

## Press release

As per the Excise Commissioner apology letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014, published in all the local dailies, it stated that he had “Personally enquired and verified from the personnel of the Dimapur District Excise office on 27/5/14 and it was found that the Superintendent of Excise, Dimapur did not bring the entire consignment as per the claim of ACAUT for which the Show Cause notice was issued (to the Supdt of Excise).” Whereas, as late as 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2014, Excise Commissioner Maongwati Aier still defended his position and insisted that ACAUT was in the wrong. He claimed in the media that “they (ACAUT) have counted on their own which does not tally with official report of the Destruction Committee...the Destruction Certificate was signed by all the Destruction Committee members.” He also stated that “On the strength of the Destruction Committee the destruction was done on 26/5/14...” To recap, in his apology letter, the Commissioner admitted to finding lapses on 27<sup>th</sup> May itself, whereas, till the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June he was defending his position and his department in the local papers. Therefore, it’s a clearly established fact that the Commissioner of Excise has been falsely misleading the public and in the process attempting to shrug off personal responsibility which is not at all acceptable. Hence, ACAUT will pursue the matter till the facts are established and the law takes its own course.

Also, the Commissioner in his apology letter used the term “For the misdeeds of the departmental officers.” Here, the ACAUT would like to clarify that personal responsibility has to be fixed and giving apology for the “For the misdeeds of the departmental officers” is neither called for nor will it wish the matter away nor are we on a witch hunt. However, in our meeting with the Parliamentary Secretary, Excise, on 9<sup>th</sup> June, we sought apology from the Excise Commissioner for misleading the public on the above anomaly and not for the misdeed of the department. In our meeting we also clarified that all the guilty personnel should be brought to book irrespective of rankings and political cloud. Therefore, the show cause notice and apology letter are mere eyewash to hoodwink the public and both are simply public relation exercises to show to the public that the department has done a tremendous job to check corruption. The ACAUT Nagaland demands that:

1. The missing cases of 2054 IMFL/beer amounting to not less than several lakhs of rupees- street value upward of Rs. 20-30 lakhs- should be deposited in cash to the Government treasury by the Excise department. The monetary value of the missing cases has to be determined by a committee comprising of NGOs such as NCD, NWHD, etc.
2. As stated, issuances of show cause notice and apology letter are mere eyewash which is not acceptable. If at all the department is sincere about this issue, it is requested to institute a thorough enquiry and fix personal responsibility. The Excise department is being given another 7 days, that is, till 23/6/14 to address the issue.

It may be also clarified that the ACAUT is neither for nor against prohibition but against corruption. In this case, pilferage to the tune of 2054 cases of IMFL/beer worth several lakhs of Rupees has to be accounted for and the guilty persons punished.

Issued by media cell  
ACAUT Nagaland, 16/6/14