

## Strengthen symbiotic ties between men and forest: MLA

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**ZIRO, July 03:** The essence of celebration of Van Mahotsov and importance of afforestation should be spread to every nook and corner of Ziro plateau, particularly the youth and elders, said local MLA Hage Appa said in Wednesday while taking part in 75<sup>th</sup> Van Mahotsov at Pechi Putu, the venue of Ziro Festival of Music.



Deforestation and afforestation are natural phenomenon for the tribals. 'The system of symbiotic relationship between men and forest should be strengthened further, he said and urge the youth to stress more on afforestation as practiced by our forefathers since generations, he said.

Exhorting the youth to not get deviated from age-old practice of striking a balance between man and forest, he said the onset of modernity and commercialization of forest produces should not distort the sacred relationship between man and forest. He also urged the land owner Miha Pelo to erect a bamboo fencing all around the festival ground till a concrete boundary wall comes up.

Lower Subansiri DC Vivek H.P sought a collaborative approach between the forest department and local people to upkeep the sanctity. 'Sustainable development would be more meaningful when ownership

lies with the communities. The GoAP is just a facilitator and the onus of sustaining greenery of the valley lies on the communities, he said and said the responsibility of nurturing the plants lies on Liagi Tage clan members.

DFO Nani Sha, in his keynote address earlier, stressed the importance of Van Mahotsov, terming it as 'Festival of Trees'. Informing that Arunachal Pradesh is lucky to have 79.33% forest coverage of its geographical area compared to 21.7% national average, he said that during the day more than 200 varieties of fruit bearing and ornamental trees were planted in Pechi Putu, most centrally located spot at the valley where tourists frequently visit and music lovers from across the globe gather. It was decided to beautify this ground and spread message of importance of tree plantation, he added.

Range forest officers Oyang Dusu and Ngilyang Tachang also addressed the gathering of HoDs, members from Apatani Women Association, Tani Supung Dukung, Miha Pelo, Ngunu Ziro, Ziro Birding Club, Liagi Tage Clan, Apatani Youth Association, Apatani Students Union and Nyime Ashram students. (DIPRO)

Source: <https://arunachalobserver.org/2024/07/04/van-mahotsov-celebration-strengthen-symbiotic-ties-between-men-and-forest-mla-appa/>