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Memorandum of Settlement

1. Preamble

1.1 The Government of India and the Government of Assam have made concerted efforts, over the years, to fulfill the legitimate aspirations of the Dimasa people, which led to devolution of more autonomy to the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC); preservation and promotion of their identity, culture, language, etc.; peace in the region; and all round development to bring the fruits of education and economic development to the people of the region.

1.2 In an effort to end militancy in a section of the Dimasa people, the Government of Assam signed an agreement with the Dimasa National Liberation Army/Dimasa Peoples' Supreme Council (DNLA/DPSC) on October 28, 2021 laying down the ground rules for Suspension of Operation and agreeing to resolve the demands through peaceful dialogue.

1.3 Several rounds of discussions were recently held with the leaders of DNLA/DPSC in an effort to amicably resolve their demands, which led to the signing of this Memorandum of Settlement (MoS). The MoS will ensure fulfillment of political aspirations of Dimasa people; promotion of their identity and culture; rehabilitation of armed cadres; and focused development of the region. The signatory armed group has agreed to abjure violence, in any manner, in furtherance of their objectives and join the peaceful democratic process as established by the law of the land.

J.A
28/6/23

By. No-632
Dated-30.06.23

2. Political Demands

2.1 The Government of Assam may consider reorganizing the administrative units under Dima Hasao District for better administration and development, after completion of the ongoing delimitation exercise in the State.

2.2 The Governor may appoint a Commission under paragraph 14 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution, soon after signing of the MoS, to examine and recommend on the following: -

- a. Inclusion of additional villages contiguous to NCHAC with the Council, as demanded by DNLA/DPSC.
- b. Commensurate increase in the number of territorial constituencies of NCHAC after alteration in its area.

2.3 The Commission will include representatives of the Government of Assam as well as other stakeholders, including NCHAC and the signatories to the MoS.

2.4 Amendment to the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution to alter the name of NCHAC to Dima Hasao Autonomous Territorial Council and increase the number of members to not more than forty has already been initiated with the introduction of the Constitution (125th Amendment) Bill, 2019 in the Parliament.

2.5 The Delimitation Commission constituted by the Government of India in connection with the ongoing delimitation exercise in Assam may look into the demand of DNLA/DPSC regarding review of the number of Parliamentary/Assembly constituencies in Dima Hasao district.

3. Dimasa Welfare Council

3.1 ~~The~~ ^{in similar line with Bodo welfare proposed} Government of Assam will set up a Dimasa Welfare Council with the objective of fulfilling the political, economic and educational aspirations; protecting, preserving and promoting social, cultural, linguistic identities, etc.; and ensuring accelerated and focused development of the Dimasa people residing outside the jurisdiction of NCHAC in the State.

3.2 ~~The~~ Dimasa Welfare Council will have its headquarters at Guwahati.

3.3 Members of the Council will be nominated by the State Govt. ordinarily every five years. Signatories to the MoS may be considered for such nomination.

3.4 Based on the recommendation of the Council, the State Govt. will provide adequate funds for developmental activities for the benefit of Dimasa people residing outside the jurisdiction of NCHAC.

4. Rehabilitation and Re-settlement of armed cadres

4.1 DNLA/DPSC shall come over ground, surrender all arms/ammunition and disband the armed (DNLA)/civil(DPSC) organization within one month of signing of the MoS, as a precursor to the implementation of the MoS. All camps occupied by DNLA/DPSC shall be vacated forthwith. Possession of any weapon after signing of the MoS shall be unlawful.

4.2 DNLA has already submitted the list of cadres to Assam Police at the time of laying down of arms. The names of such cadres shall be scrutinized and verified by the Screening Committee before their

rehabilitation. Unverified cadres shall not be given any rehabilitation benefits.

4.3 Necessary measures will be taken by the Government of India and the Government of Assam to rehabilitate the armed cadres. Such measures shall include (i) lump sum payment of ex-gratia as per extant Surrender-cum-Rehabilitation Policy, (ii) funding economic activities through existing government schemes relating to fisheries, piggery, organic farming, poultry farming, agro-based industries, tea/rubber/indigo plantation, etc. (iii) trade/vocational/skill development training based on locally available resources, and (iv) recruitment in appropriate government jobs as per eligibility and existing rules.

4.4 Efforts will be made to extend benefits of various ongoing government schemes for employment generation and other schemes to DNLA armed cadres.

4.5 Criminal cases registered against cadres of DNLA for non-heinous offences will be withdrawn by Government of Assam as per procedure established by law. Criminal cases registered in connection with heinous offences will be reviewed on a case to case basis according to the existing policy on the subject. Criminal cases against members of DNLA who violate the terms and conditions of the MoS will not be withdrawn.

4.6 Army, Paramilitary Forces and Police will organise recruitment rallies, including Agniveer, for eligible cadres of DNLA as well as Dimasa youth. Pre-recruitment training exercises will be organised by the agencies to facilitate the process.

5. Promotion of Dimasa culture

5.1 The Government of Assam may set up a committee to study and recommend measures to further strengthen and popularize Dimasa language at the national level, including a suitable script, in consultation with Dimasa literary organisations.

5.2 The Government of Assam will take suitable steps to ensure protection, preservation and development of historical monuments and sites of the Dimasa people.

6. Special Development Package

6.1 The Government of Assam may consider sanctioning a special development package of Rs. 500 crore over a period of five years for overall development of infrastructure in the region. The Government of India may also consider allocating Rs. 500 crore over a period of five years for similar purpose.

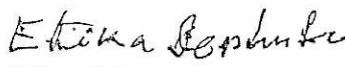
6.2 Specific projects to be implemented under the special development package may be finalised by the State Government in consultation with NCHAC and Dimasa Welfare Council. An illustrative list of projects is enclosed at Annexure.

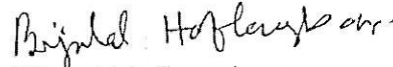
7. Joint Monitoring Committee

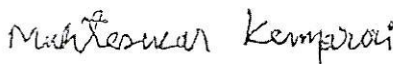
A Joint Monitoring Committee will be constituted with representatives of MHA (GoI), Government of Assam, NCHAC and signatories to the MoS to monitor implementation of this Agreement.

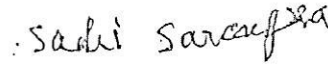
The above Agreement is signed on April 27, 2023 at New Delhi in the presence of Hon'ble Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma.

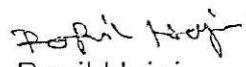
Representatives of the DNLA/DPSC append their signature to this Agreement :-

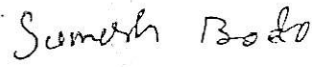

Etika Diphusa
Chairman, DNLA/DPSC



Bijolal Haflongbar
Vice Chairman, DNLA/DPSC

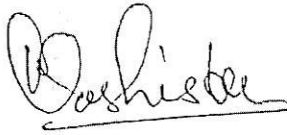

Mukteswar Kemprai
Secretary, DPSC


Sudri Sorongphangsa
Commander-in-Chief, DNLA


Popil Hojai
Dy. C-in-C, DNLA


Sumesh Bodo
Commanding Officer, DNLA


Paban Kumar Borthakur
(Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam)


Praveen Vashista
(Additional Secretary, MHA)

List of other representatives who attended the signing of MoS

1. *Lomit Hojaisa*
Lomit Hojaisa,
Home Secretary, DPSC
2. *Kailen Daolagupu*
Kailen Daolagupu
President, Jadhikhe Naisho Hosom,
Dima Hasao District
3. *Lavja Jarambusa*
Lavja Jarambusa
Ex-Vice President, Jadhikhe Naisho Hosom,
Dima Hasao District

Annexure

Illustrative list of projects for comprehensive development of NCHAC

1. Elevation of Maibang degree college to a campus of Guwahati University.
2. Construction of Hirimba students' Hostel at Guwahati.
3. Sports Authority of India centre in Dima Hasao District.
4. Establishment of medical college at Maibang.
5. Establishment of Agriculture college at Langting.
6. ✓ Establishment of Veterinary college at Gunjung.
7. Establishment of Ayush Medical College & Hospital at Hathikhali (Dima Hasao District).
8. Construction of a Hirimba Temple at Hathikhali and boundary wall around Dimasa historical sites.
9. Establishment of Dimasa Kachari Royal Museum in memory of Veer Senapati Tularam Hasnusa in Dima Hasao District.
10. Installation of statue of Senapati Tularam Hasnusa at an appropriate location in consultation with the State Govt.
11. ✓ Construction of Dimasa cultural complex & auditorium in Dima Hasao District.

12. Development of tourist infrastructure at Dimasa historical sites.

13. Two-lane roads

- a) Dhansiri (Karbi-Anglong District) to Dima Khoroh (Dima Hasao District).
- b) Diyungbra Tinali (Dima Hasao District) to Mandardisa (Dima Hasao District) via Digandu, Noyapur.

14. Single-lane roads

- a) Darunbra to Semkhor (Dima Hasao District)
- b) Khepre to Daoreb Haja (Dima Hasao District)
- c) Lodhi-Kacharibasti (bordering Cachar and Dima Hasao districts near Joypur Shibosthan) to Poylapur (Manipur N.H. Road)
- d) Madhurabazar PWD road to Kumbhirgram Airport.
