

## Education row now hits Rio

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Education qualification row has taken a new twist in the political arena, now with former chief minister and Lok Sabha MP, Neiphiu Rio being accused of giving incorrect details while filing his nominations. A statement issued by Human Rights Law Network co-ordinator, Dr. Rosemary Dzüvichu said a complaint (FIR) was lodged on February 11, 2016 at South police station, Kohima against Rio for allegedly “submitting fake/false certificate of B.A Honours in Pol. Science in the Lok Sabha Election, 2014.”

The FIR jointly filed by S. Shingnyu and Hanghu alleged that Rio submitted false graduation certificate at the time of filing of his nomination for the Lok Sabha elections in March, 2014 stating that he had held a BA honours degree in Pol. Science from Kohima Arts College under NEHU. Dzüvichu said that the FIR was lodged based on the RTI reply (5.12.15) by PIO, chief electoral officer and RTI reply dated 18.12.15 by Principal Kohima College.

As per RTI replies, Dzüvichu said that on 19.10.15, Rio submitted an application to the CEO with regard to his educational qualification as entered in the nomination papers.

Dzüvichu said that the application was “enclosed with an affidavit executed on 9.10.15 and Corrigendum issued by Principal Kohima College bearing NO. KCK/CERT/2012/235 dated 9.10.15 and another pass certificate issued by the Principal of the said College dated 9.10.15 stating that Neiphiu Rio graduated in the Pass Course”. Dzüvichu alleged that Rio deliberately procured the honours pass certificate on 4.12.2012 with the object of being a person having a higher qualification.

Dzüvichu said the complainants alleged that Rio “willfully and deliberately indulged in procuring false/fake documents and sworn a false affidavit” and committed offences under IPC and Representation of the Peoples Act and demanded stringent action against Rio. When contacted, Rio refused to comment, but welcomed any probe to unearth the truth.