



# NATIONALIST DEMOCRATIC PROGRESSIVE PARTY

*“Facta Non Verba”*

Regd. No. 56/222/2017-17/PPS-I

Ref. No. ....

Date 15/07/2020

## PRESS STATEMENT

- 1) The opposition NPF have once again tried to justify their demand for the incumbent PDA government to step down by continuing to harp on an issue which the whole world is trying to come to terms with, the COVID-19 pandemic. The logic of the NPF that the rising numbers of positive cases in the State is attributed to the failure of the State government is not only absurd but is bordering on insanity. Going by the illogical stand of the opposition party, if the rising numbers of positive cases are to be attributed to the failure of the government, then people across the world should be clamouring for their respective governments to step down since it is common knowledge how the number of positive COVID-19 cases are rising globally everyday. Perhaps the NPF is so blinded with their hunger to take over the government that they fail to see and accept the global information and data on the current pandemic that has gripped the world. The people are not blind as the NPF take them to be; they understand the efforts that are being taken by the government as well as the various civil organisations in tackling the pandemic and such wild rhetoric's of the opposition party will only do them more harm than good.
- 2) The president of the NPF Dr. Shurhozelie Liezietsu in a statement has supported the stand taken by NPF that the government must step down. The NDPP is surprised that one of the octogenarian politicians in Nagaland and a former Chief Minister would defend and support such a stand. For a former Chief Minister who has also been a member of the Cabinet on numerous occasions, it is expected of him to be aware that governments cannot be made to step down at the whims and fancies of the opposition! The NPF does not own the Constitution of India and therefore cannot change the laid down procedures that governs our democracy to their convenience! The Constitution of India is a sacred document unlike the constitution of the NPF which changes as per the wishes of the party leadership! Perhaps the NPF led by its President, need to restudy the Constitution of India and reacquaint themselves on the procedures laid down on how our democracy functions.
- 3) The NPF continues to claim that it is the oldest regional party and that it stands for the Naga political issue. However, in the present matter, the NPF has not made its stand clear on the Naga political issue and the ongoing peace process. Naga civil society, tribal organisations and mass based leaders have expressed their opinions and concerns in an outspoken manner yet the NPF has steered clear of the political dynamics of the issue. Does the NPF agree with the terminology of the Naga political groups and is the NPF in support of a political solution that is honourable, acceptable to the people and a negotiated solution that ensures lasting peace by acknowledging the political rights of the Nagas? Merely claiming that it is the oldest party no longer holds good in the eyes of the people.



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- 4) The intentions of the opposition party to create confusion in the minds of the people are very clear when they have time and again kept repeating that the Hon'ble Governor has lost confidence in the government. In his letter addressed to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Hon'ble Governor had at no time mentioned that he had lost his confidence on the government. Such callous statements made by the so called oldest regional party are unbecoming and immature. A healthy democracy needs an active and responsible opposition; but if that opposition starts lying and distorting facts, it is perhaps time for the people to question the intentions and actions of the opposition NPF. The NDPP led PDA welcomes constructive criticisms in order to bring about good governance and welfare to the people. However, the NDPP will not remain silent when such criticisms are based on lies and deception!
- 5) Former Chief Minister of Nagaland and former Governor of Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Odisha Dr. S. C. Jamir has given his views on Article 371A (1) (b) that has appeared in the local dailies. Does the former Chief Minister want to make Nagaland an unequal state of the Indian union or does he want to roll back the clock of history by taking Nagaland back to the 50s and 60s. As a former democratically elected head of state and an active proponent for peace, he for one should stand up for democracy by supporting the stand of the government that the said clause under Article 371A is redundant in today's context. Nagaland of today is not the Nagaland of the 50s and 60s when law and order in the newly created state was chaotic with insurgency at its peak. To this effect, the 12th House of the NLA had passed a resolution on the 17th of December 2013 stating that Article 371A (1) (b) of the Constitution of India was redundant in Nagaland considering the vast improvements in the law and order and insurgency related activities following the cease fire between the GoI and the Naga national political groups and the peace talks leading towards a final settlement of the Naga issue. Therefore, we hope that leaders like Dr. Jamir will defend our right for democracy and together work towards strengthening our state as an equal member of the great Union of India.

( Issued by NDPP Media & Communication Committee )