

December 4, 2003

Press Release No.666/03

WORLD DISABILITY DAY CELEBRATED

SHILLONG, DECEMBER 4, 2003: Together with the rest of the world, World Disability Day was celebrated in Shillong on December 3, 2003. The celebration was organised by the Office of the District Social Welfare Officer in collaboration with different Non-Governmental Organisations of the city working for the disabled. The year's celebration was centred around the theme **"Inclusion"**.

With an aim to reach the masses, majority of whom are not even aware of this day, Solidarity Booths have been set up in different parts of the city to enable people to visit the booths and sign a Solidarity Pledge present at the booth. People from all walks of life thronged the booths and pledge support in showcasing the cause of disability in Meghalaya where there are approximately 1,30,000 disabled people (in India there are 6-7 crores disabled people), who were denied a chance to be included in the mainstream. By involving the public at large, the organisers felt that this is an opportunity for the disability sector to showcase the unity and strength of the sector and make Government, common man and others concerned to take notice and contribute to the cause of disability and let the disabled "be a part and not apart."

Among others who visit the Solidarity Booths were Mr. W R Lyngdoh, Commissioner of Disability, Mrs. L Diengdoh, Director of Social Welfare, Mrs. I D Lyngwa, District Social Welfare Officer, East Khasi Hills District, Shillong, Mrs. T Phanbuh, General Secretary, ICCW, Mrs. L Lyngdoh, Assistant Director ICDS, Mrs. B B Nalle, Assistant Director, Defence and Mrs. P Myrchiang, Programme Officer.

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PUBLICATION OF DRAFT LIST OF POLLING STATIONS

Shillong, December 4, 2003: The Draft List of Polling Stations of all the 16 (sixteen) District Council Constituencies under East Khasi Hills is available for inspection in the Office of the Deputy Commissioner Election, East Khasi Hills during Office hours (i.e from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM) except on holidays and Sunday.

SUMMARY REVISION OF ELECTORAL ROLLS

Shillong, December 4, 2003: The Electors of 37 Bagmara and 53 Chockpot (ST) L. A. Constituencies have been notified of the preparation of electoral rolls in accordance with the Electoral Rule, 1965, the copies of which have been made available for inspection at every polling station locations and the SDO's Office of Baghmara, Rongara, Chokpot and Gasupara and at the Office of the Electoral Registration Officer during office hours with effect from November, 17, 2003 till December 2, 2003 and fixed the dates for special campaign on 5th and 6th instant.

The qualifying date for the preparation of electoral rolls would be January 1, 2004. The period for filling claims and objections had been from November 17, 2003 to December 8, 2003 and disposal of claims and objectives and preparations and printing of supplements on January 15, 004.

The final publication of electoral rolls would on January 20, 2004. In this regard, the electoral registration Officer of South Garo Hills in the notification, had also sought cooperation and support from all political parties and public heads.

The schedule for summary revision has been announced in and around South Garo Hills.

WORLD DISABLED DAY AT PATHARKHMAH

Shillong December 4, 2003: Together with the rest of the world the Ri- Bhoi District observed World Disabled Day at Patharkhmah yesterday December 3,2003. The programme organised by the District Social Welfare department was attended by the handicapped persons, Rangbah Shnong and the people at large. The local MDC, Mr Mynsong graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Speaking on the occasion as Mr Mynsong lauded the social welfare department for organising such programme by which people have come to know the schemes and assistance available for the welfare and well-being of less fortunate disabled people. He then urged upon the parents of the handicapped to get their children registered with the Social Welfare Department so that they could avail and enjoy the schemes specially set aside for them by the Government. Observing the handicaps taking part in different competitions, the MDC said that disabled persons lack no talent but need some support that they could make use of their talents.

Earlier Mrs. G B Marak, Officer District Social Welfare in her introductory speech highlighted the various schemes launched by the Government for the disabled persons and informed that a special cell for the handicaps would soon be set up in the State. Others who spoke on the occasion included Mr. O Syngkli, Sordar Patharkhmah, Dr E Kalwing, M&HO, Patharkhmah, CHC and others. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. B Kharshiing, CHO, Nongpoh.

The other highlights of the day were sports activities and other competitions for the handicaps.

FOUNDATION STONE FOR SPORTS COMPLEX LAID

Shillong December 4, 2003: The foundation stone for a sports complex was laid down today at Eidgah Field, Lower Mawprem by the Meghalaya Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, Mr Paul Lyngdoh, who is also the MLA of the area. The complex would be constructed at a total cost of Rs. 30 lacs, in which construction of the first phase would be completed by March 2004. It may be mentioned that the land for the construction of the complex was donated by the Muslim Kabristan Committee.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Paul Lyngdoh expressed his pleasure because the long awaited dream of the people of the area to have a sports complex has become a reality. He said this was possible due to cooperation of the people. He added that with limited resources, the Government is trying to meet unlimited needs of the people for promoting and developing sports in the State. He informed that the department has already organised a Youth Festival and an Entrepreneurship training, which has benefited the youths.

Mr C Z Gafoor, Chairman, Meghalaya Board of Wakfts said that the sanctity of the place would be maintained through an agreement that had been made with the Managing Committee of the complex. He hoped that the local youth of the area would benefit a lot from the complex.

A verse from the Holy Quran was also recited on the occasion by the Imam of Mawbah Mosque.

The function was chaired by Mr R B Rynjah, Headman Durbar Mawprem.