

# 'Blessed Bonding', an NGO for children with IDD launched

*Staff Reporter*

**DIMAPUR, OCT 26 (NPN):** Blessed Bonding (BB), an NGO formed by parents with children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD), sponsored by Alashi Foundation, was launched on Saturday at Tourist Lodge, Dimapur.

With 200 registered members, the BB was launched by special guest, Nagaland State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Diethono Nakhro.

Speaking at the program, Diethono, expressed gratitude for being part of a new organization focused on disability awareness and support.

She highlighted on the societal stigma and assumptions about their capabilities and underscored the importance of raising awareness about disabilities and advocating for inclusion.

Nakhro also highlighted the ongoing need to ensure that people with disabilities receive the education and opportunities

they deserve.

Reflecting on her previous ignorance regarding disability issues, she said many non-disabled individuals often only confront these challenges when they have a disabled child.

She however emphasized the need for education about disability rights and connecting with the disabled community.

Nakhro also stressed the necessity of public pressure from parents and disabled individuals to hold the government accountable and demanded improve services.

She clarified that "disability rights" meant equal access and opportunities, not special treatment, calling for society to acknowledge and meet the basic needs of disabled individuals.

She called for greater involvement from the church in disability advocacy, viewing it as vital for outreach and support.

Nakhro also addressed the challenges faced by families with disabled children, and encouraged parents to help



**Special guest Diethono Nakhro along with guest of honour Alun Hangsing along with members of BB and attendees at the program.**

their children pursue their dreams.

In his speech, chairman Nagaland State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Alun Hangsing said everyone was a stakeholder in creating a vibrant society, particularly focusing on the rights and needs of children with disabilities. He shared personal experiences with their own child's disability, highlighting the journey of understanding and support.

He reflected on the

talents and potential of individuals with disabilities and encourage continued collaboration to foster a more inclusive environment.

Earlier the program was chaired by member, Blessed Bonding, Inatoli V. Zhimo, invocation by pastor, Lotha Baptist Church Dimapur, Thenjamo Tsanglao, welcome address by executive member, BB, Akokla Longchar, keynote address by chairman, BB, Anito Sema and vote of thanks by general sec-

retary, BB, Shanchamo Yanthan.

An awareness session titled "Building inclusive Communities" was taken up proprietor, Milestone Centre for Child Development, Yangerinla C Sangtam and "Role of Churches in Addressing the issue of intellectual and developmental Disabilities" by pastor, Ao Baptist Church Aoyimti, Temsu Jamir, and the sessions were moderated by executive member, BB, Akokla Longchar.