

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, THE HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF 13TH GOVERNOR'S TAEKWONDO CUP, MANIPUR, 2017 AT INDOOR STADIUM, KHUMAN LAMPAK SPORTS COMPLEX, IMPHAL ON 4TH MAY, 2017

Shri Yumnam Khemchand Singh ji, Hon'ble Speaker, Manipur Legislative Assembly,

Shri Letpao Haokip ji, Hon'ble Minister, Youth Affairs & Sports and IFCD,

Distinguished Invitees,

Friends from Media,

All the participating players,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very happy to be with you all here today on the occasion of the opening function of the 13th Governor's Taekwondo Cup, Manipur, 2017, organized by the All Manipur Taekwondo Association.

As you all are well aware, Taekwondo is now a well established sports discipline. It has gained worldwide popularity and acceptance in a short time. Taekwondo is a Korean martial art and it means, the way of the foot and the fist. It is an old form of self-defense using only your bare hands and feet. No weapons are ever used in Taekwondo. It is similar to Karate using many jumps and kicks. Over the past 50 years, more than 40 million people in 142 countries have taken to Taekwondo.

Taekwondo is now an official Olympic event and was introduced at the Sydney Australia Olympic Games in the year 2000. I am glad to recall that the first person to win an Olympic Gold Medal in the Taekwondo heavy weight division was a woman, Arlene Limas from the United States. Taekwondo is much more than sports. It teaches discipline and inculcates respect towards our elders. Taekwondo also helps us to concentrate and become more self confident and self-reliant.

Some of you may be familiar with the name Chuck Norris. He is one of the most famous masters of Taekwondo and is a television and movie star. In 1996, Chuck Norris was awarded an 8th degree Black Belt which is the highest level in Taekwondo. Like in other disciplines of sports, the youths of Manipur have performed exceptionally well in Taekwondo too. There are few challengers of the Manipuri boys and girls in the country as far as the game is concerned. Our boys and girls have brought numerous laurels and they have done the state and country proud.

I have been given to understand that Manipur has a rich heritage of martial arts traditions among its various ethnic communities. They constitute a significant component of the culture of the people. In other words, Manipuri martial arts like 'Thang-Ta' have been a characteristic attribute of the history and civilization of the state. Taekwondo is also becoming more and more popular in the State and the State has also produced many talented Taekwondo players. It will not be out of place to mention that Taekwondo demands very high moral character and discipline from all who are practicing them. This should always be kept in the mind that the knowledge of Taekwondo is dangerous if the high moral character and discipline are not maintained by its practitioners. In this discipline of sports, emphasis has always been given not only to the development of strength and skill but also to self-discipline and personal character of the practitioners. Respect for the opponents and human values are also treated as equally important by the Gurus of this sports.

The aim and object of sports and games, apart from bringing glory and laurels for the country, is primarily to instil the idea of discipline, orderliness, team spirit, qualities of leadership and patriotism to young and delicate minds, so that they may become an asset not only in their future life, but also for the country. It is my firm belief that if youths are properly associated with

games and sports, they will make use of their qualities of sportsmanship in their everyday life which will in turn make our Nation a vibrant one.

I hope that the organization of this Cup will certainly help in studying in detail its philosophy and also in finding out any requirements for further development of the art of Taekwondo. Efforts made by All Manipur Taekwondo Association in this regard deserve encouragement and support. I am confident that the Cup will help in popularizing and promoting Taekwondo in the state. I am also hopeful that the players will compete in the tournament in the true spirit of sportsmanship for fulfilling the lofty objectives of the game.

I feel happy to have this opportunity to open the 13th Governor's Taekwondo Cup, Manipur, 2017.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.