

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
MANIPUR AT THE INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION OF LIONS CLUB AT LAMYANBA SHANGLLEN,
IMPHAL EAST DISTRICT ON 13TH JANUARY, 2017

Lion Roman Bordoloi, District Governor,

Lion M. Gojendra Singh, Vice District Governor,

All other Lions present here,

Friends from Media,

Distinguished Invitees,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasant experience for me to be with you all here today specially with the Lions, Lionesses and Leos for the inaugural function of the Lions Centennial Celebration. I extend my heartiest greetings to one and all.

It is also a matter of great satisfaction that in Manipur alone there are 20 (twenty) Lions Clubs, being 2nd highest in the North East next to Assam and out of 4000 Lions Members in the North East, there are about 900 Members in Manipur. I am hopeful that in due course because of the humanitarian services rendered by the Clubs, number of Members will certainly increase manifold. When I was in Mumbai, I was very closely associated with Lions Club and its social work and I continued to associate myself with good humanitarian work done by Lions Club in rest of the country.

As we are well aware, the Lions Club is one of the internationally known organizations devoted mainly to philanthropic and humanitarian services since it incepted in the year, 1917. It has also been endeavouring over the years with the objective to create and foster a spirit of understanding among the people of the world, to promote the principles of good governance and good citizenship and also to take an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare activities of the people and specially of those who

belong to less fortunate sections of the people such as the blind and the needy. No service is as great and valuable as the service for the poor, needy and less fortunate persons. Indeed, their selfless service for the poor, needy and less fortunate groups of people is commendable. They are ever ready to provide succour to the people and at the time of natural calamities also, they are there for rendering critical and valuable service to the victims and other affected persons. During natural calamities, the challenges are many and often near insurmountable. The Government machinery is stretched to the maximum and the Lions are known to render priceless humanitarian service at these trying times by supplementing the efforts of the Government for bringing quick relief to the affected people.

Lions around the world have been changing lives for 100 years through community and humanitarian service. The Centennial Celebration marks the milestone of reaching 100 years of selfless service and commitment for the cause of especially the marginalised people. It is the celebration of a rich legacy and looking forward to a fulfilling humanitarian service in future too. It also gives the Lions an opportunity for introspection for a more meaningful and focussed approach in the times to come.

The Lions had set an initial target of 100 million beneficiaries for Centennial Celebration on completion of 100 years of its existence through Four Centennial Service Challenges namely, Involving Our Youth, Sharing the Vision, Relieving the Hunger and protecting our Environment. It is heartening to know that the target has been achieved and a new target of beneficiaries is being finalised with the addition of another important service challenge under 'Awareness and Control of Diabetes' from the current year. Targets are set to be broken and I congratulate the Lions for their tremendous and enduring performance.

It is very encouraging that in Manipur also, the Lions have been outperforming themselves in rendering yeomen's service to the needy people of the state. I have been given to understand that on 4th May, 2012, one Lions Eye Hospital and Services Trust was successfully set up for the treatment of the eye. According to Helen Keller who was once a celebrity Lion and popularly known as "Angel of the Blind", most people who can see simply do not realize the blessing of eye sight. Helen Keller showed the world that "sight is light and light is life". She was a celebrated writer and led an inspirational life, working devoutly for the handicapped. The Lions Eye Hospital is indeed a boon to the poor in the state. Through this hospital free eye care camps are also regularly organized at different places of Manipur under the sponsorship of the Lions Club of Imphal. It is hoped that people far and wide will be benefitted from the services provided by the hospital. I am sure a wide cross section of the people in the state must have already taken benefit from the Hospital and they should also feel a sense of belonging to the hospital and extend every possible cooperation in its smooth functioning. I am hopeful that the members of the Lions Clubs in Manipur will always work with the motto "We Serve" for achieving the aims and objectives of the Lions Clubs International.

I am also very happy to learn that the Lions Fraternity in Manipur is organising this Centenary Celebration along with the Observance of the Birthday of the Founder of Lionism, Melvin Jones (January 13, 1879).

Once again, I extend my heartfelt greetings to you all and thank the organizing committee for inviting me to be a part of the Inaugural Function of the Lions Centennial Celebration.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.