

National League for Democracy
No: (97/B), West Shwegonedine Road
Bahan Township, Rangoon

Statement 5 (1/00) (translation)

1. A pagoda measuring 408 feet in height is to be built under the supervision of the District PDC on the hill near Taw-Shaw village, Wuntho township, Sagaing Division. The townships of Katha, Htechain, Pin-le-bu, Wuntho, Indaw, Banmauk and Kawlin in the district of Katha have been ordered to supply 500,000 bricks each for Kyats 2 per brick.

2. The market price is Kyats 6 per brick so they suffer a loss of Kyats 4 per brick. Each township suffers a loss of Kyats 2,000,000 and the loss for the whole district (7 townships) is Kyats 14,000,000.

3. In the township of Kawlin there are 2 large, 6 medium and 6 small brick-baking kilns. Our information is that the arrangement there is that one U Tin Nyein will be acting on behalf of all the owners of the brick baking kilns and will have to be paid as hereunder:-

2 Large - Kyats 200,000 (Kyats 100,000 per kiln)
6 medium - Kyats 180,000 (Kyats 30,000 per kiln)
6 small - Kyats 90,000 (Kyats 15,000 per kiln)

4. There is apprehension also by the people that they will be required to give their labour for the collection of wood and the supply of sand to produce these bricks. Motor vehicle owners will be required to transport free of charge the sand and wood for the production of the bricks and then again the bricks to the village of Taw-shaw in Wuntho township. Penalty for default or inability is Kyats one hundred thousand per vehicle.

5. On 28 December 1999 forced labour was required from about 6000 inhabitants (one per household) from 23 village tracts to build a motor road near the Okkan creek to the west of Kawlin town.

6. We have been informed that the 1999 paddy crop had to be sold at Kyats 350 per basket calculated at 10 baskets per acre. An additional cupful (measured in one condensed milk tin) had to be given free for every basket.

7. Kawlin township acreage of rice crop was over 60, 000 acres. Over 600,000 baskets of paddy had to be sold and a total of 4600 baskets had to be supplied gratuitously. Calculated at Kyats 600 per basket (open market rate), the loss totals over Kyats 2,760,000.

8. These people suffer from all sides. With no-land-to-escape-to, no-money-to-give, no-food-to-eat, they are swirling-in-a-sea of misery. We urge that projects that give rise to a life of such ill fortune be stopped immediately. We vehemently denounce the above mentioned actions of the authorities.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

Rangoon
13 January 2000.

