

24th March 2018

Morning News

0730 hrs

Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has said that resolution of the vexed Indo-Naga political issue is the top agenda of the newly formed PDA government. Affirming this during his budget address in the Assembly yesterday, Rio said the Government is committed to play the role of active facilitator in the ongoing peace process. He affirmed that the PDA government will make all possible efforts to create a congenial atmosphere that contributes towards realization of a solution that is honorable and acceptable to the people. In this, Rio appealed to the negotiating parties of the peace process to expedite the political talks and bring lasting peace which will pave the way for development and progress in the State. He also appealed to all sections of the Naga people, particularly the tribal Hohos, the mass based organizations, civil societies, NGOs, Churches and the people at large to come forward and support the peace process under a spirit of understanding, brotherhood and unity.

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The new PDA government in Nagaland has decided to establish a Centre for Peace and Non-Violence. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio yesterday said that proposed centre will bring together experienced minds which will make efforts to bring the Naga society closer together and also strengthen ties with the neighbouring states. He said the centre will combat the evils of violence and add a soothing touch to past misunderstandings. He said it will build trust, increase people-to-people contact, improve bilateral ties and increase mutual cooperation amongst the Nagas and with the neighboring states.

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The Naga People's Front, the only Opposition in the State Assembly has termed the Nagaland Budget 2018-19 presented by the new People's Democratic Alliance government as empty vessel and vague and without any vision for the welfare of the State. Interacting with a section of media persons at the Opposition lobby in the Assembly yesterday, former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition of the 13th Assembly, T R Zeliang claimed that Chief Minister Rio's budget presentation mostly reflects the achievements of the last government, while the new government does not have any new programme. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio presenting 1630.67 crore rupees deficit budget for the fiscal 2018-19 estimated the gross receipts at 18,232.51 crore rupees and expenditure at 18305.40 crore rupees. In this, Zeliang said there is no new programme and it does not reflect their proposal and vision for the future and there is no concrete plan for the coming year. Zeliang claimed that his government during the last tenure had brought sanctions for the road sectors which have been reflected by Rio in this budget. He said there are so many other roads in Kohima, Dimapur and other district headquarters of the State, which are not reflected in the budget. The Opposition leader said PDA government's budget is a visionless and it is very vague as there is no concept of their own and they have only projected whatever the last government has done.

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Governor, P B Acharya has asserted that the new government in the State together with the Government of India is committed for a New Vision of Nagaland based on the twin foundations of Good Governance & Transparency and Development & Economic Growth. Addressing the first session of 13th Nagaland Legislative Assembly in Kohima on Thursday, the Governor reminded the House that the newly installed NDPP-led People's Democratic Alliance, PDA government in the state has come to power with peoples' mandate on the promise of 'Bringing Change' as a common vision of the political parties forming the alliance. Expressing that the state government's slogan has been 'Together with All, Development for All', the Governor said the Rio led government will stand firm on its motto "Deeds not Words".

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The Dimapur division of PWD (Roads & Bridges) has reminded the public that the old dilapidated bridge over Dhansiri below Nagarjan Power House is not safe for any vehicular movement. The division in a release said despite repeated restrictions by the department and barricades being constructed several times were brought down by miscreants.

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