

Hon'ble Speaker and distinguished Members,

1. At the outset I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you all to the second session of the Sixth Legislative Assembly of Mizoram. I do hope that the new year will enable us to serve the State and its people with renewed strength, vigour and commitment.

2. I also take this opportunity to highlight the vision and achievements my Government has made or intends to make in various spheres and programmes. My Government assumed office on 11th December, 2008 and is fully committed to fulfill the promises made in the election manifesto in due course of time.

3. The Council of Ministers has been expanded to its full strength. Six Parliamentary Secretaries have also been appointed to assist the Cabinet Ministers for effective disposal of the Government businesses.

4. My Government will leave no stone unturned to usher in clean, efficient and responsive administration, at various levels of Governance. Transparency would be the hall-mark of the Government. Corruption at any level of administration will not be tolerated.

In this regard, steps have been initiated to constitute Vigilance Commission. Strengthen and adequately equip the Anti Corruption Bureau to make it more efficient and effective. My Government is committed to provide fair, equitable and just administration based on merits at all level of governance on priority.

5. As 'peace' is a pre-requisite for all forms of development, my Government will spare no efforts to ensure maintenance of law and order in the State. In this regard, I would like to make it very clear that my Government will not allow any part of Mizoram to be used by the underground elements as a safe haven or even for a temporary shelter. There will be no leniency on anti-social elements, such as armed militants, unlicensed arms holder and illicit arms dealer who pose threat to the peace and tranquility of our state. Drug peddlers will be dealt with severely. Foreign nationals who committed crime in Mizoram, on being apprehended will be handed over to their respective government agencies.

6. My Government gives top priority to poverty alleviation of the people in the villages and the urban poor. As already committed to this august House, a high powered Apex Board for New Land Use Policy (NLUP) consisting of the Chief Minister as the Chairman and Pu R. Selthuama, MLA as the Vice Chairman has been constituted to provide strategic direction in line with the aims and objectives of the New Land Use Policy. Various Departments will participate in the process of planning, implementation and monitoring of the Policy. I would fervently appeal to all the people to ensure that the financial assistance under NLUP is spent judiciously and for the right purpose. Steps are being taken for establishment of Farmers Commission to take care of the welfare of the farmers. My Government would ensure

100 days employment under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act to mitigate the plight of the rural households in Mizoram.

Efforts are on for establishment of a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in collaboration with reputed Multi National Firms.

7. The declining education standard in the state is a matter of great concern. My government is seized with the problems and would soon initiate necessary measures for its rectification.

My Government will give adequate attention to the welfare of the youth. Efforts will be made to ensure that opportunities are provided to the youth in various ways. The Youth Commission will be strengthened and its terms of reference reviewed in order to meet the needs and aspirations of the youth. It is my privilege to announce that the Mizoram Youth Commission has signed an agreement with the Lord Krishna IAS Academy, New Delhi to open Civil Service Coaching Classes in Aizawl. Classes will commence from April, 2009 and about 200 eager aspirants have already enrolled for the proposed coaching. My Government endeavours to preserve and promote Mizo culture and traditional values. With this in view Mizo Youth are being encouraged to learn traditional dances and music besides organising cultural meets and festivals. My Government is making effort to establish IT hub cum-Human Resource Development Management Centre in Delhi for the Mizo Youth where IT. Giants like Infosys, Wipro etc. are expected to play pivotal roles.

8. My Government endeavours to promote different Sports and Youth activities. Mizoram State participated in the National and International Level Sports Tournaments during 2008 – 2009 in different sports disciplines. In the National Level Tournament, Mizoram State won 23 Gold, 28 Silver and 31 Bronze Medals.

Mizo girls namely Pi Lalchhanhimi and Pi Lalremruati who participated in the Asia Hockey Cup, 2008 in Malaysia are selected to represent India in the Junior World Cup Hockey to be held during August, 2009 in Boston, USA.

I am proud to share with the Hon'ble Members that the Mizoram State Team won Team Championship in the recent tournament of All India Services Badminton Championship held at Aizawl from 23rd to 28th February, 2009 and won 3 Gold, 3 Silver and 1 Bronze Medals.

Government of India has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 34.00 crores for construction of State Sports Academy at Zobawk. This Academy will impart training to our youth.

9. With an aim to carry out legal reforms, my Government has constituted the Mizoram State Law Commission with effect from 16th February, 2009 with Shri Lalrinawma, MLA as its Chairman. The Law Commission is entrusted with identification of laws which are no longer needed or relevant and to recommend changes or amendments to the existing laws to ensure more efficient delivery of

justice in the State. Efforts are being made to establish a separate High Court for Mizoram to ensure that justice is brought to the door-step of common man.

10. To make the process of planning and implementation of developmental works more effective, my Government has revamped and reconstituted the State Planning Board with the appointment of Shri Lalkhama, a retired IAS Officer as its Vice Chairman and Shri P.L. Thanga, another retired IAS Officer as Member-Secretary. My Government also gives importance to planning from the grass-root level and not from top to bottom. To achieve this objective, Lunglei High Power Committee is being reconstituted.

11. My Government is deeply committed to exploit the Hydro-Electric potential in the State to generate more power for the State. The Ministry of Power, Government of India, upon the request of the State Government has agreed to revive the abandoned 60MW Tuirial Hydel Project. The State Government has signed a Memorandum of Association with the NTPC to take up the Kolodyne Stage-II Hydel Project of 460MW. Utmost efforts have also been made to take up the Tuivai Hydel Project of 210 MW on Public Private partnership mode.

A new Health Insurance Scheme and an old age pension Scheme with fundings from Ministry of Labour, Government of India for BPL families are being introduced. The Planning Commission and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare have agreed to revive and complete the Referral Hospital at Falkawn, with a view to upgrade it to a Medical College in due course of time.

The Ministry of Food Processing, Government of India has also sanctioned Rs. 60.00 crore and Rs. 15.00 crore for setting up of a Mega Food Park and an abattoir respectively. When completed, these projects will provide ample employment opportunities to the people of the state.

All the projects started by the previous ministry will be continued, provided they are found technically and financially viable. Construction of Mizoram House at Chanakyapuri, New Delhi has been started and construction of Mizoram House at Mumbai will start in the near future.

12. In conclusion, I am confident that my Government will be able to achieve the vision and goals it stands committed to. I believe the people of Mizoram deserve the change they have aspired for development and progress for which they have given mandate to my Government. I hope all the honourable members will actively participate in the deliberations of this House and tender valuable suggestions keeping in view the people's aspirations.

I wish your deliberations success.

JAI HIND