

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
MANIPUR AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE MMS PIMUN 2019
ON 4TH OCTOBER, 2019 AT HOTEL CLASSIC GRANDE, IMPHAL

Ms. Nengcha Lhouvum, Former Diplomat,

Mr. Ajit Irom, Chairman, School Board of Trustees,

Principal and Teachers of Maria Montessori School,

Friends from Media,

All the Invitees,

My dear young students,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to see the assembly of young students here today on the occasion of the opening ceremony of Maria Montessori School, Model United Nations. I am also very happy to note that this Maria Montessori is emerging as a model school through such innovative extra-curricular activities and an excellent study centre among the private educational institutions of the State.

The Model United Nations Conference is a platform where the working of the United Nations is simulated and the students are urged to participate in debates while taking up leadership roles. It encourages the students in public speaking and motivates them to play the roles with the tact of diplomacy laced with political satire. Such an engagement continuously challenges the students to extensively use their thinking ability critically while also approaching the subject from different angles to analytically diagnose and plan to provide solutions to the crisis at hand. Several educators have recommended role-play simulations as one of the best methods of experiential learning. It helps students understand the nitty-gritty of working on projects in a real world scenario and encourages them to think, be creative and use communication skills to collaborate.

As you are well aware, people of different communities and of different religions have been living together in the State of Manipur since time immemorial. If we adopt the philosophy of tolerance, then each one can go his way, adopt his views and make his contribution in building of the State as well as the country. Young students need to inculcate this idea in their minds from an early age. Keeping this in view, I would like to advise all the students to learn to respect others not only their life and property but their intangible possessions, their good name and reputation also while at your respective institutions. Whatever line of work you undertake you should bring to it an honest, disciplined mind. You will then succeed and have the joy of your work. Ultimately, you can become good citizens of the State and country.

On the other hand, it is also a fact that education for the students in Manipur is disturbed now and then due to bandhs, blockades, strikes and other law and order issues. It should be of serious concern to all of us and we should allow our students to study in a peaceful academic atmosphere so that they may do well in their examinations. If we fail now, our future will also be affected. Therefore, I appeal to all concerned not to disturb education under any circumstances considering the profound importance of education in the civilizational development of a Nation. I am happy that things are now looking up as the overall law and order situation in the State is getting better.

The young boys and girls of the State are very talented and they excel in different fields especially in the fields of sports and cultural activities. They are blessed with hidden and innate talents. They possess a rare quality of adaptation and requisite temperament. It is due to this unique blend of character in our youth that they have been able to bring many prestigious laurels in various disciplines at the national and international sports arena. We are proud of them. I hope that with the initiative and support of the Government and also with the appreciation and encouragement by the people

of Manipur, our boys and girls will continue to bring further laurels for the State and the Nation in whatever field of activity they choose.

The Maria Montessori School, Imphal started with a few students of lower classes at a place called Moirangkhom nearly two decades back. It is a matter of great satisfaction that now, in a short span of period, the School has miraculously developed having classes from Pre-Nursery to Class - XII and also affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education. Congratulations to School Management Authorities for the selfless task you have accomplished for the welfare of the people of Manipur in general and the students community in particular. Organizing an activity as the United Nations Model Conference is a big inspiration to the students and adds another feather to the cap of the school.

Efforts of the institution for organizing the UN Model Conference deserve appreciation and I am confident that such educational simulation will definitely help groom the participating students into citizens of the world. While extending my thanks to the organizers for inviting me to this function, I wish my dear young students every success in their future endeavours.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.