

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF THE "MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES" ON 18TH OCTOBER, 2018 AT THE OLD MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BUILDING, IMPHAL

Shri Y. Khemchand Singh ji, Hon'ble Speaker, Manipur Legislative Assembly,

Shri L. Jayantakumar Singh ji, Hon'ble Minister (Art & Culture),

Shri T.T. Haokip ji, Hon'ble Chairman, Hill Areas Committee,

Shri O. Ibobi Singh ji, Hon'ble Leader of Opposition,

Shri K. Robindro Singh ji, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker,

All the Officers and Staffs of Manipur Legislative Assembly,

Friends from Print and Electronic Media,

Distinguished Invitees,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am immensely happy to be associated with the inauguration of Manipur Legislative Assembly Museum and Archives, the first of its kind in the history of Manipur Legislative Assembly. This is definitely a significant step taken up by the Speaker and his team and I extend to them a well-deserved applause.

As you are all well aware, the primary objective of Museum and Archives is to preserve history and maintain it for its contemporary relevance and for the future. The Museum and Archives of Manipur Legislative Assembly will be a wealth of the glorious political history of Manipur. Its main purpose is to collect, preserve, research, exhibit and interpret historical documents and material for public knowledge and education. It will be a collection of archival materials, rare artifacts, photographs of historical significance and other invaluable items and a perpetual source of precious information and a referral treasure for the eclectics. I have full confidence

that the Manipur Legislative Assembly Museum and Archives will be of great value and interest to the people of the State and will go a long way in fulfilling their aspirations. I feel proud to know that the Manipur Legislative Assembly Museum and Archives has already got an enviable range of invaluable books and will get only richer as it grows older.

Museums and archives not only serve as the fountainhead of information and knowledge but also keep us connected to the past. We become wiser and our knowledge becomes richer from what we learn in such an institution. We are better equipped to face the future and the wisdom we gain teaches us to negotiate our way for a more fulfilling life. Amongst the cultural institutions, museums enjoy a particularly impressive reputation for trust and integrity built upon their status as collecting institutions, as publicly accountable bodies and as objective commentators.

Museums are said to be about the past, about preserving, researching and recording, as well as presenting and interpreting our history and traditions so that we have a better understanding of our present. In a very meaningful way, therefore, museums are also about the present and the future and not just the past. By establishing this Institution, the Legislative Assembly is rendering a great service to posterity as the young generations will also be greatly benefited from it. It is often said that we are like a rudderless ship on the seas without past knowledge and information to guide us. I am sure the students and followers of Manipur political history will not be disappointed with the rich stock available in the Legislative Assembly Museum and Archives as the political history of Manipur pre and after attaining statehood in 1972 are equally exciting.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Hon'ble Speaker as well as those people who made efforts to open this

Museum and Archive in the Manipur Legislative Assembly. I would also like to thank all those who extended support to this worthy cause.

With these few words, I, once again, thank the organizers for their invitation and feel privileged to inaugurate the first Museum and Archive of Manipur Legislative Assembly.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.