two) Mini Buses and 3(three) Medium Buses during 2006-2007. Construction of MST Booking office at Kanhmun, construction of quarters for MST Station Superintendent at Saiha and construction of Training0cum-Lecture Hall at Chaltlang are being taken up with Rs.15.00 lakhs provided in the Annual Plan 2006-2007. Moreover, construction of DTO Staff quarter at Champhai and DTO Staff quarter at Serchhip are being taken up too. For induction of e-government in the Motor Vehicle Wing and for purchase of Weighbridge for DTO Office, Aizawl, RS.20.00 lakhs is provided in the Annual Plan 2006-2007. As a result of the introduction of Information Technology (IT) in the department, standardized and customized Software called VAHAN for Vehicle Registration and SARATHI for Driving License are already introduced. Besides, computerization of Motor Vehicle Permits, collection of Passenger and Goods Tax, enforcement of compound fees from Motor Vehicles and pollution fee are being introduced in every district headquarters since January 2007.

26. Due importance has been given to the development of tourism in Mizoram. With a view to promote tourism, the department had organized and participated in the Anthurium Festival '06 at Reiek



Tourist Resort, in the International Tourism Summit at Kolkata in August 2006 and in the India International Trade Fair at New Delhi in November 2006. The department has completed construction of the Tourist Lodge at Saipum, the Multipurpose Hall at Berawtlang and Cafeteria at Tourist Lodge at Tlabung. During 2006-2007, there are ongoing Tourist Lodge projects at Zokhawthar, Sakawrdai, Khamrang, Kanhmun, Saichho and Tlabung and a Tourist Reception Center project. To be implemented by Indian Tourism Development Corporation Limited, the Government of India has also accorded financial sanction for the Tourist Destination at Champhai and its surroundings, Tourist Circuit Aizawl- Lunglei, Tourist Destination Reiek and Berawtlang and Tourist Circuit Northern Mizoram. The total domestic and foreign tourists registered during 2006-2007 upto September 2006 were 25,798 and 166 respectively and the total revenue collected from the tourist influx was Rs. 47.99 lakhs.

27. The Department of Information and Public Relations continues its work of dissemination of Government developmental activities and implementation of various programmes through press releases and day to day Government activities to all media channel, both printed and electronic. Being the nodal department, public awareness campaign on Right to Information Act, 2005 was held in the districts of Aizawl, Mamit, Kolasib, Serchhip and Champhai during June 2006. The department, in association with Children's Film Society of India (CFSI), organized Children's Film Festival Mizoram during May 2006. The department organized symposium and Photo Gallery Exhibition on Remna Ni on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2006. Press tour for Mizoram Journalists Association to Rashtrapati Bhawan, organizing workshop for journalists at Champhai, Bharat Darshan for Members of PAMRA, Aizawl Darshan from the 8 (eight) districts especially for the elder citizens and presentation of Mizoram tableaux at the Republic Day Parade 2007 in New Delhi are some noteworthy activities of the department.

28. The Science and Technology Wing of the Planning and Programme Implementation Department uses the Satellite Remote Sensing Technology and have completed the Natural Resources Information System (NRIS) for the whole state, an environmental study of Champhai town, the Natural Resources Mapping of Aizawl, Kolasib, Mamit, Champhai and Serchhip districts and the Road network mapping of the whole State. Further, there is also Information and Communication Technology Cell which is initiating e-governance projects in Mizoram.

29. Construction of a new Administrative Training Institute (ATI) at New Capital Complex, Khatla at a cost of Rs. 8.90 crores sanctioned by the Ministry of Urban Development, is completed and is expected to

be commissioned shortly. The Institute has successfully conducted 33 (thirty three) training programmes on foundation and refresher courses upto February 2007.

30. The Parliamentary Affairs Department continues to coordinate legislative, disbursement of pensions to Ex-MDCs and Ex-MRCs of the erstwhile Mizo District Council and Pawi-Lakher Regional Council, organizing Youth Parliaments at school level to educate the young boys and girls on legislative practices and procedure. It has been decided that during 2007, Youth Parliament Competitions will be organized in the schools at the state and district level.

31. Initiative is being taken to upgrade and improve various facilities at Lengpui Airport. Construction of perimeter security road, additional quarters and waiting shed are expected to be completed by April 2007. In order to upgrade the performance of navigational and communication aids, additional DVOR will be installed at Sakawrhmutuai hill, the selection of the site which was recently finalized by an expert team of Airport Authority of India (AAI) and work on it will commence shortly. For the much awaited Instrumental Landing System (ILS), the Ministry of Civil Aviation, DGCA and AAI are fully aware of the urgent need for this landing aid. With the installation of an additional DVOR at Sakawrhmutuai hill, an Instrument Approach procedure will be evolved. The number of outgoing passengers from Lengpui Airport had increased tremendously in the past one year. During the year 2005, the number of outgoing passengers was 23,733, whereas in the year 2006, the number increased to 35,531. Besides, the existing flights of Indian Airlines, Alliance Air and Air Deccan, two more airlines namely, Kingfisher Airlines (ATR-72 with capacity of 66 seats) and Surya Airways (Beech craft with capacity of 18 seats ) have conveyed their intention to introduce operation at Lengpui Airport from May 2007 tentatively. Therefore, a quantum increase in the air traffic is anticipated during the year 2007. The urgent need for construction of an Airport in the southern part of Mizoram has been felt and a site has been pre-selected near Lunglei town. The financial requirement for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) was submitted to NEC for their approval.

32. The Law and Judicial Department continues to implement Centrally Sponsored Scheme for infrastructural development of the district judiciary since 1993-1994 which have covered almost all the districts and is facilitating for the separation of judiciary in Mizoram. During 2006-2007, the department continued with the on-going projects of construction of District Court building at Kolasib, Senior Judges' Quarters, Junior Judges' Quarters and District

Judges' Bungalow at New Capital Complex, Khatla which are expected to be completed during the current financial year. A site for the Aizawl Permanent Bench of the Hon'ble Gauhati High Court has been earmarked at New Capital Complex to facilitate administration of justice at everyone's convenience. The department have submitted a 10-year perspective Plan to the Ministry of Law and Justice, Govt. of India for planned development of the District Judiciary over a period of next ten years which includes plans for construction of District Council Court buildings at Lawngtlai, Saiha and Kamalanagar. For expeditious disposal of long pending cases, the Central Government has agreed to fund the three Fast Track Courts till 2010. Mizo Customary Laws have been compiled after two decade-long study through an expert body and have been published by the department in book form. Compilation of all statutory Acts, Rules and Orders of Government of Mizoram right from 1972 till date has been taken up by the department. Two of its volumes have been published during 2006-2007, while bringing out of four other volumes has been targeted during 2007-2008. Computerization of Aizawl Bench of the High Court and the District-level Courts in the State Capital and subordinate Judiciary has been taken up under Centrally Sponsored Scheme by the Department of Justice, Govt. of India in consultation with NIC. For computerized registration of all types of property transfers, the Central Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 70.00 lakhs and the project has already been launched during the current financial year 2006-2007. Once it is accomplished, the common people will get the benefit of stamp free and e-governed registration of all kinds of deeds of property transfers. For compulsory registration of marriages in the State, in due compliance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's direction in the case of Seema-vs-Union of India & Ors., my Government has already notified the Mizoram Special Marriages Registration Rules, 2006 and Mizoram Moslem Marriages Registration Rules, 2006. Framing of similar rules for compulsory registration of Christian Marriages in the State is under active consideration.

33. My Government is committed to its constitutional obligation towards the people living in the autonomous districts. With an aim at achieving all-round development and proper administration in the three Autonomous District Councils, my Government has provided Grants-in-aids of Rs. 28.29 crores to the Lai Autonomous District Council, Rs. 25.08 crores to the Mara Autonomous District Council and Rs 14.40 crores to the Chakma Autonomous District Council during 2006-2007. Out this total of Rs. 67.77 crores, Rs. 66.06 crores has been released to the Council till date. Construction of Session Hall at Lawngtlai is in progress. Resultant to the constant pressure made by my Government, the three Autonomous District Councils have now made remarkable achievement in their own resource mobilization. The 11<sup>th</sup> Village Council General Election to Mara Autonomous District Council was held on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2006. A number of fiscal laws made by the District Councils have been accorded approval to boost up the

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economy of the District Councils. In collaboration with HUDCO, housing loans for the employees of the District Council have been arranged, and the recovery of such loans is high satisfactory. The LADC (Land Holding and Settlement) Rules, 2006 : the LADC (Revenue Assessment) (First Amendment) Regulation, 2006: and the LADC (Trading) Regulation, 2004 have been approved during the year 2006.

With regard to functioning of Mara Autonomous District Council (MADC), 14 of 26 members submitted their resignation to the Chairman, MADC, which was reported to the Governor on 2.3.2007. As there appeared no choice other than dissolving the Council, the 8<sup>th</sup> term of Mara Autonomous District Council was dissolved on 5.3.2007 and Deputy Commissioner, Saiha was entrusted with administration of the Mara Autonomous District Council with immediate effect pending reconstitution of a new council, General Election is to be held within three months.

34. The Department of Accounts and Treasuries have settled 594 cases of GPF for final payment amounting to RS. 1034.70 lakhs , 350 cases of Deposit Linked Insurance amounting to Rs. 174.59 lakhs, 349 cases of missing credit of GPF amounting to Rs. 20.21 lakhs and have been adjusted and 57 cases of missing debit amounting to Rs. 8.79 lakhs which have also been adjusted. The Department has finalized 482 cases of pension with 516 cases of GIS. The department conducted Audit on the accounts of 59 Government and Non-Government Offices and 1,284 cases of revision of pay fixation had been done. The department is constructing Treasury Office buildings at Mamit, Kolasib, Lunglei and Saiha for which plan and estimates are being prepared. The Mizoram Local Fund (Audit & Accounts) Act 2006 passed by the Mizoram Legislative Assembly in its last session has also been published.

35. With the introduction of Vat in Mizoram with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2005, revenue collection by the Taxation Department has increased and during the year 2006-2007 upto the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2007, the revenue collected is Rs. 5092.52 lakhs as against the target for the year of RS. 3985.00 lakhs and there is likelihood of further increase in the collection of taxes when the year ends. Comparison of tax collection with the corresponding period of 2005-2006 shows that there is an increase of 30.97% during this year. Tax administration in the context of VAT introduction has been computerized and personnel of the department are trained to handle the system. Two new offices of Mamit Circle and Lawngtlai Circle headed by one Superintendent of Taxes each and three new check-posts at Melbuk near Myanmar border, Tlabung near Bangladesh border and at Lengpui Airport were establishment with a view to bring about better efficiency in the administration of tax laws.

36. The State Lottery Department has achieved collection of revenue to a tune of Rs. 100.38 lakhs upto the month of January 2007 while the collection under Pay Roll Savings is Rs. 8.35 crores from 30,734 government employees.

37. During the year 2006-2007, the Economic and Statistics Department has completed data processing in respect of Agriculture Census 2000-2001 and the final report will be brought out shortly. The Mizoram Statistical Hand Book, 2006 was published and released on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2007. A publication assessing the volume of employment in State Government, Central Government, Semi-Government, Banking and Insurance, Autonomous District Councils, Constitutional bodies as on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2005 was also brought out and released. The fourth Sub-Round of sixty second National Sample Survey was completed. Annual Report on the working of Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for the year 2005 was published. 10(ten) new registration of births and deaths units are created at different rural areas. Training of Registrars of Births and Deaths were held at 8(eight) centers at Aizawl, Lunglei, Lawngtlai, Saiha, Chawngte, Kolasib, Serchhip and Champhai. Price and Market Intelligence Wing (PMI) in the Directorate of Economics and Statistics monitors the whole sale and retail price of both food and non-food commodities throughout the State on a weekly and monthly basis which is submitted to the Central Statistical Organisation regularly.

38. During the current financial year, the Election Department has undertaken and accomplished Intensive EPIC (Elector's Photo Identity Card) campaign which was resumed in all districts and efforts are being made to achieve 100% coverage within the next 4 (four) months. By-Election to 2(two) assembly constituencies, namely, 5-Chawngte (ST) and 32-Tlungvel (ST) assembly constituencies were conducted successfully as per the schedule fixed by the Election Commission. A new project of preparing electoral rolls with the photograph of electors is being undertaken under the direction and supervision of the Election Commission. Revision of photo electoral rolls with reference to 01.01.2007 as qualifying date will also be undertaken during the first half of the current calendar year, i.e 2007 for which the proposed schedule submitted to the Election Commission was approved. The draft electoral roll is scheduled to be published on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2007.

39. My Government has awarded gratuity of Rs. 300/- per head per month to 1,530 veterans and widows of the Second World War. A sum of Rs. 55,200/- has been disbursed as stipend/scholarship to 20 dependants of ex-servicemen who are undergoing specialized training in various

courses during 2006-2007. A sum of RS. 1,06,124/- have been paid as interest subsidy on SEMFEX-II loans from various banks in the State taken by ex-servicemen. The Armed Forces Flag Day was solemnly held on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2006 and donation from the public to the tune of Rs. 60,634/- were collected on this occasion. These donations have been utilized for the assistance of the poor and needy ex-servicemen and their families. A sum of Rs. 40,000/- have been awarded as ex-gratia grant to two Mizo Armed Forces personnel wounded in operations during 2006-2007. During 2006-2007, 90(ninety) Mizo boys were recruited to the Army and 1(one) Mizo boy to the Navy under the Armed Forces. 58 (fifty eight) ex-servicemen and widows have joined Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme during the period.

40. The Cooperative movement in Mizoram has gained much momentum and has now transformed itself into a people's movement. The Cooperation Department, through its relentless effort had made much headway in the field of social and economic progress. It has 1,420 vibrant primary societies including 10 state level and 5 district level societies. The department launched recovery drives of chronic loan overdues through its arbitration courts and realized Rs. 37,37,353/- during 2006-2007. It disbursed Grants-in-Aid to the tune of Rs. 328.00 lakhs to 10 state level societies and Rs. 16.00 lakhs to 102 primary level societies during 2006-2007. MIZOFED lifted petroleum products worth Rs. 580.00 lakhs during the period. MULCO processed and sold 13,78,963 litres of fresh milk.

The above are highlights of some achievement but time constrains me to go on. The whole development of Mizoram is going on in the right direction. The people's participation has provided a new powerful dimension to rapid pace of development. It is my earnest wish to make every Mizo proud of being a Mizo and that Mizoram may have an identity as a great state. I, herewith, greet all of you and conclude my speech.

I wish your deliberations all success.

Jai Hind.