

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE GALO INTERFAITH COORDINATION COMMITTEE(GICC),  
HELD ON 15TH OCT 2022, ITANAGAR**

**BACKGROUND**

In order to uphold Galo unity, the Galo Welfare Society (GWS) conducted a Peace cum Unification meeting of both the Galo faith groups comprising 15 members each from the Galo Indigenous faith and Galo Christian Federation at Hotel Todo, Itanagar, on 6th August 2022 under the Chairmanship of Shri Marnya Ete (Rtd IAS), President, GWS, Shri RaksapYomcha (Rtd IPS) was the moderator in the meeting. In the meeting both the faith groups within the Galo community delivered their views and submitted their grievances in writing to the Chairman of the Peace cum Unification meeting. After long deliberations, the issues and points of disagreement could not be resolved due to a shortage of time. Therefore to resolve the issue through dialogue, the Galo Inter-Faith Coordinator Committee (GICC) comprising five members from each faith group was constituted, vide even No. GWS/2022-25/ (MISC)/ Dt 6th Aug 2022.

In pursuance of the above, the first sitting of the Galo Interfaith Coordination Committee(GICC) meeting was held on 15th Oct 2022 at the temporary GWS office at Tusok Complex: Itanagar under the Chairmanship of Shri Raksap Yomcha(Rtd IPS). The following official members as representatives from Donyi Polo Faith believers and Galo Christians nominated by each faith group as Galo Inter-Faith Coordination Members attended the meeting.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER:**

1. Shri RaksapYomcha (Rtd IPS)- as Chairman of the meeting.

**DRAFTING COMMITTEE :**

1. Mr. Mige Kamki, as Chairman Drafting Committee.
2. Dr. Kirki Ori, as Member Drafting Committee

**GWS REPRESENTATIVES AS WITNESS :**

1. Shri Nyadar Loya, General Secretary, GWS
2. Smti Gambi Bogo Kamgo, President WW, GWS

**MEMBERS FROM DONYI-POLO GROUP:**

1. Dr. Emi Rumi, Ex-President GWS & President, GIFCC
2. Shri Mogi Ori, President CKG Aalo& IFCSAP President West Siang.
3. Shri Doi Ado, Ex-Minister Aalo& Adviser CKG
4. Smti Poryum Boje Gangkak, President, WW IFCSAP West Siang
5. Dr. Tony Koyu, Ex-President, IFCSAP & C/Adviser KG Itanagar



MEMBERS FROM CHRISTIAN GROUP:

1. Dr. Mitum Boje, Ex-President GWS & Adviser Galo Christian Forum(GCF)
2. Mr. Horsen Ete, founder President, GWS & President, GCF
3. Mr. Kenyom Dabi, Social Worker, Lower Siang
4. Mr. Gokar Lombi, Social Worker ,Naharlagun
5. Rev. Gode Doke, Galo Bible Translator

RESOLUTIONS/DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

During the meeting, twelve important points were discussed in detail. After prolonged debate and discussion following resolutions/decisions were adopted by the Galo Interfaith Co-ordination Committee (GICC):

1. **TOGU PANAM:** Galo Interfaith Coordination Committee (GICC) agreed in principle that every Galo has the freedom to perform TOGU PANAM in a sequence of rituals handed down by the Galo ancestors from time immemorial. No person shall perform TOGU without proper rituals of TOGU with its sequences & procedures.
2. **NYAMV LAYAP:** Galo Interfaith Coordination Committee (GICC) agreed that every Galo has the freedom to use the name "LAYAP" for performing a marriage ceremony of Galo couples by maintaining Galo culture and tradition. While using LAYAP words, no symbols and photos of another deity/God shall be decorated in NYODE of the Galo House, during the layap ceremony.
3. **GOGMV-JAJIN, YAN-KABEN, and OTHER GALO FOLK DANCES /DIVINE TUNES:** The Galo Interfaith Coordination Committee (GICC) had unanimously agreed that anyone can practice or perform Galo YAN-KABEN, GOGMV-JAJIN, and other Galo folk dances and divine tunes if they desire to do so with the restriction that the subject matter shall be as per the original & inherited practice. No, other irrelevant elements shall be added to the hymns.
4. **TAKOM LVBOK YAPUNA(JESE KORE), GALO BOLUB LUBVR AND TAMGO LALUK:** Keeping in view the importance of the preservation and protection of the Galo cultures, the GICC had unanimously agreed that the TAKOM LVBOK YAPUNA & YAPUNA TAMGO LALUK shall be used by all Galo in the occasions of AI-AGAM, TOD-YAMO, XWNV(Nyine)-HAGE, MOPIN-MOJI, PWRNV(pirne)-TOGU, and National/States Functions only to showcase the Galo heritage & culture. No, any organization shall use the above

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dresses on other occasions, which may misrepresent the Galo Culture and traditions.

Regarding GALO BOLUP LUBVR, the GICC opined that anyone can use the LUBVR at any place if they desire so, but with respect and honour.

5. **GALO NYIDA(XIDA):** The GICC had unanimously agreed that every Galo has the liberty to practice NYIDA(XIDA) System by performing TOGU with the proper ritual & sequences of TOGU. But those who want to do the sacrifice of HOBBO for XIDA(Nyida) without ritual may opt for DAJI SYSTEM(without ritual) without TOGU BUM AREN.
6. **IJU/RVBU:** The demands of the Galo Indigenous Faith group not to destroy or burn the IJU/RVBU, which are traditional decoration items of the Galo house, was agreed upon by both the parties. The Christian leaders have also agreed to preserve the old aged IJU/RVBU of the Galo House.
7. **WATER BAPTISM:** Considering the religious sentiments of the indigenous people, the Interfaith Coordination Committee had unanimously decided that no Baptism shall be solemnized in the small river and stream of the village without the permission of the owner. But there is no restriction or objection to solemnizing Baptism in a large river.
8. **PREFIXING/SUFFIXING GALO WORDS WITH CHURCH NAME:**  
The Interfaith Coordination Committee agreed in principle not to suffix/prefix the word "GALO" with the Church name in a Galo District/Villages/Town. But outside the Galo-dominated area, any Galo can prefix/suffix Galo words with the Church name to identify the Galo Christian prayer center, provided the Church/local authority of that area permits to do so.
9. **KEEPING THE NAME OF GALO OFFSPRING:** The chain of genealogy counting in the Galo Tribe is one of the unique naming systems handed down by Galo ancestors. To uphold the system of naming offspring by linking with their father, the Interfaith Coordination Committee had unanimously agreed that the Galo shall not prefix or suffix the name like James, Josep, or Mary with the name of the Galo offspring. The name of Galo should be a prefix with the last sound of the father's name.

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10. **FORCEFUL CONVERSION BY INTERFAITH DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW:**

Regarding the complaint of GIFCC & CKGC, after marriage with the daughters of the Christian family by the Indigenous Faith believers, the fathers-in-law are converted to Christianity by inducement or force.

In this regard, the Interfaith Coordination Committee had opined and suggested that the matter seems to be a personal or family issue, and such cases may be dealt with as per the law of the land at the personal/family level.

11. **CONVERSION BY ENTICEMENT:** Regarding the complaint of GIFCC & CKGC, the Christians does convert Indigenous people by enticement, while the peoples are in trouble and ask for prayer. However Christian leaders have reputed the claim and stated that the conversion is purely on individual willingness, not by force or enticement.

In this regard, the Interfaith Coordination Committee had opined that such cases are controversial and difficult to prove. But advisory-type letters can be sent to all Galo Pastors to refrain from converting by enticement or force in the future keeping in view of cordial relations amongst the other religious faith group active within Galo society.

12. **CODE OF CONDUCT:** At the end of the meeting, the Chairman had drawn the following Model Code of Conduct for the peaceful co-existence of the Galos of different religions and for upholding Galo Unity, Traditions, and Cultures. Interfaith Coordination Committee has agreed with the Chairman in principle.

- (a) It shall be the responsibility of every Galo to respect the cultural value of their community and shall not try to play down on beliefs and faith of each other.
- (b) Every Galo is required to practice the customs and traditions of the Galo community in the right perspective, so that scope of distortion and dilution of cultural value do not arise.
- (c) Utmost care must be taken by every Galo while interpreting the concept of faith and belief, custom and tradition so that no Galo is deprived of practicing their custom and tradition.
- (d) Every Galo, irrespective of different faith & belief must possess an attitude of religious tolerance, a sense of belongingness to the community, and have concern for the well-being of the entire Galo community.

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- (e) Never conceive ill will and evil talk against one another but develop a sense of participation and concern for each other group. If any grievances arise instead of making irresponsible and cheap gossip through social media, it should be ventilated either to GIFCC or GCF whichever is appropriate for an amicable solution.
- (f) Always remember that your passive approach to the preservation of culture may sometime become detrimental to a progressive society. One is required to adjust himself to changing social environment and cultural dynamism arising out of the expansion of modern science and technology.

The meeting peacefully concluded with both of thanks by Shri Nyadar Loya, General Secretary ,GWS.



**(Mr. Raksap Yomcha)**

**Chairman**

**Galo Interfaith Co-ordination Committee(GICC)**

**Submitted to:**

The President, GWS with a request to acknowledge and convey the decision of the Galo Interfaith Co-ordination Committee(GICC) to all Galos and Galo-based organizations for meticulous compliance.



**(Mr. Raksap Yomcha), IPS(Rtd)**

**Chairman, GICC .**

*Dt. 10th Nov- 2022.*