

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF THE SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF IMPHAL TANGKHUL WOMEN'S UNION ON 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2018 AT MBC, DEWLAHLAND, IMPHAL

Ms. SP Philamaya, President, Imphal Tangkhul Women's Union,

All the Members of the Union,

Friends from the Media,

Distinguished Invitees,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very much delighted to be with you all today at the Silver Jubilee Celebration of your Union. I thank the Imphal Tangkhul Women's Union and all its office bearers and members for inviting me to this memorable function.

The Imphal Tangkhul Women's Union has been working for the cause of Tangkhul women, especially for their social and economic empowerment since it incepted 25 years ago. It has been rendering creditable service for spreading education among the Tangkhul women and taking up various activities of social service. The Tangkhul society has a rich culture and it is really gratifying that the Tangkhul womenfolk are making sincere efforts for the preservation and enrichment of their cultural heritage.

I am happy that Tangkhul women have come together and joined hands under the Union for an inclusive growth of their society and participate in nation building. As you are well aware, India is a secular democracy where people of all religions and cultures have been living with honour and dignity. Divisive forces and tendencies have existed in all societies and at all times. The Tangkhul society has also had spells of turmoil in history. Tangkhul women have faced these turmoil with courage and fortitude. There will be challenges in life and more often than not women bear the brunt of these challenges in the society. But it should be our

endeavour to create an atmosphere of social harmony and move forward together as one.

As we all know, in order to truly empower women, education is a must. Women in our society particularly in the hill districts are lagging behind in education. I would, therefore, appeal to the Union to work for spreading education among the womenfolk. Not only on the educational front, the women in the villages should be appropriately skilled for their economic empowerment. The Union can take the lead to organise training and awareness camps for women especially for those in the far flung areas. After proper skilling, these women will not only be supporting their families economically but also earn a place in the society to live with self-respect and dignity.

I am quite impressed to learn that several women members from different parts of the State have been extending their support to make the celebration more meaningful and successful. Coming together under one umbrella will undoubtedly strengthen their resolve in pursuit of the common goals for a better society as a whole. I am sure the services rendered by the Union will go a long way in the upliftment of many helpless and needy Tangkhul women of the State.

With these few words, it gives me immense pleasure to inaugurate the Silver Jubilee Celebration and once again, I thank the organizers for inviting me to this celebration.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.