

**FOR THE NYOKUM FESTIVAL  
26<sup>TH</sup>, FEBRUARY, 2005.**

\*\*\*\*\*

I. The word ‘**Nyokum**’ has been derived from two words – ‘**Nyok**’ means land ( earth) and ‘**Kum**’ means collectiveness or togetherness. Therefore, the **Nyokum** Festival may be interpreted as inviting all the Gods and Goddesses of the universe, with the **Nyokum** Goddess as the principal deity, to a particular venue at a particular time and is commonly worshipped by the people irrespective of caste, creed or class for better productivity, prosperity and happiness for all human beings on earth.

II. The festival has a close link with cultivation. The ‘**Nyokum**’ goddess, the goddess of prosperity is invoked for her blessings so that there may be more and more production of food-grains in the next harvesting season, that the visit of famine may be warded off, and that drought or flood may not hamper cultivation, nor should any insect or animal destroy plants or crops. The Goddess is invoked

so that the human race may be strengthened and regenerated. All should be free from unnatural death due to accident, war and epidemic. So, it is a festival connected with the worship of the gods for peace, prosperity and happiness for all.

III. 'Ui' or 'Oram Nyoko' is the place meant for the life after death. It is also believed that there are numerous deities and spirits on earth. These are the deities and spirits of mountains, rivers, forest, animals crops, house-hold and so on and so forth. Some of the spirits are benevolent and other are malevolent. The Nishing believe that human being can live a life of peace and prosperity on this earth only when a perfect harmony is maintained between man, God and nature. They also believe that prosperity and happiness can come to a man when God and nature are pleased. Misery, hardship and natural calamities like famine, flood, drought earthquake, epidemic, warfare, accidental death and such unwanted incidents occur due to the displeasure and wrath of God and Goddesses of nature. It is, therefore, the Nishing worship to propitiate the

benevolent Gods and Goddesses to protect and bring prosperity to them and to ward off the malevolent spirits from disturbing the peace and tranquility in their life, Nyokum Yulow is one of such propitiations.

\*\*\*\*\*