

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE
FOURTH MIZORAM STATE LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY

SECOND SITTING ON WEDNESDAY, THE 9TH DECEMBER, 1998
(Time: 10:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M)

PRESENT

PU R.LALAWIA, Speaker at the Chair, Fifteen Ministers and
24 Members were present

LIST OF BUSINESS

GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

1. HIS EXCELLENCY the Governor A.Padmanaban to address
the House

MOTION

2. PU SANGHMINHTHANGA H.PAUTU to move a Motion of Thanks
on the Address of the Governor.

SPEECH BY GOVERNOR : Hon'ble Speaker and Hon'ble Members
of the House.

It is my pleasure and privilege to
welcome you all to the Forst Session of the newly elected
Legislative Assembly of the State. The Council of Ministers
has assumed office on 3rd December 1998.

2. The just concluded General Eelection
in the State has provided beyond doubt that Democracy has
taken deep roots in the State as in other parts of our great
country. The electorate and the political parties have
shown maturity and political consciousness of high order.
I must commend and congratulate the Political Parties, the
contestants and the people of Mizoram as a whole for this
peaceful, free and fair election. The voluntary organisations
like the YMA, MHIP and also Church organisations equally de-
se#ve commendation and congratulation for their role in the
election. This event speaks volumes about the rich culture,
tradition and social consciousness of the people of the State.

We have seen newspaper reports saying that the Election Commission had commended Mizoram State as the National Model for the conduct of election in the country. This should make the people of Mizoram justifiably proud.

3. This satisfaction is, however, dampened by the knowledge that the Government has to begin its tenure with severe financial problems. As you are aware, the year 1998-99 starts with an opening deficit of Rs. 79.36 crores. There was also a liability of Rs. 60.00 crores to meet the costs of some completed works and schemes. In addition, the State has availed of Special ways and means advance amounting to Rs. 62.00 crores to tide over the critical financial problem in the early part of the current financial year. After repaying Rs. 8.00 crores the Government has to clear the remaining Rs. 54.00 crores before the end of March 1999.

4. The Planning Commission has approved an outlay of Rs. 333.00 crores for the State for the current year. However, in order to avail this full amount, the State has to raise as much as Rs. 30.00 crores in addition to Rs. 76.00 crores from General Provident Fund contributions of Government servants. Further, the outlay includes loans amounting to Rs. 23.00 crores which can be availed of only after the relevant schemes are got approved; as also Rs. 10.00 crores under Externally Aided Projects (EAP) which will become available only after agencies/Governments outside India accept the projects proposed by the State Government. Till date, it is estimated that about Rs. 100.00 crores had been spent out of Plan Funds to meet unavoidable expenditure. In the coming days, the Government has to continue to meet essential expenditure, including salaries and wages of employees, office expenses and maintenance. After adjusting all these, the fund available now is severely limited and it would be very difficult for my Government to initiate developmental schemes. It is, therefore, desirable to utilise the current year's fund only to streamline and consolidate the financial position of the State. My Government would like to heal the financial wounds and begin with a clean slate, which itself is a gigantic task. The Central Government have to be moved immediately to resolve the severe financial problems in accordance with the provisions of the Mizoram Peace Accord. At the same time, the State has to make sincere efforts towards Resource Mobilisation. However, due to the grinding poverty of the people, the Government cannot expect meaningful contributions from them and therefore it becomes imperative for the Government to identify new ways of raising resources. Towards this end, it becomes necessary to introduce new economic system in the State. The system of total dependence upon the Central Government has to give way to a system in which the items produced and manufactured within Mizoram should be the mainstay of the economy by providing more remunerative prices for these products. My Government will make necessary budgetary provisions to meet the genuine requirement to make the new

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system a success. The assistance and cooperation of the Central Government and Governments of foreign countries will be sought to utilise fully the abundant potential available in Mizoram and to usher in an era of trade and commerce.

5. Self-sufficiency in food is one of the most important aspects of development and my Government will pursue this as one of its most basic items on the agenda. Mizoram has the potential for creating fifty thousand to sixty thousand hectares of Wet Rice Cultivation. To translate this potential into reality, mechanisation involving use of appropriate equipments like Bulldozers, Tractors etc., by the farmers would be necessary. My Government will give full support to help the farmers in this direction. Other sectors of Agriculture including Horticulture and Veterinary, would also be given maximum support to achieve the objective of self-sufficiency in food.

6. Self-sufficiency in Power Supply is also another area of priority for my Government. To achieve this desired objective, emphasis will be shifted from Mini Hydel Projects and all-out efforts would be made to accelerate the Bairabi Hydel Project. To meet the Power requirements of the people during the implementation of the Bairabi Project, alternative sources of energy would be explored on urgent basis. We will continue to move the Central Government for successful implementation of the Bairabi Hydel Project. If necessary, even Governments of foreign countries will be approached for this purpose.

7. My Government also attaches great importance to political and administrative reforms. This agenda includes fight against corruption, review of the salaries and facilities of Government employees and transparency in functioning of the Government. The vexed problem of foreigners in Mizoram and their repatriation to their homeland would continue to receive the close attention of the Government. With a view to providing care for persons affected by drug addiction and alcoholism, the Government would take steps to construct Shelters on an emergency footing if necessary.

8. Some of the provisions of the Mizoram Peace Accord have already been implemented. My Government will take suitable steps to implement the provisions not yet implemented, in consultation with the Central Government. I am sure your collective endeavour and wisdom will ensure clean and efficient administration for the State which is crucial for orderly and quick socio-economic development of Mizoram. I earnestly appeal to all to work together with unity and goodwill, in order to maintain and strengthen Peace, Harmony and Progress, giving benefits to all sections of people in the State. I am confident that Mizoram will soon be the

beacon-light and torch-bearer in the country. My hearty felicitations and best wishes to you and the people of Mizoram. May your deliberations be fruitful and successful.

Ka lawm e.

JAI HIND.

S P E A K E R : Tunah, kan Governor zahawm tak in a address na copy kha sem misela. Motion of thanks move turin Pu Sanghmingthanga H. Pauty, i lo sawm ang.

PU SANGHMINGTHANGA H. PAUTU : Motion of thanks, on the Governor's address as follow -
"That the Members of Mizoram Assembly in this Session are deeply grateful to the Governor, for the address which he has been pleased to deliver to this Assembly, on 9th Dec., 1998.

S P E A K E R : Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business Mizoram Assembly, 18 angin second tu an awm em ?

PU LAL THANKUNGA : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I do second the Motion, thank you.

S P E A K E R : Tunah chuan Governor te nena thlalakna pawn ah sawn kan nei anga, chumi zawhah refreshment kan nei zui nghal anga. Vawinalah kan session chu adjourned ani anga. Naktuk dar 10:30 A.M. Governor Address hi sawi ho na kan nei leh ang.

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