

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE SHIJA ANNUAL MEET-2017 AT SHIJA HOSPITALS, LANGOL, IMPHAL ON 14TH JANUARY, 2017

Prof. Amar Yumnam, HOD, Economics Department, Manipur University,
Dr. Kh. Palin, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Shija Hospitals,
Doctors, Nurses and Staff of Shija Hospitals,
Friends from Media,
Distinguished Invitees,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am indeed delighted to be with you all here this morning on the occasion of the Annual Day of this premier private hospital in the state. My heartiest greetings to you all on this important event and I am very happy to know that for this Annual Day celebration, the Shija Hospitals has chosen the theme – “Seeking Within”, which is quite appropriate at this present juncture when man has become so materialistic.

Health has always been a priority anywhere in the world. If we go back to history, powerful were those communities, tribes who had able bodied fighters to meet the challenges. In the present world also, health is an essential index to measure the development of a country. It is often said that health is wealth and no country can afford to call itself a welfare state, if its citizens are sickly and weaklings. Every country is investing huge funds to keep health care services to its citizens optimal. Soon after I took over the gubernatorial assignment of Manipur, I started taking interest early in the health care system of the state. I realised the challenges for reaching proper medical care to the remote areas and hilly districts due to poor transport connectivity. Thereafter, I shared the concept of ‘Flying Doctor’ with the Health Ministry, Government of India to consider for implementation in the state.

The Annual Day of an establishment is always an occasion for celebration and introspection. It also provides an opportunity to all concerned to be together, exchange ideas, reflect on the activities of the past and discuss the prospects and challenges for the future. It is admirable how the Shija Hospitals and Research Institute became a pioneer Private Health Care Centre from a very humble beginning. Shija Hospitals began its chequered journey as a Consultation Chamber with minor operation facility attached to a Pharmacy at Paona Bazar, Imphal in June 1985 for providing basic health care. Later, shifted to RIMS road in a building with only 9 (nine) beds in October 1988. Since then, it has grown into a very successful hospital that it is today bringing highly needed medical technology and knowhow to the region.

Shija Hospitals is now providing secondary and tertiary healthcare to the people of Manipur and its neighbouring states and countries including Myanmar. It is also very encouraging to know that Shija Institute of Renal Sciences, a Unit of the Shija Hospitals, Langol has successfully performed the first kidney transplantation surgery in the state. Congratulations to the medical team who conducted the operation successfully which is only second state in the NE region to do so. There are a few other firsts that the hospital has added to its cap. The Shija Blood Bank & Transfusion Services is equipped with Nucleic Acid Test facility to screen HIV, Hepatitis B and C virus which is the first installation in the entire eastern India. It has also conducted the first corneal transplant surgery in Manipur performed at Shija Eye Care Foundation. My congratulations to Dr. Palin, Chairman-cum-Managing Director on his selection as one of the 25 Healthcare Influences of India by Health Care Executive magazine, a monthly publication by Hosmac and as one among the 25 living Legends of Indian Health Care by Medgate To Day.

You would be aware of the saying that Doctors are next to God. I also wanted to be a medical Doctor but I was under aged to get an admission in the medical college. Nevertheless, I am happy to inform you that three of my family members are medical Doctors. My eldest daughter is Head of Paediatrics, Endocrinology Department at Albert Einstein Institute, New York. Her husband is a Pathologist in the same Institute and my other son-in-law has done two boards and specialization in Neurology and Geriatrics from US and has developed and patented a medicine Ausanil for migraine and cluster headache which is available on the counter and has no side effect as it is neither oral nor injectable. I would like to mention here that with my scientific background and research on heart, I have taken up burning health issues like HIV/AIDS. I did a study on it and have written a handbook on do's and don'ts to prevent spread of HIV/AIDS. I have also written a book on prevention of the spread of the disease. Further, I arranged conferences and seminars for Parliamentarians to sensitise them about the seriousness of AIDS as early as in the eighties after Rock Hudson declared that he had AIDS.

In addition to the clinical side, Shija Hospitals and Research Institute has taken up academic side also which is quite praiseworthy. The Shija Academy of Nursing is one of the leading Nursing Institutes in the state. The Hospitals also trains paramedics and is recognized for Post-graduate DNB courses in General Surgery, Anaesthesia, Medicine and Plastic Surgery.

It is also a matter of great satisfaction that under a rare gesture of Shija Overseas Training Programme, the Institute in collaboration with Association of Minimal Access Surgeons of India (AMASI) took up the initiative of providing free training to Surgeons and Nurses from Myanmar General Hospital, Myanmar. Shija Hospitals and Research Institute (SHRI) also started the venture of Mission Myanmar in May 2013 with a firm belief to bring the two nations together. So far, three successful missions were

ventured in continuation of its service wherein 134 cleft lip and palate, 179 cataract blindness and 32 key hole surgeries were performed free of cost. Certainly, the Shija hospitals deserves appreciation by all for such initiatives.

I am hopeful that all concerned in the Institute, will put in their best to make Shija Hospitals and Research Institute one of the most excellent centres for medical education, research, health and medicare in the health services sector in the country.

I thank the organizers for inviting me to this function.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.