

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT**

No.Health.103/2020/17,

Dated Shillong, the 23rd April,2020.

From : Shri D.D.Sangma, MCS
Joint Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya,
Health & Family Welfare Department.

To : **The Deputy Commissioner,**
East Khasi Hills, Shillong/ West Garo Hills, Tura/ West Khasi Hills,
Nongstoin/ Ri-Bhoi, Nongpoh/ West Jaintia Hills, Jowai/ East Jaintia Hills,
Khlieriat/ South-West Khasi Hills, Mawkyrwat/ East Garo Hills,
Williamnagar/ South Garo Hills, Baghmara/ North Garo Hills, Resubelpara/
South-West Garo Hills,Ampati.

Subj.:- **Enforcement of The Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020-
Reg.**

Sir/ Madam,

With reference to the above cited subject I am directed to say that Doctors and Health Professionals are at the forefront in the fight against COVID-19. Their efforts and spirit is being widely acclaimed at all levels. The skills and spirit of service amongst these professionals places them in a unique position to save people from this disease. But in spite of their noble services for the humanity, while risking their own lives, there are reports of acts of violence, criminal intimidation, harassment or bodily injury to the life of such health care professionals while discharging their duties; or sometimes loss or damage to any property in relation to such medical care personnel is also caused by some persons. Currently, various provisions of law such as the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the Epidemic Disease Act, 1897 and the Regulations framed thereunder, the Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure (as amended) are in place to deal with offenders. However, these laws seemed to be inadequate to ensure protection of health care professionals.

Therefore, the Government of India brought out "**the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020**"(Copy Enclosed) , amending certain provisions of the Epidemic Disease Act, 1897 so as to ensure adequate protection to healthcare professionals and frontline workers, and to prevent any incident of violence against them.

V. Anshu

