

## Press Release

As per the figures laid out by the Commissioner of Excise, 85,065 bottles/Cans or a total of 4448 cases of IMFL/beer were supposed to be destroyed by the Excise Office on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 (Table: Nagaland Post, dated 27<sup>th</sup> May). However, the ACAUT Nagaland team on counting the number of IMFL/Beer that was unloaded from 4 vehicles in 7 trips from the Excise Malkhana to the Commissioner office found out that only 2394 cases or 53.82% were destroyed. In other words 2054 cases of IMFL/beer or 46.18% were missing. This counting was done in the presence of Independent observers, such as the media. The Superintendent of Excise, KY Sangtam while not refuting the claim of the ACAUT released a media statement that 3480 cases of IMFL were destroyed which means 968 cases are still missing.

While the ACAUT totally rejects the statement of the Superintendent of Excise as incorrect, the moot point is, the department in clarifying that 3480 cases were destroyed is also tacitly agreeing with the ACAUT observation that huge quantity of IMFL/Beer was diverted to the black market since according to the Superintendent's given figure, 980 cases of IMFL/beer are still missing, thus vindicating the stand of ACAUT and this is the crux of the issue. It has already been clarified by the ACAUT that the Vice-President of DUCCCF sensing that the number of cases brought for destruction being suspiciously lower than the actual number slated for destruction, he had asked the department officials to stay the destruction. But the Excise officials chose to go ahead with it. In the light of the above, the new Parliamentary Secretary for Excise is requested to take cognizance of the matter and carry out necessary action, including suspension of erring officials.

At this juncture the church is requested to seriously delve into the matter highlighted by ACAUT; failing to do so may seriously impact the whole debate of Nagaland Prohibition Act, 1989. The ACAUT is a people's movement concerned with the corruption scenario in the state and its activities should be viewed within the scope of greater common good.

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