

December 8, 2003

Press Release No.674 /03

### **KDOHHATI COMMUNITY HALL INAUGURATED**

**Shillong, December 8, 2003:** Meghalaya Minister for Soil Conservation, Mr. P W Muktieh, inaugurated the Community Hall of Kdohhati village on December 6, 2003, amidst the presence of local MDC, Mr D Rhymdeit. Constructed by the office of the C&RD, Umsning, the building was constructed at the cost of Rs. 1.20 lakhs under PMRY scheme.

Mr. Mukhieh in his speech said that the Durbar hall is the temple of the village (society) where policy making decision are made for the benefit and welfare of the villagers. He therefore urged the people to take care of it, as the government has no scheme for this repair and maintenance. With regard to the school building and extension of electricity supply as demanded by the villagers, he said that the matter would be taken up with the concerned departments. He further informed that he had already submitted the proposal to the PWD Department for black topping of the Umlatar - Kdohhati road.

Mr Rhymdeit who spoke on the occasion expressed happiness and appreciated the Dorbar Shnong for proper utilization of the schemes. While referring to the needs and requirements of the people to develop the village, he urged them to be patient as all the needs could not be met at a time.

Press Release No.675/03

### **DURBAR HALL AT NONGSANGU INAUGURATED**

**Shillong, December 8, 2003:** The Community Hall of Nongsangu village constructed by the Office of the C&RD Umsning, under SGRY scheme was inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner, Ri Bhoi District, Nongpoh, Mr W L Lyngdoh at Nongsangu. Almost all the villagers, including the Rangbah Shnongs of the nearby villages witnessed the inauguration of the Durbar Hall.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Lyngdoh lauded the Dorbar Shnong for its proper utilization of the fund and urged upon them to maintain and use the hall for the purpose for which it was constructed. Citing the fact that the Dorbar has always been integral part of the Governance in the Khasi society, Mr Lyngdoh said that implementation of Government schemes become easier when the Dorbars are strong.

With regard to development in the village, he said funds have already been sanctioned for the construction of a foot path in the village from the Block Development Office. Furthermore, he also assured that furniture for the Dorbar hall and mortuary carrier would be provided to the village from the C&RD office.

Other who spoke on the occasion included, Mr H B Makdeh, Mr N Laloo, Mr S Lyngdoh, BDO and others. The meeting was presided over by Mr. B Tmung.

**LEGAL LITERACY CAMPAIGN HELD AT DADENGGRE**

**Shillong, December 8, 2003:** A Legal Literacy campaign was organized at Dadenggre Civil Sub-Division by the Office of the Sub - Divisional officer (C) under the aegis of Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority at Dadenggre Secondary school on December 3, 2003.

Speaking as the Chief Guest on the occasion, former MBOSE Secretary and Addl. DPI, Mr I K Sangma, said illiteracy, poverty and different diseases are the greatest enemies of the people and stressed on the need for people to be aware of their legal rights in their day to day lives.

Earlier, Addl. DC Tura, Mr J D Sangma also spoke on the occasion, while the Dadenggre Sub-Divisional Officer (C) Mr R P Marak welcomes the gathering.

Later, officers of various departments delivered talk and presented papers on different issues relating legal matters, Mr. C N Sangma, EAC spoke on Fundamental Rights and Duties; Supply Inspector, Dadenggre, Mr R G Momin deliberated on Consumer Protection Act, former Vice Chancellor, Dr Milton Sangma highlighted the significance of the different Garo Customary laws. Addl. DC Mr JD Sangma made a presentation on Administration of Justice in Garo Hills and matters relating to arrest and bail, while Divisional Forest Officer, Williamnagar, Mr.P R Marak spoke on the Forest Acts and rules.

**SPORTS MINISTER TO ATTEND WORLD YOUTH PEACE SUMMIT**

**Shillong, December 8, 2003:** Minister in-charge Sports & Youth Affairs, Mr Paul Lyngdoh will deliver a Key note address on Youth involvement in Peace building and conflict resolution in the on-going World Youth Peace Summit at Bangalore on the 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2003. The other panelist in this discussion will be Mr K.P.S. Gill, Retd. IPS, Mr M.S. Bitta, Chairman, All India Anti Terrorist Front, Md. Afroze, accused Al Qaida Terrorist. The Moderator for the discussion is Smti Tavleen Singh, noted journalist in the country. 50 (fifty) youths of various colleges of the State under the sponsorship of the Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs are also taking part in this summit.

**"DIFFERENTLY ABLED" PERSONS CRY FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**Shillong, December 8, 2003:** Hundreds of 'Differently abled' persons of Tura and other parts of West Garo Hills marched from DC's park to district Auditorium, Tura seeking equal opportunities and rights as part of the celebration of the World day for the Disabled on December 3, 2003. The day-long celebration was organised by the Social Welfare Department, Tura in collaboration with the Monfort Centre for Education and the Bethany Society, the only two voluntary organizations working for the disabled in Garo Hills.

During the procession, the disabled persons carried placards and banners with slogans "Give us opportunity, not pity", "Blind but not behind", "Give us our dignity respect our Rights" etc written on them. A picnic was also organised at the park for disabled youths and children before the start of the procession.

The Meghalaya Minister of State for Sports & Youths Affairs Mr Billykid A. Sangma was the Chief Guest at the celebration organised at the District Auditorium. He was of the opinion that referring to those 'Differently abled' people as disabled was injustice on the part of 'abled' people as they are "no less abled than any of us". Regarding the demand for 3% reservation of the disabled, he said that the Cabinet had recently discussed the same and informed the gathering that some resolution was likely to be taken in the next Cabinet meeting. He also pledged his full support for achieving the same.

Later, the Minister gave away the prizes to the winners of the singing competition organised on the occasion.

**SEMINAR ON ANTI-DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AIDS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AT UNTRAI**

**Shillong, December 8, 2003:** The Meghalaya Pensioners' Association (MPA) Shillong on December 5 organised a one day seminar on Anti-Drugs, Alcohol, AIDS/HIV and Consumers Protection at Umtrai, Ri Bhoi District in the premises of the Sakhit Secondary School. The Meghalaya Minister for Soil Conservation, Mr P. W. Muktieh graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Speaking on the day, Mr Muktieh lauded the initiative taken by the MPA in organising the seminar in such a remote corner of the State. Emphasizing upon the alarming trend of AIDS, Mr Muktieh said that AIDS has become a global threat to the human race, mostly effecting the third world countries. Over the world 42 crores of people are effected by this dreaded disease. Now with the virus spreading its tentacles across the nation, he called upon the people particularly the youth of the area to utilise the teaching imparted through the seminar and spread awareness on precautionary measures to safeguard from this disease.

Further more, he called upon the MPA to organise such programmes in other areas and assured them of his cooperation

Earlier, Mr B. E. Wahlang, General Secretary, MPA delivered the introductory speech on the aim and objective of the seminar and the activities of the association. The resource persons on the day were Rev. Fr. Topno, Project Director, KRIPA Foundation, Shillong, Mrs. T. Diengdoh, Mr R. S. Lyngdoh, Vice President of MPA, Dr. B. R Baruah, Project Director, Meghalaya AIDS Control Society, Shillong.