

**Speech of hon'ble Governor of Nagaland Shri P.B. Acharya on the occasion of
Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly on 29th
November 2014.**

Madam Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha
Dr. S.C. Jamir, Hon'ble Governor of Odisha and ex-Interim Body Member,
Shri T.R. Zeliang, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Nagaland
Shri Chotisuh Sazo, Hon'ble Speaker,
Shri Neiphiu Rio MP and former Nagaland Chief Minister
Hon'ble Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and MLAs,
Shri Tokheho Yepthomi. Hon'ble Leader of the Congress Legislative Party
Hon'ble Deputy Speaker
Ex-Interim Body Members, Hon'ble Members of Parliament,
Former Members of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly,
Shri Toshi Aier, Chief Secretary, Senior Officers from Civil, Army and Paramedical,
Administrative Heads of Departments, Head of Departments,
Former Secretaries and senior officers of NLA,
NGOs, Medias, Civil Societies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I consider myself uniquely privileged to have the opportunity to address the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly and I express my sincere thanks for inviting me to address this great historic event. I am extremely happy to be a part of this joyous occasion as it occurs during my tenure as the head of the state. The celebration of Golden Jubilee of any institution is a great event in the history of that institution and when it is in the case of Legislative Assembly it is of great public importance and joy. It also calls for introspection. This is, indeed, a historic and honour for the State and its people.

I would like to, at the very outset, take this opportunity to extend my heartiest welcome to the Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha Madam Sumitra Mahajan who, amidst her hectic schedule, has been kind enough to visit us and grace this important occasion by her presence here today. When I met Madam Speaker in

her official residence recently she expressed her happiness to visit Nagaland as it is said to be her maiden visit to the North-East. In fact, I am very happy that both of us are Mumbains. I would like to thank her for this noble gesture. Her presence at this function has added grace and dignity to the celebrations. On this occasion, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to the people of Nagaland. Celebrating democracy is always a matter of great pride for India.

I am delighted to be here in this beautiful complex, which combines traditional architecture and modern technology. This is my first visit to this complex. I am also happy to know that there is a Legislatures' Home adjacent to Assembly Complex with modern facilities for accommodation of hon'ble members and other state guests. Nagaland became a sixteenth state of India on 1st December 1963 and after elections in January, 1964, the first General Election to the Nagaland Legislative Assembly was held in January 1964. The first of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly was held on 2nd March 1964 with the address by the then Governor Mr. Vishnu Sahay. Subsequently the strength of the Legislative assembly was increased to the present strength of 60 members. There is no nominated member in the Nagaland Legislative Assembly. I am informed that Nagaland Assembly has met 592 days since 1964. I am very happy to learn that Nagaland Legislative Assembly has acquired name and fame and is being acclaimed by other Assemblies in the country which will set a new epitome. This historic occasion today is worthy of being celebrated with fervour, jubilation and enthusiasm. I would like to say that during the last 50 years, the Legislative Assembly of Nagaland has functioned with a great sense of foresight and responsibility in the true spirit of democratic principles and has always endeavoured to religiously pursue the noble ideals enshrined in the Constitution of India. Elected members to the assembly whether they are on the treasury side or the opposition play a crucial role in framing laws and in formulating Government policy as they represent the views of the People of Nagaland who have the supreme power and authority under our Constitution.

It is heartening to mention that this House has been able to maintain the dignity and decorum as established since its inception. I am confident that these traditions would be maintained for all times to come. I am thankful to the Leader of the House and Leader of the Opposition and all the Hon'ble Members for extending full cooperation for smooth functioning and in maintaining high values of this House.

India has a long tradition of participatory functioning and has throughout history shown respect for tolerance and living in harmony. No one can forget that the freedom of India was fought and won with the weapons of truth and non-violence. That was a remarkable achievement in history. As an independent nation we chose a Parliamentary form of Government. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, said, and I quote, "in Parliamentary Democracy, there is the Legislature to express

the voice of the people; there is the Executive which is subordinate to the Legislature and bound to obey the Legislature." Over the years, the Legislature of Nagaland has successfully served as an instrument for political democracy enabling social change. What happens in the legislature, how it works, how productive are its debates and deliberations have a decisive role in shaping the destiny of the State and the country. It is the duty of the enlightened society and the electorate to constantly watch, and critically analyse the legislative business for strengthening the democratic process. It is incumbent on all members of the Legislative bodies of India to maintain order and decorum in the House. This is important for maintaining the stature, dignity and respect for democratic institutions. I hope the young first time legislators will bring in new ideas and initiatives. We need to constantly engage ourselves in finding lasting solutions to some other challenges that affect our electoral democracy

Effective legislative measures should be taken to address various issues that impede the healthy development of individuals and a stable society would have to be done on a priority. In facing the challenges of future, the participation of people is of great significance. In fact, for the implementation of the welfare schemes of both the Central Government and the State Governments, the active involvement of people both as beneficiaries and stakeholders is necessary. The Legislature should look at how to facilitate the implementation of socio-economic development programmes in a transparent way, within a stipulated time-frame and in a manner that it contributes to increasing the overall productivity and progress of the State. The element of promoting a responsive administration is the need of the hour. In a democracy this is possible only through greater and effective participation of people in governance at all levels

On this joyous occasion I congratulate the pioneers of Nagaland Legislative Assembly for their invaluable contributions. Our history is both colourful and significant in the development of our State and we should be proud of the heritage that our early pioneers have given to us.

I am confident that Nagaland Legislative Assembly will strive to uphold and sustain its dignity and will add more feathers to the cap. I conclude by conveying my good wishes to all present here, and hope that the Nagaland Legislative Assembly can be a model and pioneer in building a modern India.

Thank you, Jai Hind.