



NAMTA

NORTH AMERICAN MANIPUR TRIBAL ASSOCIATION

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July 09, 2023

President, Ajay Banga
The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433 USA

Re: Manipur Infotech Enabled Development Project

Dear Mr. Banga,

We wanted to raise a serious concern regarding project P176733 "*Manipur Infotech Enabled Development Project*". Due to the ongoing conflict that has led to the ethnic cleansing of the minority Kuki-Zomi tribals from the Imphal valley in Manipur, India, we ask that funding be paused and returned to a review process immediately. Since the 3rd of May 2023 there has been a total separation, both demographically and geographically, between the Kuki-Zomis and the majority Meiteis in the state. Given the evidence suggesting this to be a state-sponsored crisis we fear that the funds may be diverted from its intended purpose and has the potential of completely excluding one of the three major demographic groups from its benefits in the state.

To date, over 50,000 Kuki-Zomi individuals have been displaced, 124 lives have been lost, 6,137 houses have been burned, and 355 churches have been torched by Meitei militant groups and state forces.

The categorization of this project's "*Environmental and Social Risk*" as "*Moderate*" is deeply inaccurate and alarming since it ignores one of the most violent times in the entire history of the state. We, at NAMTA, hold unwavering faith in your commitment and ability to safeguard human rights while you provide funds to make the world a better place for all.

Respectfully,

For NAMTA

Niang Hangzo
VP Communications, NAMTA

Lien Gangte
President, NAMTA Canada