

To

Sjt Sarbananda Sonowal
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam
Janata Bhawan, Dispur,
Guwahati-6

Sub: A memorandum on the burning problems of the Mising Community.

Dated Guwahati the 16th June, 2016

Hon'ble Sir,

Warm regards. We the representative organisations of the Mising community of Assam whole heartedly congratulate you for winning the Assam elections, 2016 and taking the political leadership towards a new horizon of peace and development. We also thank your honour for giving us this opportunity to submit this Memorandum on the burning issues of the community and, we hope that you will peruse them and take urgent steps to redress the issues.

1. ISSUES OF MISING AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL:

We hope that the Mising Autonomous Council created two decades ago which languished for long for want of fund and political guidance will now usher in a new path of development under your guidance. A democratically elected Council is now functioning with accountability to the public. But, there are certain problems which are hindering smooth functioning and faster development of the community and the area.

1.1. Fund allocation to MAC: Fund allocated to MAC is very meager and discriminatory in comparison to other Councils. MAC covers a huge area of around 1500 villages and 10 lakhs + populations in 8 districts. The following table shows how MAC gets lesser fund than the others:

Council	Population as per 2011 Census	Allocation 2014-15 (Rs. In Lakh)	Allocation 2015-16 (Rs. In Lakh)	Per Capita allocation (Rs.)
Mising AC	680424	5852	6437	1806.08
Rabha Hasong AC	296189	4120	4350	2859.66
Tiwa AC	182663	3991	4390	4588.23
Sonowal Kachari AC	253344	2514	2765	2083.73
Thengal Kachari	NA	2512	2763	NA
Deuri AC	43750	2656	2765	12390.86

(Source: Assam Institute of Research for SC and ST, Guwahati)

Unlike some other Councils, MAC's mandate is to work for the Mising and all other communities residing within MAC areas and as such the total population of MAC notified villages as per Govt. of India Census, 2011 is 10,04,567 (Ten Lakhs Four Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Seven) only. But the allocation to MAC is very meager and discriminatory. This needs to be corrected.

1.2. Lapse of Fund: We understand that fund for development of backward region and backward people should always be non-lapsable. But, during 2010-11, an amount of Rs. 35.08 crore of budget allocation was allowed to be lapsed. Then, an amount of Rs. 29.26 crore and Rs. 32.18 crores respectively during 2014-15 and 2015-16 was not released to the Council even after according sanction to the entire amount. Then, an amount of Rs. 87.32 crore, being the budget allocation for the years of 2011-12 and 2012-13 is now in limbo as Revenue Deposit now converted to Supplementary Demand Fund. The Council has been deprived off its legitimate and budget sanctioned fund to the extent of Rs. 148.76 crore till date.

We appeal to your honor to redress this injustice and order the appropriate authority to release the fund at the earliest.

1.3. Staff of MAC: The Council is failing to deliver its services and duties on time mainly due to lack of adequate officers and other staff including technical ones. There are a large numbers of staff working against non-sanctioned posts year after year.

We request your honour to look into the matter to post adequate officers and regularize the services of staff working against non-sanctioned posts.

1.4. Special Package for economic development: In view of long years of deprivation and extreme backwardness, we request your honour to declare a **Special Package for economic development** to MAC for five years.

1.5. Recommendation for inclusion of MAC under the Sixth Schedule: A Cabinet Sub Committee constituted earlier has already recommended inclusion of the Mising Autonomous Council in to the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution and the Assam Legislative Assembly has also passed a resolution to that effect. We would like to reiterate that the recommendation should be re-endorsed to the Central Govt for necessary action.

2. MISING LANGUAGE:

The Mising Agom Kebang had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding first in 1985 with the Congress Govt. led by Late Hiteswar Saikia and then again in 1986, with the new Govt. led by Asom Gana Parishad for introduction of the Mising Language in Class III and IV on experimental basis and then to introduce the Mising language as Medium of Instruction at primary level. Since then, 230 Nos. of posts of Mising Language Teacher (MLT) have been created and teachers appointed till 1994 and thence, the process of appointing MLT has come to a complete halt. The understanding of introducing the Mising language as medium of instruction never took off.

In view of the prevailing situation, we unanimously raise before your honour the following demands:

2.1. The Mising Language should immediately be introduced as medium of instruction in lower primary (class I to V), in all the areas predominantly inhabited by Mising people under the provision of Article 350 (A) of the Constitution of India, Chapter V (29) (2) (f) of the Right to Education Act, 2009 and recommendations of the National Education Commission, National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT).

2.2. 1500 posts of Mising Language Teachers should be created and teachers appointed immediately for introduction of the Mising language in all the schools of areas predominantly inhabited by Mising people.

2.3. All vacant posts of MLT lying vacant due to retirement, death, transfer etc. should be filled up immediately.

2.4. A separate Directorate for Tribal Languages should be created immediately.

2.5. A state tribal language policy consisting of four language formula should be adopted after due consultation with the literary bodies of the tribal languages.

3. LAND PROBLEM:

Although, the tribal people are often described as the 'sons of the soil' or the aboriginal; they are the people burdened most with land problems. Numbers of landless people are the highest among the tribals. This is due to several problems – unabated flood & erosion, wrong forest policy of the Govt. and absence of land survey and settlement in areas mostly inhabited by the tribals. We unanimously demand that –

3.1. Immediate land survey and permanent land settlement should be taken up in Assam with special drive in the tribal populated areas.

3.2. The so-called forest areas with well settled villages should be converted to revenue land, surveyed and settled with the villagers permanently; and the true forest areas should be conserved with effective protection.

3.3. The tribal and all other indigenous people should be given land settlement on priority basis and as a privileged class without any premium.

3.4. The Tribal Belts and Blocks under Chapter – X of the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation Act, 1886 should be strictly enforced.

4. FLOOD & EROSION PROBLEM:

Flood & Erosion is one of the major problems breaking the backbone of agrarian economy in the state and the Mising people, as a riparian community, are worst sufferer of this. The conventional methods and mechanisms including the state administrative system have so far miserably failed to manage this problem. There has been popular demand that the flood & erosion problem of Assam be declared as a national one and expenditure for its management should be borne by the Central Govt. We support this demand and at the same time, we urge upon your honour to empower Mising Autonomous Council to execute flood control works of all nature and provide fund for the same.

5. IMPLEMENTATION ON ASSAM SC & ST (RESERVATION) ACT, 1978.

It is a matter of grave concern that the Assam SC & ST (Reservation in Post & Vacancies) Act, 1978 has not been followed in appointments under the state Govt. of Assam. As a result, large backlogs have been created in all categories of posts under the state Govt. There have been instances of wrong interpretation of a high court judgement by the Law and the Personnel Deptt. of Govt. of Assam in the Case No. WP(C) 1560/2015 and deprivation of all SC/ST employees from their deserving promotions. In view of the alarming situation, we urge upon your honour for your immediate intervention and to redress justice as per law. We demand that –

5.1. The Assam SC & ST (Reservation in Post & Vacancies) Act, 1978 should be strictly enforced.

5.2. A clear view of the Advocate General and any other competent authority should be taken on the HC judgement dated 23-12-2015 in the Case. No. WP(C) 1560/2015 and to stop induction of General Category candidates to the posts reserved of SC and ST candidates.

5.3. All backlogs in posts for appointment of SC & ST candidates should be filled up with special recruitment drive.

5.4. All shortfall of posts meant for SC and ST should be filled up as per guideline in the judgement of Gauhati High Court dated 02-02-2015 in the Case of Dr. Gangadhar Doley & Others Vs. the State of Assam & Others.

6. SCHOLARSHIP TO ST STUDENTS:

The ST students of the state have not been receiving their scholarships regularly since 2010. This is a matter of grave concern for the tribal people. The matter needs your urgent intervention and we demand that scholarship to the ST students be released immediately and arrangements should be made for regular disbursement of scholarship.

7. APPOINTMENT OF TEACHERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS:

The status of Primary education in Mising villages is very poor with lack of qualified teachers. We demand that the sections 19 & 25 of Right to Education Act be amended to appoint teachers class wise and subject wise instead of appointing teachers according to number of students.

8. REPLACEMENT OF 'MIRI' BY 'MISING':

The Misings of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh belongs to the north Assam branch to Tibeto-Burman linguistic group and they call themselves as 'Mising'. But at the time of framing the Constitutional Order, 1951 for enlisting the Scheduled Tribes of Assam, the Misings have been referred as 'Miri' which we consider as a derogatory term used by other people. Therefore, we strongly demand to take suitable initiative for amendment of the Constitutional Order, 1951 to replace the word 'Miri' by the appropriate name 'Mising'.

9. LOWER SUBANSIRI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT:

The construction of a Mega dam at Gerukamukh in Dhemaji district is a major concern for the Mising people as the river basin of the entire downstream of Subansiri river right from Gerukamukh up to Lohitmukh is inhabited by Mising people. Life, culture, tradition and livelihood of Mising people are intimately related with the river. Any alteration in the flow of Subansiri river will heavily impact our life, not to speak about threat of dam break. Therefore, we demand that –

9.1. Safety of the Dam should be ensured at the highest level through discussion with the Expert Group of Assam.

9.2. The river banks on both sides from Gerukamukh up to Lohitmukh should be stabilized and permanently protected.

9.3. All sorts of construction works in the Dam project should be kept in abeyance till a solution is arrived at through tripartite discussion among the Central Govt., State Govt. of Assam and the agitating organizations.

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10. SCHEDULING OF OTHER COMMUNITIES AS ST (PLAINS):

There have been demands for inclusion of six more communities having substantial population in to the list of ST(Plains) in Assam and there are reports that the Assam Govt. has already recommended it to the Central Govt. The existing ST population of Assam is apprehensive that such inclusion will completely deprive the existing ST people from the constitutional rights and privileges and therefore, we urge upon your honour to protect the rights and interests of the existing ST(Plains) communities of Assam by appropriate means.

11. DECLARATION OF STATE HOLIDAY ON ALI AYE LIGANG:

Ali Aye Ligang is the seed sowing festival of the Mising community celebrated on the 1st Wednesday of *Falgun* month. Apart from rituals performed for better crop, people make merry, sing and dance around for several days. But people are being restrained from celebrating the festival for want of holiday on the occasion. Ironically, this year, SEBA held the HSLC Examination from 18th February, the very next day of the festival. This has shocked and hurt the sentiments of the Mising people.

We therefore, urge upon your honour to declare the first Wednesday of every *Falgun* month as a state holiday and listed accordingly in the calendar.

12. ALLOTMENT OF LAND FOR MISING BHAWAN AT GUWAHATI AND NEW DELHI:

The Mising community needs its own Mising Bhawan at the state capital Guwahati and the national capital New Delhi. We urge upon your honour to allot Govt. land at Guwahati and New Delhi and grant fund for construction of Mising Bhawans.

13. ALLOTMENT OF LAND FOR MISING CULTURAL BHAWANS:

The Mising community needs its own Mising Cultural Complexes at all the district and sub-divisional headquarters. Therefore, we urge upon your honour to allot Govt. land at all the district and sub-divisional headquarters of Assam.

14. DOORDARSHAN KENDRA AND RADIO STATION AT GOGAMUKH:

Gogamukh, in the district of Dhemaji is fast emerging as the socio-cultural capital of the Mising people. The place is central to all the Mising inhabited areas. We demand that a Doordarshan Kendra and a Radio Station be established at Gogamukh at the earliest for cultural development of the community and the area. Till then, arrangement should be made for broadcasting programs in Mising language from AIR and Doordarshan Kendra, Dibrugarh at least for one hour every day.

15. PATENTING OF MISING TEXTILE DESIGNS AND FOOD PRODUCTS:

The Textile designs and the food & beverages of the Mising community are exotic and unique in nature and they are very popular among all sections of people. The Govt. of Assam should take the initiative for patenting these products under suitable provision.

16. DEDICATION OF BOGIBEEL BRIDGE:

The Kareng-Bogibeel bridge over river Brahmaputra connecting Dhemaji and Dibrugarh district is going to be completed in 2017. We demand that the bridge should be dedicated to the memory of freedom fighter Martyr Kamala Miri and named accordingly.

17. ESTABLISHMENT OF A PLASTIC INDUSTRIAL PARK AT SILAPOTHAR:


Commissioning of the Gas Cracker project at Dirugarh has opened up new vistas for industrial growth. Now, opening the Kareng-Bogibeel bridge over Brahmaputra will remove the geographical isolation of Dhemaji district and place it in close proximity with the Gas Cracker. We, therefore, demand to establish a **Plastic Industrial Park** at Silapothar area in Dhemaji district for industrial growth of the district and employment of youths.

18. LICENSE FOR MINI THEATER HALL:


Considering economic non-viability of Cinema Hall in small towns and suburban areas, we urge upon your honour to issue license and financial subsidy for establishment of Mini Theatre Hall in MAC area for showing Cinema/video.

Conclusion: With the thumping majority you won by casting of unprecedented numbers of vote this year, we are all hopeful that you will lead Assam boldly, take it to new heights of development and glory and we hope, you will take along the tribal people with other advanced communities of Assam. We hope, there will be equal treatment, equal opportunity and equal sharing of resources under your noble guidance.

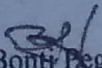
Thanks
Yours sincerely



Gubinda Taid
President

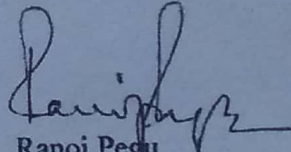
Mising Agom Kebang


Naresh Kumbang
President

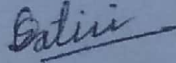
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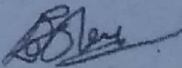

Bonti Pegu
Secretary - in - Charge
Takam Mising Mime Kebang

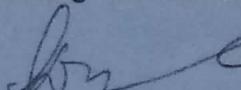

Hleswar Doley
General Secretary
Mising Agom Kebang


Ranoj Pegu
President

Mising Mimag Kebang


Suruj Kumar Patiri
President
Mising Dirbi Kebang


Padmalochan Doley
General Secretary
Takam Mising Porin Kebang


Premadhar Doley
General Secretary
Mising Mimag Kebang

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