

1. Honourable Speaker, Sir,

I rise to present the budget for the year 2006-2007, which is the fourth Budget of the DAN Government presented before this august House.

2. First of all, I take this opportunity to assure the people of the State that the policies and programmes of the DAN enshrined in the Common Minimum Programme are being followed sincerely by the Government. DAN Government had adopted a policy of equi-closeness to all concerned to create a congenial climate for establishing mutual trust, unity and reconciliation amongst all sections of the Naga society, including our underground brothers. We will also continue our declared policy of playing the role of facilitator to the peace process. Though the Naga political issue is yet to be resolved, we are happy that the ceasefire is not only in place, but political dialogue is being pursued with more sincerity than ever before, with the Central Government upgrading it to a political level for the first time, and constituting a Ministerial team to take it forward. These positive developments, together with the relative calm and peace prevailing during the last three years since DAN Government came into being, is a clear testimony of the right policy we have adopted on the Naga political issue. Further, realising that peace and development are inextricably linked like two sides of the same coin, especially in an insurgency affected State like ours, the Government have come out with a slogan **“peace for development and development for peace”** which has guided, and will continue to guide our policies and actions. This policy and approach have already started yielding positive dividends in the form of a flurry of development activities, both in the Government’s sector and private sector, on a scale never seen before. To enable us to maintain this positive momentum, and accelerate it further, we need the cooperation of all sections of the Naga society, both overground and underground. Therefore, I take this opportunity to call upon everyone to realise that being leaders and players at this critical juncture of our history, we have display more sense of responsibility, more concern and caring; and that we have to practise tolerance, and the spirit of forgiveness, so that we can leave behind a

legacy of peace and prosperity to our younger generations who will inherit what we leave behind.

3. This budget is of special importance, because the year 2006-07 is the terminal year of the 10th Five Year Plan. It is now time to consolidate the progress and achievements made during the last four years of the 10th Plan, and to improve upon them by identifying areas requiring more attention and further development. A review of the previous four years of the 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan reveals satisfactory levels of achievement in most of the key and critical areas of development. Notable among them are the successful communitisation of public institutions and services in the sectors of elementary education, primary health and rural electrification. These successes have had a positive impact on the minds of the rural people who, through their direct participation in the process of governance, are now experiencing true empowerment, along with a new sense of ownership of public institutions and services. I may add here that communitisation initiated by the Government of Nagaland has attracted a lot of interest from other States, and the impact study of the programme carried out under the aegis of the UNDP has drawn very commendable conclusions.

4. Mr. Speaker Sir, I am also happy to say that there has also been significant improvement in the economic health of the State, and in the living standards of the people. However, we do recognize that such favourable overall growth are not always evenly distributed, and so, all possible efforts continue to be made not only to enlarge the size of the cake, but ensure a fairer distribution of the cake. We are actively working to bridge the gap between the less developed and the more developed areas by creating a new Department for Development of Under Developed Areas, and by providing substantial funds for infrastructure development, creation of assets and more job opportunities to raise the standards of living in the interior and backward areas.

5. Speaker Sir, much of the progress and achievements of the DAN Government have already been highlighted in the address of His

Excellency, the Governor of Nagaland. They can also be seen in the Annual Administrative Reports of various Departments which are being laid in the House, and also from the recently released book “3 years of Peace, Progress & Development of DAN Government”. I, therefore, do not intend to dwell again on these details in this budget speech, but to focus more on our visions of development, while briefly mentioning only some of path breaking initiatives on the development front. Our performance, as reflected in the above documents, had clearly shown that despite constraints of resources and infrastructures, we have been able to achieve a number of significant milestones through our committed and pragmatic approach to development.

6. The Annual Plan for the year 2006-07 had been finalized in time, enabling me to incorporate the sector-wise and head-wise break up of the plan outlay in the budget documents. The Annual Plan outlay of the State for 2006-07 has been fixed at Rs.760 crore, which represents a 22.5% step up over last year’s plan outlay of Rs.620 crore. This substantial step up has been made possible due to liberal assistance from the Planning Commission, as well as our sound financial management, enabling us to project a positive SOR (State Own Resources) for the first time, combined with a good record of plan implementation during the current year. At the beginning of the current year, the Government had brought out a calendar of activities under the annual plan, prescribing specific time tables for various plan activities. This, coupled with our prudent financial management, had enabled us to release plan funds throughout the year without resorting overdraft from RBI even once during the year. By the time we went for plan discussion in December last year, we had already implemented around 70% of our annual plan excluding the loan component. This has inspired the confidence of the Planning Commission in the State’s ability to perform, enabling us to get an impressive step up of 22.5% in our plan outlay for the coming year.

7. The year 2006 has been declared as the “Year of the Farmer” with the theme “Empowering Farmers”. A comprehensive action plan for the year has been prepared to increase productivity, mainly

through crop intensification, crop zoning, supply of quality seeds and modern farming techniques. In addition, awards and incentives for attaining highest productivity shall be given as encouragement to progressive farmers. Adequate funds, totaling around Rs. 17 crore have been earmarked and allocated to Agri and Allied Departments for implementing the activities connected with the Year of Farmer during the coming year. The Government will continue to give its best to bring about substantive improvements in the economic status of the farmers, and transform them into a thriving and economically independent section of the society. This will be done through transition from subsistence farming to commercial farming. Allocation of plan fund to Agriculture and allied sectors have been substantially enhanced to more than 10% of the plan outlay. We have also ensured price stability for the farmers by introducing buy back policy, including paddy procurement. The State is also actively pursuing the organic farming policy which will bring benefits in terms of healthier foods free from toxic chemicals, as well as better markets both in India and abroad. As a part of the “Look East Policy”, the State is hosting the first ever N.E. Agri Expo-cum-Investors meet at Dimapur towards the end of this month. This Agri Expo is expected to yield rich dividends to our farmers, by exposing them to the latest and improved farming methods, technology, tools and implements. It will also open up new avenues of opportunities in terms of food processing, value addition and export markets for our agricultural products. Another new initiative worth mentioning is the setting of a Central Horticultural Institute, the first of its kind in Nagaland at Medziphema, whose foundation stone is going to be laid by the Union Agriculture Minister Shri Sharad Pawar, on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2006.

8. Recognizing the potential of our rich bamboo resources as an engine of economic growth and development, the Government has framed a Bamboo Policy for development of bamboo as a resource and an enterprise. Active steps have been taken to develop the raw material base in 65 villages, and to train rural youth and entrepreneurs in bamboo applications, and even architects and civil engineers in bamboo structural activities. The premises of the defunct Nagaland Sugar Mill have been converted into a Common Facility Centre under

the Bamboo Mission. Steps have also been taken for induction of latest technology into bamboo applications. This will enhance the commercial viability of such activities.

9. To develop horticulture to its full potential and develop commercial viability, focus is being placed on cultivation of selected crops as per the suitability of climatic conditions and locational advantages. Diversification activities under floriculture development have also started, and production and marketing is already underway. “Vegetable villages” in all districts have been identified for year round cultivation of vegetables to meet local demands, as well as to cater to the off-season demands of other states for income generation.

10. The Sample Survey Report of 2001-02 (base level) reveals that the State produced only 31% of our net requirement of meat, milk and eggs. The balance 69% was imported from outside the state at a cost of about Rs. 375 crores. Domestic production has since increased considerably in 2004-05, reducing the import cost to Rs. 334 crore which should have substantially increased otherwise. To check this huge drain of money, steps have been initiated to improve the quality of infrastructure, provide better animal health and veterinary care, and improve technology levels in livestock production, while ensuring that the traditional practice of ‘Backyard Farming’ by every individual household is encouraged through the VDB’s.

11. Nagaland has been selected for a pilot scheme, whereby VDBs will take on the responsibility of obtaining loans from the banks for further lending to beneficiaries, including their recovery. 25 VDBs have been declared as financial intermediaries for the purpose, and a corpus of Rs. 1 lakh created for each VDB through contributions of VDBs (40%), GOI (20%), NABARD (20%) and Government of Nagaland (20%). The custodian bank will, in turn, contribute an initial matching share of Rs. 1 lakh which, together with the corpus fund, will form the Revolving Fund Assistance (RFA) that would be available to the VDBs for loan at RBI rates and in turn, VDBs can further lend this amount by adding maximum service charge of 3-4%. With 50% of the blocks having no banking infrastructure, the scheme

will provide much needed credit to the rural entrepreneurs, while ensuring high recovery rates. Further, a sum of Rs.540 lakhs have been earmarked during 2006-07 to provide encouragement to Micro Financing Activities in the unbanked blocks.

12. The Tuli Paper Mill, which has been lying in a dormant state for many years, is in the process of being revived with the Planning Commission giving its “in principle clearance” for its revival, with investment to the tune of Rs. 487 crores. This is going to open up new avenues of employment for thousands of our farmers and our youth. On 25<sup>th</sup> January 2006, the Industrial Growth Centre at Ganeshnagar under Dimapur district has been commissioned. Four sheds in the Industrial Growth Centre have already been occupied for food processing. More investors are expected to come forward. This will generate employment opportunities for the local youth. The Nagaland Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation has, for the first time in the State, successfully organized a Handloom Expo in January 2006 at Dimapur with financial support from the Ministry of Textiles. 48 participants from the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura and West Bengal participated in the fair. The process for patenting of our indigenous textile designs and crafts has commenced with the workshop organized at Dimapur recently in collaboration with National Institute of Fashion Technology. Emphasis will continue to be given to training of youth in management of SSIs/Small Scale Service and Business Enterprises, particularly on bamboo products, food processing, oil extraction from medicinal and aromatic plants, etc. Two projects of Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Centres – one at Kiruphema in Kohima district and another at Longnak Valley in Mokokchung district will be implemented in 2006-07. Land for both projects have been acquired. The Government will actively promote border trade with Myanmar, and seek to extend trade to South East Asian countries as a part of its ‘Look East’ policy.

13. We are also determined to see that our vast mineral resources are properly developed and exploited for the benefit of the people. With this end in view, the Government have come out with Nagaland

Coal Policy 2006 and Nagaland Coal Mining Rules, 2006. We are also actively pursuing for resumption of oil development activities in Nagaland that had been suspended for the last more than 10 years. Instead of depending solely on the initiative of ONGC, we are working towards public-private partnership in oil exploration, so that maximum benefits come to the State and the people, in line with the special provisions under Article 371-A of the Constitution.

14. The Likimro Hydro Electricity Project has been revived and made operational. The Government has decided to privatize the operation and maintenance of this hydro project in the interest of better management and economy. Private investors are also coming forward to take up Doyang Hydro Project Stage II, and the MOU has been signed for the purpose. Let me remind the members of this House that for the main Doyang Hydro Project being implemented by NEEPCO, the State Government have invested around Rs. 500 crore of our share of NEC funds over the years. What we get in return is only 12% free power. In the case of Doyang Stage II, we shall get the same 12% free power, but without any investment from the State Government. The programme of 'single point metering' under communitisation of power in the rural areas is also expected to be completed soon. Our special focus will continue to be on improving revenue performance, enhancing power generation, improving transmission and distribution lines and reducing transmission losses.

15. We have about 45,000 youth registered in the live registers of the Employment Exchanges, which also does not reflect the entire picture due to the fact that thousands of educated unemployed youth are not registering their names in the Employment Exchanges. Therefore, there is an urgent need to address the growing frustration among the educated unemployed youth. The Government had declared the year 2004 and 2005 as the Years of Youth Empowerment. During this period more than 800 of our youth have been assisted for self-employment through the CM Corpus Fund, and more than 700 educated youth were sent to ITFT, Chandigarh for capacity building in self employment and for employment in the service sector such as airlines, tourism, hospitality management, etc.

We have also taken various measures to promote music and sports, both as entertainment and as profession. While the Years of Youth Empowerment may have formally ended, for the Government, it signifies the launching pad for many more such activities for promoting the future and well being of our youth. Recently, a high level Workshop was held at ATI under the aegis of DONER for generation of 25,000 jobs in the State, which was part of the P.M.'s package, and the Government has already forwarded to DONER the action plans for achieving this objective.

16. The Government has also completed construction of the first phase of the prestigious Indira Gandhi Stadium at Kohima, and construction of the second phase is also in good progress. The 20<sup>th</sup> North East Sports Festival was successfully conducted in this stadium from 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> January 2006. It has been acclaimed as the best organized and most participated of all the North East Sports Festivals held so far. Further, Nagaland was declared the overall Runners Up which is the highest position ever achieved by the State in the North East Sports Festival. Construction of the multi-disciplinary sports Stadium at Dimapur is making good progress. All these facilities which will go along way in preparing our sportspersons for higher levels of performance and excellence.

17. To make quality education available to the backward districts, the Government has taken over three private colleges namely, Peren College, Peren, Yingli College, Longleng, and Zisaji College, Kiphire, with effect from 1.2.2006. The takeover is intended to provide these colleges with better infrastructure and faculty. Kohima College has also been taken over with effect from 1.2.2006, with the intent to provide the students of the State with quality arts education. An Institute of Communication and Information Technology is also coming up in Mokokchung. To meet the objective of the Tenth Plan for creating a pool of skilled and competent technical manpower, focus will be accorded to improving infrastructure facilities of the existing technical institutions, with the eventual goals of self-sustenance and vertical growth.

18. Recognizing the need for a more diverse range of academic courses having more employment potential for the youth, the Government has decided to set up two private universities in the State namely, the Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India, (Nagaland) University, and the Global Open (Nagaland) University. Bills for setting up these universities have been introduced in the Assembly during the last Winter Session, and are expected to be passed during budget session. With the setting up of these two private universities in the State, quality professional courses would now come to the doorstep of our youth. Campus recruitments by corporates and MNC's in Nagaland should become a reality in the near future.

19. From the current year, Development of Underdeveloped Areas (UDAP) and Development of Backward Areas (DBAP) schemes have been clubbed together under the nomenclature of Development of Backward Areas Programme (DBAP) with a total outlay of Rs. 21.25 crore, with its main focus on infrastructure. Under the Border Areas Programme (BDAP), emphasis is being given to education, health, agriculture and allied activities and physical infrastructure and capacity building. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) has been launched in Mon district with effect from February 2006, which will provide 100 days of wage employment to every household during the year.

20. The draft Nagaland State Policy for Empowerment of Women is under consideration by the Government. Under the Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG), the districts of Tuensang, Longleng and Kiphire are being covered, and will benefit 3300 adolescent girls in 2005-06. Under the P.M's package 1021 SHG's have already been identified to implement various schemes with expertise from departments such as Agriculture, Industry, State Urban Development Agency, Horticulture, Veterinary, Fisheries, etc. To safeguard women's rights and promote their empowerment, a State Commission for Women is being set up shortly to study and monitor all matters relating to constitutional and legal safeguards for women, and to advise the State Government on all matters concerning women's rights.

21. The Central Government has recently sanctioned 265 new Anganwadi centres and two new ICDS projects at Tizit and Satoi. A Tribal Welfare Complex, funded by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is being set up at Kohima to showcase various tribal artifacts and provide facilities for cultural, musical and recreational activities. Two more such complexes have been sanctioned for Zunheboto and Wokha during 2005-06.

22. Sincere efforts are being made to operationalise the Referral Hospital at Dimapur, which has since been handed over to the EHA and CMC for better management and revitalization, and rechristened as the Christian Institute of Health Sciences and Research (CIHSR). Our vision is to attach a medical college and nursing college to this institute at a later stage. The National Rural Health Mission (NHRM) has been launched in the State, and in the coming 2-3 years, the face of health care units such as Sub-Centres, PHCs and CHCs shall see a marked improvement in terms of infrastructure and manpower facilities. A Regional Diagnostic Centre has been completed at Mokokchung, and another is nearing completion at Tuensang. A Cobalt Therapy Unit for treatment of cancer is being constructed at Mokokchung. Communitisation has been successfully implemented in 350 Sub-Centres, 7 PHCs and CHC in the State, and assessments indicate improvements in health care infrastructure and services at these health units. In healthcare, the Government will continue to pursue the goal of providing health care to all the people through an 'Integrated Health Care Delivery System' with the ultimate objectives of stabilization and standardization of the health care system under National Rural Health Mission.

23. A Directorate of Border Affairs has been created for better handling of the boundary issues especially in the context of the directive of the Supreme Court for the constitution of a Boundary Commission to adjudicate the boundary dispute between Assam and Nagaland. The post of an Advisor (Border) that had been lying dormant for the last 10 years, has been revived, and the post filled up recently. The foothills of our State are the most productive areas of

our State, and are of vital economic importance. The creation of this Directorate will also go a long way in protecting the interests of the State and the Nagas living in the border areas.

24. To strengthen the various institutions of Local Self Government, The Twelfth Finance Commission, has granted a sum of Rs. 6 crore for the municipalities over a five-year period, @ Rs. 120 lakhs per year. 50% of these funds will be utilised for solid waste management to improve cleanliness and hygiene in the towns. Rs. 40 crore will also be made available to the villages over a five year period @ Rs. 800 lakh per year, starting from 2005-06. These funds will be utilized for operation and maintenance of rural water supply and improvement of sanitation, and these funds will be placed at the disposal of the Water Supply and Sanitation System Committees (WATSAN) to be constituted in the villages.

25. The Government of Nagaland has passed the Nagaland Money Lenders Bill, 2005, to regulate the unorganized money market and to safeguard the interest of both the lenders and the borrowers. We have also just passed a resolution in this House to declare Dimapur mouza as notified town for registration of equitable mortgage of immovable properties against loans. This will improve recovery of loans, and in the process, improve the flow of credit in the State.

26. The Government has enacted and notified the Nagaland Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2005, as mandated by the Twelfth Finance Commission. The Act contains provisions outlining a Fiscal Correction Path and to monitor different fiscal indicators. The Nagaland Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Rules are under preparation and is expected to be notified within April 2006. All the Government departments are on the job of gearing up their efforts and to put in place the required mechanism in order to fully implement the provisions of the Act/Rules right from the commencement of the ensuing financial year. The Budget documents, from next year onwards, will contain a new document titled "Statements indicating the action taken under the provisions of the Nagaland Fiscal Responsibilities and Budget

Management Act, 2005, and the Rules there-under”. Under the provisions of this Act, Government is committed to generate sufficient revenue surplus and to gradually reduce fiscal deficit which can be achieved by systematic reduction of dependence on borrowings for funding Government expenditure.

27. Through sound financial management, the flow of funds to executing departments has been made more systematic, rather than bunched releases towards the end of the financial year. This has significantly improved execution of schemes and utilization of funds, and avoided errors arising from hurried expenditure towards the end of the financial year. It is also worthwhile to mention that in the last one year, the State has not gone into overdraft even for a single day. The good fiscal management of the State has been appreciated and commended by the Governor, Reserve Bank of India, during a recent visit to the State in November 2005

28. Realizing that tourism has become one of the biggest industries all over the world, we are determined to see that Nagaland is also developed into a viable tourist destination, with various natural advantages in our favour. Our focus will be on construction of tourist facilities in rural areas, development of tourist attraction spots and Communitisation of tourism and tourist facilities.

29. We will actively pursue our dream of modernizing our district administration, both in terms of better physical infrastructures and in terms of improved manpower and technology. Further, with the creation of three new districts of Peren, Kiphire and Longleng, we are aware that many administrative officers are finding difficulty in functioning in the remote areas without proper accommodation. In some places, even rented houses are not available. It has become necessary to address this area on priority so that the district administration can function smoothly. An outlay of Rs. 12.51 crore has been proposed during 2006-07 for GA Housing. In addition, a sum of Rs. 2.00 crore each has been allocated to the three new districts for infrastructure development.

30. Kohima being the capital city, frequently hosts high level meetings and conventions. Seeing the need for a good convention centre, we propose to construct a Convention Hall at Kohima near the Secretariat Complex. A special development package for the capitals of the North Eastern States has been launched by the Government of India with loan assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). A city development plan for Kohima with a 7 year perspective is under preparation, which will take care of various infrastructural needs of the city, such as multi-storied car parking, widening of roads, development of arterial roads and bye-pass, land slide protections, footpath, street lighting and solid waste management etc. In view of the need to speed up activities in the area of urban development and to effectively implement the new National Urban Renewal Mission, we are planning to strengthen the Urban Development Department.

31. The Forest department has lined up projects relating to eco-tourism, community biodiversity conservation, aesthetic plantations, production of seedlings, silvicultural research. etc. for 2006-07.

32. Speaker, Sir, through sincere and consistent efforts the Government has ensured that the State's finances are in sound health. However, I wish to inform the Honourable Members of this August House that revenue mobilization hardly constitutes 7% - 8% of the total annual budget of the state, and can barely meet the salary expenditure for two and a half months.

33. Therefore, our tax and revenue administration needs lots of strengthening and revamping, and we are seriously in this objective. For the coming year, I have put the target of our internal revenue collection at Rs. 210.21 crore, as against the BE 2005-2006 target of Rs. 185.04 crore, representing a growth rate of 13.60%. If the healthy growth of the State's economy can be sustained, and with better commitment from all concerned, I am confident that our revenue performance will surely see more improvement. The time has come for us to take more confident steps towards self-sufficiency. This can be done through better resource mobilization, and judicious investments of central plan grants and other central assistance for

building the required infrastructure not only to kick start, but to propel the process of sustainable economic development in the State. This is a solemn social responsibility that deserves to be taken seriously by all of us, particularly the members of this August House, who are at the helm of the State's governance. Let us rise to the challenge of attaining higher levels of self-sufficiency and sustainable growth and development. In this budget, I do not propose to introduce any new taxes but would emphasize on better realization of revenue by means of expanding the area of operation and by plugging the leakages.

**34. BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2006-07:** Mr. Speaker Sir, I am estimating the gross receipt at Rs. 3599.61 crore, and the gross expenditure at Rs. 3473.83 crore in the financial year 2006-2007. The broad item-wise statement of the estimated gross receipts and gross expenditures are as under:

<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	<b>(Rs. in crore)</b>
(i) State's own tax and non-tax revenue	: 210.21
(ii) State's share of Central taxes	: 275.32
(iii) Central assistance (grants and loans)	: 2342.49
(iv) Internal debt (including market loans, institutional loans and W&M advance from RBI)	: 765.85
(v) Recovery of loans & advances by State Government:	5.74
	<b>Total: 3599.61</b>

<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>(Rs. in crore)</b>
(i) Non-Plan expenditure (excluding servicing of debt)	: 1408.28
(ii) Servicing of debt (including W & M advance of Rs. 450.00 crore)	: 869.40
(iii) State Plan expenditure	: 760.00
(iv) Expenditure on schemes sponsored by Ministry of DONER	: 62.98
(v) CSS and NEC sponsored schemes	: 373.17
	<b>Total : 3473.83</b>

**PUBLIC ACCOUNT (Net)****(-) 27.00**

35. The current year's transaction is estimated to result in a positive balance of Rs 98.78 crore. However, because of the estimated negative opening balance of Rs. 263.50 crore, the year 2006-07 is estimated to close with a negative balance of Rs. 164.72 crore.

36. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to assure the Honourable members of this House that the finances of the State are in sound health, and we are in the process of accelerating the development process, both through Government's initiative and through private participation, which has so far been lacking in the past. It is encouraging to note that for the first time in Nagaland, private investors are coming in with their own funds, without any financial contribution from the State. I have already mentioned some instances, such as the partial privatization of Referral hospital and Likhimro hydro projects for their maintenance and management, the proposal for Doyang Stage-II and setting up of two private universities etc.

37. We are also actively backing up these development initiatives through 'good governance'. Mass skill upgradation and training of Government employees is being pursued vigorously in the ATI and at district levels. Another aspect of good governance is 'transparency' which has all along been our declared policy. The State Government is activating the process of implementation of Right to Information Act, 2005, by setting up the State Information Commission a few days back.

38 Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me conclude by appealing to the honourable members of this august House as well as to all citizens of the State for their cooperation and active participation in our endeavour to usher in a new era of development and prosperity in Nagaland. Let us all be vigilant and hardworking, in order to maintain the relatively peaceful atmosphere we are having now, so that the process of building our dreams of a better tomorrow for our young generations is not derailed. The famous motivator, Shri Shiv Khera,

has said rightly Quote “Freedom is not free”. Unquote. Let not our past achievements make us complacent, for we have miles to go before we can rest. We have to constantly strive and move forward, always asking ourselves what we can do for our State and our people, instead of asking what the Government can do for us.

With these words, Mr, Speaker, Sir, I commend the budget for 2006-2007 to this august House for consideration and passing.

Thank you.