

NLD Statement 100/2000:

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

Statement 100 (7/00) (translation)

- 1..Information received is that in addition to the duty-paddy quota of 15 baskets per acre compulsory sale to the government in 1999, the group of villages in the Da-hnone-su region (Moulmyaingyun township, Ayeyawaddy division) had to also supply free of charge to the army one basket per acre.
2. At the time of sowing the rainy season paddy crop in 1999, Infantry Battalion 534 was stationed in Moulmeingyun township. The farmers in Da-hnone-su group had to use their own seed paddy and sow the rainy season crop on fields owned by the army for the consumption of the families of the soldiers. U Thein Myaing (Chairman), U Po Than (member) and Ko Thet Lwin (member) of the Da-hnone-su Administrative Authority collected Kyats 500/- from households that could not supply labour for planting of the seeds. When the time came for harvesting, they were again forced to give their labor or make payments.
3. Then again the farmers had to give 6 pyis and 2 cups per acre of paddy for the army families because the yield from the army owned fields was insufficient.
4. Those who refused to give this extra amount were summoned and threatened by Corporal Myint Htun Hla and U Thein Myaing (Chairman), U Po Than (member), Ko Thet Lwin Oo (member). They were forced to jump like frogs and run on the embankments. Insolently and insultingly the corporal said that he would put a halter round their necks and drag them away. Much later it was learnt that the army had paid for this extra 6 pyis and 2 cups per acre of paddy but U Thein Myaing and the members and Corporal Myint Htun Hla had misappropriated it.
5. This year the authorities have compelled the farmers to sell mung beans at 3 baskets per acre for Kyats 2100/- per basket for which payment has been made in advance. The market price is Kyats 4200/ per basket. Because of rain and pests some farmers were not been able to meet the quota . They had to pay at the rate of Kyats 4700/ per basket.
6. Chairman U Thein Myaing also collected money for soldiers uniforms. The first time it was Kyats 265/- and the second time it was Kyats 560/- from each household. Now he has absconded with all the money including the collections for paddy and mung beans. The authorities have taken no action against him.
7. These events reveal the attitude of some lower level administrators and army personnel. They seem to think that citizens are not human beings. Their self interest and greed overpowers them and they treat others like objects to be oppressed and tormented. This is occurring constantly in the rural areas and is going unchecked by the upper crust of administrators. It must be because they themselves are enjoying the fruits of the misdeeds of those under them. Despite all this, the military anashins keep proclaiming that there is peace and prosperity and stability in the country and that the rule of law prevails. We remind those with responsibilities that they need to make an effort to learn the true state of affairs and we condemn these unfair and unjust practices.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

Rangoon
5 July 2000