

OFFICE OF THE
MISING AGOM KEBANG

(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.misingagonkebang.in

MISING AGOM KEBANG

President

Gubindo Taid
Ganapara, Ward No.-3,
Dhemaji, PIN-787057
Phone No. 94350 37605
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SESSION : 2016-2019

General Secretary

Mg. Eleswar Doley
Bagariguri, P.O.- Bakulguri, Dhakuakhana
Dist. : Lakhimpur, PIN-787055
Phone No. 99574 60095, 73994 10614
E-mail : eleswardoley@gmail.com

Date : ...1.3.1.2016

C. No. : MAK/2016-19/055
To,

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,
South Block, New Delhi - 110 001.

Subj. : - Regarding Replacement of the Tribe Name 'MIRI' by 'MISING' (but
Not 'MISHING') through a Constitutional Amendment.

Respected Sir,

We, the undersigned, for and on behalf of the Mising Agom Kébang (Mising Sahitya Sabha), the apex literary body of the Mising community, offer our warm greetings of the Assamese New Year, 2016 to you. At the same time, we also congratulate your honour on completion of two successful years as the Prime Minister of India, the largest democratic country of the world. Being a component of the Great Indian Nation, we are looking forward on your able and dynamic leadership that you will lead the Nation towards right direction for all round development of all sections of the people of India.

That Sir,

The 'MISING' constitutionally scheduled as 'MIRI' in the Scheduled Tribes Order, 1950 (Constitutional Order No. 22, No. S.R.O. 510 dated September 6, 1950) is, in terms of population, the second largest plains tribe of Assam and they inhabit the eastern ten districts of Assam viz., Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Sivasagar, Charaidew, Jorhat, Golaghat, Sonitpur, Biswanath Chariali, Lakhimpur and Dhemaji. As per the official Population Census of India'2011, the number of the

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Mising population in Assam was 6,80,424 and above 14,000 in Arunachal Pradesh. By now, the number must have risen to 10,00,000 (Ten Lakhs) and 18,000 (Eighteen Thousand) approximately in both the States. They speak Tani Language, a language known as 'North Assam group' of Tibeto-Burman Branch of the Sino-Tibetan family.

The Misings identify themselves as '**MISING**' since time immemorial. They never call themselves '**MIRI**'. The word '**MIRI**' which, they feel, was used in a derogatory in sense, is, in fact, given by non-Mising people. Therefore, on our demand, 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 by Shrimati Bijoya Chakravarty, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, following which the Government of India sought views from the Government of Assam. But unfortunately, the matter appears to have been pending till date at the end of the Government of Assam without any action. It is worth mentioning here that all the apex organizations of the Mising Community in a joint meeting held on 03/06/2012 adopted resolutions for changing the name from '**MIRI**' to '**MISING**' and to move the Govt. for replacement of the same through a constitutional amendment (copy of the resolution is enclosed). Further, a memorandum jointly signed by all the organizations of the community demanding taking of suitable initiative for amendment of the Constitutional Order, 1950, to replace the word '**MIRI**' by the appropriate name '**MISING**' was submitted to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam on 28/2/2016 (copy of extract of the memorandum is enclosed). It is pertinent to point here that the name '**Karbi**', known to non-Karbhis people as '**Mikir**', one of the Hills tribes of Assam, was changed to '**Karbi**' from '**Mikir**' through a constitutional amendment in 2000, followed by an official gazette notification in 2003.

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That Sir,

We would also like to bring to your notice the following few lines for favour of your kind necessary action:

Why is the use of 'MISING' but not 'MISHING'? - The Mising language like the Assamese language, has no speech sound corresponding to the letters 'sh' (technically a digraph), as in English *ship, show, shine, shake, shin* etc., because of which Misings, like speakers of Assamese as mother tongue, 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 Prasad Shastry 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**' compiled and edited by Prof. Tabu Ram Taid, a renowned linguist and Sahitya Academy "Bhasha Sanman" awardee (who is hailing from Mising community), and a Mising grammar under the name and style of '**AN INTRODUCTION TO MISING PHONOLOGY AND GRAMMAR**' written by the same scholar, published by the **Anundoram Borooah Institute of Language, Art and Culture (ABILAC), Assam**, has also used the spelling '**MISING**'. (copy of cover of the Dictionary and the Grammar is enclosed).

The use of Mising instead of Misi'ng/Mising - The Mising people pronounce the word "Mising in two ways, '**MISING**' and '**MISÍNG**'. The Mising

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Agom Kébang use with the latter I (i), with a critical mark (called acute), viz. Í (i) which is described phonetically as a 'high central' or 'close central'. However, both the terms 'MISING' and 'MISÍNG' are correct but as 'MISING' is, in easier form in writing the word, it is the form 'MISING', which has been used regularly and more widely by the different organizations of the Mising community.

The Mising Agom Kébang, a registered society (Regd. No. 663 of 1978), has been using the form 'MISING' since its establishment in the year 1972 after scientific study of the phonetic system of the Mising language. Further, all the representative bodies of the Mising community have been using the spelling 'MISING'. Such as:

- (1) Misng Ba:né Kébang (Mising Apex Socio-cultural Organization, established in 1924).
- (2) Takam Misng Porin Kébang (All Mising Students' Union, established in 1971).
- (3) Mising Dírbí Kébang (Mising Cultural Association, established in 1980).
- (4) Takam Mising Mimé Kébang (All Mising Womens' Association, established in 1990).
- (5) Mising Mimag Kébang (Mising Revolutionary Society, established in 1993).
- (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

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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'.

There is, therefore, no scope for spelling 'MISING' as 'MISHING' or 'MISSING'.

The Mising Agom Kébang, therefore, submit before your honour that in such matters of social concern, the experts' opinion and collective opinion of representative apex bodies of the community rather than the opinion of individual should prevail.

Under the above facts and circumstances, we, the Mising Agom Kébang beg to submit that your honour will be kind enough to take necessary steps to get the tribe name replaced through a constitutional amendment in the greater interest of the entire Mising community and thereby, fulfill the long standing demand of the community at the earliest possible.

And for this act of your kindness, we shall ever be grateful to you.

(Gubindo Taid)

President

Yours faithfully,

(Eleswar Doley)

General Secretary

S.C. AMB
20/8/2016

No. 19020/5/2015-C&LM-I
Government of India
Ministry of Tribal Affairs
(C&LM Division)

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001
Dated: 4th August, 2016

To,

Shri Gubindo Taid,
President, Mising Agom Kebang,
Tanganapara, Ward No. 3,
Dhemaji, Assam - 787057.

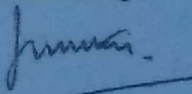
Subject: Public Grievance - regarding Change of name of the Tribe 'Miri' to 'Mising' in Scheduled Tribes(STs) list of Assam.

Sir,

Please refer to your Public Grievances Reg. no. PMOPG/D/2016/0138128 dated 26.05.16 on the subject above.

2. As per extant modalities, recommendation of the Govt. of Assam for change of name of 'Miri' to 'Mising' in STs list was sent to the Registrar General of India(RGI). RGI had asked for requisite information/documents. Govt. of Assam had accordingly been informed.

Yours faithfully,



(Jeewan Kumar)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

Copy to:

Deputy Secretary(Grievances), M/o Tribal Affairs, August Kranti Bhawan, New Delhi
w.r.t. Public Grievances Reg. no. PMOPG/D/2016/0138128 dated 26.05.16.