



OFFICE OF THE
NAGA STUDENTS' FEDERATION

OKING : NAGA CLUB BUILDING
KOHIMA - 797 001 (NAGALAND)

“For Unified Lim and Glory of Nagas”

email: nagastudents1947@gmail.com

Ref. No. NSF/PS-01/2021-23

Date 24-07-22

A PUBLIC STATEMENT: ON NAGA CLUB BUILDING

The Naga Students' Federation with deep sense of sadness, as compelled by circumstances is constrained to issue this public statement for the Naga public in general and the conscience keepers of the Naga National movement in particular, in a manner of clarification, with regard to the Naga Club Building in Kohima, which unfortunately has been made an “issue of dispute” out of the blue by some individuals who recently formed a Naga Club and are now not only laying claims as the “sole owners” of the Naga Club building in Kohima, but also issuing eviction orders to the NSF “to vacate the building in toto on or before 27.08.2022”, which has been widely publicized in public domain through publications in the local newspapers.

The main allegation as per their “Notice to vacate” says; “That your esteemed organization has paid Rs 500/- (five hundred only), in rent for the month of April 1983 on 07.04.1983, after which you have never paid our Naga Club house rent from May 1983 till date”. But how do NSF pay rent to an organization from May 1983 till whatever date to an organization which was formed only in 2017/18? One wonders.....?

It may be noted that in 1983 Late Vizolie Sorhie the then President NSF and his General Secretary Eno. Imkong L. Imchen among other officials, were approached by Naga Club office bearers and Naga Elders Conference to reclaim the Naga Club building which was then occupied by the Forest Department. However, despite several attempts made to reclaim the same, the Department still refused to hand over the building to the rightful owner- the Naga Club. Subsequently, NSF led by Late Vizolie Sorhie President NSF, Late Mechimvu Ritse Finance Secretary NSF, Eno. Neingulo Krome Member- Action Committee NSF and Eno. Kewezu G. Kenye President ANCSU went and broke the lock and occupied the Naga Club building. Following which, Mr. Neivor Rutsa volunteered his vehicle bearing Registration No. NLT-309 to assist in shifting NSF office to the Naga Club building.



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Even when the rent for the month of April 1983 was paid and received by the General Secretary of the then Naga Club, Late. Vilavor Liegise, it was clearly mentioned as; **"with the good consent of mutual understanding"**, which was to facilitate and legitimize that "Naga Club" was the owner of the same building which at that point in time was also being claimed by another group of individuals, in the name of another Naga Club, and the dispute matter was lying under the court of the Deputy Commissioner, Kohima, for hearing. And this receipt of Rs 500/- for the month of April 1983, paid by NSF became evident of proof and the court ruled in favour of the Naga Club, which was never ever contested again. Otherwise, there was "mutual understanding" that the Building will always belong to Naga Club and NSF will only be the guardian and custodian of the building according to demands of situations. And ever since, the Building was taken over in April 1983, NSF did all repair and renovation works of the building and its premises, including additional construction, which still stands majestically, despite its agedness.

However, the NSF will not like to go into the details of countering the arguments put across which is already in the public domain and would rather appeal to the "conscience" of all Nagas and particularly, those claiming to be leaders of the Naga Club, to kindly desist from creating further embarrassments to themselves as well as projecting Nagas in very bad light, which is already a serious cause of concern even from the uncontrollable fratricidal divisions in our national political struggle for our rightful place as envisioned by the collective pioneers and leaders of the Naga Club. We would rather retrospect and ask what each one of us have contributed to the Naga story or whether instead of contributing we are destroying ourselves and putting the future of upcoming generations in jeopardy.

Unfortunately, this claims seems to be motivated with ulterior motives, as it was when the Naga Students' Federation decided to celebrate "100 Years of Naga Club" in 2018, to Celebrate the 100 Years legacy of Naga Club and to honour our ancestors who laid the foundation of the Naga Nationhood, to which the NSF is a proud descendent, this Naga Club was



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formed suddenly to even hijack our celebration, to which the international community and participant from the United Nations were made to witness. This time around, as the NSF recently launched the celebration of its 75 Years of Existence, under the theme **"Call to Oneness"** for all Nagas to come together, this same Naga Club is now issuing "Notice to vacate the Naga Club building in toto on or before the 27th of August 2022", in the middle of our 75 years celebration, which is turning our "celebration" into "nightmare".

The present incumbent who also has only occupied the office of the NSF from our predecessors and will be passing our responsibilities on to upcoming leaders have nothing to gain or to lose from such disputes, but history will be unkind if we are to let "greed and falsehood triumph" knowingly, without any prejudice to anyone. We would like to therefore append the statement of **"NSF AND THE NAGA CLUB AS WE KNOW"** from all our former NSF Presidents from 1983 till the formation of a new Naga Club which has ushered in this most unfortunate crisis, in 2018, for all to understand the reality.

NSF has and will always remain steadfast in upholding the interests of the Naga youths and all Nagas in general for unified Lim and glory of the Nagas.



(KEGWAYHUN TEP)
President

NSF and the Naga Club as we know

As the Naga Students' Federation prepares to commemorate the 100th Year of Naga Club, to salute the pioneers of the Naga Club and to celebrate the glorious legacy they left to the Naga people, we the undersigned former Presidents of NSF and the two living members of the team that physically reclaimed the Naga Club Building in 1983, would also like to testify our share of the story on how we steadfastly protected, promoted and safeguarded some of the symbolic things they left behind.

That, ever since the then Naga Club became the Naga Hills Tribals Council in 1945 as per record, which in turn became the Naga National Council in 1946, the Naga Club as an institution was dormant for some time. However, by 1948 there were duly appointed Caretakers to look after the Naga Club till 1966. And in 1982, on the 7th of January, a new team of office bearers of the Naga Club was elected at a meeting held at the Kohima Village Panchayat Hall.

This new team then made several attempts to reclaim the Naga Club building which was occupied by the Forest Department without success. By 1983, when Late. Vizolie Sorhie became the President of NSF, with Imkong L. Imchen as his General Secretary amongst others, the office bearers of the Naga Club along with the Naga Elders Conference then approached the Naga Students' Federation to help them reclaim the Naga Club Building. So NSF too knowing fully well that the Naga Club Building belongs to the Naga people as a whole agreed to help and approached the Forest Department on several occasion to return the building to its rightful owner - the Naga Club. The Department assured that the building would be returned to the Naga Club as soon as they can shift to their own office building.

However, when the Forest Department shifted their office, they kept the Naga Club Building under lock and key and never handed over the keys to the Naga Club. Many more efforts were made to reclaim the Naga Club building in the most appropriate manner, but the Government refused to cooperate.

Therefore, out of no other option, the NSF under the leadership of Late. Vizolie Sorhie in mutual understanding with the Naga Club office bearers decided to take over and occupy the building. So in the month of April 1983, Late. Vizolie Sorhie, President NSF, Late. Mechimvu Ritse, Finance Secretary NSF, Neingulo Krome, Member, Action Committee of NSF and Mr. Kewezu G. Kenye, President, ANCSU, went and broke open the lock of the Government and replaced it with new lock and key. After which, NSF office was shifted to the Naga Club Building, where the Vehicle of Mr. Neivor Rutsa, with Registration No. NLT - 309 was used to transport the NSF office files and furnitures. Later on, rooms were also provided for ANCSU, Naga Elders Conference, and gradually office of the Oking Times, and also the Naga Mother's Association.

In the meantime, through mutual understanding with the Naga Club, the NSF submitted an application for rent to provide legal evidence that Naga Club is the owner of the building, for which the Naga Club Authority issued an order allotting a part of its building under rental basis. These documents were issued to prove that the Building belong to Naga Club without any doubt which became evidences in some of the litigations and court cases. Ultimately, these documents led to the winning of the case in favour of the Naga Club at the Kohima Deputy Commissioner's court.

After the occupation of the Naga Club Building by the NSF, the Government of Nagaland issued eviction orders 3 times consecutively, but the NSF stood its ground and responded by issuing a Press Release; "In this regard, NSF with regret cannot honour the order of the Government, since this building (former CCF Office) belongs to the Naga Club and not to the Government and NSF has the order from the Naga Club Authority to occupy the said building. Further, Government is requested to withdraw its order as early as possible, otherwise, NSF will not be held responsible for any consequences which may take place out of this issue".







It is 35 years now and all of us who have served as Presidents of NSF with our offices at the Naga Club Building in all our respective tenures, had at no point in time ever claimed ownership in any way, but have only been safeguarding the history and legacy the Naga Club has passed on to the Naga people. We are clear without any doubt that the Naga Club Building belongs to all the Naga people, irrespective of geographical areas, overground or underground Nagas, or whoever have passed away in the last 100 years and to all those who will be born to this world of the Nagas for all times to come.

NSF has only been a humble servant and caretaker of the Naga Club Building with its office address clearly written as, "Office of the Naga Students' Federation, Naga Club Building, Kohima, Nagaland". And although NSF was formed as a student organization way back in 1947, the circumstances compelled NSF to shoulder the responsibilities of a youth movement alongside the Naga National political movement with some intellectual capacities. This is still true even today although the dynamics have drastically changed. But the undeniable fact is that, when NSF took the responsibility to reclaim and take over the Naga Club Building from the Government, it was in itself a political statement which no other organization including the Naga National workers were able to do, at that point in time as the situation itself will not allow.

We also admit, that NSF also has gone through its own shares of "Ups and Downs". It even went defunct a few times in the early years due to the unbearable political turmoil. But it regained itself to lead the Naga people, including the student communities, with much gratitude to those senior selfless previous NSF Presidents and their teams, in the face of all kinds of odds, without a proper place of work, which could be called an "Office" in the real sense.

But after the establishment of the NSF Office at the Naga Club Building, many things changed. And although we had our own limitations on many issues, we have never failed to play our part where the Naga National issue is concerned. Many with accusing fingers may find fault with us, but those are not surprising at all. At the same time, many will not acknowledge half of what we achieved for those are the ways of the world. But what we did for the Nagas as a whole and what we could achieve during the last 35 years from the Naga Club Building, we remain grateful to the Almighty God and the unwavering Naga public, who stood by us in all bad times and who will be the best Judges of things in all times to come.

We therefore, make this most humble and sincere appeal to whosoever may be holding any misgivings against NSF, to kindly understand the facts of history and the contributions made by well meaning people at various points in time and together preserve and protect the correctness of our history. As Naga people struggle to defend our identity, our land and our nation, we have experienced many bitter pains and self-inflicting injuries. Let us learn from our past mistakes and at least preserve and honour the only glory of the past, which is still pure in the form of a golden memory, which sowed the seed of the Naga national consciousness, the one and only collective voice of the Naga people - The Naga Club of 1918.

<u>Name of Presidents</u>	<u>Tenure</u>	<u>Remark/Signature</u>
1. Late. Vizolie Sorhie	Jan. 1983 - Feb. 1985	(Expired)
2. P. Ayangba Aonok	Feb. 1985 - Feb. 1987	
3. Chokhriveyi Venyo	Feb. 1987 - Jan. 1989	(Expired)
4. Ruogozelhou Paphino	Jan. 1989 - April 1991	
5. K. Temjen Jamir	April 1991 - Feb. 1993	
6. Y. Vikheho Swu	Feb. 1993 - Feb. 1995	
7. Neiba Kronu	Feb. 1995 - June 1997	
8. P. Chuba Ozukum	June 1997 - May 1999	

9. N. S. N. Lotha

May 1999 - April 2001



10. Vipopal Kintso

April 2001 - May 2003



11. Achumbemo Kikon

May 2003 - May 2005



12. V. Phushika Awomi

May 2005 - May 2007



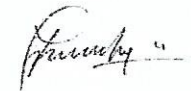
13. Imchatoba Imchen

May 2007 - May 2009



14. Mutsikhoyo Yhobu

May 2009 - May 2011



15. Kelhouneizo Yhome

May 2011 - May 2013



16. Tongpang Ozukum

May 2013 - June 2015



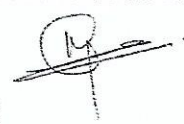
17. Subenthung Kithan

June 2015 - June 2017



And the names and signature of the two living members of 1983 team

18. Kewezu G. Kenye, Former President of ANCSU



19. Neingulo Krome, Former Member, NSF Action Committee



Dated Kohima, the 3rd of October, 2018, Nagaland