

Nagaland Dy. CM Zeliang Addresses NSUD Diamond Jubilee Celebration



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New Delhi: In a significant address at the Naga Students Union Delhi (NSUD) Diamond Jubilee Celebration Cum Nagas Meet, Sh. T.R Zeliang, Deputy Chief Minister (P&T, NH), congratulated the NSUD on its 60 years of existence and emphasized the importance of 'Rekindling the flame of Naga Unity.' The event, held at the Talkatora Indoor Stadium on Saturday, brought together Naga students from various walks of life under the theme aimed at reinforcing the cultural and historical roots of the Naga community.

Sh. Zeliang commenced his speech by expressing gratitude to Almighty God for the gathering and extended warm greetings to the attendees. Reflecting on the theme, he underscored the challenges faced by Naga nationalism in the 21st century, highlighting the impact of external influences on the Naga way of life. He drew attention to issues such as fratricidal killings, corruption, and the influence of money, quoting the late A.Z Phizo's prophetic words, "Nagas will never surrender in the battlefield, but many Nagas will fall when money is shot through the barrel of the gun."

Addressing the tribalism and sectarianism prevalent among the Naga people, Sh. Zeliang urged for unity, stating, "Unity applies mostly to one's own tribe. We favor our own dialect, culture, tradition, practices, etc., but pave no way for other tribes to co-exist among us." He stressed the need to overcome these challenges politically and socially, asserting that student leaders in the capital city could bring about transformation through forgiveness and cooperation.

The Deputy Chief Minister shared his experiences with the Naga negotiating parties, NSCN (IM) and the 7 NNPGs, and highlighted the importance of political unity. He acknowledged the efforts of the Nagaland Legislators Forum in initiating peace talks and recounted key moments in the negotiation process, including the signing of the Framework Agreement in 2015.

Sh. Zeliang expressed his longing for an inclusive, honorable, and acceptable settlement to the Naga political issue. He emphasized the role of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly and the Coordination Committee on Naga Political Issue in pushing for a resolution. The Deputy Chief Minister urged both negotiating parties and the Government of India to find an amicable settlement during this crucial juncture.

Touching upon historical figures like Haipou Jadonang and Rani Gaidinliu, Sh. Zeliang questioned the reluctance to recognize Zeliangrong leaders who fought against British colonial power. He also advocated for supporting the desires of Naga tribes living in different states to come together under one umbrella.

In conclusion, Sh. T.R Zeliang encouraged unity among Naga civil society organizations and student bodies. He applauded the achievements of Naga students in competitive exams in Delhi and appealed for a reconsideration of positions to foster reunion.

As the NSUD completes 60 years, Sh. Zeliang wished the organization success in its future endeavors, calling for a rededication to the cause of the Naga people and the preservation of their dreams and aspirations.

The Diamond Jubilee Cum Nagas Meet celebration was wished a grand success by Sh. T.R Zeliang, concluding with, "Thank you all. God bless the Naga people. Kuknalim!"

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