



सत्यमेव जयते



GOVERNMENT OF NAGALAND

BUDGET SPEECH

of

Shri Neiphiu Rio

CHIEF MINISTER

and

Minister-in-Charge, Finance

For 2024 - 2025

Kohima, the 27th February, 2024

Speaker Sir, I rise to present before this august House the second budget of the 14th Legislative Assembly for the year 2024-25.

2. At the outset, I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the people of 43 Tapi Assembly Constituency for the mandate given to the NDPP and for electing our candidate Shri Wanpang Konyak to represent the said constituency in the Assembly. I welcome him to this august House and wish him success.

3. Speaker Sir, the issues relating to the people of Eastern Nagaland continues to be of paramount importance to our Government. We have to admit that for many reasons, this part of Nagaland continues to lag behind in the critical areas of infrastructure and socio economic development. Keeping this in mind, an amount of Rs. 180 crore has been sanctioned under PM DevINE for the areas of Eastern Nagaland, and I am confident that this substantial investment will aid in the developmental efforts in the Eastern Districts.

4. The people of Eastern Nagaland have also placed before the Central Government certain demands, the reasons for which we understand. We continue to remain committed to work together, and with the Central Government for suitably redressing the grievances of our Eastern Nagaland people. At the same time, I would like to remind everyone for ensuring that our shared history, our brotherhood and our common future are not fractured in any manner.

5. Speaker Sir, our people are deeply concerned at the decision of the Government of India to suspend the Free Movement Regime (FMR) along the international border with Myanmar. We all know that the boundaries that divide us today are not natural boundaries but are man-made. Whatever the reasons may be for such a decision, we are deeply concerned at the rift this will create in our harmonious social life, denying countless people access to their own ancestral lands and restricting interactions with their loved ones living across the border. This issue needs comprehensive consultations, and raising of the matter with the Government of India for reconsideration of its decision, and for continuance of FMR.

6. Speaker Sir, the Naga political issue remains unresolved. The signing of the Framework Agreement on 3rd August 2015 and the Agreed Position with the NNPGs on 17th November 2017 had raised hopes of lasting peace, and that we would have a peace accord soon. The State Government has been playing the role of an active facilitator in the peace talks. This august House has passed a number of resolutions over the years and we have held broad-based consultative meetings with all civil society organisations and stakeholders on several occasions. Yet a conclusive outcome continues to elude us.

7. Our society today is so different from that of our forefathers, being transformed by economic and technological advancements. Our children today have high

aspirations in life like their peers in other parts of the world. We owe the younger generation a secure future and to achieve that, make all possible efforts to resolve the Naga political issue so that our children can realise their full potential. I, therefore, call upon all the parties involved, the Government of India and the Naga Political groups, to arrive at a solution that is honourable, acceptable and inclusive at the earliest.

8. Speaker Sir, before I get into the details of Sectoral Allocations and the financial details of the Budget for the Financial Year 2024-25, I wish to highlight some issues of importance, including innovative and transformative initiatives.

9. The inflow of investment is essential for the growth of any economy. This is an area in which we have always been handicapped. To overcome these bottlenecks, the Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN) was created to function as the State's investment promotion and facilitation agency. Following the eventful Corporate Social Responsibility(CSR), Investment and Banking Conclave in 2022, CSR Initiatives in the state have started to pay dividends. Some success stories include the establishment of dialysis centres, histopathology lab and various medical facilities, skill development programs and livelihood interventions. Currently 28 projects have been completed and 14 more are ongoing and many more are under negotiations.

10. To support budding entrepreneurs and startups from Nagaland in their growth trajectory, we will establish an Integrated Business Hub in Dimapur to serve as a Business and Innovation Center, providing plug-and-play infrastructure to meet the demands of rapidly growing business practices.

11. Speaker Sir, a key factor in empowering people for economic development is providing access to affordable institutional credit. Through the intervention of the State Government, 3 branches have been opened in the Unbanked Blocks of Athibung, Botsa and Sakshi. We are also collaborating with the Nagaland Rural Bank to promote 200 new Banking Correspondents to provide banking coverage in Unbanked Blocks with the use of micro ATMs.

12. Under the Chief Minister's Micro Finance Initiative, a total of 688 loans have been approved. An outlay of Rs. 3,000 lakhs has been allocated for the scheme during 2024-25, to be enhanced in case there are viable projects. The collateral for all eligible fresh loans in the State under the Micro and Small Enterprise category will be covered by the CGTMSE (Credit Guarantee Trust Fund for Micro and Small Enterprise) fund. The State Government will cover the annual Guarantee Fee for the first year, for every SME loan up to Rs 50 lakh per beneficiary through this scheme. It is important for us all to understand the importance of repaying loans. Unless we actively promote and inculcate this culture, we will not succeed in entrepreneurship.

13. The untimely demise of a family's breadwinner deeply impacts the socio-economic condition of the family. Accordingly, I am introducing the Chief Minister's

Universal Life Insurance Scheme to provide life insurance coverage of Rs. 2 lakh on the demise of the breadwinner due to any cause. Additionally, accidental insurance coverage of Rs. 2 lakh each will also be provided for the breadwinner and three other family members. The accidental insurance component covers both disability and death. In case of accidental death, the sum insured is Rs 2 Lakh per beneficiary; 2 Lakh in case of total and irrecoverable loss of both eyes or loss of use of both hands or feet; and 1 lakh for total and irrecoverable loss of sight of one eye or loss of use of one hand or foot. This scheme will cover every household in Nagaland. A provision of Rs. 15 crore has been provided to pay the cost of premium.

14. Speaker Sir, during the last financial year I had launched the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme (CMHIS), a flagship scheme of the State Government to provide universal health coverage. Today the scheme has 38 public hospitals and 23 private hospitals in the State and 48 major tertiary and quaternary care hospitals outside the State empanelled to provide the best quality healthcare. Since the launch of the scheme under AB PM-JAY and CMHIS, the scheme has helped to avoid out-of-pocket expenditure to the tune of Rs. 82.29 crore for 35,833 beneficiaries.

15. Speaker Sir, we also have to keep track of the quality of life of our citizens. The recent **SDG India Index** published by NITI Aayog shows our State as a **front runner** in the set objectives for '*clean water and sanitation*', '*no poverty*', '*affordable and clean energy*', '*responsible consumption and production and Peace*', '*climate Action*', and '*Justice and Strong Institutions*'. However, we are placed in low category of **Aspirant** in achieving the goals of '*decent work and economic growth*', '*industry innovation and infrastructure*', '*sustainable cities and communities*', '*reduced inequalities*', '*quality education*', and '*Gender equality*'. To track the implementation of SDG goals, we have launched the Nagaland SDG Dashboard for real-time reporting, analyzing, monitoring and evaluating the performance of the State.

16. Speaker Sir, I shall now briefly elaborate on the Sector-wise allocations for the year 2024-25.

17. The Agri and Allied Sector has been provided a total outlay of Rs. 4190.20 lakhs for various core activities. The ELEMENT Nagaland project funded by the World Bank supports sustainable livelihood, rejuvenate springs, strengthen high value forest produce adopt climate-smart agriculture practices, and conserve and restore degraded landscapes, covering 15 districts and 225 villages.

18. The Agriculture Department has been allocated Rs. 1100 lakhs for community agri farm roads, promotion of indigenous crops and developmental activities. The Horticulture sector has been allocated Rs. 480 lakhs for a pilot project of packaging/labeling and upgrading the existing Tissue Culture Unit at State Horticulture Nursery.

19. The Soil & Water Conservation sector has been allocated Rs. 275 lakhs for mechanized development and core activities and construction of a Guest House. Two bio fertilizer production units with production capacity of 7500 litres of liquid bio fertilizers per unit per year is being completed. Soil testing and analysis units and distribution of micronutrients are being set up in the four newly created districts

20. The Animal Husbandry & Veterinary sector has been provided Rs. 440 lakhs for setting up Veterinary Dispensaries in the new districts of Chümoukedima, Niuland and Shamator, and for procurement of equipment and appliances for veterinary hospitals. The Water Resources sector has been provided Rs. 250 lakhs for creation of water bodies and for its core activities.

21. The Fisheries Sector has been allocated Rs. 300 lakhs for development of cluster based fisheries and farmers producers organizations, fisheries based eco-tourism and development of hatcheries and buildings. The department has successfully constructed 200 numbers of fisherman houses, and demonstration farms at Peren, Tizit fish farm at Mon, Thimlak fish farm at Tuensang and Brooders fish farm at Dimapur are being upgraded.

22. The Forest and Wildlife sector has been allocated Rs. 375 lakhs for plantation activities and construction of quarters. Under the externally aided Nagaland Forest Management Project, the Department has covered 88 villages across the state bringing an area of 24,225 Hectares under afforestation. Under Integrated Development for Wildlife Habitat, 127 community reserves have been notified in the State with a total area of approximately 889.35 square kilometers, significantly increasing the Protected Area Network of the State's forestland. The department is also implementing the project "Forest and Biodiversity Management in the Himalayas – Nagaland" in two phases. The project has extended direct support to 5,106 rural households for farm as well as off farm activities, increasing household income, providing better nutrition, supporting education by income generation activities and enhancing health awareness.

23. The Cooperation sector has been allocated Rs. 270.20 lakhs for office constructions, maintenance and furnishing of offices in the newly created districts and sub-divisional offices and dissemination of cooperative education at the block level. The Integrated Cooperative Development Project (ICDP) is in the final year of implementation, and has benefited 185 cooperative societies consisting of 16,725 farmers by providing credit facilities for activities like godowns, banking counter, transport vehicles, small processing units, cold storage, poultry, piggery and dairy.

24. The Land Resources sector has been provided Rs. 550 lakhs for promotion of cash crops such as arecanut, coffee and rubber, and for setting up a Coffee Research and Adaptation Station during 2024-25. It will study various aspects of processing and value addition, including propagation of coffee plants for higher altitudes. During the

year, 370 hectares have been brought under coffee plantation, while 7 roasting units were provided to serve 35 clusters of coffee growers.

25. The Bamboo Development sector has been provided Rs. 100 lakhs for activities like capacity building and documentation and maintenance of the Resource Centre. The Bio Resource sector has been provided Rs. 100 lakhs for promotion of bio resources. The Bee and Honey sector has been provided Rs. 100 lakhs for development of bee keeping. NEPED has been provided Rs. 100 lakhs for activities relating to climate change and community conservation and for development of small hydro technologies.

26. The Rural Development sector has been provided Rs. 440 lakhs for construction and improvement of rural roads, construction of farmers markets and quarters. Under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin, financial assistance has been provided for completion of 995 houses. The State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) has been provided Rs. 330 lakhs for construction, research activities and training on the objectives and modes of implementing various Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The Land Revenue sector has been provided Rs.350 lakhs for construction of Directorate office and for survey of various towns.

27. DUDA has been provided Rs. 2,400 lakhs for iconic projects, core activities and grants-in-aid. Under the Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY) the department has distributed machineries and tools for processing, packaging and branding of locally available products to promote the spirit of entrepreneurship among the farming communities in the Eastern Nagaland Areas. The Department is also undertaking construction of the 'Konyak Heritage Complex' at Mon. This will be inaugurated soon. The Government is also expanding coverage to two new areas of Mokokchung District under Tuli Area Constituency and Angetyongpang Area Constituency.

28. In the Power sector, Distribution and Revenue has been provided Rs. 793 lakhs for construction of distribution lines and sub-stations, and purchase of distribution transformers and related equipment. The Transmission and Generation sector has been provided Rs. 1315.59 lakhs for construction of offices, duty rooms, transformers, towers, testing and commissioning of transmission lines and hydro electric projects, for survey and investigation reports etc. To provide stable power supply, a 132/33 kilovolt 12.5 Mega-volt Amperes sub-station has been constructed at Chiephobozou. Under PM-DevINE, the Government of India has sanctioned one transmission project in Chümoukedima amounting to Rs. 13237 lakhs. Under NESIDS, another project has been sanctioned for upgradation of Nagarjan Sub-Station, Dimapur amounting to Rs. 2446 lakhs. These interventions will significantly enhance stable power supply in the State.

29. The New and Renewable Energy sector has been provided Rs. 200 lakhs for implementing solar power generation projects and activities under Solar Mission such

as solar water pumps and solar street lights. Under the scheme Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment, a second 5 MW solar power plant is being set up at Hovukhu to boost the power generation capacity of the State. The Electrical Inspectorate has been provided Rs. 100 lakhs for Green Village initiatives.

30. The Industries and Commerce sector has been provided Rs. 900 lakhs to promote export awareness, start-ups, handloom development, ease of doing business, office construction, and for activities of NHHDC, NKVIB and Nagaland Hotels. Under Part II of the scheme of Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment, construction of a Unity Mall is being taken up. Under Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, the department is constructing a Common Facility Centre for Honey, Spices & Food Processing Cluster at Longkhim and Chare Village, Tuensang, and a Mini Technology Centre for promoting Medicinal and Aromatic Plants at Razhaphe Basa, Chümoukedima.

31. The Sericulture sector has been allocated Rs. 400 lakhs for setting up a silk processing unit, augmentation of eri and muga silk production and related developmental activities. A special project for poverty alleviation in Eastern Districts is also under implementation under Silk Samagra-II funded by the Central Silk Board.

32. The Geology & Mining sector has been provided Rs. 355 lakhs for consultancy, mineral exploration and ground water activities and for capacity building. The Nagaland State Mineral Development Corporation (NSMDC) has been provided Rs. 277.50 lakhs for shifting the production unit from Chümoukedima to Ganeshnagar, for setting up an interlocking block making unit at Wazeho and other activities.

33. The Roads and Bridges sector has been provided Rs. 5,000 lakhs for improvement of roads, construction and rehabilitation of bailey bridges, for Special Road Development Program (SRDP) and construction of a research lab centre at Dimapur. The Department has completed construction of five road projects covering a total length of 123.44 kms and six bridges with a total span of 118.66 meters under various schemes during 2023-24. Another twenty three road projects covering 180 kms. will be completed within the current financial year. An amount of Rs. 14,850 lakhs has been allocated for the Foothill Road under the scheme of Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment to ensure that the road becomes functional. It will boost economic activities in the foothill areas. An amount of Rs. 3,000 lakhs is also earmarked for maintenance of various roads in the State. The Mechanical Sector has been provided Rs. 100 lakhs for purchase of heavy machineries to enhance revenue.

34. The Road Transport sector has been provided Rs. 628 lakhs for construction of stations and sub-stations and acquisition of fleet. To cater to public needs, two new bus services have been introduced - from Dimapur to Chessore and another from Dimapur to Aghunaqa. The construction of a Bus and Truck Terminus at New Peren, a Heliport at Chümoukedima and a Hangar at Lerie, Kohima, have been completed. The

Motor Vehicles sector has been provided Rs. 450 lakhs for construction of offices, conference hall and training centre and purchase of smart card printers for districts.

35. The Science and Technology sector has been provided Rs. 359.79 lakhs for activities like Nagaland Science Mission, popularization of science, promotion of rural technology and local innovators and constructions. During the year, the construction of a 50-seater Digital Planetarium and an Innovation Hub at Science and Technology Complex, Kohima have been completed. The Information Technology and Communication sector has been provided Rs. 378 lakhs for various activities like construction of State Data Centre, procurement of biometric devices, development of IT software and other core activities.

36. The State Planning Machinery has been provided Rs. 580 lakhs for construction of offices, quarters, guest houses, and repairs and replacements in various districts. Speaker Sir, I am happy to announce the enhancement of the LADP allocation to Rs. 200 lakhs per constituency from 2024-25 onwards. This will ensure that development reaches every single constituency of the State. An amount of Rs. 25,166.73 lakhs has been allocated as 50% of the State Matching Share to CSS during 2024-25. To facilitate acquisition of land for Government projects and for the development of the new city Naga Ki at Chathe valley, an amount of Rs. 15,000 lakhs has been earmarked. An amount of Rs. 1,200 lakhs has been earmarked for Special Development Scheme, Rs. 1,000 lakhs for CMCF, Rs. 100 lakhs for Monitoring Cell, Rs. 150 lakhs for GIS and Remote Sensing, Rs. 250 lakhs for implementation of SDG new initiatives and Rs. 4,000 lakhs for new and innovative ideas that have transformative impact potential.

37. The Tourism sector has been provided Rs. 1,150.50 lakhs for activities like Hornbill Festival, construction and renovation of offices and quarters, construction of cottages, tourism development and core activities. The 24th Edition of the Hornbill Festival 2023 recorded an overwhelming increase of tourists and visitors to the State capital registering a total of 1,54,057 tourist footfalls. The Kisama Heritage Village will undergo upgradation for the coming silver Jubilee celebrations of the Hornbill Festival. During the coming year the department will take up capacity building and training programs for Tour Operators, and further development of tourist amenities in the lower Tizu area will continue during 2024-25.

38. The Economics and Statistics sector has been provided Rs. 370 lakhs for construction, repair and renovation works, and for core activities of printing of statistical data, National Sample Survey, registration of births and deaths and online collection of data. The Food and Civil Supplies sector has been provided Rs. 330.93 lakhs for construction of offices and godowns. The department has achieved 96.27% Aadhaar seeding status as on 9th January 2023 for the NFSA Ration Cards.

39. The Legal Metrology and Consumer Protection sector has been provided Rs. 170 lakhs for core activities such as consumer awareness, printing of brochures, pamphlets

and publications, conduct of seminars and workshops and consumer education in educational institutions. The Evaluation sector has been provided Rs. 300 lakhs for construction activities like approach roads, staff quarters, gallery and security fencing.

40. The School Education sector has been provided Rs. 1,320 lakhs for construction of GHS in various locations and DEO and SDEO offices in the new districts of Chümoukedima, Tseminyu, Noklak and Shamator. The department is upgrading 2 GHS to GHSS in Tuensang and Lengrijan Dimapur, 3 GMS to GHS in Kohima, Meriema and Chümoukedima, and 3 GPS to GMS in Kohima, Mon and Noklak. Science stream has been introduced in 2 GHSS at Kohima and Noklak in response to the demand of students. The introduction of class 11 and 12 in Government Hindi Institute at Dimapur has been approved in collaboration with the Central Institute of Hindi, Agra, which will provide necessary support for curriculum, syllabus and for assessment and evaluation. The construction of GHS Sungratsu, Mokokchung has been completed and will be inaugurated shortly. SCERT has been provided Rs. 287 lakhs for construction works at DIETs in Kiphire, Pfutsero, Zunheboto, Tuensang and Dimapur.

41. The Higher Education sector has been provided Rs. 965 lakhs for constructions at Science College Kohima, Sao Chang College Tuensang, Fazl Ali College Mokokchung and Dimapur Government College, and staff quarters and for upgradation of laboratories and purchase of laboratory equipment. The Technical Education sector has been provided Rs. 262 lakhs for construction of hostels, workshops and computer labs at polytechnics, and for construction of quarters and computer laboratories.

42. The Youth Resources Department sector has been provided Rs. 1,055 lakhs for core activities such as capacity building for youth and sports personnel, tournaments, sports infrastructure, music and arts and for Music Task Force activities. Indoor Stadiums in the four new Districts of Shamator, Niuland, Chümoukedima and Tseminyu, and pre-fabricated Indoor Stadium cum Multipurpose Halls at Tuensang and Noklak have also been constructed through the scheme of Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment. Construction of pre-fabricated Multi Utility Centre for Task Force on Music and Arts (TaFMA), Kohima and construction of Football Stadium at Police Complex, Chümoukedima have been taken up and will be made functional during the current year. To promote sports activities, the department will take up construction of Futsal and Multipurpose halls in different parts of the State. The Government continues to provide funds for completion of the Multi Disciplinary Sports Complex at Dimapur. At the same time, we are also pursuing for funding with the Government of India.

43. With the above interventions, I am confident that our youth will get access to the best facilities to develop their inborn talent and potential. We have also successfully held the Nagaland Olympic and Paralympic Games recently during which our youth were able to showcase their skills and capabilities. We have also recently

hosted successfully the Khelo India University Games, and plan to host the Asian Belt and Traditional Wrestling Championships towards the later part of the year.

44. The Art and Culture sector has been provided Rs. 397 lakhs for construction works, printing and publications, cultural research and studies, purchase of artifacts for the WW-II Museum and the State Museum and Hornbill Festival related activities. Under the scheme of Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment, libraries and digital infrastructure are being provided for children and adolescents.

45. The Health and Family Welfare sector has been provided Rs. 771 lakhs for constructions in District Hospitals, CHCs, PHCs, Sub-Centres, staff quarters and hostels. The Nagaland Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (NIMSR) was formally inaugurated by the Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Shri Mansukh Mandaviya on 14th October 2023. Construction work of Mon Medical College has also commenced. To provide multi-specialty services at our doorstep, a 100-bedded Multi Specialty Hospital is being set up in Chümoukedima in collaboration with the FORTIS Group, for which funds are allocated under PM-DevINE scheme. A loan agreement was signed recently with the Government of Japan for setting up of a 400-Bedded teaching Hospital at the Nagaland Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (NIMSR).

46. The Public Health Engineering sector has been provided Rs. 330 lakhs for various activities like development of spring source, providing water supply to towns, construction of offices, boundary and retaining walls. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), the department has provided 719 habitations with 100% Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC). A total of 3,11,660 household tap connections were provided in the State till date out of 3,66,001 number of rural households in the State. Piped water supply has also been provided to 1,971 Schools and 1,742 Anganwadis. Water supply projects to Aboi HQ, Longching EAC HQ and Mon village and 4 neighbouring villages have been completed.

47. The PWD Housing sector has been provided Rs. 1,628.29 lakhs for construction of rest house, office complex, office buildings, workshop, housing flats, Minister's quarters, security barracks and retaining walls in various parts of the State, and a medical lodge at NEIGRIHMS Shillong. Funds have been earmarked for completion of the Nagaland State Commission Complex housing various commissions, for construction of offices, rental housing and for a patient guest house at Dibrugarh. The Assembly Complex Project has been provided Rs. 770.91 lakhs for construction of approach road, upgradation of VVIPs chamber in the Assembly, staff quarters, for amenities and facilities in the Legislator's Home, furnishing of the new Speaker's quarter and other works. The State Government has made some headway in resolving the issues hindering the physical occupation of the Guest House at Navi Mumbai and we will continue to pursue for an early resolution of the matter. The department will

complete 3 VIP quarters and housing flats for officers of the Nagaland Civil Services within the financial year 2024-25.

48. The G.A. Housing sector has been provided Rs. 1,816.17 lakhs for construction of offices, flat type quarters and circuit houses for District Administration in various parts of the State. Under the scheme of 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment', funds have been earmarked for construction of offices and quarters for District Administration. The Police Housing sector has been provided Rs. 936.11 lakhs for construction of offices, security fencing, culverts and protection walls and other developmental activities. Under the scheme of 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Infrastructure', funds have been earmarked for construction of SP's offices in the new districts of Noklak, Shamator, Tseminyu, Niuland and Chümoukedima, and NGOs mess for Police personnel at Chümoukedima and Phesama. It also includes construction of housing facilities for State Police personnel in the Urban Areas.

49. The Law and Justice sector has been provided Rs. 215 lakhs for construction of flat type quarters at Agri/Forest Colony, Kohima. To facilitate completion of the High Court project, the Government has been allocating funds every year under the scheme of Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment. The Home Guards Housing sector has been provided Rs. 330 lakhs for various works like security fencing, quarter guard, barracks and sentry posts. The Jails Housing sector has been provided Rs. 450 lakhs for construction of offices, barracks, women enclosures, interview rooms, watch tower and retaining wall. The Excise Housing sector has been provided Rs. 145 lakhs for construction of malkhana, security room, staff quarter and bonded warehouse.

50. The Urban Development sector has been provided Rs. 900 lakhs for construction of shops at Super Market Dimapur, for Urban Infrastructure activities, preparation of plans for small urban centres and for master plan for the new city – Naga Ki at Chathe valley. The department has also taken over Urban Roads in all the 39 ULBs/Urban areas from the PWD (R&B) for which funds amounting to Rs. 2,000 lakhs have been allocated during 2024-25. Presently, works are going on in 14 ULBs for widening of roads, pavement work, side drains, cross drainage and protection works. The Municipal Affairs sector has been provided Rs. 300 lakhs for implementing the urban sanitation and sewerage projects, construction of a training centre and the State Municipal Election Commission. A total of Rs. 1,780 lakhs has also been budgeted to implement the recommendations of the 3rd Nagaland State Finance Commission for the ULBs.

51. The Information and Public Relations sector has been provided Rs. 320.27 lakhs for construction of DPRO offices and purchase of multimedia vehicles. Under Innovative Fund, the department has been provided Rs. 145 lakhs for upgradation of its Archives Cell. The Labour sector has been provided Rs. 234 lakhs for construction of office, labour statistics and other activities. The Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship sector has been provided Rs. 510 lakhs for construction of flat type

quarters, conduct of market survey, registration of people with disabilities and providing access to employability skills. I am happy to announce setting up of a 'Skilling Training Center' for the construction sector. It will offer extensive training to our youth in the areas of construction of infrastructure, learn the use of state-of-the art tools, machinery and equipment as well as construction related skills.

52. The Social Welfare sector has been provided Rs. 521 lakhs for construction of district offices, quarters, warehouse, accessibility for PWDs, and procurement of Aadhaar kits for children under Anganwadi Phase-II. The Women Resources sector has been provided Rs. 300 lakhs for core activities, Transformative Livelihood Interventions project and protection and promotion of tribal designs. The Printing and Stationery sector has been provided Rs. 330 lakhs for the second phase of construction of the office building, construction of quarters and core activities. The Administrative Training Institute has been provided Rs. 145 lakhs for smart lecture halls, accommodation and other facilities.

53. The Fire & Emergency Services sector has been provided Rs. 1073.90 lakhs for construction of fire stations, barracks and duty room, staff quarters, establishment of a training centre, procurement of firefighting equipment and appliances, and other works. Funds have been provided under the scheme of Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment for constructing water harvesting tanks and borewells in existing Fire Stations to augment the reservoirs and help the public during water scarcity. The department is installing fire safety measures in various helipads as per DGCA norms.

54. The Treasury and Accounts sector has been provided Rs. 200 lakhs for various constructions. During the year, two Sub-Treasuries at Akuluto and Baghty were made operational to bring Government transactions to the doorsteps of the people. It is introducing the 'Pension Payment Application' system that will computerise all relevant details of the Pensioners. The system will auto calculate monthly pensions and validate them before payment, track monthly transactions, and allow use of a mobile app to verify and issue life certificates without the pensioner having to go to the bank. The Directorate is also putting in place a web-based application for management of GPF of all Grade-IV employees in the State to bring in transparency and accuracy and generate online statements.

55. The Border Affairs sector has been provided Rs. 300 lakhs for border related activities. The Parliamentary Affairs sector has been provided Rs. 200 lakhs for normal activities and for study tour. The Taxes sector has been provided Rs. 550 lakhs for construction of offices and flats, for training of Government officers and entrepreneurs on GST and construction of the new directorate building. The Village Guards sector has been provided Rs. 300 lakhs for completion of ongoing works and for new works. The Chief Electoral Officer has been provided Rs. 352 lakhs for construction of EVM and VVPAT warehouses.

56. The State Home Disaster Management has been provided Rs. 350 lakhs for mitigation works and various disaster related activities. It will be equipped with the latest weather stations in all the districts to keep track of weather and forecast more accurately for better response to extreme weather. The Tribal Affairs sector has been provided Rs. 200 lakhs for construction of directorate building and staff quarters. The Minority Affairs sector has been provided Rs. 280 lakhs for construction of new directorate building, for minority welfare centers in various places, for core activities and for Holy Land tour.

57. Speaker Sir, the high salary and pension expenditure, and the substantial losses that we suffer in the Power and Transport sectors deeply affect our finances. The Third Nagaland State Finance Commission too has recommended measures to increase revenues, reduce the number of Government employees and increase efficiency of the Power and Transport sectors. These will be examined for appropriate action.

58. We are contemplating to put in place the e-stamp system to replace the present use of physical stamps. This will provide convenience in registering of documents and deeds while making it transparent and also ensuring that evasion of stamp duty by undervaluing is checked. The issue of online issue of ILP will be further strengthened to make the system more transparent, generate more revenue and enable the Government to monitor the movement of people entering the State.

59. Speaker Sir, to generate more resources for capital infrastructure, it becomes imperative to continuously take measures to augment our resources. Towards this end, steps are being taken in the different revenue sectors. One particular area that needs special attention is the Power sector. The department is outsourcing metering and billing activities for the three main revenue intense districts of Kohima, Dimapur and Chümoukedima to address the chronic problems of poor billing to enhance revenue efficiency. It is a matter of concern to see the opposition of citizens in many parts of the State to installation of pre-paid meters. A huge portion of the losses comes from the communitised sector, where revenue realized is a fraction of the actual consumption. Consumers in most villages today use equipment and appliances that consume high amounts of power but pay only a fraction of the cost. This has to be corrected to ensure that consumers pay as per actual consumption. The losses in the Power sector have now reached unmanageable levels. During the current year 2023-24, the loss in revenue is Rs. 280 crores as against the purchase cost of Rs. 595 crore, about 47% of the total power purchase.

60. Our State has substantial reserves of oil and natural gas, coal, multi metal bearing magnetite, limestone and dimensional building stones, including known deposits of precious minerals such as cobalt and high grade nickel as per the Indian Bureau of Mines. Despite efforts, factors like difficult terrain, poor connectivity, political reasons and land holding systems have prevented tapping of these valuable

resources. It is high time we make all possible efforts to harness these valuable resources, for that will bring tremendous economic benefits to our State.

61. Speaker Sir, the Third Nagaland State Finance Commission has submitted its report to the State Government. The Commission has recommended the formula for sharing of revenues with the Urban Local Bodies and Urban Stations, and prescribed the vertical as well as horizontal formula for devolution. This has been approved by the State Cabinet. It has also recommended measures for improvements in resource mobilization, including measures to rationalize and cut down revenue expenditure. The report is being tabled before this House.

62. Speaker Sir, as regards the Budget proposals, I am estimating the gross receipts at Rs. 23978.05 crore, and gross expenditure at Rs. 23727.88 crore for the financial year 2024-25. Due to improvement in receipts, our closing accumulated deficit has reduced from the estimated closing amount of Rs. 1374.17 crore in the Budget Estimates to Rs. 885.95 crore in the Revised Estimates. However, since the current year's transactions are estimated to result in a negative balance of Rs. 19.83 crore, the year 2024-25 is estimated to close with accumulated deficit of Rs. 905.78 crore.

63. The broad item-wise statement of the estimated gross receipts and gross expenditure is as under:-

A : RECEIPTS	(Rs. crore)
State's Own Tax and Non-Tax Revenue	: 2250.05
State's Share in Central Taxes	: 6940.56
Central Assistance (Grants & Loans)	: 8880.11
Internal Debt (including WMA from RBI)	: 5905.82
<u>Recovery of Loans and Advances by State Govt</u>	<u>: 1.51</u>
	Total : 23978.05

B : EXPENDITURES	
Non Development Expenditure (excluding Servicing of Debt)	: 12163.90
Servicing of Debt (including repayment of WMA)	: 5611.87
<u>Development Expenditure (including CSS etc)</u>	<u>: 5952.11</u>
	Total : 23727.88

C. BALANCE (A-B)	: 250.17
D. PUBLIC ACCOUNT (NET)	: (-)270.00
E. CURRENT TRANSACTIONS (C+D)	: (-) 19.83

64. With these words, Mr. Speaker sir, I commend the Budget for 2024-25 to this august House for consideration and passing.

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