

May 18, 2004

Press Release No 301/04

### ANTI-TERRORISM DAY TO BE OBSERVED

**Shillong, May 18, 2004:** With the objective of weaning the people, particularly the youth, away from the cult of terrorism and violence, Anti-Terrorism will be observed on May 21, 2004 nationwide.

In Meghalaya, the State level function will be held in the Front Court Yard of the Main Secretariat Building, Shillong at 11:00 AM. The observation will be marked by a "pledge taking" ceremony.

All State Government employees are requested to be present at the said venue by 10:45 AM.

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### LAKEMPONG DANCE AT SOHPHOH

**Shillong, May 18, 2004:** After a gap of 53 years, the Lakempong Dance of the Raid Namsha was once again revived in all its grandeur in a two day dance fiesta organized by the Ri Bhoi Area Welfare Association (RAWA) in collaboration with the Raid. Held on May 14 and 15, 2004, the dance was held at Sohphoh, Ri Bhoi District. Mr. J. D. Rymbai, Minister for C&RD graced the concluding day as the Chief Guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Rymbai congratulated RAWA for taking the initiative in reviving the dying culture of the Raid. Stating that "culture has noting to do with religion", he stressed on the importance of people being aware of their culture and also on the need to preserve it uniqueness. He also called upon the people to cooperate with the elders of the Raid in making the Lakempong an annual festival.

Others who spoke on the occasion were, Mr S. W. Rymbai, Minister of State, Mr. W Mynsong, Executive Member, KHADC, Mr C Manshli, Chairman, Umsning Block, Mr B Rani, President, RAWA. Mr. J Shadap, Basan presided over the meeting.

It may be mentioned that the programme was inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner, Ri Bhoi District, Nongpoh, Mr. W L Lyngdoh, on May 14, 2004.

### RI BHOI EMPORIUM SET UP AT NONGPOH

**Shillong, May 18, 2004:** The Ri Bhoi Emporium, which marks as an onset of the Ri Bhoi Foundation Day Celebration on June 4, 2004, was today inaugurated by Mr. Sayeedulah Nongrum, Minister for Sericulture and Weaving at Nongpoh. The Emporium will be permanently set up at Down Gate, Nongpoh where handloom products from the District will be displayed for exhibition and sale.

Lauding the initiative taken by the District Administration to uplift the socio-economic development of the indigenous groups of Ri Bhoi, Mr. Nongrum said that with the setting up of the Emporium, the local weavers would greatly be benefited as far as marketing is concerned. He assured the gathering that all possible help would be rendered to the District for the interest of the weavers and urged the people to work together with the Government for the progress of the District and the State as a whole.

Mr. E N Marak, Director, Sericulture and Weaving, who also spoke on the occasion, said that weaving has a unique place in the upliftment of the socio-economic life of the people in the rural areas. Appreciating the District Administration for the emporium, he said that the rural people, especially the weavers would be benefited from it as it will serve as a platform to display their various products.

Others who spoke on the occasion were Mrs. M N Nampui, ADM and Mr. T Lyngdoh, District Sericulture Officer, Nongpoh. The meeting was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner, Ri Bhoi District.

To make the Ri Bhoi Foundation Day celebration a success, the District Administration have chalked out several programmes which include the Constituency-wise Women's Football Tournament, Cleaning and Plantation Drive, awards to be given to meritorious students of the District and illumination of office buildings on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004. The Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr. D D Lapang will grace the Foundation Day on June 4th as Chief Guest at Pahamsyiem ground.

### DRDA ORGANISED AWARENESS PROGRAMME

**Shillong, May 18, 2004:** A two-day awareness programme on health sanitation was organised recently at Baghmara by the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA). The programme, organised for local NGOs, was sponsored by the State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) in collaboration with Ka Lympung Ki Seng Kynthei (KLKSK), an apex body of Womens' Organisations of Shillong.

In the programme, attended by various NGOs from Garo Hills, West Khasi Hills and Ri Bhoi Districts, the State Council of Science and Technology, Shillong, demonstrated the benefits and uses of smokeless chulahs, hollow bricks and bakery etc.

### DIENGPASOH PHC INAUGURATED

**Shillong, May 18, 2004:** The PHC at Diengpasoh village was inaugurated today by the Meghalaya Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Mr. E D Marak, in the presence of Meghalaya Minister for Cooperation, Mr. Charles Pyngrope, who is also the local MLA of the area. It may be mentioned here that the foundation stone of the PHC was laid down in June, 1997 by the then Health Minister, Late Mr. Kitdor Syiem.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Marak expressed his immense pleasure to be associated with the people of the area and said that the day is a red letter day for them. Besides catering to the basic medical requirements, the PHC would also provide health training programmes to the people which would benefit them, he added. Saying that the PHC, after being made functional, will be their asset, he urged the people to take care of it and avail its facilities in a proper manner. Responding to a memorandum submitted to him on the occasion by the Village Dorbar, he assured that he would look into the matter to meet their requirements.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Charles Pyngrope said that with the opening of the PHC, people of the area would now be free of the inconvenience of getting medical aid especially in emergency. The collective efforts of the people and various Government Departments have expedited the inauguration of the PHC, he added.

Others speaking on the occasion were Dr. Mrs. B Lyndem, DHS and Dr. O S Jyrwa, Doctor in charge, PHC.