

MESSAGE OF HON'BLE GOVERNOR ON THE OCCASION OF STATEHOOD DAY ON 1ST DECEMBER, 2016 TO BROADCAST OVER ALL INDIA RADIO AND DOORDARSHAN KENDRA, KOHIMA ON THE EVE OF STATEHOOD DAY

My Dear brothers and sisters,

Good Morning, Namaskar.

On this auspicious occasion on 1st December 2016, I would like to extend my warmest greetings and sincere congratulations to the People of Nagaland, on the 53rd Statehood Day.

Hornbill festival, which showcases the rich traditions and culture of the Naga tribes is held on 1st to 10th of December to mark our unity by coming together of the different tribes in Nagaland and 1st December also coincides with our Statehood day.

On this occasion, we introspect our achievements during the last 52 years and especially during the last year 2015-16. Let us all unite to take Nagaland to greater heights and progress and prosperity. Focus should be on every sector so that it can have the desired impact in addressing the needs and aspirations of every citizen.

On this historic day, I remember the pioneers of our State and value the contributions of our great people, as well as the role they had played through their courage and good spirits to make Nagaland a beautiful state.

We may be numerically small but in terms of our potential, we are second to none and there is an enormous amount of energy of young people, natural resources that we can and we should contribute for the welfare of the State. During my two and a half years in this highest constitutional office in the State- as the Head of State, I have received much warmth and affection from all sections of society which I feel is precious and priceless. During my recent visit to International Border Area ENPO districts, I felt the urgent necessity of involvement in the general rapid well being of all the people of the State.

Apart from our 5(five) Universities in the State, thousands of our young men and women who have a hunger for employment with best education have fanned out all over the country. Nagaland has nearly 20 lakhs population and we are proud that nearly 300 thousand i.e. 3 lakhs of our youths are highly empowered educated youths.

They are our assets but many of them are in search of opportunity to strengthen our development activities. They are yet to find opportunities.

Nagaland has hardworking Kisans, who produce organic food which should get the right market and price for the produce. Our women are

successful in every field of life. I heartily congratulate our State Government for implementing constitutional mandatory provision of 33% reservation for women in Local Self-Government of District and Town Councils.

We have to address our society's dangerous health hazards like cancer & HIV, efficiently.

Our Central Government under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Shri Narendra Modiji has announced the bold decision to demonetise old Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes. This is one of the major steps to eradicate corruption and black money. We have to make our state corruption-free. We have to march towards cashless economy and transparent system.

There are numerous challenges before us. Our work should have a larger vision for the good of society and the people. There is a great desire among people for development- for a good standard of living. Development means good physical infrastructure- roads, electricity, water and telecom connectivity, good human resource infrastructure- healthcare services and educational services.

We are the architects of our own happiness. I have profound admiration and faith in our young people. There is tremendous potential for a developed rich economy in Nagaland and the youth have unlimited vibrant and creative energy. My appeal to the youth of our state is to have dreams for your brighter and prosperous future. And this dream can be realised through hard work and perseverance.

Before I conclude, let me speak of peace. I am sure the Framework Agreement signed between NSCN-IM and Government of India will end in respectful peace in our State. I take this opportunity to appeal to all groups to join for permanent peace. Peace and stability are of high importance in promoting economic development of individuals and society at large.

I wish peace and prosperity to the people of the State and hope that our State would scale new heights in over all development. Let us make Nagaland, Golden Nagaland.

On this happy occasion of the Statehood Day, I once again convey my greetings to all of you and appeal to work for peace, happiness, growth and development.

THANK YOU,

KUKNALIM,

BHARAT MATA KI JAI