



OFFICE OF THE
MISING AGOM KÉBANG
(MISING SAHITYA SABHA)
(Mising Language Society)

Estd. 1972 Regd. No. 663 of 1978

H.O: Karichuk, P.O.- Dhemaji, Dist.-Dhemaji (Assam), PIN - 787 057

Website : www.misingagomkebang.in

President

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General Secretary

Mg. Eleswar Doley
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SESSION : 2016-2019

Ref. No. :MAK/2016-19/ 038

Date :...28/4/20

To

The Commissioner & Secretary to the
GOVERNOR of Assam
Raj Bhawan, Guwahati – 781 001

Sub.- Introduction of Mising Language as a Postgraduate Diploma Course
at Dibrugarh University.

Sir,

We, on behalf of the Mising Agom Kébang (Mising Sahitya Sabha), beg state that one Peter Peg based in Mumbai submitted a letter to His Excellency Shri P.B.Acharya, Governor of Assam, raising objection to the introduction of the Mising Language as a Postgraduate Diploma Course and also the spelling of 'Mising' (Copy enclosed).

In this connection, we would like to state that introduction or non-introduction of certain course in the University is a matter under the purview of the competent authorities of the University, including His Excellency, Governor of Assam as its Chancellor. And, as such, the gentleman has no authority to interfere in the affairs of the University.

As the Misings identify themselves as 'Mising' since time immemorial and never call themselves a 'Miri', which they feel as derogatory in sense, and is, in fact given by non-Mising People, all the apex organizations of the Mising community in a joint meeting held on 03/06/2012 adopted resolutions for substituting the name from 'Miri' to 'Mising' and to move the Govt. for replacement of the same through constitutional amendment (Copy enclosed). Again, an amendment proposal for replacement of the tribe name 'Mising' in place of 'Miri' was initiated in the Lok Sabha vide bill no. 71 of 2011 (copy enclosed) following which the Govt. of India sought views from the Govt. of Assam. Unfortunately, the matter appears to have been pending till date. The Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Assam, Welfare of Plains Tribe and Backward Classes and the Director, SCERT, Assam have also already been separately requested by the Mising Agom Kébang to take necessary steps on the matter (Copy enclosed).

A memorandum was jointly signed and submitted by all the apex organizations of the Mising Community to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam on 28/02/2016 wherein it was urged that suitable initiative for amendment of the Constitutional Order, 1951 to replace the word 'Miri' by the appropriate name 'Mising' be taken by the Govt. immediately. (Copy of the memorandum is enclosed)..



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Further, we would like to bring the following few lines for your kind attention;

The use of 'Mising' / 'Mishing': – The Mising language like the Assamese language, has no speech sound corresponding to the letters 'sh' (technically a diagraph), as in English *ship, show, shine shake, shin, etc.*, because of which Misings, like speakers of Assamese as mother tongue, who have not learnt to pronounce English speech sounds properly, fail to differentiate the pronunciation of such pairs of English words as *sip-ship, sow-show, sign- shine, sake-shake etc.* Because of this phonetic feature of Mising, as spoken today by all sections of the Mising community, the Central Institute of Indian Language (CIIL), Mysore, has published a MISING GRAMMAR (1991), written by the linguist Bal Ram Prasad and revised by other linguists Devi Prasada Shastri and P.T. Abraham. Obviously, the scholars of the institute used the spelling 'MISING', only after field studies of the language concerned. (Copy of cover of the Mising Grammar is enclosed).

Moreover, a Mising Dictionary under the name and style of 'Mising Gompir Kumsung; A Dictionary of the Mising Language' and a Mising grammar under the name and style of 'An Introduction to Mising Phonology and Grammar' edited and written respectively by Tabu Ram Taid a well known linguist and Sahitya Academy 'Bhasha Sanman' Awardee (who is hailing from Mising Community), and published by the Anundoram Borooh Institute of Language, Art & Culture (ABILAC), Assam has also used the spelling 'MISING'. (Copy of cover of the Dictionary and the Phonology and Grammar is enclosed).

A detailed release in this respect has been made available by the Mising Agom Kébang in its Website www.Mising Agom Kébang.org.(Copy enclosed).

There is, therefore, no scope for accepting the spelling 'Mising' as 'Mishing'. Or else, it would amount to writing the community name in Assamese as মিশিং or মিশিং, which is phonetically wrong, can't be acceptable at all by the Community.. Acceptance of the spelling 'Mishing' would not only entail nullification of all the Laws and Rules enacted and framed so far by the Government, State or Central but also invalidate all the literary works, books etc. brought out so far by the Mising Agom Kébang since its inception.

'Misi'ng'/Mising instead of Mising: - The Mising language has six social subgroups, excluding the Somuangs in Arunachal Pradesh, and each subgroup speak a dialect of Mising, which is slightly different from another in certain respects. Divergences within the same language according to dialect, region or locality etc. are a common phenomenon in languages. There are many words in Mising, which



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are pronounced in one way in one dialect and in a different way in another. 'Mising' is one such word, it is pronounced 'Mising' in a couple of dialects, but in couple of other dialects, its sound syllable is pronounced with a vowel sound, which is described phonetically as a 'high central' or 'close central' vowel. Mising Agom Kébang (popularly known as Mising Sahitya Sabha) use with the letter I (i), with a critical mark (called 'acute'), viz. Í (i). Now to say that 'Mising' is correct, Mising wrong is a highly debatable issue, those who pronounce 'Mising' consider other pronunciation wrong, just as those who pronounce 'Mising' consider 'Mising' wrong.

The Mising Agom Kébang, (the Apex literary organization) registered as a Society, has been using the form 'Mising' which is the easier of the two forms – 'Mising' and 'Mising', since its establishment in 1972 after scientific study of the phonetic system of the Mising language. Further, the following different highest bodies of the Mising Community have not only been using the same form but also jointly adopted resolution to the effect that the name 'MIRI' contained in the Constitution Order, 1950 in the list of Scheduled Tribes should be changed to 'MISING' by the Central Government through a process of Constitutional amendment (Copy enclosed).

- (1) Mising Ba:ne Kébang (Apex Socio-cultural Organization of the Misings, estd. in 1924).
- (2) Takam Mising Porin Kébang (All Mising Students' Union estd. in 1971).
- (3) Mising Mimag Kébang (Mising Revolutionary Society estd. in 1993).
- (4) Takam Mising Mimé Kébang (All Mising Womens' Association estd. in 1990).
- (5) Mising Dírbí Kébang (Mising Cultural Association estd. in 1980).
- (6) Mising Artists' Association established in 2013

His Excellency Governor of Assam has already created an Autonomous Council for Mising Community by enacting the MISING AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL ACT, 1995 which was duly notified in the Assam Gazette on 10th October, 1995, where also the spelling 'MISING' is correctly used (Copy enclosed).

The UNESCO's list of endangered languages in the world (available in the Internet) includes such tribal languages of Assam as Bodo, Mising, Tiwa, Rabha etc, where also the highest international body of Education, Culture etc. uses the same spelling viz. 'MISING'.



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
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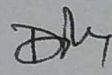
'MISING' is a Mising word, the name of the community, not an English word. There are other communities such as Modahi, Chutiya etc., the literary sense of which is different. He confuse 'Mising' with English 'missing' is like reading 'Xi Jinping', (name of the President of Chi 'Eleven Jinping'..

There is, therefore, no scope for spelling 'Mising' as 'Mishing' or 'Missing'. And, as su views of the gentleman or any individual whatsoever should not be taken into consideration in the interest of the entire Mising Community and its representative bodies.

Under the circumstances stated above, we request your honour kindly to exercise your good so that the on-going Postgraduate Certificate Course of Mising Language at Dibrugarh University interrupted but is allowed to continue and upgrade to a Postgraduate Diploma Course from the Certificate Course in the interest of preservation and development of the endangered Mising language

Yours Faithfully,


(G. Taid)
President

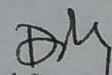

(E. Doley)
General Secretary

Memo No.MAK/2016-19/039-40

Dated Dhemaji the 28th April, 2016.

Copy to :-

1. The Vice-Chancellor, Dibrugarh University, Dibtugarh -786 004.
2. The Director-In-charge, Centre for Studies in Language, Dibrugarh University, Dibrug 004.


General Secretary,
Mising Agom Kébang.