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Role of Regional Political Parties and Formation of the Coalition Governments in Meghalaya

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Abstract

Regional unevenness is one of the main reasons responsible for the emergence of the regional political parties in the state of Meghalaya. Other responsible factors that led to the emergence of the regional political parties in the state were the presence of multi-cultures, multi-languages, factionalism, personality cult, and demand for Autonomy. Another important factor was that of the negligence of the national parties in the development of the region and the ever-increasing centralized tendency has become the primary reasons for the emergence of regional political parties in the state. This investigation tries to draw out reasons on the evolution of regional political parties in Meghalaya

The study had examined and evaluated the emergence of regional political parties, programmes, role and their contribution to the formation of Coalition Government in Meghalaya during the period from 1972-2013. The idea of Coalition is an act of uniting into one body or to grow together. Meghalaya was inevitable from the detrimental effect of Coalition Government because no single political party is able to secure a working majority in the house on account of the presence of the multi party system.

Keywords: Regional Politics, Coalition, Formation, Political Parties, Meghalaya.

1.1. Introduction: Meghalaya became a full-fledged State in January 21st, 1972 with a Unicameral Legislature consisting of *Sixty Seats*, Earlier, it had *Two Districts* but in order to ensure efficiency of the administration, the state has been sub-divided into *Eleven Districts* and *Four Sub-Divisions*. It is located in the North Eastern part of India between 25`5 N and 26`10 N latitude and 89`47 E and 92`E longitudes and is ranked as the 21st State of the Indian Union. (*Bhaktia, 1992*) Prior to its foundation, Meghalaya was a part of Assam. It is bounded in the North by Goalpara, Kamrup, Nagoan and Karbi Anglong Districts of Assam; in the East by the Districts of Cachar and North Cachar Hills, also of the state of Assam and in the South and West by Bangladesh. The State has a Geographical area of 22,429 sq/kms which extends for about 300 kms from West to East and 100 kms from North to South. The name Meghalaya was suggested by Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee,

Professor Emeritus Calcutta University by combining two Sanskrit words ‘Megh’ and ‘Alay’ which means the “*Abode of the Clouds*”. (G.B.D’s, 2012)

1.2. The Issues: Meghalaya, like other states of India is ruled by various national or regional political parties. The concern of this article is an investigation on evolution of regional political parties in Meghalaya.

Regional imbalance is one of the reasons responsible for the emergence of the regional political parties in the state. The presence of multi-cultures, multi-languages, factionalism, personality cult, and demand for Autonomy were the main causes responsible for the emergence of the regional political parties in the state. The negligence of the national parties in the development of the region and the ever-increasing centralized tendency has become the primary reasons for the emergence of regional political parties in the State. Besides, lack of charismatic local leaders and strong organizational structure and leadership at the grass-root level in national parties have paved the way for the local leaders with local background and grass-root followers to offer a positive alternative leadership in the region. The interests of the Tribal and Minority Groups of the region were exclusive in the policies and programmes of national parties. This has created insecurity in the people of the region and has obviously led to the formation of various regional political parties in the state. The demand for Autonomy especially by the Hill people in the 1960s, had led to the formation of regional political parties. Factionalism and ethnic politics gave birth to regional political parties. The formation of various regional political parties is a success in the democratic states in North East India. (*Respondent, 2016*)

Eminent regional political parties of the state since its formation are the Eastern India Tribal Union, All Party Hills Leader Conference, Hill State People Democratic Party, United Democratic Party, Meghalaya Democratic Party and the Khun Hynniewtrep National Awakening Movement

1.3 Methodology: The present investigation is assessed by employing an exploratory and investigative study method to seek and identify the role of the regional political parties and the formation of Coalition Government in Meghalaya. The investigative approach is applied in order to be able to reconstruct the genesis and growth of regional political parties from 1972 to 2013. For this purpose, the primary and secondary sources were well-tapped.

The research investigation is based on data obtained from the field through scheduled interviews with leaders of various regional political parties, forty Headmen selected from forty villages of West Khasi Hills District and questionnaires were distributed to over 500 literate citizen who have crossed the age of 18 years, to collect information on social variables and to identify the role of the regional political parties and the formation of Coalition Government in Meghalaya.

Secondary data were collected from books, articles, journals, magazines and related works from State Central Library, Meghalaya, University’s library, North Eastern Hill University’s library, North Eastern Council Library and also web sources.



M2: A Political Map of Meghalaya showing the Eleven Districts with their Headquarters, East Khasi Hills and West Khasi Hills District were the places where the research is conducted.

1.4 Eastern India Tribal Union: The Eastern India Tribal Union is a regional political party of Meghalaya formed in October 8, 1953. The meeting was attended by 97 delegates from all over the Eastern region with an objective to form a Hill State which would include all the Hills areas of Assam, the whole of Tripura, the present Nagaland and the Tribal belt of Tripura. The original name of the Eastern India Tribal Union is the Autonomous Hill Tribal Union, the political party formed by various political leaders to protect the interests of the Tribal people, the Khasis, the Garos, the Mikirs and the Mizos. In December 1952, (L) Capt W. A. Sangma convened a meeting of the Tribal leaders to discuss the promotion of Tribal interests and resolved to form the Autonomous Hill Tribal Union. In October 1953, the Autonomous Hill Tribal Union changed its name to the Eastern India Tribal Union with Shri. B. M. Roy was appointed the first President. The Eastern India Tribal Union targeted to oppose the introduction of the Assamese Language Bill and to demand a separate Hill State from the Government of India. (*Kyndiah, 2010*)

The Eastern India Tribal Union emerged in the District Council during the period 1958-1967. The demand for a separate state by the Khasi National Durbar had crept to the Garo Hills, Mizoram, Mikir and North Cachar Hills. The people of these areas wanted a separate Hill State to protect themselves against the foreseen domination of people from the plain areas. These people united together and formed the Eastern India Tribal Union to demand a separate state breaking away from Assam. While demanding a separate state, the Eastern India Tribal Union prepared for the General Elections held in 1957. The Union won most of the seats from the Khasi Hills except Shella constituency. The Eastern India Tribal Union tried to influence the Tribal people to be aware of their situation and started fighting against the Government of Assam for interfering with the rights of the people in Khasi Jaintia Hills, Garo Hills and Mizo Hills. The Eastern India Tribal Union became an active

regional political party in the national politics with Captain W. A. Sangma, Chief Executive Member of Garo Hill Autonomous District Council, as the leader. (Lyngdoh, 1996)

The Eastern India Tribal Union disappeared in the State in 1967 when all the members of the Union voted for the All Party Hill Leaders' Conference with the objective that the latter will perform better than the Union for interests of the hill people. When the All Party Hill Leaders' Conference received popular support from the people in the District Councils, it removed the power of the Eastern India Tribal Union from the District Councils. The union became powerless in the District Councils and; thus, it disappeared from the District Council and the state.

1.5 All Party Hill Leaders' Conference: The All Party Hill Leaders' Conference was formed in July 6th, 1960 when regional political parties like the Eastern India Tribal Union, the Garo National Council, the Mizo National Council and even the National Congress combined together to form the new regional political party with an objective to continue the opposition of the introduction of the Assamese language in the state. The conference was attended by more than 106 delegates from the Hills and the North Cachar Hills, all the political parties in the Autonomous Hill Districts of Assam, the Congress and the Swatantra Party. The conference elected Rev. B. M. Pugh as the Chairman whereas R.S. Lyngdoh and M. N. Majaw were elected as Recording Secretaries. The conference opposed the Official Language Bill to be implemented in the state of Assam. (Lyngdoh Nonglait, 2008) The All Party Hill Leaders' Conference consisted of all the members of the District and Regional Councils, five representatives from each regional political party, five delegates from the host District, one representative from each newspaper of the Autonomous District, five representatives from each of the District Branches, MLAs and MPs of the All Party Hill Leaders' Conference and two invitees of each of the Chief Executive Members. (Lyngdoh Nonglait, 2008)

Initially, the All Party Hill Leaders' Conference was not a regional political party but an organization formed to oppose the introduction of Language Bill in the state of Assam, the party would make an effort to get a Hill State and the establishment of a separate university in the North Eastern Regions. It wanted English to be the medium of instruction in schools, colleges and other educational institutions and that the District Councils would continue to function in the region in order to improve the economic condition and the standard of living of the people of the hill areas and to protect the interests of the minority communities living in the hill areas.

1.6 Hill State People Democratic Party: The expulsion of (L) Shri Hopingstone Lyngdoh from the All Party Hill Leaders' Conference by Captain Williamson Sangma, Chairman of the All Party Hill Leaders' Conference, on 1st July 1968 immediately led to the formation of the Hill State People Democratic Party on 10th October 1968. The Hill State People Democratic Party (HSPDP) was formed by the Hill State Volunteers Adhoc Committee with (L) Shri Hopingstone Lyngdoh as its founding president.

The aims and objectives of the party was that they believed in a democratic socialism and aimed to eradicate poverty, illiteracy and sickness. The party promised to ensure economic justice to the Hill people by enabling them to develop themselves and their resources through their own genius and ability, to promote all the developmental works of the state and assured the protection of the rights and privileges of all persons residing within the Jurisdiction of the state as guaranteed by the Constitution of India. According to the party's aims and objectives, the existing District Councils will be maintained and reoriented according to the needs of the people of the state.

The first general election was held in 9th March, 1972, the Hill State People Democratic Party secured 8 seats in all. During the second election of the General Election to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly was held in February 25, 1978, the Hill State People Democratic Party had managed to secure 14 seats. This is the first time for the Hill State People Democratic Party to form a Coalition Government known as the Meghalaya United Legislative Party. The third General Election to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly was held in February 17th, 1983. In this election the Hill State People Democratic Party won 15 seats and together with its partners formed the coalition Government known as the Meghalaya United Parliamentary Party but reduced its strength and won only 5 seats in the fourth Assembly Election held in February 2nd, 1988 and increased its strength to 8 seats in the fifth General Election held on February, 1993. The General elections to the sixth Assembly were held in February 16th, 1998. In this election the Hill State People Democratic Party had secured only 3 seats in the house.

The General Election to the seventh Assembly was held in March, 2003. In this election, the Hill State People Democratic Party had secured only 2 seats from sixty seats in the house. The Hill State People Democratic Party was a small party in the house and the party cannot form the Government. The General Election to the eighth Assemblies was held in March 3rd, 2008. In this election, the Hill State People Democratic Party secured only 2 seats. The last General election to the ninth Assembly was held in February 23rd, 2013. In this election, the Hill State People Democratic Party had secured only 4 seats out of 7 seats contested. (*Meghalaya Election Handbook, 2013*) The party continues to serve the people of the State keeping in view the need of preserving and protecting its traditional culture, land, forest and the rights of the people. The Hill State People Democratic Party is one of the oldest regional political parties in Meghalaya which has been working for the welfare of the people of the State. The party has a stable base in its foundation and Constitution. The aims and objectives of the Party have remained the same since its formation till date. (*Meghalaya Election Handbook, 2013*)

1.7 United Democratic Party: The United Democratic Party (UDP) was a regional political party of Meghalaya founded by E. K. Mawlong in 1997 with an objective to restore the prestige and glory, of the state as it was in its formative years, and to fulfill the aspirations of the citizens of the state for an effective and Corruption-Free Government. Its establishment occurred when three regional political parties, the Hill State People's Democratic Party, the Hill People's Union and the Public Demand Implementation

Convention decided to form the new regional political party known as United Democratic Party. (Roy Lyngdoh, 2015) Its head office is at Mawlai Nonglum, Shillong. The party then became the largest regional party in the state and expected to achieve a better-performance because of the regional unity. There are currently eight elected members of the United Democratic Party. (Pakem, 1999)

The party is presently led by Dr. Donkumar Roy. The party has no Member of Parliament either in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha. Currently, the United Democratic Party is the second largest political party in Meghalaya, after the ruling Indian National Congress. The Election Symbol of the United Democratic Party, as approved by the Election Commission of India, is the drum. It is also the symbol of celebration and joy.

The party promises to protect the rights, justice, liberties and progress of the people and to work for their all round development as far as they are capable. The party will promote the ideals of secularism, universal education, safeguard and preserve the identity of the Tribal people, and in particular, protect their interests, especially in respect of their inalienable rights to land, forests, minerals and such other resources vital to their economic development, to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests, lakes, rivers, wildlife, etc. (UDP Manifesto, 2008)

The United Democratic Party contested for the first General Election to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly in February 16th, 1998 and bagged 20 seats but decreased its strength to 9 seats in 2003. The party increased its strength to 11 seats in the eighth General Elections to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly held in March 3rd, 2008. The United Democratic Party has reduced its strength to 8 seats in the last General Election to the ninth Assembly held in February 23rd, 2013. The party had taken on the role as an opposition party in the Legislature.

The United Democratic Party had remained in power for a short duration in a number of Coalition Governments but it had undoubtedly played its part in contributing towards the development of the state in many areas like infrastructural growth, economic and educational development and better living conditions of the people in the state. (Majaw, 2015)

1.8 Meghalaya Democratic Party: The Meghalaya Democratic Party (MDP) is a recognized regional political party formed in 2000 with the symbol of a bridge. The eminent leader (president) of the party is Shri Martle N. Mukhim who has been its founding member as well. Mukhim was elected to the Meghalaya State Legislative Assembly for the fourth term in 2003. The party has its office at Nongrimmaw, Laitumkhrah, in Shillong. (Mukhim, 2013) The party aimed to improve and promote the advancement of Science and Technology in the field of Education and to endeavor for the development of human resources in all stages with due emphasis on character building. (MDP, Aims & Objectives) The party promised to develop and inculcate amongst the youths and the people of the State the spirit of self-reliance by specializing themselves in various spheres of activities; and to

find an effective solution to the burning problem of unemployment and poverty. (*MDP Election Manifesto, 2008*)

The party contested in the election for the first time in March, 2003 which is the seventh General Election to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly. In this election, the Meghalaya Democratic Party secured only 4 seats in the house of sixty members. Again, the party contested in the election for the second time in March 3rd 2008 but it was a miserable plight for the party in this election as it drew a blank. (*Meghalaya Election Handbook, 2013*) Lastly, the party contested for the third time in February 23rd, 2013 and in this election, the party had contested for only two seats out of sixty seats in the state but drew a blank. The Party faced problem due to lack of popular support in the elections.

1.9 Khun Hynniewtrep National Awakening Movement: The Khun Hynniewtrep National Awakening Movement (KHNAM) is a regional political party of Meghalaya founded in 2002. The chief leader of the party is Paul Lyngdoh. The primary objective of the party is to revise the Reservation Policy in Meghalaya as according current policy, the Khasi Jaintia get only 40% reservation.

The party aims at revising the anomalous state's job reservation policy, to prevent the influx of outsiders and migration from other Indian states and solving the border dispute with Assam and ameliorating the sufferings of the Hynniewtrep people living in areas bordering Assam and Bangladesh. (*KHNAM Constitution, 2002*) The party aims to promote education in the state. The party is set to frame a uniform education policy from the Primary to the College level, overseeing the Welfare of both the students and the teachers by addressing their persistent grievances. The party promises to promote special programmes for the promotion of youth welfare through Sports and Cultural activities at the national and international levels. (*KHNAM Aims & Objectives*)

In 2002, Khun Hynniewtrep National Awakening Movement had selected contestants for the General Election to the seventh legislative Assembly held in March 2003. The party had only a few contestants in the State Assembly election and won only 2 seats in all. (*Meghalaya Election Handbook, 2003*) In the General Election to the eighth Assembly election held in March 3rd, 2008, the Khun Hynniewtrep National Awakening Movement had secured only one seat in the house but in 2013 general election, the party drew a blank. (*Meghalaya Election Handbook, 2013*)

2.0 Meaning of Coalition: The term *coalition* is not new to the people of Meghalaya. Before any discussion on the Coalition Government, it is indeed necessary to have a look at the term *coalition* in this study. The term *coalition* is taken from a Latin word which means to *grow together*. It is an act of uniting into one body. (*Arora, nd*)

The Oxford English Dictionary (1961) defined *coalition* as a "Union, combination, fusion of parties, principles, interests, etc". Furthermore in politics, it is defined as "An alliance for combined action of distinct parties, persons, or states, without permanent incorporation into one body". (*Oxford Dictionary, 1961*) The Random House of English

Language (1970) defines *coalition* as “a continuation or alliance, especially a temporary one, between persons, factions, states, etc.”

2.1 Reasons for Formation of Coalitions in Meghalaya: According to the interview held at *Mawthadraishan* and *Mairang* in 2016 with the headman, there is no doubt that the main reason for the formation of the Coalition Governments in the state is the existence of the multi party system. No single political party is able to secure a working majority in the house on account of the presence of the multi party system. The Multi-party system in India creates an enticing environment for political leadership of the different political parties in the Country.

2.2 Coalition Governments in Meghalaya (1972-2013): The first General Elections were held in March 9th, 1972. The results of the elections were:

1. APHLC	-	39 seats
2. Congress	-	11 seats
3. HSPDP	-	08 seats
4. Independents	-	02 seats

In this *First General Election*, the APHLC got an absolute majority in the house of 60 members. The APHLC alone was enough to form a stable Government but there were pre-poll alliances between the APHLC and the Congress. So the APHLC and the Congress together formed the Coalition Government named as the APHLC-Congress led Coalition Government. The *Second General Election* to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly was held in February 25th, 1978. The results of the elections were:

1. Congress	-	20 seats.
2. APHLC	-	16 seats.
3. HSPDP	-	14 seats
4. PDIC	-	02 seats
5. Independents	-	08 seats

In this Election, no party could obtain a majority in the House. The Coalition Government named as the Meghalaya United Legislative Party was formed by APHLC, HSPDP and PDIC MLAs with Shri D.D. Pugh from the APHLC was sworn in as the Chief Minister. The next Coalition Government known as the “Two-Flag” Coalition Government was formed in February 21st, 1979, by the APHLC and the People Demand Information Convention with D. D. Pugh from the APHLC as the Chief Minister. The Pugh’s Coalition Ministry was not able to satisfy the whole cabinet and this led to the downfall of the Pugh’s Coalition Ministry. The new Coalition Government known as the United Meghalaya Parliamentary Democratic Forum was formed by the HSPDP, People Demand Information Convention and the APHLC where (L) Shri. B. B. Lyngdoh from the HSPDP was sworn in as the Chief Minister to complete the tenure of office. (*Pakem, 1999*)

The *Third General Election* to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly was held in February 17, 1983. The results were:

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------|
| 1. Congress | - | 25 seats |
| 2. APHLC | - | 15 seats |
| 3. HSPDP | - | 15 seats |
| 4. PDIC | - | 02 seats |
| 5. Independents | - | 03 seats. |

After the Election, no party could obtain a majority in the House. The Coalition Government named as the Meghalaya United Parliamentary Party was formed in March 2nd, 1983 by HSPDP, APHLC, PDIC and 2 Independent MLAs with (L) Shri B. B. Lyngdoh from the APHLC as the Chief Minister but the Meghalaya United Parliamentary Party remained in office only for 29 days. Another Coalition Ministry called the Meghalaya Democratic Forum was formed in April 2nd, 1983 under the leadership of Capt. W. A. Sangma from the Congress as the Chief Minister to complete the tenure of office.

The *Fourth General Elections* to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly were held in February 2nd, 1988. The results of the elections were:

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|----------|
| 1. Congress | - | 22 seats |
| 2. HPU | - | 19 seats |
| 3. HSPDP | - | 05 seats |
| 4. PDIC | - | 02 seats |
| 5. APHLC (A) | - | 02 seats |
| 6. Independents | - | 09 seats |
| 7. Result withheld | - | 01 seat |

After the Election, no party could obtain a majority to form the Government. The first Coalition Government known as the United Meghalaya Parliamentary Democratic Forum was formed in February 6th, 1988 with Purno A. Sangma from the Congress as the Chief Minister; the weakness in the United Meghalaya Parliamentary Democratic Forum had enabled the dissident group to join hands with the regional parties and formed the Meghalaya United Parliamentary Party Coalition in March 26th, 1990 with (L) B. B. Lyngdoh from the APHLC-B as the Chief Minister. The Second United Meghalaya Parliamentary Democratic Forum Coalition Government was sworn-in in February 6th, 1992 with D. D. Lapang as the Chief Minister to complete the tenure in February, 1993.

The *Fifth General Election* to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly was held in February 19th, 1993. The results of the elections were as follows:

- | | | |
|--------------|---|-----------|
| 1. Congress | - | 24 seats. |
| 2. HPU | - | 11 seats |
| 3. HSPDP | - | 08 seats |
| 4. APHLC (A) | - | 03 seats |
| 5. PDIC | - | 02 seats |
| 6. MPPP | - | 02 seats |

The Coalition Government named as the Meghalaya United Front was formed with Salseng C. Marak from the Congress as the Chief Minister with the help of some members who split from the HSPDP and the APHLC (A) as well as with support of some Independents to complete the tenure.

The *Sixth General Election* to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly was held in February 16th, 1998. The results of the elections were as follows:

1. Congress	-	25 seats
2. UDP	-	20 seats
3. PDM	-	03 seats
4. HSPDP	-	03 seats
5. BJP	-	03 seats
6. GNC	-	01 seat
7. Independents	-	05 seats

In this election, no party could obtain a majority to form the Government in the legislature. The first Coalition Ministry was formed by the Congress named as the Congress (I)-led Government in February 27th, 1998 with Salseng C. Marak, as the Chief Minister. But Marak's Coalition Ministry lasted only for a duration of 13 days. The Second Coalition Ministry called the Meghalaya Democratic Front was formed by the UDP in March 10th, 1998 with B. B. Lyngdoh as Chief Minister. The Third Coalition Ministry named as the Meghalaya Parliamentary Forum was formed in March 10th, 2000 with (L) Evansius Kek Mawlong as the Chief Minister. The last Coalition Ministry was formed in December 8th, 2001 with (L) Dr. Flinder Anderson Khonglam as the Chief Minister to complete the tenure of the office. (*Pakem, 1999*)

The *Seventh General Election* to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly was held in March 2003. The results of the elections were as follows:

1. Congress	-	21 seats.
2. NCP	-	15 seats.
3. UDP	-	09 seats.
4. MDP	-	04 seats.
5. HSPDP	-	02 seats.
6. KHNAM	-	02 seats
7. BJP	-	02 seats.
8. Independents	-	05 seats.

In this election, no majority seats were secured by any party in the House. So, the Congress (I) formed a Coalition Government in March 4th, 2003 named as the Meghalaya United Alliance with the help UDP, MDP, KHNAM and independent MLAs with Dr. D. D. Lapang as the Chief Minister. This Coalition Government completed the full tenure. (*Meghalaya Election Handbook, 2003*)

The *Eighth General Election* to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly was held in March 3rd, 2008. The results of the elections were as follows:

1. Congress	-	25 seats
2. UDP	-	11 seats
3. NCP	-	14 seats
4. HSPDP	-	02 seats
5. BJP	-	01 seat
6. KHNAM	-	01 seat
7. Independents	-	05 seats

After the results of the election, the first Coalition Government named as Meghalaya Parliamentary Forum was formed in March 23rd, 2008 by UDP, NCP, KHNAM, HSPDP, BJP and Independent MLAs with Dr Donkumar Roy from the UDP as the Chief Minister and remained in office for a period of 9 months. The next Coalition Government known as the Meghalaya United Alliance was formed in May 13th, 2009 with D.D. Lapang from the Congress sworn in as the Chief Minister to complete the tenure. (*Meghalaya Election Handbook, 2003*)

The *Ninth General Election* to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly was held in February 23rd, 2013. In this election no party secured the majority in the House. The results were as follows:

1. INC	-	29 seats
2. UDP	-	08 seats
3. NPP	-	02 seats
4. HSPDP	-	04 seats
5. NCP	-	02 seats
6. KHNAM	-	NIL
7. BJP	-	NIL
8. Independents	-	15 seats

After the election, the Coalition Government is known as Meghalaya United Alliance- II was formed with Dr. Mukul Sangma as the Chief Minister. (*Meghalaya Election Handbook, 2013*) The two-Party Coalition Ministry of the Congress, the NCP Independent MLAs comprising 39 members make a rigid and stable Government in the legislature hopes to complete the full tenure.

Table 4: Showing the Number of Coalition Government per Term 1972-2013

Term of Office	No of Coalition Government Per Term
1970-1972	1 (One)
1972-1978	1 (One)
1978-1983	4 (Four)
1983-1988	2 (Two)
1988-1993	4 (Four)

1993-1998	1 (One)
1998-2003	4 (Four)
2003-2008	3 (Three)
2008-2013	4 (Four)

2.3 Conclusion: Meghalaya was created in January 21st, 1972 with a Unicameral Legislature consisting of 60 seats. The regional political parties of the Meghalaya since its formation are the EITU, APHLC, HSPDP, UDP, MDP and the KHNAM. The presence of multi-cultures, multi-languages, factionalism, ethnic politics, personality cult, regional imbalance, and demand for Autonomy were the main reasons for the emergence of regional political parties in the state. The study has examined the emergence of regional political parties, programmes, role and their contribution to the formation of Coalition Government in Meghalaya during the period from 1972-2013. The idea of *Coalition* is an act of uniting into one body or to grow together. Meghalaya was inevitable from the detrimental effect of Coalition Government because no single political party is able to secure a working majority in the house on account of the presence of the multi party system.

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2. With Martle N. Mukhim (President of Meghalaya Democratic Party) on the 1st April 2013 at his residence Jingkieng Nongthymmai: Shillong
3. With Dr Donkumar Roy Lyngdoh (President of the United Democratic Party) on the 6th October 2015 at his resident in Shillong
4. With Citizen (above 18+) from Mawthadraishan and Mairang Constituency on the 8th December, 2016

Election Manifestos:

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2. KHNAM's Constitution, 2002
3. MDP's Constitution, 2008
4. MDP's Constitution, 2013
5. UDP's Constitution, 2008
6. UDP's Constitution, 2013