

# **AFFECTED CITIZENS OF TEESTA**

**Gangtok, Sikkim**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**13<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

The Affected Citizens of Teesta (ACT) welcome the decision of the people of Dzongu led by the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker cum area MLA, Shri Sonam Gyatso Lepcha and all the persons holding important Govt. positions along with the elected Panchayats, Govt. employees and public to oppose all forms of Hydro Electric Power projects in the area.

This historic unanimous decision will go a long way in bringing unity and peace, which will usher in lasting prosperity more than what the mostly failed and destructive Hydro projects can provide.

The ACT further acknowledge the contribution of the area MLA and the Panchayats in boycotting the public hearing of the Teesta HEP Stage IV. The stand is one of the most important rallying points in the litigation in National Green Tribunal (NGT) where the members of ACT have challenged the Environmental Clearance granted to NHPC to develop Teesta HEP Stage IV.

We thank all persons holding Govt. posts, particularly Ms Anguli Lepcha, Zilla Adhayshya (N), Shri Pintso Lepcha, Chairman SNT, Sonam Lepcha JD, HRDD (N) Panchayat President Heegyathang GPU, all Panchayats and Govt. employees present along with the members of the public.

The ACT as an organization shall continue the decade old struggle to protect the land and the endangered aborigines of the area and render all assistance and cooperation in fulfilling the wishes of the people of Dzongu and Sikkim.

We consider this development as a tribute to all those valiant activists who have fought for the sacred land. We are optimistic that this decision will go a long way in protecting the **Sanctity of Dzongu** as enshrined in the Old Laws of Sikkim and protected by the article 371(f) of the Constitution of India.

Tseten Lepcha

Working President

Affected Citizens of Teesta

North Sikkim