

**NINTH MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
(SECOND SESSION CUM BUDGET SESSION)**

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR SECOND SITTING ON WEDNESDAY, THE 21st FEBRUARY, 2024
(Time 10:30 A.M to 1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.)

OBITUARY

1. **PU LALDUHOMA**, hon. Chief Minister to make obituary reference on the demise of **Pu K. L. Lianchia**, Ex- Minister.

QUESTIONS

2. **Questions** entered in separate list to be asked and oral answers given.

LAYING OF PAPERS

3. **DR. VANLALTHLANA**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy of Notification issued under Mizoram Goods & Services Tax Act, 2017 w.e.f 16.8.2023 – 25.1.2024.
4. **PI LALRINPUII**, Minister to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the Annual Report of Mizoram State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MSCPCR) for the year 2022 – 2023.

DISCUSSION ON MOTION OF THANKS

5. Discussion on Motion of Thanks on the Address of the Governor

VANLALTHANTLINGI
Commissioner & Secretary

SPEAKER : *'You shall not be partial in judgment. You shall hear the small and the great alike. You shall not be intimidated by anyone, for the judgment is God's.'*

-Deuteronomy 1:17

Starting with our business for today, may I call upon the hon. Chief minister Pu Lalduhoma to observe an *Obituary* of Pu KL. Lianchia, Ex- Minister.

OBITUARY:

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, Pu K. L Lianchhia, an Ex-Minister died on the 14th January, 2024 at 12: 30 AM at his residence due to pneumonia. He was born on the Dt. 7th February, 1933 at Biate, born of Pu Thanseia Kawilam and Pi Hrangthluaii, he had four brothers and four sisters. Married to Pi Sangmawii on Dt. 19th January, 1955 they have two sons and three daughters, 15 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

He finished his Primary Education in 1944, his bachelor degree in 1965 from Pachhunga Memorial College and his B.Ed in 1977 from Mizoram Institute of Education (MIE), he also worked as a teacher in the following schools and also as a clerk in the District Council –

1. Biate Primary School in 1948
2. Clerk (LDA), Mizo District Council in 1962
3. Asst. Headmaster, Khawhai High School in 1965
4. Headmaster, Chhinga Veng Middle School in 1967
5. Headmaster at National High School, Phullen in 1980

He joined People's Conference (PC) in 1982 and was elected as a Legislative member from Lungpho Constituency in 1984 in the Fourth Mizoram Union Territory Legislative Assembly General Election and he was re-elected from Lungpho Constituency in 1987 in the First Mizoram State Legislative Assembly General Election. In 1998 he was again elected for the third time from Khawhai Constituency. He was appointed as a Cabinet Minister and served as a Minister of Health & Family Welfare Dept. and Sericulture Department and on the Dt 9th December, 1999 his ministerial reign came to an end and during his last years and days he dedicated his time to ZPM Party and also served as a member of Val – Upa Council. May his family be blessed with comfort and peace in their days ahead.

SPEAKER : Leader of opposition Pu Lalchhandama Ralte.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, OPP. LEADER: Pu Speaker, it is sad to observe the obituary of Pu K.L Lianchia, as mentioned by the hon. House Leader, who was the elected representative in the legislature for three terms. He was a smart man and highly intellectual. He was married to Pi Sangmawii for 69 years, they have 5 children, apart

from being an efficient legislator, he took care of his family as a father should. Hailing from Biate village, his elder brother's son Pu K.Lianzuala was also elected for two terms as a legislator. He and his family have contributed a greatly in shaping Mizoram.

He continues to pursue hi studies even after marriage and graduated in 1965. Apart from being a Trained graduate, he holds the post of a President at the Teacher's Association. He was a great supporter in opening wider windows and opportunities for the future generation. He instilled in his descendants the meaning of loyalty which he believes is a basic foundation to possess a strong character. He will be remembered for his contributions in the field of politics and as a loving husband and father. May God bless and be with his bereaving family.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu Vanlalhlana.

PU VANLALHLANA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker, Pu K.L Lianchia was from Kawilam clan and hail from Biate, after graduating he continue his Master's degree at Guwahati. He was a smart man and does not indulge himself in any kind of substance abuse and he was also vegetarian. He was a great orator, a man of good principles and dignity. During his time, he introduces 'State Illness Fund' but unfortunately, it was not continued.

He was also a leader among the youth of Mizo Union and he joined PC party in 1982, he was elected as a legislature for three terms and by the end of his times he joined ZPM party and was a great contributor for its establishment. Mizoram lost a great leader and may God bless and be with his remaining family. Thank you.

SPEAKER : We will now observe a minute of silence to mourn our deceased member.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

We will now move on to the question hour. Hon. Member Pu Lalchhandama Ralte, to ask *Starred Question No -1*.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, OPP. LEADER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the concern Minister of Social Welfare, Tribal Affairs, Women & Child Development Department be please to state –

- a) As notice published by Social Welfare Minister on Dt.14.12.2023, when did the government took the responsibility of transporting a deceased body to their villages?
- b) Is the expenditure reflected in the budget?

SPEAKER : The concern minister Pi Lalrinpuui may answer the questions?

PI LALRINPUII, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. The answer to the hon. Member questions is –

- a) The government is in the process of drafting rules regarding the transportation of a deceased body and will be laid as an agenda in the cabinet meeting.
- b) An amount of ₹1 crore is placed for budget proposals and for BE, an amount of ₹5 crores is allocated and submitted for approval.

SPEAKER : *Supplementary questions* may be asked by hon. Members.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, OPP. LEADER: Thank you. Pu Speaker. My *supplementary questions* are –

- i) How will the rate of hiring vehicles be charged and what kind of vehicles will be deployed?
- ii) Will it cover all the districts of Mizoram or Aizawl only? Will it include transportation of a deceased body from outside the state to Mizoram?

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu V.L Zaithanzama.

PU VL ZAITHANZAMA : Thank you, my question is for the concern Minister of Social Welfare - Are there any intentions to increase the amount of old age pension?

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, as mentioned before the election, are there any intentions to increase an Old Age Pension by ₹1000/- as foretold?

SPEAKER : The concern minister may answer the questions.

PI LALRINPUII, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. The answers to the hon. Members questions are – Hiring of vehicles will be charged in km-wise, and at the moment, deceased body will be carried to their homes but plans are not yet made regarding transportation of a deceased body from outside the state.

On the questions raised by Pu VL Zaithanzama and Pu Rintea, an amount of ₹1000/- will be added to an Old Age Pension under Social Welfare and funds for this purpose had also been added to the budget.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Dr. K. Beichhua to ask *Starred Question No.2*.

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Thank you Pu Speaker. Will the concern Minister of Horticulture Department be please to State –

The procedure to buy ginger from different districts? Is there a possibility to buy their ginger harvest in their respective village or districts?

SPEAKER : The concern minister may answer the question.

PROF. LALNILAWMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer to the hon. Member questions is –

The state government plans to buy ginger from different districts through society.

SPEAKER : Dr. K. Beichhua to ask *supplementary question*.

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. My *supplementary questions* are –

- i) Have ginger been purchased by the government?
- ii) What will be the purchasing rate and are there any limitations set regarding the amount to be purchased by the government? Will the government acquire all the harvest?

SPEAKER : Pi Baryl Vanneihsangi and Pu Robert Romawia to ask *supplementary question*.

PI BARYL VANNEIHSANGI: Pu Speaker, will the concern minister be please to state –

Do the sellers need to establish a new society or can they utilize the society already established? Can the established society be utilized for trading purpose of turmeric, chillies and other vegetables etc?

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker, will the concern Minister of Horticulture Department be please to state –

If the government fixes rate to acquire ginger and if plans are made regarding marketing of the acquired harvests?

SPEAKER : The concern minister may answer the questions.

PROF. LALNILAWMA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. The answer to the hon. Members questions is –

Gingers have not been acquired and regarding the rates, the government had fixed a rate of not lower than Rs 50/- per kgs and will be purchase as per an agreement between the society in their area and the farmers. Funds to acquire harvest will be allocated in the budget where we will determine the actual rate for purchasing and its process.

On the questions raised by Pi Baryl Vanneihsangi, studies will be conducted on the existing societies in different villages and will be use as a channel to acquire harvest if the societies established are reliable and new ones will be established in areas where

needed. As for other harvest, the government plans to make arrangements with the established society like they do with ginger harvest.

Regarding the question by Pu Robert Romawia, quotation will not be floated by the government and as mentioned earlier, arrangements will be made between Society and the farmers and if there are instances where purchase is open with rates lower than the fixed rate, the government will intervene in such situations. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalchhandama Ralte to ask *Starred Question No.3.*

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, OPP. LEADER: Pu Speaker, will the concern Minister of Soil & Water Conservation Department be please to state –

- a) If tax provision is being chalked out regarding the purchasing of broom with RR Associates?
- b) The rate to purchase dry broom and is the rate for green broom being fixed?
- c) If the rate to purchase green brooms are fixed, what is the reason?
- d) If the government is aware of the complications faced by broom planters? Thank you.

PU LALTHANSANGA, HON. MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. The answer to the hon. Members questions is –

- a) The government does not have an MoU with RR Associates but they simply agree to purchase brooms with rates not lower than the rate fixed by the government. Tax provision had not been made but Rs 1 will be given to EF&CC Department for administrative cost.
- b) The government plans to acquire Grade A broom for an amount of not less than Rs 100/- per kg and Grade B for not less than Rs 80/- per kg.
- c) Rates are not made for purchasing green brooms.
- d) The government is not aware of the complications faced by broom planters.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalchhandama Ralte to ask *Supplementary question.*

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, OPP. LEADER: Pu Speaker, I heard that dry brooms are purchased at a price lower than the fixed rate made by the government, so, will the government provide price support in such cases? Though it has been mentioned that MoU is no signed between RR Associates and the government, how much is the area covered by them in Mizoram. The hon. Chief minister, on the 15th February, 2024 mentioned in the House that, the ministry is unable to cover all areas during this selling season of dry broom, so planters have to find ways to sell brooms by themselves, Pu Speaker, I find this very inappropriate as planters are facing problems regarding the selling of dry brooms.

SPEAKER : Hon. Member Pu Rinsanga Ralte.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, will the concern Minister of Soil Department be please to state –

If studies had been conducted regarding the purchasing of dry brooms or does the government with RR Associates have other intentions? Is there a possibility to end the transit pass which is Rs 1 per 1 kg since the purchasing rate of brooms is very low?

It was said that RR Associates could not get employees. So, is Vairengte and its surroundings a remote area? Where do we measure the distances? In other years, Vairengte and its surroundings like Saipum, Saiphai and Vairengte range are the most abundant areas of brooms and it is a pity that we cannot find anything to buy today.

My other question is - It is a support price and the rate is so bad that we allocate `110 crore from SEDP fund for the purchase of crops. So, can the government purchase them for at least ₹30 -₹40 from that allocated fund since the rate is not yet fixed?

SPEAKER : I request Pu Malsawmtluanga.

PU V. MALSAWMTLUANGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. My Supplementary question is- When will the rate of purchase of fresh vegetables be implemented? Thank you.

SPEAKER : Supplementary question from Pu Muanpuia.

PU LALMUANPUIA PUNTE: Thank you, Pu Speaker. The old budget for the purchase of fresh vegetables was not taken serious by the MNF government and so, does the current government have to pay attention to that? We did not draw this budget and therefore, can we take measures from the accumulated `110 crore?

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister Pu Lalthansanga to answer the questions.

PU LALTHANSANGA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. The new government is preparing to purchase brooms. In response to our Opposition Leader, RR Associates is the only company we can contact to buy brooms since no one showed up. As a result, we made a mutual understanding with RR Associates. As per our agreement no.4, anybody can come and purchase the brooms if they wished to. The rate is divided into Grade A (Dry) - `100/- and Grade-B (wet) - `80/-. They have no experience in the field and there are some errors in the measures they took. So, as a government, we are also doing our utmost by looking for buyers at various places. Taj Company of Tlabung will be the buyer and Gala company is also entering Dampa, Mamit District. Thus, RR Associates is currently buying in the northern areas.

As mentioned earlier regarding support price, the Government is also willing to pay the support price. However, according to the Government rules, these items must be notified in the Government file. Therefore, it is impossible before these steps and this is our problem. This new government barely runs for 2 months and we are not yet fully settled. 2024-2025 will be used as a preparatory budget and we will attempt to purchase them in 2025-2026. Fixed rates and society will also be carried out as it should be and the co-operation minister is also taking steps to facilitate the Society registration. Thus, the purchase of brooms is currently being planned and carefully studied by our market study team. Old stock is abundant at Bagha and that is what got us into trouble today. Therefore, the Government is aware of all these issues and is taking all possible measures to overcome these problems.

In response to Serlui representative regarding support price, we have not been able to do so because it is not implemented according to the government's laws. We have done our best regarding the broom purchase and buyers are now emerging. RR Associates is currently based in Haryana where it exports bulk products to UP and its surrounding areas.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, Point of Clarification. Regarding the old stock at Bagha mentioned earlier, Serlui representative and I went there during the previous government and there was no old stock. The current issue is that, the government had fixed the rates and promised to purchase them. However, this did not happen and a dry broom that used to cost ₹120/kg cannot be bought even with ₹55. So, I was wondering if the fix rate is practical and so, would not it be better to go back to privatization?

PU LALTHANSANGA, MINISTER: The Government is only the facilitator and the Society will implement and arrange everything. The reason is that outside buyers will no longer fix the rate at their own will and the Government is preparing for a smooth implementation. Our reporters' opinion was that 'old stock is available'. Therefore, we would like to ask for your understanding in this regard during this transitional period and we will attempt to achieve all next year.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE: Pu Speaker, Point of Clarification. Had the SEDP program continued, there would be no humiliation. SEDP fund was allocated by the previous government which the Planning and Finance Departments had already approved and six thousand households were already selected for the beneficiaries. However, the fund was utilized by the new government to purchase brooms. We did not divert the SEDP fund for other purposes during the previous government and it proceeded as it is. Thank you, Pu Speaker. (**Pu R. Rohmingliana:** Pu Speaker, *Point of Clarification*)

SPEAKER : We will not be able to attend other questions if we keep on taking *point of clarification*.

PU LALTHANSANGA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. We do not know much about the SEDP fund. At the same time, the previous government retailers and SASCI funds were actually continued by us. SEDP teachers who were required to work till March as per the previous government are also still continuing and I would like to point out that we are kind enough. Pu Speaker, we have indicated the rates we have in the policy on the issue of brooms. As for now, we cannot proceed with this as it is against the government laws. We will always stand for the labourers and that is my answer. Thank you.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, according to my question, the Government declared a tax holiday and transit pass is charged ₹1/ kg even when the rate is bad. So, can you make exception and not charge the labourers ₹1/kg? We will soon see the sale of brooms.

PU LALTHANSANGA, MINISTER: We declared tax holiday but administrative cost is required for the issuance of this transit pass according to the Forest Act. The reason is that the Forest Department is a Concurrent List and is in uniform with the central. Therefore, the administrative cost of transit pass is reduced as much as possible. ₹7 was the amount charged before and therefore, the administrative cost of transit pass is reduced as much as possible.

SPEAKER : I request our Hon. House Leader.

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. We promised to buy four new crops and we announced the rate to the public. We do not include wet brooms and will never do. These are the things we have announced to implement in the new Financial Year. However, we saw the previous government's fund allocation for solicit votes and we decided to use them for buying 4 new crops. There is no need to worry about the other three new crops as there are buyers above our rate and we do not need to spend any amount. We plan to do the same for brooms and RR Associates wants to buy it at our rate. While we thought they would buy it, they could not proceed as expected since they do not have the manpower. They did not meet our expectations and thus, we face a problem. Therefore, we urge them to do the same as they did during the previous government. We have learned that we have to do it area-wise and we will do it better next year. Although we have the fund for support price and if given, some were already sold and there are no records of it and Society is not established everywhere. So, things are currently chaotic in order to provide. We received a word that old stock is available (**Dr. K. Beichhua:** Pu Speaker, the time is up and is it possible to continue without your permission?) Yes, time is running out and I am asking your permission.

SPEAKER : What does the House think of this?
Shall he continue?

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Thank you. The old stock is the problem for the government and in addition, there are also some people who paid advance for the brooms. There are also those who threaten the plain people who came to buy wet brooms and they do not dare to enter our state. These are also the things that add to our problems. We made royalties free and we also want to make transit pass free. However, you cannot cross beyond Vairengte without a transit pass. That is how we are taking measures and it will be organized area-wise from next year onwards.

LAYING OF PAPERS:

SPEAKER : We will proceed to *Laying of Papers* and I request Dr. Vanlalhlana, Hon' Minister to lay on the Table of the House "Notification issued under Mizoram Goods and Services Act 2017 w.e.f. 16.8.2023 – 25.1.2024".

DR. VANLALHLANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I hereby lay "Notification issued under Mizoram Goods and Services Act 2017 w.e.f. 16.8.2023 – 25.1.2024".

SPEAKER : Let the copies be distributed. I request Pi Lalrinpuii, Hon' Minister to lay on the Table of the House "The Annual Report of Mizoram State Commission of Protection of Child Rights 2022-2023".

PI LALRINPUII, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, with your permission and of the House, I hereby lay "The Annual Report of Mizoram State Commission for Protection of Child Rights MSC, PRC for the year 2022-2023 relating to Women and Child Development Department" Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let the copies be distributed.

DISCUSSION ON MOTION OF THANKS:

We will move to "*Discussion on Motion of Thanks*" and *Motion of Thanks* moved by Pi Baryl Vanneihsangi will be discussed. Each member will be given 5 minutes and a warning bell will ring after 4 minutes. The House leader and Leader of Opposition will be given more time. I now request Pi Baryl Vanneihsangi.

PI BARYL VANNEIHSANGI: Thank you, Pu Speaker. We have listened to the *Governor's Speech* in this House and we all have the copy with us. It is impressive that we have it in Mizo and English languages. I am also impressed with the Speech the more I read it. The people of Mizoram always hoped for a good and powerful government when a new government is formed and it seems that we will experience this in this new government. The Governor's opening remarks mentioned about the laid foundation of the new government that is, 'a strong, transparent and honest government, a government that takes responsibility/accountability and takes quick action to solve problem'. It seems that we will be establishing such a government and this is quite

impressive. However, it is also the responsibility of the members to achieve this foundation. In addition to improving the state's development, the Speech also highlighted India's 2047 target which also challenges us to become a large sector. It seemed that we are given jobs for the next 23 years. This challenge may seem big and difficult but I hope it will bring development for the people.

Pu Speaker, with your permission, on page 2 of the *Governor's Speech*, 'The purpose of the Budget is to make use of the resources available to us to achieve social and economic development objectives. Every budget should aim to create a favourable environment for development of self-employed workers, traders and other occupations, not just for some, but for the whole population. I believe that explained it very well and I believe that if we spend our budget in a fair and honest manner, it will bring great progress to the nation and the people. And for that, we must protect ourselves from corruption and fraud. Therefore, it is important that we use our budget carefully and increase it.

As seen on page 4, 2nd paragraph- 'Words are not enough and action is needed.' This is one of the best lines because verbal promises are practiced for a very long time and it is time to take practical actions. We have put forward the steps to be taken first like Fiscal stabilization and financial consolidation. The reason is that, if the foundation is not strong enough, the top can fall and collapse and it is very important that we have a strong foundation. From here on, the nature and structure of our economy will become more meaningful and will lead us to our goal. It also showed that we need to make extra effort on investment because it will help increase our economy. The Mizoram Sustainable Investment Policy, 2024 is a sign of the Government's commitment to take action in this regard and I am looking forward to it.

Agriculture is, as the Governor said, "one of the pillars of our livelihood and economic development and so, our government will give priority to the development of agriculture and related sectors". He also highlighted the approval of the Operational Guidelines for Agricultural Assurance Fund and the people are looking forward to this.

The issue of brooms was brought up and according to ZPM Market Study team page-25, brooms are harvested in February. So, thinking about the Budget session, the government believed that it will not be able to take measures and the government has not announced the implementation plan for December to January and February as advised by the study team. However, measures will be taken in the next budget session and the Government has a clear plan of action in this regard.

In addition to the above, it also presented projects under the road sector, including the use of road technology. We construct big buildings but the assets we have are not used properly and so, Mizoram State Project Monitoring Committee chaired by the CM has

been established to monitor this infrastructure since there are many old buildings that need to be repaired or repaired with government funds.

A proposal for the youths is seen here and we also see a proposal for educational initiatives. Pu Speaker, the most important thing for me personally is to preserve and promote Mizo culture, lifestyle and customs. There is no one else to protect our nation and it is important that we stick together with unity, understanding, love and cooperation. It is also impressive that the Government is taking more steps to involve our Zohnahthlak brothers and sisters living in other parts of the world. Therefore, it is very important that the people also support the Government to achieve these goals. May this new government receive many blessings and I wish the government to be a responsible and reliable government for the people who put their hopes in the government. I beg the hon. House to adopt this *Motion of Thanks* and thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : I request Pu VL. Zaithanzama.

PU VL. ZAITHANZAMA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I suggested that the *Governor's Speech* be translated into Mizo language during the 1st Session of the 9th Assembly and I am quite pleased that my suggestion is implemented. Budget Speeches were always held in English and I hope that we will continue to make progress in the preservation of Mizo language and culture.

Pu Speaker, I am pleased that the Government has implemented the budget for the development of the labourers and it is also pleasing that it has emphasized the efforts to form a people-government. It is also a great idea to declare 1 year for developing and improving our economy. It is also impressive that priorities are given to Agriculture and related development. The Council of Ministers meeting recognized the importance of Cooperative Societies and I hope that the Government's efforts for the development of farmers will lead to sustainable development.

I am pleased that Mizo culture, lifestyle and customs will be preserved and promoted and I am pleased that we have a government that values the unity of Mizo people living in various parts of the world. '*Bana kaih policy*' we have introduced is very exciting and the people are also looking forward to it. Mizoram State Project Monitoring Committee is also established to monitor important and large-scale developments and I hope it will help us in our future endeavours. It is also impressive that there is a new arrangement for electricity generation and distribution. I am also pleased that development will be carried out in an environmentally friendly manner and the Government's efforts to curb drug abuse are very welcome in particular.

The state's financial situation is affecting us all and difficult decisions may have to be made and I respect the Governor's request to be a loyal government that dares to take responsibility. That will be all and thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : I request Pu H. Ginzalala.

PU H. GINZALALA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I have read the *Governor's Speech* several times and it is quite pleasant. Page 2-paragraph 2 is quite comforting and it said that the budget will include employment opportunities for the youth and labourers. In the previous governments, we have had many schemes like MIP, SEDP, NLUP etc but the way we will be approaching will be different this time because we will provide the skills ensuring long term benefits rather than a one-time aid. This speech is very interesting and it shows how the smallest to the biggest can have activities in our economic activities. China's small businesses can contribute 60% of GDP and similarly, in terms of employment, small businesses can account for 79%.

The Mizoram Sustainable Investment Policy, 2024 was also recently approved by the Cabinet but we must be careful and make plans for our local entrepreneurs even if we are going to attract foreign investment. The *Governor's Speech* on the protection of local entrepreneurs is very encouraging.

Steps will be taken on Power generation and inland-water transport will be available in large quantities if a dam can be made at Tuivai. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : I request Pu Rasik Mohan Chakma.

PU RASIK MOHAN CHAKMA: Pu Speaker, I do not see anything wrong with the *Governor's Speech* and I am quite pleased with it. I also pray that the government will have the strength and wisdom to accomplish these things with strong political will. Anyway, I would like to point out a few things that I am concerned about. Regarding investment, Mizoram does not have large companies and it is difficult to generate employment. Pu Speaker, I personally believe that we should conduct our company investment from outside while looking at the interests of indigenous entrepreneurs and locals so that we will generate a lot of employment and we will be able to export not only raw-materials but also goods from Mizoram. All states, including Sikkim produce their own goods and sell to other states while I believe Mizoram has nothing to offer.

Pu Speaker, road infrastructure is built but it is often abandoned and we are bad at maintenance culture. This also leads to high expenditure since it often needs repairing. While preserving Mizoram identity is a good thing, we also have minority cultures like Chakma, Mara and Lai and I expect that minorities would also be favoured by preserving their traditions and cultures. At the same time, he House Leader himself said that District Councils will be managed properly and direct funding will be done. So, it would be appreciated if it is highlighted in the Speech. Thank you.

SPEAKER : I request Pu W. Chhuanawma.

PU W. CHHUANAWMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. I am pleased that transportation roads will be given priority according to this Speech. ₹100 lakh was allocated for Vanva Lui and Lungva Lui bridges during the previous government but it was said that these ₹100 lakhs disappeared. However, Vanva Lui bridge was built last year after the Model Code of Conduct came into force and is expected to be completed within this month. The other Lungva bridge will have to be repaired and it would be appreciated if the Government take measures.

Regarding Tourism, the eastern side is the place where the remains of our ancestors are abundant and Khawhai still has a place where heads used to be beheaded by head-hunters. So, it will be quite interesting to build a historical village here since the last time a head was taken was around the year 1892. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : I request Pu Clement Lalhmingthanga.

LT. COL. CLEMENT LALHMINGTHANGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. One of the most interesting speeches of the Governor is - Viksit Bharat, 2047 which means 'Developed India, 2047. It represents the government of India's ambitious vision to transform the nation into a developed entity by the century of its independence in 2047. So, I am pleased that the Government will do its utmost to promote agriculture, industry and youth entrepreneurship in order to achieve this. At the same time, the state is in debt with little revenue source and our expenditure is increasing. Post-devolution revenue deficit grants received from the central government are also decreasing since the funds we borrowed are increasing. However, the Governor's statement that investment will be made to solve these problems is very comforting. Therefore, I like the fact that the Government will take bold steps to endure the economic policy implementation for the benefit and welfare of the future. So, we must create "ease of doing business" so that the government can attract more and better investors to improve our economy. Mizoram Sustainable Investment Policy, 2024 approved by the Council of Ministers is also quite encouraging. It is also impressive that National Education Policy, 2020 will be implemented in accordance to our culture and customs.

Tourism is the only main source of income for the state and that is why tourism should be promoted. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : I request Pu Rohminga followed by Pu Papuia.

PU R. ROHMINGLIANA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Firstly, I would like to read out this brief introduction with your permission- "Our Government is committed to being a strong, transparent and honest Government that will take quick action to solve problems and take responsibility". I really appreciate these lines and I would like all the Ministers to take this in heart as well. Secondly, it highlighted the need for meaningful spending and the need for at least a year to improve the financial situation. It also

pointed out that action is needed in practice and not just words. It is also impressive that the Government is committed to earning as much as possible with cautionary measures. However, the government authorities should be clear on how we implement it.

In the recent two months of the government, we have had various comparisons. During the previous MNF Party government, the expenditure on government offices and posts was ₹338 crore during 1 year and ₹1,123 crore is expected to be spent by the current government within these two months. Comparing the previous government and this current government, ₹784 crore is likely to be spent more by the current government. Therefore, I am afraid that we will not be able to economize our funds.

On the other point, Pu Speaker, I would like to read this briefly with your permission- 'I truly believe that The Mizoram Sustainable Investment Policy, 2024, approved by the Council of Ministers on February 5, 2024, is an important initiative to attract investment in various sectors of the economy' and I truly want this to come true. 'Society' includes Primary Societies, State Level Societies and many other societies and 'Society' is not clarified here. Primary Level Societies will not have the funds and how will the state provide it?

Pu Speaker, it is impressive that there will be a balanced plan for both rural and urban areas. It is not right that the MLAs received the same amount for Local Area Development fund and so, GPC should also think about this carefully. If ₹150 lakh is to be provided for Aizawl constituency, then the village constituencies should be given ₹700-900 lakhs so that development can move forward equally. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : I request Pu Papuaia.

PU LALRAMLIANA PAPUIA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. It is impressive that the Government had announced that it will not disappoint the hopes of the people. The Speech also mentions that it understands our financial situation but we also need to take measures to improve it. The *Governor's Speech* is great, pleasant and it covers a wide scope. It sees that Mizoram is dependent on agriculture and that is why Agriculture and related sectors will be given priority. It is also impressive that the purchase of their products will be managed through State Level Agency. I am also pleased that it announced plans to work together with the Central Government in the field of development.

Regarding road sector, it mentioned that projects will be improved and prioritized and these road projects will be implemented using modern technology and innovations.

I am pleased that eco-tourism and rural tourism are mentioned here because Lunglei South constituency is a small rural area with many tourist attractions. Sairep Tlang

should also be developed as a good place for eco-tourism since the location is convenient and pleasant, and it will also bring employment opportunities to the poor.

As mentioned earlier, this Speech is very comprehensive. It also mentions the Drugs-related problems and how they should be treated and how efforts should be made to eradicate this crime in the community. It is also impressive that it will take measures to ensure that all Mizo people who reside inside and outside the country to live together in harmony under the Constitution of India. Therefore, I am pleased that this speech also covers the socio-economic and political issues that we need for the development of our nation and so, I support this Motion to be adopted. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : I request Pu H. Lalzirliana.

PU H. LALZIRLIANA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. The line “...My government shall make every effort to be true to the mandate” is quite important and it ensures that the government will fulfil the expectations of those who elected them. The line ‘I know that mere words are not enough’ written on page 3 is also quite impressive. On page 4, it reads “...Boost the overall socio-economic growth of the states” and the line “Priority on welfare programs and services to the weaker and vulnerable weaker section of society” is also quite impressive. The Mizoram Sustainable Investment Policy, 2024 is approved and I am pleased that businessman, entrepreneurs, companies, private and PSUs from abroad will be doing business in this state. Whether we are talking about business or marketing, we need to do a more reality check and deep study. Today, the people are expecting a new and better system and I wish and hope that this government will fulfil the expectations of the people.

I approve this Speech and I support it to be adopted. Thank you.

SPEAKER : I request Pu Jeje Lalpekhlua.

PU JEJE LALPEKHLUA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I am quite impressed with the *Governor’s Speech* and with your permission, I would like to read what is written on page 2. “Our priority should not be whether today’s announcement will make tomorrow’s newspaper headline. It is more important whether it will bring better changes in Mizoram in the coming years.” This is our state and no other country or state will fix it for us and we are the only hope for a betterment.

One of the most important criteria of a developed country is a good transportation road and it is impressive that the Speech highlighted the importance of having good roads. My constituency includes South Tuipui and NHIDCL is currently working on the road to Aizawl. The road between Keitum and Serchhip is quite dusty and it would be impressive if expedite measures are taken on these roads. It is also pleasing to know that

developments will move forward equally in the rural and urban areas. It is also impressive that priority will be given on Entrepreneurship and self-employment for the youth.

We have a lot of tourist attractions but we do not exhibit enough to attract foreigners. So, I am pleased that measures will be taken to accomplish this. South Lungleng has a beautiful place and it is impressive that the concern minister will be taking measures. Purun Tlang, which is the second highest mountain in Mizoram will also attract more tourists if it is renovated and decorated.

Finally, I am pleased that measures will be taken on drug related problems and I would also like to urge the people to support the Government's efforts in the fight against drugs. National unity is also mentioned and I am pleased that measures will be taken to unify all the Mizo people around the world. Thank you and I support this Motion of Thanks.

SPEAKER : I request Pu K. Laldawngliana.

PU K. LALDAWNGLIANA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. Our *Governor's Speech* is quite interesting and I am quite impressed with the introduction- "Our Government is committed to being a strong, transparent and honest Government that will take quick action to solve problems and take responsibility". In order to achieve the Developed India, 2047 plan, we must contribute with all our abilities, skills and enthusiasm within the next five years. It is very important that we pass our budget so that it can be implemented for the people. We are all aware of our financial situation and it is not necessary to point fingers at one another. Instead, it is important that we work together to solve the problem. It is very important for the government employees and citizens to learn to be economical as well and it is very important that the public, the government employees, as well as us legislators, work together as much as possible in order to have a stable finance.

Every government gave priority to Agriculture but the success rate is always low. So, State Level Agencies should be used effectively not for party interests but for selecting and monitoring those who can implement them. I support this Motion of Thanks. Thank you.

SPEAKER : I request Pu B. Lalchhanzova.

PU B. LALCHHANZOVA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I am pleased to be able to discuss this Motion of Thanks and I would like to talk about 'ease of doing Business' mentioned on page-4 as it is important for the public as well. The Mizoram Sustainable Investment Policy, 2024 was approved by the Cabinet on 5th February, 2024 and 'Ease of Doing Business' is a topic that I have been thinking about for a long time. The Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India announced 10 states that achieved Ease of Doing Business and the states are- Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Telangana, Haryana, Karnataka, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and

Maharashtra. Looking at these states, they always resolved land disputes quickly and Micro, Small and Medium size Enterprises (MSMEs) are always doing well. Quickest sanction approval is a matter that is resolved by their government. Their government works hard to ensure that businesses are running smoothly in the state (Forward Thinking Business) In addition, registration and contacts for businesses are done in one place (Single windows clearance for various sector) Their govt. has excellent land banks for those who wants to run industry or other livelihood and so, lands can be used for these purposes (Land Bank with Land Booking Capacity). These are all under 'Ease of Doing Business' and 'Mizoram State Sustainable Investment Policy'.

Pu Speaker, I have been thinking about who the poor will ask help when they want to run a business. So, I hope this Speech will be a solution for those who are suffering in this regard.

I believe this will help to solve the issue. Rather than being a burden, the government should act as a mentor and a guide.

Pu Speaker, let me read about the various important sectors under Mizoram's Sustainable Investment Policy. Industrial Infrastructure Maintenance Fund (IIMF), Agri & Horti, Food Processing, Bamboo, Education & Skills, Handloom & Handicraft, Information Technology, Music & Entertainment, Nursing & Hospitality, Power and Renewable Energy, Ropeway, Sport, Textile, Garment, Tourism, Transport and Logistic Hubs etc. I am glad to hear the Governor pointed out all those, so I support this Motion. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu T. Lalhlimpuia.

PU T. LALHLIMPUIA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Let me mention only the important points.

Pu Speaker with your permission, we find that on page - 4, the environment must be developed from the micro-economic level and the different sectors of the economy must be driven to attain full development. It also talks about the importance of budget allocation, fiscal prudence, budget financing, and spending and we should question, whether these are sustainable enough for the economy of our state. Besides, are we doing enough justice for health infrastructure?

The CM laid the budget on 13th February. We observed that there was a huge difference between the estimated budget and the actual budget. I hope it is narrowed down a bit this time.

Other than departments such as Police, UD & PA, PHE, and Electricity, the estimated and actual budgets differ less with a variance of less than 10%. I am glad that this government will prevent further damage and responsibility for that.

We need to consider whether building playgrounds or agricultural connection roads is a better idea.

I have asked the road construction in charge of Lunglei-Thenzawl Road. As my time is almost over, let me express how glad I am now that the ZPM government is going to present a research-based budget. It was considerate of the Governor to notice this and I am in favour of the speech. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Now that the morning session has ended, we shall take a break and continue in the afternoon.

Recess (1:05 P.M.)

2:00 P.M.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalnghinglova Hmar, Minister.

PU LALNGHINGLOVA HMAR, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. It's my first time to be a part of the Budget Session and I thank God and the people of Aizawl West-II for placing me in this position.

A change in the pattern of the questions and answers has been observed. Pu Speaker, with your permission, let me read the point that says, "Agriculture and its allied sectors shall be given the most importance". The Council of Ministers meeting on 5th February 2024 passed the '*Operation Guideline for Agriculture Assurance Fund*' which will concentrate on purchasing turmeric, chilli, ginger and broomsticks.

In the meantime, the decreasing rate of our Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant and the low rate of revenue from taxes have been mentioned. We must work towards improving GST. The Governor also mentioned that not many investments came from the private sector. To work towards that, the Council of Ministers meeting on 5th February 2024 passed the '*Mizoram Sustainable Investment Policy, 2024*'. Pu Lalchhanzova also mentioned 10 points for the attraction of investments. Agriculture & Horticulture, Food Processing, Bamboo, Education & Skills will be the focus areas. Our hon. member, Prof. Lalnilawma also went around to study the utilisation of the bamboos we have in Mizoram.

Pu Speaker, I am also glad to hear the importance of road sector projects. Hon. member Pu RM Chakma also spoke about the importance of having a maintenance culture. PWD Minister, Pu Vanlalhlana also spoke about the same and said, "... I shall work diligently without corruption".

I have also noticed that our Governor spoke about the protection of the environment in the phase of climate change and global warming. We must think of a two-way approach

between infrastructure development and caring for the environment. I express my thanks and gratitude.

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, Pu F. Rodingliana.

PU F. RODINGLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you.

First, I thank God, the people of our constituency and all those who prayed for me for putting me in this place today.

The ‘Mizoram Investment Policy’ which is now replaced by the ‘Sustainable Development’ is a great initiative since the past initiatives have witnessed unsustainable developments. Pu Speaker, other than that, let me mention that during the G20 Summit, delegates from other embassies told us that even though our hospitality was up to the mark, we did not introduce them to any policies and that area must be improved.

I would also like to speak on sufficiency in power generation since we opted to maintain the rates of the bill. With the initiative of the Chief Minister, we have met countless investors but we were not able to take in all of them. It is seen that other governments also trust our Chief Minister. Compared to the times when we witnessed project failure, I think these initiatives will be successful.

Pu Speaker, maintenance fund for infrastructure projects needs to be taken seriously and it specifically mentions ‘Mizoram State Project Monitoring Committee’. The benefits and drawbacks for the state, as well as whether our efforts are just intended for financial gain, must be carefully evaluated. This must keep going and it would be a blessing for the state and the coming generations. It gives me immense pleasure that there is a consensus on the Governor’s speech.

The race in politics has ended and we were the first to arrive. I am glad to notice that we come together for this state. With that being said, Pu Speaker, thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. member, Pu K. Beichhua.

DR. K. BEICHHUA : Pu Speaker, thank you.

The Governor’s speech is one of the greatest in the last ten years. As he presented everything in the future tense, I pray we accomplish that in reality. It clearly talks about the objectives of the budget. Our priority must not be about tomorrow’s headlines, rather we must care about whether this budget would provide a positive change in the coming years.

It also talks about the decreasing post-devolution deficit grant and the insufficient investments from private sectors which are true to an extent. I frequently wonder if our

social life is expanding far more quickly than our economy and if the previous administration is to blame for this. We must make a tough and brave decision as seen in the speech. It compares the restoring of the state economy to curing with medicine, but as for me, I believe we need a ‘major operation’ in this case.

It is true that “...the growth of economy and investment are directly linked to each other vis-à-vis”. We must keep in mind what we can do for this state. If more attention could be paid to agriculture, AH & Vety, horticulture, and fisheries, it could benefit the village people. The ‘*Hand-holding policy*’ in this case is a great initiative. Good policies won’t do any justice if people are not prepared to work for them. It is time to get out of playing politics lethargically, chasing benefits and popularity. We must dare to lose in this politics. It is appreciated that the government gives importance to connectivity and we have high expectations.

We all aim for better electricity generation but over the years, we keep beating around the bush and are unable to reach greater heights. Why can’t we concentrate on the Chhimtuipui (Kaladan) which can provide 46 megawatts? Let’s keep in mind about that place.

The National Education Policy 2020 will bridge the gap between the poor and the rich. The government must take quick action to fulfil the provisions.

Regarding substance abuse, the kind of abusers that we used to see in the USA have become a common sight here now. So, the government, NGOs and Church must take this matter seriously and save the lives of our youths.

Our Governor mentions that we must be brave enough to make tough decisions to revive the economy and I support the Motion. Pu Speaker, thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. member, Pi Prova Chakma.

PI PROVA CHAKMA : Pu Speaker, thank you.

From the Governor’s speech, the point on Agriculture was noticeable for me as our constituency, 35- West Tuipui is a potential area for agriculture. Our state GDP in this is 26% and I believe our constituency is also a part of this.

The burning issue right now is ‘broom’. December to January is broom season. Our people were glad to hear when the government announced a rate of ₹100 per broom. Under the previous government, there used to be a considerable amount of revenue generated from the sale of brooms, sometimes ₹130 per broomstick. However, under the current government, sometimes the price is ₹100 and ₹75 and people at times do not have any place to sell their broomsticks. If our expectations are at this point, it might be hard to trust the government in the next term.

Second, road construction is important since our constituency has one of the toughest roads. From the speech, we can see that road connectivity is one of the topmost priorities of the government and we are glad about that.

Regarding eco-tourism, we see that our Governor talks about how a focus would be given to rural tourism. It is a way to attract tourists and earn revenue. We have such spots in our constituency- Tlabung, where Missionaries first stepped their feet, the first Post Office at Tlabung and others. I believe these are included in the tourism project. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. member, Pu Lalchhuanthanga.

PU LALCHHUANTHANGA: Pu Speaker, thank you.

I believe that we all agree with the Governor's speech. Before the elections, one Finance officer told me, "As much as you wish to form a government, the burden is too much due to our poor financial condition". The loans taken from the central government through the RBI and other financial institutions are a lot. Besides these, multiple debts like contractor bills, supplier bills, pensions, electric bills, healthcare bills etc are a lot and that is why the Governor specifically mentions the importance of austerity measures. It includes things like reducing the facilities of MLAs and various possible ways to promote austerity measures.

The New Education Policy of 2020 will serve as a helpful tool for the youths and I am glad to learn that focus also would be put towards vocational education. Researchers from Oxford University mention that in the next ten years, 30% of jobs will be something new to us. So, we might need to shift our education policy a bit.

The 'Hand-holding policy' would promote skill development, entrepreneurship, self-employment, incentive and capacity-building programmes. Mizoram itself has great potential towards achieving self-sufficiency and economic development.

Lastly, as most of us focus on road construction; I believe our PWD Minister is enthusiastic about this. It is wrong that the Chief Minister took the charge of the PWD in other terms. I support the Governor's speech.

SPEAKER : Hon. member, Pu TBC Lalvenchhunga.

PU TBC LALVENCHHUNGA: Pu Speaker, as we discussed the Motion, I realized that words must be followed immediately by actions. I also heard the importance of bravery multiple times.

When I heard the Governor mention the importance of economic policies, I thought, that although it might be hard for a moment, it would provide a fruitful outcome. I am also glad to learn that the government aims to achieve self-sufficiency and announces the 'Year of Consolidation'. As the Chief Minister said in his speech at AR Ground, more than 1000 lakhs will be spent this year on debts. We learned from the speech that we must carefully reevaluate our expenditures.

Pu Speaker, the last part mentioned that spending money for the sake of pleasing others is where we are lagging. Economic and Social Service Sectors have declined over the years. Now that 40% will be reserved for socio-economic development, it will be reflected in the new budget.

However, to increase capital expenditure, we must start borrowing again, but it shall be done with careful consideration. Pu Speaker, with your permission, let me read this line, "...but with every challenge, there is always an opportunity to re-think, to re-assess and make for new ideas and policies". I therefore support the Motion. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. member, Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, thank you.

I agree with what the Governor said about his determination to have a transparent, willing and trustworthy government. I believe our current problems such as border fencing, FMR, production and supply of essential food items and brooms etc will be resolved.

It is great to hear that with the decreasing post-devolution revenue scheme and investments from private sectors, there is always a way to tackle these challenges. I wish the very best to the new government. I also agree that focus must be given to fiscal consolidations. I believe that the new government would not increase water bills, electric bills and other things that could burden the people.

I also agree that focus should be given to entrepreneurship and self-employment for the youths. I was expecting to hear that the government would be a guarantor for the unemployed youths with a lesser interest since they already mentioned that the Mizoram Development Bank would be established. It would be beneficial for the youths of our state.

Pu Speaker, let me read this line with your permission, "Should we remain the same as before? Should we spend to please the people? The solution is clear to me". Sometimes I wonder if we are following the same pattern which we used to criticise before. There were 2 Advisors to CM before, now we have 5. There was one OSD employed with ₹1 as remuneration, I think we have 2 now. I also heard that the Vice Chairman of Committees are now given separate offices and will the Committee Secretaries be provided the same? While our MLAs are qualified to be Board members of ZIDCO,

MIFCO, KVI, ZOHANDCO, MYC etc, we appoint others and I think it's contrary to the statement given by the Governor regarding refraining from spending money to please others. I accept that the work laid before us will be a tough job. I will continue hoping for a government that promotes austerity measures and is brave enough to take up challenges. Therefore, I support the Governor's speech.

SPEAKER : Hon. member, Pu C. Ngunlianchunga.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHUNGA: Pu Speaker, thank you.

My question is if we can live up to all the expectations after hearing such a great speech. It is evident that there are hopes and expectations from the people. I also agree with what was said about the importance of putting words into action. Careful consideration must be given to matters related to the state and that was what we used to do during our times as well. The government belongs to the people, and we are the people. I believe the government has this mindset.

Page-8 mentions, "The Mizoram State Project Monitoring Committee has been set up on 22.2.2024 under the leadership of the Chief Minister". We needed this. I used to tell the people of our constituency that there has been sports infrastructure development from the PMGVK which is not necessary at all. Big buildings have been constructed without any residents, the same goes for the Polytechnic building which has been uninhabited today. Soil has been dumped whenever possible at the NH-54 construction between Zemabawk to Tuipang. When I asked them the role of the PWD in that initiative, I was told that they had none. If people are working here, they must adhere to the requirements of our state. These are instances which should make us realise the importance of a Monitoring Committee. We must pay attention to developmental works. Next, I asked about the generation of power and electricity and the wires and I believe our Power Minister would provide an answer later. There are power cuts whenever it rains in Lunglei; we need to resolve that problem soon.

Lastly, it brings me joy to know that we are striving towards development. Pg-9 mentions that any developments that harm the environment are not sustainable enough, so, we must refrain from that. From my recent visit to one village, I saw that trees were cut down only for cultivating gingers. If that continues, the 'hand-holding policy' won't do justice. If deforestation continues, progress might be at a halt and I am afraid we won't see any productive results. I am glad that we have the Project Monitoring Committee and I hope we cooperate well with them. Pu Speaker, thank you for giving me extra time.

SPEAKER : Hon. member, Pu Muanpuia.

PU LALMUANPUIA PUNTE: Pu Speaker, thank you.

I appreciate the Governor's speech yesterday. Most of them were based on agriculture and it would be useful for tourism. Provision and import of raw materials is still a problem to set up big industries. So, it is vital to increase agricultural products.

Generally, our soil is fit enough for any crops. The Sailo Chiefs in the past occupied various lands for about 400 years, Crops were cleared, and weeding was done and burnt, but still, many areas were left uncultivated. We have been gifted with such a good land. Agriculture is the most important sector now and for that, a good supply of water is required. Then we need an adequate supply of power for that; just as what Brig. T. Sailo used to emphasise the need for power. We need to develop the Power sector to achieve sufficiency.

I give importance to the part which says, 'protecting Mizo values and traditions.' We get so used to English education that we lack basic morals and values, the respect used to be shown by Mizos towards their elders etc. We must start from basics and school lessons again.

Giving importance to Tourism will be a great advantage for us and we must think of ways to attract visitors and travellers. It gives me pleasure to know that our government appoints people to take care of these fields. I support the Governor's speech. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. member, Pu Robert Romawia Royte.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE: Pu Speaker, thank you. I believe there is no point of disagreement on the Governor's speech. The introduction given by Pi Baryl was also done very well. It was more of a 'futuristic speech'. We heard about the success and passing of '*The Mizoram Sustainable Investment Policy, 2024*' by the Cabinet and the State Project Monitoring Committee. But, SEDP funds used for ginger, chilli, turmeric and broomsticks were not mentioned and it makes me question if the minutes of the Cabinet meeting disclosed only some part of it or not.

I am glad that the government adopts '*The Mizoram Sustainable Investment Policy, 2024*', an area that interests me. I hope my successor, Pi Lalrinpuii makes use of this policy for the Tourism sector. I also appreciate the initiative of the House Leader for bringing it up.

The idea behind the State Project Monitoring Committee is great and I hope they learn how to manage it. It is also important to monitor bills so that they will be given on time or else how can we expect the workers to complete their work on time?

I have also noticed that the 'unification of the Mizo tribes' was focused just like the previous speech. At the same time, the termination of FMR and fencing borders are contrary to the government's initiative as well as the speech.

Let me also state that the importance of agriculture is realised and if this is the case, why don't we carry on with SEDP since the beneficiaries were already selected? The less privileged people would make use of the SEDP. Within these 60 days, we haven't seen the transparency and the effectiveness of this government.

Speaking for the Hachhek constituency, I appreciate the efforts of our Home Minister regarding the sale and production of betelnuts. Let me assure you that we the people support him. Besides the support that we give to four vegetables, I recommend the inclusion of betelnuts since it could change our economy.

To conclude, I recommend the construction of a separate ladies' washroom. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. minister, Prof. Lalnilawma.

PROF. LALNILAWMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. I am deeply honoured to sit here through the grace of God and the people of Tawi constituency. The new government is enthusiastic and from the Motion of Thanks, it is seen that even the Opposition Parties agree with us today and I am glad with that.

One thing that comes to my mind as we read the speech is that while we are in a state of hunger, we cannot involve sustainable development in every part of our actions. After two to three years, we will be able to start sustainable farming; it is all a part of our plans.

From the Governor's speech, we can see that words have been put into action. Before I stepped into politics, there used to be a discussion about the necessity for budget allocation for the purchase of vegetables. Sometimes, we often negotiate on different matters in politics and today, we have witnessed in reality that allocation of budget for the purchase of vegetables is possible.

But that is not enough and so we need the *Mizoram Sustainable Investment Policy, 2024*. It would be great if we could open more and more investments from people. I am glad that we have started taking steps for the farmers. Therefore, I support the Motion. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. member, Pu Ramthanmawia.

PU RAMTHANMAWIA : Pu Speaker, thank you. The Governor's speech was very interesting and I congratulate the new government as well. But I am deeply concerned about the prevalence of drugs and I believe the government is trying its best to tackle the problem. It's taking the lives of our youths and we must all take the matter seriously. I am glad to hear that transparency and reliability shall be promoted.

We have heard that a year would be required to make some changes, so, we won't be able to expect any important progress within a year, but is also required. I thought the Governor

would mention the processing of an order for the shifting of the Assam Rifles but it was not mentioned. If they continue to remain here, it might cause further problems.

In yesterday's prayer program, the ARs showed an arrogant attitude in our land. We shall keep supporting you in their shift from Aizawl to another place. Besides these, regarding the education sector, there are shortages of teachers. In the East Tuipui Constituency, people are employed using funds from SEDP and MLA Funds. They are in good hands as the government tries to take care of their situation. Pu Speaker, thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. member, Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, I am thankful to be a part of today's Motion. It is interesting to hear that the government will be brave enough to take responsibility and maintain reliability. It is like reading an interesting story, I find fewer points of argument. I was expecting the awakening of people just like the two travellers had expectations on their way to Emau but, I didn't find any.

We have discussed this during the Question Hours and it was also mentioned in the Governor's speech on page 6 that gingers, turmeric, chillies and broomsticks shall be purchased from them and that more items would be added in the future. But in one of the answers, it is mentioned that the government didn't plan on buying from the farmers. Rather, Societies would be set up in all the villages and they would purchase the produce.

Similarly, our House Leader told us that due to a shortage of manpower, they could not buy. The first speech of the Governor made after a new government was set up on 13 December 2020 stated on page 5, "My Government will fix remunerative prices and will start procurement of ginger, turmeric, chillies and broomsticks from this financial year itself". So, the Governor's speech is highly questionable now. The first action begins with our withdrawal from the purchase of some items rather than the confidence to go forward with initiatives.

As Pu Nguna also mentioned, it seems that there was some sort of fear while preparing this budget book. Pages 3, 4 and 12 include lines about how we are in a stage of making a difficult choice and that a strong will is required for the state. In the past, while they were part of the Opposition, they used to vent about the government's failure in financial management. Now that they have borrowed around 80 crores twice in this new ministry, we assumed that even the experts in financial management are also doing it.

As much as I find it interesting, I don't find any reliability. They assumed that they were quick to take action but also said that due to manpower shortage, they had to withdraw. This uncertainty breaks our trust towards the government.

I do appreciate the establishment of the monitoring cell. I would like to remind the House that the predecessor of the last government built a huge building from the LESDE fund in Phaileng. Using my fund, we use to clean the surrounding areas and there is no one to specifically take care of that place. So, without concentrating on further areas, I suggest that we focus on the utilization of that building.

If the government is facing a tough time in making complex decisions, those problems may be shared with us as well. We are willing to cooperate in those areas which will benefit the whole state. Though I may criticize some points, in general, I support the Governor's speech. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu PC Vanlalruata, hon. Minister.

PU PC VANLALRUATA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. Thank you for giving me the time.

I would like to clarify the last speech that we listened. Our House Leader did not say "... We had to withdraw from buying.... we did not have the manpower to do the work". (**Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo:** Pu Speaker, our House Leader talked about that while he spoke about ginger). Maybe you've misheard it. (**Pu Robert Romawia Royte:** He was talking about broomsticks). He was talking about the RR Associates, not the RR that we used to know of.

When hon. member, Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo said, "I do not find any difference", have we not read enough? From the Governor's speech, we have witnessed 'two things' that never used to happen during the last 37 years. One among them is the formation of the State Project Monitoring Committee; which the past governments seldom paid attention to.

As we all know, there were fallen bridges and collapsed constructions while Lengpui Airport was renovated! That proves the necessity to have a project monitoring committee. In some places, bills were issued before the commencement of the work. Among those is Ekalavya School from my constituency where the Minister gave the contractor more than what he actually worked for it. In this way, some developmental works are delayed. However, with the Chief Minister's leadership, an effective project monitoring committee.

Secondly, had the previous governments dealt with brooms, the preparations would have been easier and the new government would have been able to take measures without any problems. Our slogan is 'We will buy fresh crops in the new budget and we will run things at a fixed rate' but we expedite it since we value the labourers and Operational Guidelines for Agricultural Market Assurance Funds Management Board was also urgently established. Therefore, the new government will introduce a scheme to buy fresh crops for farmers which never happened for 37 years and our hopes for the

new government are very high. I believe we all agree with the Governor's speech today and I am thankful for that.

SPEAKER : I request Pu Lalchhandama Ralte, Leader of Opposition.

PU LALCHHANDAMA RALTE, OPP. LEADER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. I carefully listened to the Motion of Thanks moved by Pi Baryl Vanneihsangi and she presented it clearly in a short period of time. Although she is a relatively new member, I would like to first congratulate her on her excellent contribution to this House.

Secondly, the Governor's speech was well formed and Governor's Speech is about the priorities of the Government. Therefore, today's Governor's speech is a manifestation of great effort and we look forward to the embodiment of the word with hope.

Page 1 highlighted that the government will be strong, transparent, honest, responsible and development-oriented. So, the new government plans to have a comprehensive development this time and the public will see if the new government is true to its words. The Governor's statement on being transparent, honest and responsible for development is very important. At the same time, the Governor's speech contains two points that are a warning to the current government. It warned us not to play the media and not to desire fame and this can be seen on page-2.

Pages 3 and 12 also contains a warning and that is- when we are talking about the year of consolidation and fiscal stabilization, it seems that the Governor is finding some of our expenditure as 'necessary'. For example, having 5 Advisor to CM and several OSD with their office expenses.

Page 4 contains another important line 'Actions need to manifest our words'. Page 5 also mentioned that more investors should be attracted to improve the economy of the state. In the context of 'Look East' and 'Act East', the Government has many challenges to face. Trains will enter our state next year and more investors will visit our state. We will focus on the future of our government and the development of our economy but, I would like to say that the safety of our state and our nation is the most important thing. We need to attract investors and let them borrow lands with the security of our nation in mind. I want our government to move towards more investment.

Page 6 talks about labourers and we see that 26% of our GSDP comes from them. ₹110 crore was said to be allocated for purchasing fresh crops but it is unfortunate that we could not purchase crops today. So, the labourers are worried and I urge the government to give priority to them.

Pages 7 and 8 discussed the importance of major development plans especially road infrastructure. We now have good roads in some areas towards Tripura, Cachar and Manipur and there is a potential area for building new roads in the northern part of my constituency (Tuivawl). NH 306 'A' New Vervek - Bagha Road is being constructed and it needs to be implemented more quickly. Eastern traders can enter our state without having to enter Aizawl. The previous government had metalled the Manipur Road till the river bank and only a bridge is needed. So, the Governor's speech on the new inter-state road will be fulfilled if this is expedited.

An order is issued to establish the State Project Monitoring Committee and this will be important for the development of our state. So, I support this initiative and I am pleased with it.

Page 9 talks about education and The National Education Policy, 2020 states that education should be conducted in accordance with the culture and traditions of the people and I find this quite impressive.

Page 10 talks about drug abuse and related issues and we need to pay more serious attention to this. So, development will be meaningless if the people are weak.

Page 11 talks about Mizo culture, lifestyle and unity and this should be implemented vigorously. I want us to use this to ensure that we have peace, stability and unity in the state.

There are one two things that I find important that are not included in our Governor's speech and they are- it is unfortunate that no health sector and land reform are mentioned in the Governor's speech.

Lastly, Pu Speaker, page 13 concludes by saying 'I urge you to remind yourselves of your duties and responsibilities towards the people who elected you' and this is quite important. May the new system government come true and the opposition parties are also thinking constructively to the best of our ability. Thank you and I support this motion of Thanks to be passed.

SPEAKER : I now request our House Leader and Hon'ble Chief Minister to say what he thinks necessary and windup the discussion.

PU LALDUHOMA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, let us hope that the windup should be done by the person who presented the motion. Governor's speech is an expression of the Government's intentions. Several things were already mentioned during our recent session and since this is a budget session, it seems that it is better to include other important things that have never been mentioned before instead of repeating what have already been said. All the above-mentioned issues will be reflected in the Demand for Grants of each department during the budget session.

The Governor's speech on the Government's initiatives was approved by us all and some members even said that it is the best Governor Speech so far. We will do our best by working and solving our problems together. Some of the members' problems mentioned above cannot be answered by us for now but let us hope that we can solve them in the future. The Governor has expressed his wishes that we should not continue some of the old system like- assisting someone out of favouritism which leads to high expenditure and also, be all talk with no action.

We see something new in the governor's speech that is 'Research Mobilisation'. The previous government had a Research Mobilization Department and we do not think it is worth establishing in a small state with a small population. We want to dissolve and amalgamate some of the existing departments and so, the department was dissolved since we find it unnecessary to establish a new department and therefore, it is reestablished as a committee. This committee is recently established and orders were issued recently. A meeting was held once where we discussed our next steps. We plan to divide this Research Mobilisation committee into 3 teams and they will be handed specific works. The works will then be submitted to the general body and then proceed as required. Former Chief Secretary was appointed as the Vice Chairman at a salary of ₹1/-. This Research Mobilization will focus on austerity measures and it will also take measures on how to avoid unnecessary government's actions. Administrative reform cannot be ignored because it also deals with manpower assessment.

Pu Speaker, Project Monitoring Committee is a new initiative in Mizoram and it is the basis for the fight against corruption in the new government and the birth of people's government. A senior officer who, even after his retirement was appointed by the central government for important positions is appointed as the Vice-Chairman and as for the Secretary, a good man who hates corruption in the eyes of the public was appointed. We have chosen these people so that the people can know that 'this government is against corruption'. They will both earn ₹1/- each and we dissolve more than 10 Boards that we find unnecessary. Therefore, we are trying to save our expenditure as much as possible. Our current Board Chairman and Advisers are all doing important and useful work.

It is impressive that we received a new proposal from the Project Monitoring Committee. Pu Robert requested that they should also take up the works on bill monitoring as well which is also quite necessary. There was no monitoring during the previous government and there are those who can take the bill on the very same day while some bills are stuck for years. Therefore, we will take these suggestions seriously so that these does not happen again. The committee will also include representatives of each recognized party and the representatives of NGO, MKHC and MPF will also attend the meeting. It will be the body that will represent the entire people of Mizoram. The quality control division will also be attached and this quality control division was once sent to my constituency to inspect the poor construction of colleges. Technical support will be available and it will be responsible for evaluating all our important projects.

Currently, we have about 30 ongoing contracts where no works are carried out but bill were already received and we will not allow this to happen again. Therefore, there are several that we inherited from the previous government and this committee will see to it that this will not happen again.

We will all participate in the administration of this new government and a real People's Government will be established. If a contractor does not complete the project on time, the committee will decide whether the project is worthy of extension or not that means, it will be the decision of the oppositions.

The State Institute of Transformation (SIT) is implemented by the central government. A Dashboard will be available and all the important activities and projects of the various departments will be on the dashboard which will be supervised by the Planning Department and the Chief Minister's Office. We hope that this SIT will also be used effectively by the project monitoring committee. We hastily formulated investment policy because investment policy is never available even though we had been a UT and a State for many years now. We have a focus in this investment policy for example, we are trying our best to avoid not being able to pay 10% state matching share. We also want Recurring expenditure to be avoided. In case of investment, we aim not to attract foreigners or Indians to hinder the efforts of local entrepreneurs. (**Speaker:** Our business hour is now over and should we let him continue? *(The House agreed)* You may continue.)

Anyone who can bring good projects under state allocation to our state, who is careful with state allocation and who can think of their own source of funding and who does not need our support is welcome. It is a must to declare Year of Consolidation because we certainly do not have money and that is why we reduce and limit ourselves as well. Therefore, I urge the people to wait a year and understand our problems.

In case of Minority mentioned by Pu RM. Chakma, they are our first priority. I inaugurated three projects from Thenzawl recently and they were for all three of our Autonomous Districts and my first project was for the District Council. A Girls Hostel in Delhi is permitted to be established in MADC site and the project is handed to Mara District Council. MDCs' salaries have been increased and their travel accommodation and conveyance issues have been resolved.

Regarding brooms, it is the fault of our agents as they are not true to their words. Therefore, we told them to proceed as they did during the previous government.

The previous government had already planned the amount of money to be borrowed and that is what we borrowed. That is the permissible limit. What we are aiming is to erase covering ourselves with high special drawing facilities - special wages and means high interest apart from the permissible limit. So, we have achieved this in a short period of time. Koladyne dam was mentioned by several members. However, our problem is that there are some people that have to receive compensation and their pass certificates were all

checked. The High Court ordered us to provide compensation to some people but the Forest Department argued that it is their land and this is our problem. This is no longer our authority and it is the decision of the Central Union Forest Ministry.

Our hand-holding policy will include other items apart from betel nut if our financial situation allows. We recently passed the Operational Guideline for Agriculture Assurance Fund and we will allocate more than ₹100 crore for this fund in the current budget. From then on, betel nut and other vegetables will be supplied through the vegetable-supply chain.

Serlui representative said that guarantee and loan issues are not mentioned and if he would turn to page 7, the Governor mentioned institutional credit and micro credit which refers to this.

Pu Muanpuia said that ginger has a negative impact on soil productivity but our land is too good to be destroyed since we practice jhum cultivation. Ginger fields are more likely to be fertile the next year than rice fields; Therefore, our land will not be destroyed and it is not the same as plain areas. The SEDP was stopped because it was not agricultural and that is why we will be using the fund for purchasing crops.

One party recently issued a PR on the Free Movement Regime and border fencing and put words in my mouth. However, all those who attend the NGO coordination committee were witnesses and heard what I truly said. One thing I would like to say is that we should stop burning pictures since this is not very Christian like and it is not our custom. Regarding the eviction of Assam Rifles, we have not yet completely investigated the matter. This is what we have always prioritized and the new government will continue to take measures. Pu Speaker, we are all satisfied with the Governor Speech and I thank NI. Baryl Baryl Vanneihsangi for her motion of thanks. Thank you

SPEAKER : I request Pi Baryl Vanneihsangi to share what is needed and then beg the house to adopt the motion.

PI BARYL VANNEIHSANGI: Thank you, Pu Speaker. The maturity and adaptability of the members of this House is evident and I believe that the people of various constituencies have elected their true representatives. It is important that we keep the dignity of this House intact and at the same time, our performance in our constituency and the way we take care of our state is the most important and this is how we will be judged. Pu Speaker, if I am not mistaken, 26 distinguished members stood up and expressed their support for this Motion and it is comforting for the presenter. I would like to say that no government is perfect and as for us, this is our very first and it is clear that we will have several lacking. So, instead of making fun of us I request the other members to be a family and cover us when needed. In addition, we too must be willing to admit our mistakes and if we continue to help each other, a great government that the people trust and rely on can be born. I also believe that we will be the ones who

have fulfilled the Governor's Speech. I beg every member to be diligent, careful, hardworking, and attentive for we shall all reap what we sow. I request the House to adopt this Motion of Thanks so that this excellent Governor's speech can be implemented for the development of the people, the state and its nation. Thank you, PU Speaker.

SPEAKER : *The Motion of Thanks* – “That the Members of Mizoram Legislative Assembly assemble in this Session are duly grateful to the Governor for the Address which had been pleased to deliver to the Assembly on the 19th February, 2024” was discussed and all those members in favour to adopt may say 'Yes' and all those not in favour may say 'No' (*All members agreed*)

The House has unanimously adopted the Motion (**Pi Baryl Vanneihsang**: Thank you, Pu Speaker.)

It seems that this will be a very active government and I would like to remind all members that the public is very interested in our session and so, I urge every member to express your thoughts, words, attitudes and behaviour as expected by the people.

Pu Lalchhandama Ralte, Leader of Opposition should be addressed as ‘Leader of Opposition’ and not ‘MLA Pu Chhandama Ralte’. The attendance register is here with me and while some parties have 100% attendance, some Parties have NIL attendance. INC has 100% attendance, BJP has NIL attendance, MNF has six attendees and ZPM has 22 attendees. This means that we are not logged in to the tablet in front of us. Absent members according to the register are as follows- Pu C. Lalsawivunga, Dr. K. Beichhua, Pu K. Hrahmo, Pu Lalchhandama Ralte, Pu Lalchhuanthanga, Pu Lalduhoma, Pu Lalngthinglova Hmar, Lalrintluanga Sailo, Pu Ramthanmawia, and Pu Rasik Mohan Chakma. We should make use of the tablet in front of us and many important documents are available in those tablets.

Dr. K. Beichhua took the longest time with more than 8 minutes and the following members took more than 7 minutes- Pu Rasik Mohan Chakma, Pu C. Ngunlianchunga and Pu Robert Romawia Royte. Dr. K. Beichhua, Pu Rasik Mohan Chakma and Pu Ngunlianchunga usually spent their time above the limit and we should have an understanding because the southern part does not have many representatives.

Doctors will conduct free medical check-up for members tomorrow and the next day that is, 22nd and 23rd of this month and I thank the Health Minister Pi Rinpui on behalf of the House. Those members who are to have a checkup should not consume anything since Lipid profile, blood sugar and cholesterol will be checked. Our business for today is over and we will continue tomorrow that is the 22nd February (Thursday) at 10:30 AM

Sitting is adjourned (4:24 PM)