

November 8, 2004

Press Release No:739/04

HUNDRED DRUMS WANGALA FESTIVAL TO BE HELD AT ASANANG

Shillong, November 8, 2004: Preparations have begun for the Annual Hundred Drums Wangala Festival to be held on November 12-13, 2004 at Asanang, near Tura in West Garo Hills District. The Hundred Drums Wangala Festival Committee held a series of meetings to chalk out details for the two-day festival, with various sub-committees to make elaborate arrangements for the grand occasion.

Meghalaya Minister for PWD, etc, Dr. Mukul Sangma and Minister for Tourism, Mrs. Debora C Marak are expected to grace the occasion as the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour, respectively.

It may be mentioned that in order to protect, preserve and promote cultural identity, a group of Garo intellectuals came together in a meeting and decided to organized the Wangala Festival on modern lines: a group of 30 dancers with ten drums would form a contingent and 300 dancers would make up the Hundred Drums Wangala Festival.

The first Hundred Drums Wangala Festival was organized on December 6-7, 1976 at Asanang, the headquarter of Rongram Development Block, 18 kilometers from Tura. Since then Hundred Drums Wangala festival is being organized annually in the second week of November. The Festival has grown over the years under the patronage of the Government of Meghalaya and nurtured by a cultural organisation, registered under Government of Meghalaya, called the Hundred Drums Wangala Festival Organisation.

Press Release No:740/04

TOURISM MINISTER INAUGURATES DISTRICT LEVEL EXHIBITION

Shillong, November 8, 2004: A three day district level exhibition, organized by the District Industries Centre, Williamnagar, was inaugurated by the Minister of Tourism, Mrs. Debora C Marak at Rongrenggre playground in which around 102 entrepreneurs and artists including nine Government Department took part in the exhibition.

Speaking at the inaugural function, Mrs. Marak said that this exhibition is an opportunity for local people to expose their talents besides selling their goods. She also pointed out that other countries like China and Thailand are promoted a lot in every aspects whereas we are still lacking behind, therefore we must work hard to be able to compete with others, she added.

Mrs. Marak also said that this region is very rich in Tourism potential which the people are yet to explore. Whereas Tourism has been considered as the fastest growing industry in the world, she also urged upon the people to explore this potentiality so as to solve unemployment problem in the district and the state as a whole.

Others who spoke on the occasion were the Divisional Soil Conservation Officer, Mrs. S Sangma, General Manager of the District Industries Centre, Baghmara, Mr. R R Marak, the Deputy Commissioner of East Garo Hills, Mr. E P Kharbhih. The function was presided over the Joint Director of Industries, Mrs. C B Sangma, while the vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. G R Marak, General Manager, District Industries Centre, Williamnagar.

Press Release No:741/04

SECTION 144 CrPC PROMULGATED

Shillong, November 8, 2004: The District Magistrate, East Khasi Hills District, Shillong, has promulgated an order under Section 144 CrPC in the whole District, prohibiting the sale, purchase and procurement of crackers/fireworks producing bursting sound including missiles and rockets except Tarabatti (all types) and tubri (without sound) in all public places and public thoroughfares. The use of fireworks and fire crackers shall be permitted only between 6:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.

This order shall come into force with immediate effect and remain in force till the celebration of Diwali festival is over.

Press Release No:742/04

PAID HOLIDAY FOR BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYEES

Shillong, November 8, 2004: The Under Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Labour Department, in a notification issued here, has informed that all public/private commercial and industrial enterprises etc., (including shops and factories) falling under the 24 - Ummulong-Moodymmai District Council Constituency of the Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council, (JHADC), are directed to allow a paid holiday to their employees on November 10, 2004, being the actual date of polling to the ensuing Bye-Election to the afore said Constituency to enable the voters to exercise their franchise.