

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE INAUGURATION OF DIGITAL RADIOGRAPHY AND HIGH END ULTRASONOGRAPHY MACHINES ON 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2018 AT REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, IMPHAL

Prof. A. Santa Singh, Director, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences,

Prof. Ch. Arunkumar Singh, Medical Superintendent, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences,

Respected Professors,

Friends from the Media,

My dear young students of the Institute,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to be here at this inauguration of Digital Radiography and High End Ultrasonography machines of Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal. My congratulations to you all on this occasion.

RIMS has come a long way since it was established in the year, 1972. It is now an institution of considerable regional importance catering to the needs of the NE region in the field of medical, dental, nursing education by providing diploma, under-graduate, post-graduate courses and also superspeciality courses. The Institute was initially named Regional Medical College as a joint venture of the North Eastern States and the Central Government. Later, the College was renamed as North Eastern Regional Medical College in 1976. It was upgraded as Regional Institute of Medical Sciences on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1995 when the Institute was taken over by North Eastern Council. The Institute is now an autonomous body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, having been transferred from the Ministry of DoNER w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2007.

This premier Institute in the North East was established with the primary objective of providing quality medical education while catering to the healthcare needs of the people of the North Eastern States. I am glad that

today students from different parts of the country under All India quota are enrolled both for the Under Graduate and Post Graduate Medical Courses. The Institute has made tremendous progress over the years, both qualitatively and quantitatively. It is functioning as per the statutory norms of the Medical Council of India and has so far produced 3249 doctors, 1583 specialist doctors and 54 M.Phil clinical psychologists. A new Nursing College was set up from December 2009 with an intake capacity of 50 students. Another high point of the Institute has been the opening of the Dental College, RIMS in 2012.

Health is a priority for all of us. All social and economic activities of a country are closely interlinked with the health parameters of its people. Investment for eradication of diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, cholera, etc and also for prevention and control of the HIV/AIDS and H1N1 is of great social value and makes good economic sense. The world has seen unprecedented advancement in the field of medical science and many diseases can now be prevented or cured. However, there is still a great deal to do as there is no dearth of new challenges. Diseases like influenza and some others remain difficult to control because of the many varieties of the viruses and their capacities to mutate. Cancer continues to be a formidable menace. Research to ascertain the immune system not only in the case of AIDS but also of other diseases such as rheumatic fever and rheumatoid arthritis goes on endlessly. I am hopeful that we shall overcome all such diseases also one day.

Here, I would like to appeal to all the medical professionals that they should always remember that their duty is a service to mankind and they should serve the sick with all the care and ability they could muster. One should not expect profit while entering the room of a sick. Selfish motive should not mar the sanctity of this noble profession. People generally repose

complete trust in the Doctors and you should all endeavour to live up to this image.

I have said before in a similar forum that it really disturbs me to read in newspapers that patients are being referred to private hospitals from RIMS on account of some equipments malfunctioning or due to some reason or the other. RIMS being the number one Government hospital in the state, should ensure that no patient is referred to other hospitals and provide the best medical care possible. These new machines of Digital Radiography and High End Ultrasonography being inaugurated today will be of great help to the Doctors. I am thankful to Samsung Electronics Pvt. Ltd. for their contribution in ensuring quality healthcare to the people. I understand that the service charges for the tests by these machines will be free. The introduction of these machines, therefore, will be useful tremendously to the common people and the poor people of the state as well as the region.

Ours is a state with a large area in the hilly terrain where communication is difficult. The task of providing medical aid to people in far flung areas of the state is challenging. Since I took over my gubernatorial charge, I have been trying to introduce a system of healthcare outreach service to the remote rural and hill areas along the concept of 'Flying Doctor' in Australia. I am happy to announce that my efforts have met with success and soon we will have 'Flying Dispensary' under a Central Government Scheme.

I sincerely believe that all concerned in the Institute will work as one and put in their best to make RIMS, Imphal, a centre of excellence for medical education, research, health and medicare not only in the region but also in the whole country.

I thank the organizers for inviting me to this function.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.