

**SPEECH OF PROF.JAGDISH MUKHI, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF NAGALAND DURING THE INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF HORNBILL FESTIVAL ON 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021 AT KISAMA.**

- **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Nagaland & Chief Host of Hornbill Festival, Shri Neiphiu Rio,**
- **Ms Melinda Pavek, Consul General, United States**
- **Mr Manfred Auster, Consul General of Germany**
- **Mr Naor Gilon, Ambassador of Israel to India,**
- **Shri Khehovi Yeputhomi, Hon'ble Advisor, Tourism and Host of Hornbill Festival**
- **Cabinet Ministers,**
- **Advisors,**
- **MLAs,**
- **State Chaplin, Rev. T.W.Yamyap Konyak**
- **Shri K Lakiumong, Head GB Sangphur**
- **Officials,**
- **Dignitaries,**
- **Guests from far and near,**
- **Participants,**

**Gracious Ladies and gentlemen,**

I am much delighted to be here amidst you today to inaugurate the 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of Hornbill Festival at Kisama, the Heritage Village. I extend a warm welcome to one and all to Nagaland, the land of Festivals. I am sure this cultural extravaganza will enthrall our guests from within and abroad. This coming 10 days, people will witness diverse culture of our State and North East and also various adventurous sports and musical events.

Today, we are also celebrating the 59<sup>th</sup> Statehood Day. On this Special occasion, I pay sincere homage and heartfelt tribute to all those who have toiled very hard and some even sacrificed their life for the formation of this beautiful State.

Friends, COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented challenge to humankind worldwide. It caused devastating economic and social disruption. Yet, with the support of all, we are now able to celebrate this festival in a grand manner. The pandemic is far from over and its new variants are emerging! I appeal all of you to be vigilant and continue to strictly follow the COVID appropriate behaviours. I urge those eligible persons who are not yet fully vaccinated to come forward and get vaccinated.

On this auspicious day, I would like to salute our medical professionals, be it the Doctors, Nurses, Lab Technicians, Ambulance Drivers, Attendants, Safai Karmacharies, and many more from other diverse professions for their devotion to duty and untiring support in the fight against COVID-19.

Nagaland has rich culture, tradition and customs which are unique. Our dance and music are well known even outside the country. I urge our young generation to take pride in our tradition and also to preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage of our State.

Nagaland is bestowed with rich biodiversity both flora and fauna. We need to harness it for the development of the State. Eco-tourism has huge potential for the socio-economic growth of our society. It can address the unemployment issue to a considerable extent.

Friends, Government of India under the dynamic leadership of Modi ji is committed to ensure development of the region. Central Government and State Government are working together to bring in lasting peace in the land. The day is not very far for signing the much-awaited peace agreement with Naga rebel groups. We all, as beneficiaries, should make up our minds and create a conducive atmosphere for welcoming the new dawn of a peaceful and progressive Nagaland.

Friends, Hornbill festival is a single platform where all the tribes showcase their rich culture and handicrafts to the world. This is also an avenue for promoting tourism and allied economic activities. Over the years, Hornbill Festival, the Festival of Festivals, has acclaimed glory and fame across the globe.

I wish our dignitaries, our guests who have come from far and near that they would have a pleasant stay and they would go back with memorable experience of our hospitality which is widely acclaimed. I extend my best wishes to all the performers who will be putting in their best in the next 10 days.

I wish the festival a grand success. Wish you all the best.

Thank you very much.

Jai Hind.

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