

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTUALL, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE RELEASING FUNCTION OF DOCUMENTARY FILM 'LEINA GA NUNGTHANG GA' ON 20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2019 AT RAJ BHAVAN, IMPHAL.

Shri Th. Biswajit Singh, Hon'ble Minister, Information & Public Relations,  
Dr. Bhabeswar Tongbram, Chairman, Resource – a Community  
Development Initiative,  
Friends from Media,  
Distinguished Invitees,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me immense pleasure to be amongst you in this function for releasing the Documentary Film “Leina ga Nungthang ga (Petals and Hammer)” organised by Resource - a Community Development Initiative, Manipur. I am particularly happy to see the artisans on whose life the film has been based.

It is widely known that Manipur has a rich cultural heritage, arts and traditions of a very high order. A civilization said to be 4000 years old still lives in the State's unique handloom and handicrafts. The rich traditional craftsmanship of the indigenous people has been passed down the generations through the skilful artisans. It is found recorded in the royal chronicle 'Loiyumba Shinyen' that as early as 1074, the Manipuri society was well organised along the lines of their professional callings and practices. The documentary film is an attempt to capture the development of the age old tradition of jewellery practised by the women artisans of the Kangabam families. These families were assigned the work of jewellery and the womenfolk of these families took full part in jewellery making in addition to their household chore. The tradition has still continued today and the womenfolk selling their products of diverse varieties of jewellery in our

world famous all-women market 'Ima Keithel'. All this has also been documented in the film.

It is also a matter of personal satisfaction for me that the film deals with women empowerment, which is an issue close to my heart. Manipuri women have a rich history of social independence and economic freedom. The women artisans in the profession of jewellery are representative of the status and freedom the womenfolk enjoy in the Manipuri society. The 'Ima Keithel' stands tall, as a symbol of women empowerment having no parallel anywhere in the world. It is the largest all women market, about 4000 women vendors carrying out their various economic activities. They improve their economic conditions, earn their livelihood and empower themselves. In order to help the women vendors of the market, I had initiated an interaction programme of the vendors with the Financial Institutions and Banks in the State for availing financial assistance, loans or grants under different schemes of the Government. It is reported that many of these vendors are enjoying the financial facility now. The women jewellers present here could also avail of the same.

All the eminent personalities in Manipuri film Industry present here today are well aware that documentary Manipuri film has a great future. After attaining Statehood, there has been a great quickening of the human mind and a renaissance of artistic activity in Manipur. We are hopeful that lasting works are being produced in this age. Manipuris have a natural gift of acting. In Manipur, both writers and actors are found in plenty and there is also no lack of talent in the field. It is a well accepted fact that the impact of good documentary films on socially relevant topics, particularly on the young minds is very lasting and effective in moulding character. I would like to appeal to all concerned to make good documentary films which will inspire youngsters to stand for righteousness and promote good social causes. I am quite hopeful that with its rich cultural and artistic talents,

Manipur can produce more numbers of quality documentary films for the overall good of the society.

In this present documentary film, besides empowering women, it will inculcate the rich ethos Manipuri women in the young generation. Above all, this documentary film produced by Ms. Iswari Haobam will certainly encourage the artisans and enhance the development of traditional jewellery apart from improving their livelihood and empowering themselves in the society. I am fully confident that Resource – a Community Development Initiative will keep producing many valuable traditional documentary films in the years to come and the efforts of the Community Development Initiative will also help in elevating the standard of documentary film in the State. My heartiest congratulations to all who are associated in making this documentary film of rich tradition.

I extend my thanks to the organizers for giving me this opportunity to release the documentary film.

Thank you.

Jai Hind.