

LETTER OF APPRECIATION OF KOHIMA VILLAGE COUNCIL

The Naga Club Kohima Nagaland appreciates the truthful stand of the Kohima Village Council and its endeavour to protect and preserve the facts of history of the Naga People. The leadership of Kohima Village has displayed exemplary integrity in a time that demands truthfulness and the courage to act to prevent the manipulation and distortion of the facts of history.

Mention must be made that the benevolent leadership of Kohima Village then, had given a plot and a house to the Naga Club at Mission compound Kohima for the use of all Naga People. When the house was totally damaged during the Second World War, the present Naga Club building site was again donated by the people of Kohima Village to the Naga Club to be used for the benefit of all Naga People.

History testifies that the People of Kohima Village had been instrumental in the formation of the Naga Club where Rheichalie Pienyü had to shoulder the responsibility of the Naga Club for 24 long years since its inception in 1918 till 1942. Again the Simon Commission of 1929 submitted by the Naga Club was said to have been drafted by Rüzhükhrie Sekhose, which became the *Magna Carta* of Naga National Politics and laid down the written concrete foundation of the Naga Peoples' rights to self determination.

The Naga Club was formed by some educated Govt. servants serving in the DC's office, Kohima on 7th Jan. 1918 under the Chairmanship of Rheichalie Pienyü, peshkar. Attempts have been made by elements with vested interest to distort the facts of history by the claim that the Naga Club was formed by the "Naga Labour Corps". History testifies to the fact that the Naga Labour corps returned only in June 1918 and the Naga Club had already existed by then. **While the Naga Labour Corps could have influenced the contents of the memorandum to the Simon Commission, it would be a distortion of history by anyone to state that the Naga Labour Corps on their return formed the Naga Club.** Having stated thus, the Naga Club has no intent to glorify one or vilify the other, but that the facts of history must be rightfully narrated for posterity so that we do not confuse the upcoming generation. We all are aware that the Naga Club was not allowed to erect its 100 years Centenary Monolith at its rightful place beside the Naga Club building. And this treacherous act on the Naga People has been rightly noted in your letter that stated, *(quote)* **"Belated though, the Council wished to put on record that the Centenary Jubilee Celebration Monolith of the Naga Club should be erected at the proper site that is the Naga Club building at Khuochiezie. The Council further wishes to clarify that the entire area of the Naga Club building belongs to the Kewhimia ancestral land and therefore the buildings around Naga Club on a temporary permit should not be made permanent as it is under the jurisdiction of the Naga Club only"** and also that **"no one should distort the history of the Naga Club to suit their own interest but let historical facts remain as hard facts for posterity"** *(unquote)*.

Your knowledge and comprehension of the facts of history of the Naga Club and its continuation of office has guided you to resolve that *(quote)* **"The present office bearers/officials of Naga Club cannot be considered unmandated"** *(unquote)*.

In such a time of manipulation of facts and attempts to silence the truth using various influences, the truthful voice of the Kohima Village Council and the stand it has taken for the legacy of the Naga people from being distorted, the Naga people through the Naga Club shall remain always indebted to the leadership of Kohima Village. May God grant Wisdom and Courage to the able leadership of Kohima Village to always stand for truth without fear or favour and be an example of good leadership to all Nagas.