

December 15, 2003

Press Release No.696/03

NONGMAHIR SPORTS CLUB DEFEATS UMSOHSOR SPORTS CLUB

Shillong, December 15, 2003: The Nongmahir Sports Club defeated the Umshohshor Sports Club by a solitary goal in the football final match held on December 13, 2003 at Zero Point, organised by the Seng Samla Zero point. Meghalaya Minister of State and local MLA, Mr S W Rymbai graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Rymbai congratulated both the teams for reaching the finals and urged upon them to continue to work harder so that they can take part at district and State levels tournaments. Appreciating the efforts of the organisers, he said that such tournaments play an important role in forging bonds of brotherhood and unity among the youth of the area. Stating that peace is necessary for the all round development of the area and the State as a whole, he called upon the youth to lead the way in maintaining peace and harmony. As the MLA of the area, he also urged upon the people to appraise him of their grievances so that they may work hand in hand in addressing them and finding amicable solutions.

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PA TOGAN SANGMA'S DEATH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED

Shillong, December 15, 2003: The 131st death anniversary of Pa Togan Sangma was observed at Chisobibra cemetery, East Garo Hills district, on December 12, 2003. Meghalaya Minister of Mining and Geology, Mrs D C Marak was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Delivering her speech, Mrs Marak said one of the main problems plaguing our Nation today is illiteracy and poverty. Therefore it is imperative that we pave the way to peace and tranquility, to root out these problems from society. Stating that the world today is extremely competitive, she stressed on the need for parents to make their children realise this fact so that the youth can work hard and strive for a better future.

Among other who spoke on the occasion include Minister of State for PWD etc, Mt Sengran M Sangma, Parliamentary Secretary Mr Francis P R Sangma and the Chairman of Garo Hills Autonomous District Council Mr M M Sangma.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MESEB ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION HELD

The MeSEB Engineers Association held a Special General Meeting on December 11, 2003 at the Shillong Club, wherein threadbare deliberations were made on various issues ranging from recruitment to promotion prospects. The main issue was the reform and restructuring of the MeSEB in the light of Electricity Act 2003. The Indian Electricity Act 2003 envisaged that all properties belonging to the SEB shall be vested in the State Government and then shall be re-vested in a Government company or companies in accordance with a transfer scheme. The forum of Engineers felt that the public at large should be benefited when reforms are carried out. They hoped that the Government would take appropriate steps to ensure that the people should not be the ones to bear the brunt of any fallout.

The Association welcomed the moves to reform MeSEB and expressed the need to take the Engineers into confidence in any move to corporatise the Board. They also resolved to approach the Government and Management to inform the Association on this matter, especially with regards to signing of the MOU in the context of implementation of APDRP Circles. The President of the Association, Er. W S Kynjing felt that the restructuring should be done in a clear and transparent manner for its success.

The Chairman of the Board, Mr. P J Bezel, Guest of Honour, while appreciating the positive attitude of the Engineers, cleared all apprehensions that the Engineers might have in the event of Reforms. Moreover, the Board's Engineers are already working in an atmosphere of competency and professionalism. The new set up under the Reforms package will be one where performance will be rewarded and the working conditions will be better. Further, he assured that the Association would be taken into confidence at every step of the reforms process, and that finalization of the models of reforms and restructuring will be done after consultations with all the Associations and Unions of the Board. He also stressed that transparency will be maintained at all stages of the reforms process. As regards the setting up new Hydro-Projects, he assured that the work of the Myntdu – Leshka HEP should kick-off by February 2004 and be completed as targeted. He further encouraged the Engineers to explore new frontiers for cleaner and more environment-friendly Elec. Projects for even nuclear projects vis-à-vis Uranium Mining (Domiasiat) might become outdated in 10 years time. He concluded by quoting the adage, " Oh Lord! Grant me the courage to change the things I can, the serenity to accept things I cannot change and the wisdom to know the difference" and appealed to the Engineers to make this a guiding light on the lives.

The Chief Guest, Mr R G Lyngdoh, Honorable Home Minister, appreciated the concern of the powerful MeSEB Engineers Association on the future prospects of the Power Industry in the State. He expressed confidence that the Engineers because of their efficiency and competitiveness can perform equally well in a corporate environment. He also hoped that the Engineers would appreciate the actions taken by the Government to reform MeSEB, which is the need of the day.

Er. S K Dey, Member (Tech.) stressed on the achievements made by the MeSEB in respect of implementation of APDRP and added that 100% rural electrification will be completed as targeted despite the reforms process which is inevitable.

Er. D P Bhattacharya, Member (Hydro) made an appeal on the need for capacity addition and to tap the State's vast hydel potential. He felt a bold step is required to be taken up to harness the huge hydel potential, so that by the end of 11th Plan, an additional 2000 MW would be available. This will bring substantial revenue to the State. The remaining 1500 MW potential can then be tapped in a phased manner. He suggested that projects be taken up by the Board itself and felt that we should not be satisfied with 12% power when there is a possibility of owning 100%.