



## Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)

Conglomerate of Recognised Tribes in Lamka, Outer Manipur

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### PRESS RELEASE

A resolution passed on October 14 by the Hill Areas Committee (HAC), a constitutional body that is supposed to represent the interests of tribal people in Manipur, to create temporary committees for each of the autonomous district councils (ADC) in the state until ADC elections are held is unacceptable as Kuki-Zo MLAs were not involved in the decision-making process.

The HAC's resolution also recommend elections for ADCs amidst the ethnic violence is contentious, deceptive, and highly undesirable. After so many years of delay, why now, in the middle of a bloody conflict? The last ADC elections were held in 2016, and since then, no local body elections have been conducted by the Manipur government. ADCs have been starved of funds and are facing great difficulty in performing their tasks. This shows the state government's total disregard for the welfare of the hill people.

The proposed ADC elections are just a ruse to divert and break the momentum of our movement for a separate administration from the Manipur government. After so much death, destruction, and the vilification of our community by the state government, we will not be distracted by local body elections. We advise the people not to participate in ADC elections until there is a settlement of our political demand.

On the issue of border fencing along the India-Myanmar border, the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) wrote to Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah on January 24, 2024, requesting him to reverse the decision to scrap the Free Movement Regime (FMR) and to stop border fencing. The people of Mizoram and Nagaland have also voiced their opposition to border fencing, citing the importance of FMR in maintaining social, cultural, and economic ties between tribal communities who live on both sides of the border.

ITLF requests all tribals, especially village chiefs and government employees, not to participate in any border fencing activities that will split our people on either side of the border.

**PAGIN HAOKIP,**

Chairman,

Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)

**MUAN TOMBING**

General Secretary,

Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)

**Letpu Haokip,**

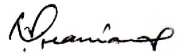
President,

Kuki Inpi Churachandpur (KIC)

**V.L. Rinliana,**

President

Mizo Peoples' Convention (MPC)



**K. Suanthang,**  
President,  
Paite Tribe Council (PTC)



**B.D. Simte,**  
President,  
Simte Tribe Council (STC)



**Rev. Ros Infimate,**  
President,  
Hmar Inpui (HI)



**Rev. Dr. GS Gangte,**  
President,  
Gangte Tribe Union (GTU)



**Thangzamang Zou,**  
President  
United Zou Organisation (UZO)



**Henlianthang Thanglet,**  
President  
Vaiphei Peoples' Council (VPC)



**Thangkhanmang,**  
President  
Mate Tribe Union (MTU)