



PRESS RELEASE

Imphal, the 20th June, 2023

PULL NO JOKES AT THE EXPENSE OF THE DEPARTED SOULS

Apropos to the Press Release brought out by *Pu Khaikhohauh Gangte* on behalf of the Kuki Inpi Manipur on 18th June 2023. As a true Gangte, the press release is replete with humour. For example, in the Press Release, para three, there is this statement, “Our condolences to all those killed and injured at Khamenlok and we advise the rational-sane Meiteis to ‘Stay Home, Stay Safe. And don’t come and die at our Villages’”. Your esteemed self must be proud of this ancestral trait that makes us laugh for a while and forget about all the evils that the Kuki militants are committing at present.

You know, *Pu Gangte* has pulled a cruel joke at the cost of the departed souls just like the Gangte ancestors could pull a joke that goes like this: “Heaven shall be bliss if there are no mosquitoes and Paites”.

It is a different story that the Kukis massacred the Paites way back in 1997–1998 to control Churachandpur town. Apart from this economic reason, there was/is a deeper sociological factor, that is, the Kukis simply despise the nomenclature ‘Zomi’ and instead wanted the Paites to be called ‘Kuki’, which the Paites considered to be a foreign ‘slang’ word. You hegemonic scheming infidels! However, we appreciate the fact that the two communities have buried the hatchet except that their combined militants, the narco-terrorists, using illegal immigrants are waging a war against the Meiteis under the nomenclature of Kuki-Zo.

We pray for the two communities’ lasting marriage but pray do not turn against the Paites for attempting to burn down your so-called war memorial gate the spark that ignited this present mayhem (reported in Huyen Lanpao on 19 June 2023).

Dear *Pu Gangte*, in your cruel jokes you often conceal truths giving other communities around you the impression that you’re habitual liars. Take for instance; Khamenlok is still an area that comes under the Khamenlok-Gwaltabi Reserved Forest Area earlier under Senapati district, now under Kangpokpi district. Our ancestors, the Nagas (mostly Tangkhuls and Koms) and the Meiteis, used to collect firewood from this sacred place until the Kukis colonised it like a group of invading red ants. Now, after illegal occupation, you call this area your ‘home’ and asking the indigenous people to “stay home and be safe”. The nerve of humour you posses! You’ve always tried to give meaning to absurdity. This is the strength that we admire in your people, just as a fool appreciates Adolf Hitler for his cruel genocidic trait and the holocaust.

Your Press Release, pertaining to the sacred Constitution of India, also conceals certain truths. For example, when you quoted Article 3, you’ve only conveniently cited the clauses (b), (c), (d) and (e) that find suitable for your imagined homeland and omitted clause (a). Article 3 states, “Parliament may by law (a) form a new state by separation of territory from any state or by uniting two or more States or parts of States or by uniting any territory to a part of any State”. The Article further adds, “Provided that no Bill for the propose shall be introduced in either House of Parliament except on the recommendation of the President and unless, where the proposal contained in the Bill affects the area, boundaries or name of any State, the Bill has been referred by the President to the Legislature of the State for expressing its views thereon within such period as may be specified in the reference or within such further period as the President may allow and the period so specified or allowed has expired”.



The purpose of this lengthy quotation is to educate you on the need for an unbiased introspection and analysis of the provisions of the Indian Constitution. As you might be aware, the Meiteis outside Manipur is much more than combined population of Kuki-Zo in the world. What if the Meiteis start demanding a separate administration using the provisions of the Indian Constitution, say Article 3, just as you've *mistakenly* done so?

While the Meiteis have been tolerant and paying respect to the surrounding ecosystem including, the Kukis and other communities, water, insects, animals, plants, wetlands, springs, lakes, rivers and the forests, the Kukis have been otherwise.

Tell us one place where your people haven't fought with another community anywhere in the world and encroached on their land. Do we need to remind you of your aggressions against other communities, such as in Manipur against the Kabuis and the Tangkhul during 1917–1919, against the Hmars in 1959–1960, against the Nagas in 1992–1997, against the Karbis in Assam in 2003–2004? Beyond this realm, you have been fighting with the Burmese (Myanmarese), the Shans and the Kachins in Myanmar. Further, in your jest to be called one of the lost tribes of Israel, few of your people has put as human shields at the Gaza Strip and fighting against the Arabs, Palestinians to be precise.

How much you like war! Imagine, teachers like Prof. Kham Khan Suan Hausing of University of Hyderabad and Dr. Thangkhohal Haokip from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and politicians like Wilson Lalam Hangshing joining the war cry like blood thirsty Nazi scholars and declaring war against the Meiteis in live telecast national TV shows. They negate dialogue for peaceful settlement just like you. What have you created? You owe an explanation to humanity if not the Meiteis. You all are responsible for the blood cuddling violence and misery in Manipur.

We pray you do not start a fight with the Jats and Sardarjis in Delhi in your flight of imagination to create a separate administration in NCT. Or with the Khasis, Garos and Jaintias in Meghalaya or the Mizos just like you did against the Lushais and the Lais in Mizoram (formerly, the Lushai Hills). Learn to live in peace, respect lives, including the sacred buffalo you kill and use its head as your symbol (mascot) of strength.

Furthermore, Article 21 of the Indian Constitution that you quoted also equally applies to your fellow beings and neighbours and owners of the land especially the indigenous people of Manipur. Start respecting lives of others. You need to attend one of the classes on Indian Constitution to understand this complex constitutional provision.

Pu Gangte, do get educated to understand the nuances of Indian politics or the world affairs. Myanmar and Bangladesh are two sovereign nation-states like India. Your wild imagination have invited the ire of these two countries and your innocent people are running helter-skelter and seeking refuge in Mizoram, and you're desperately trying to import these lost souls in Manipur. While we appreciate your humanitarian ethos, remember there is always the sovereign nation-state called India to which we, at least the Meiteis, render our habitual obedience. Apply pressure to the right vessels before the Kuki militants bleed to death.

Finally, what we want to underscore is that truth needs a foundation, just as you need a pair of legs to stand. But your community has indulged in a series of lies to make your point – concocted history, concocted kinship, concocted heroism, concocted jokes. There is a saying, "You can only fool a person once, not all the people all the times". This is a lesson in triviality, absurdity and history, and humanity at large.



Before, we wind up, let's examine the modus operandi of the Kuki Civil Society Organisations including the Kuki Inpi Manipur of which you're the General Secretary.

1. Kuki Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) do not have a sincere stand with regards to illegal immigration, poppy cultivation and protection of reserve and protected forests, sacred sites, wildlife sanctuaries and wetlands. In fact, there is nothing sacred or profane for the Kuki community in the Weberian sense of the terms.
2. Illegal immigration, poppy cultivation and settlement in protected forests, sacred sites, wildlife sanctuaries and wetlands besides claiming settlement rights within Reserve Forests continue with their tacit support and encouragement.
3. All these illegal activities which have been continuing for decades without any restraint through manipulation of a corrupt system and their high ranking officers. These are against the national interest and it adversely affects the various communities living together in Manipur.
4. Truth be told, the BJP Government of Manipur has taken a strong stand against poppy cultivation and for the protection of Reserve and Protected forests, sacred sites, wildlife sanctuaries and wetlands. However, there has been a concerted effort by the Kuki militant backed CSOs to derail or stop the efforts of the government by appealing to the Central Government in the name of tribal rights.
5. It has been true with regards to the illegal immigration. Successive Central and Manipur governments have taken a very casual approach towards refugees and illegal immigrants. As a result, although there have been problems of refugees and illegal immigration since the 1950s, the situation has exploded now because of the casual approach in the past.
6. Kudos to the leadership of Shri N Biren Singh, the present Manipur BJP Government with support from the Central government for taking up concrete steps to identify the illegal immigrants to protect the indigenous population from the aggression by the illegal Kuki immigrants.
7. In the face of the failure of the various illegal activities and the impending failure of their plan to dominate the original inhabitants of Manipur by bringing more illegal immigrants, Kuki militant outfits and their supporters had orchestrated the ejection of Meitei population from Kuki dominated areas by vandalising the properties and burning down of houses of Meiteis in these areas.
8. After committing this horrendous crime of ejecting the Meities from the Kuki dominated areas, Kuki CSOs have undertaken a media propaganda campaign to hide their crime and nefarious activities. Various concocted narratives have been floated to appeal to the tribal and religious sentiments – tribals being targeted by majority Meiteis, Christian religion being persecuted by burning down churches, etc. Unfortunately, the national and international media succumbed to the version of Kuki CSOs without verification or falsification.
9. They have created someone to shift the blame for their crime in the person and office of Shri N Biren Singh, the Chief Minister of Manipur, a constitutional figure, who had been working hard to stop Illegal immigration, poppy cultivation and settlement in protected forests, sacred sites, wildlife sanctuaries and wetlands with popular support for the future generation (Kukis included).



10. In their attempt to cover up the Nazi-like aggressiveness of various Kuki CSOs and Kuki militant outfits, they found it most convenient to link the various newly emerging Meitei organisations to Shri N Biren Singh. In doing, they have instigated to provoke Meitei sentiments. This has led to the birth of several Meiteis organisations that stands to protect the Meiteis from the Kuki narco-terrorist aggression.
11. By now all must be aware that Kuki CSOs including Kuki Inpi are naked liars and they will tell white lies and lick the boot of anyone or indulge in women diplomacy to achieve their objectives.
12. In short, the Kuki CSOs have lost their legitimacy to the 'others'. In such a situation, can anyone believe them?

Finally, *Pu Khaikhohauh Gangte* and the esteemed Kuki Inpi Manipur leaders, let peace prevail. Bertolt Brecht, our guru and inspiration, once said, "Can there be singing during the dark times. Yes, there shall be singing about the dark times". In the same vein, let's ask, can there be humorous jokes during the dark times? Reading your press release, we are convinced that there shall be humorous jokes during the dark times. But take caution, not at the expense of the departed souls. Let it be a lesson in humility. Continue your press releases. We can spare a laugh during these uncertain times.



M. Bobby Meetei

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President