



## BEFORE THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

56/Dispute/6/2017/PPS-II

Dispute No 6 of 2017

In re: a Dispute in Naga People's Front, a state party in  
Nagaland and Manipur

### ORDER

1. The Naga People's Front (hereafter "NPF") is a recognized State Party in the States of Nagaland and Manipur. As per the list of office bearers submitted by the Party in 2015, Dr. Shurhozelie Liezietsu was shown as the President of the party, and Shri Apong Pongener as the Working President. As per the Constitution of the NPF, the office bearers have a tenure of 5 years.

2. In the month of August, 2017, there was a petition filed by Sh. Neiphu Rio, claiming that Dr. Shurhozelie Liezietsu was removed from the post of Party President and he (Sh. Rio) was elected as the Interim President of the NPF by the Legislators of the NPF on 29.07.2017.

3. In his reply to the petition of Sh. Rio, Dr. Liezietsu refuted the claim of Sh. Rio and submitted that he continued to be the Party President.

4. Having considered the contentions of the two sides, the Commission, vide order dated 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2017, directed that the dispute should be settled in terms of Article XIV of the Party Constitution which provides that *in case of any dispute arising in the Party following a Split or Merger with any other party, 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority of the Active Members present and voting in the General Convention of the Central Party shall determine the issue.*

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5. On 06-11-2017 Sh. Rio filed an application seeking review of the order dated 17-10-2017 on the ground that his group had already convened a general convention of the active members on 20-09-2017. Separately, Sh. Rio also filed another petition on 07-11-2017 under paragraph-15 of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, seeking a declaration that the group headed by him is the NPF. With this petition, he also filed individual affidavits from MLAs of the party and persons stated to be members of the Central Executive Council of the party affirming their support to the group led by Sh. Rio. Copy of the said petition was sent to Dr. Shurhozelie for his reply.

6. In the meanwhile, Sh. Rio submitted an application dated 11-12-2017 seeking to withdraw the petition filed by him under Paragraph-15 of the Symbols Order. The contents of his application are reproduced below:-

*“The aforesaid matter was filed on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2017, under para-15 of the Election Symbols (Reservation & Allotment) Order, 1968, by the undersigned as the President of the Naga People’s Front Party. Taking into consideration, the evolving political situations of the past few days in the State of Nagaland, the undersigned (i.e. the applicant in the aforesaid dispute case) had resigned from the post of presidentship of the Naga People’s Front Party with immediate effect vide letter dated 08-12-2017. In the circumstances, the undersigned may be permitted to withdraw the aforementioned case and an appropriate order may be passed in this regard.”*

7. With the abovementioned application, Sh. Rio also enclosed a copy of a communication addressed by him to Sh. T.R. Zeliang, with a copy endorsed to Dr. Shurhozelie, referring to the latter as NPF President. In the said communication Sh. Rio has mentioned about lack of support to him within the party and stated that he was resigning from the post of President of the Party.


8. Dr. Shurhozelie submitted an application on 15-12-2017 referring to the abovementioned application of Shri Rio. In the said application, Dr. Shurhozelie stated that he was elected as the party President on four occasions in the past, including his election in 2014 and that he continues to be the President of the Party and his present term is up to 2020. He also submitted that a general convention of active members of the party was convened on 22-11-2017 as per the provisions of the party constitution in pursuance of the order dated 17-10-17 of the Commission, and his presidentship was reaffirmed by the general convention. Dr. Shurhozelie also filed affidavits of support to him from 38 MLAs of the party in Nagaland.

9. Having considered the documents pertaining to the case and the application of Sh. Neiphiu Rio, the petitioner who filed the petition under paragraph 15 of the Symbols Order, the Commission has accepted the request of the petitioner to withdraw his petition pertaining to Naga People's Front. The Commission has directed that the petition relating to dispute in Naga People's Front be dismissed as withdrawn.

10. Accordingly, the petition filed by Shri Neiphiu Rio is hereby dismissed as withdrawn.

11. The Party is directed to submit the authenticated list of office bearers of the party including the list of Central Executive Council members.

By Order,

  
(PRAMOD KUMAR SHARMA)  
SECRETARY