

NLD Statement 135/2000:

National League for Democracy

No: (97/B), West Shwegonedine Road
Bahan Township, Rangoon

Statement 135 (8/00) (translation)

1. It has been reported that U Tin Myint, chairman of Kan-ma-la village in Kun-gyan-gon township, Rangoon Division forced the cultivators to contribute Kyats 100/- per every acre alleging that it was to go towards the repair of the primary school building. The total number of acres is 2909. Besides summoning them to transport paddy husks for baking bricks forced labor had to be given for the kneading of the clay. The chairman pocketed the money, repaired his own house and sold the bricks outside while the school went unrepaired. Till this day, the children have to attend the school without proper shelter from the rain.
2. In 1999, U Soe, chairman of Da-ye-loo village dictator authority in Kun-gyan-gon township collected four thousand kyats from 47 households as money for exemption from forced. and is doing the same this year. Another collection of kyats one thousand from 36 households is being taken for the repair of the village water tank. The grazing ground between the western and eastern high grounds of Da-ye-loo village has been divided into 61 plots and sold for Kyats 10,000/- each allegedly for the school building fund. No accounts have been submitted to this day. Information received is that the money has been misappropriated.
3. U Thein Ngwe, chairman of Kya-kha-kon-lay village anashin authority in Kun-gyangon township falsely representing that he would comply with the Agri-Trade requirements regarding "duty paddy" at the rate of kyats seventy thousand per 100 baskets took more than 1000 baskets of paddy from 17 farmers including one Daw Kyin Ye. Now these farmers are unable to meet the "duty paddy" quota and are facing prosecution under Section 406.
4. The chairman of Hmawbi village dictator authority known as Hmawbi Kyauk-ke in Kun-gyan-gon township misrepresented and deceitfully took more than 1000 baskets of paddy from eleven farmers including Ko Tin Win and Ko Sein Win undertaking to meet the "duty paddy" quota for them with the Agri-trade department at the rate of Kyats 70,000/- per 100 baskets. Now the township authorities have charged these eleven under Section 406 because they cannot supply the quota.
5. Another information received is that the Agricultural Bank in Kun-gyan-gon township is not complying with the regulations honestly. Loans are being issued only to close associates, bribe givers and those useful to them. Farmers who defaulted in the previous year are having to pay compound interest which is something worse than what the farmers had to pay to chettiar money lenders in the colonial period. At point of sale, a special collection is taken at the rate of Kyats 5 per basket. This is under orders of the chairman of the township authority. There is also a demand of Kyats 100/- for a farmer's book.

6. From these events it is transparently clear that no matter what the military anashins proclaim about the modernization of the agricultural system, they are bent upon maintain power. Consequently we are in fact heading towards feudalism where old and faithful servants win favor and are granted the right to enjoy the fruit of the territory they control.. We urge these orders and instructions for persecuting and relegating the farmers to serfdom be abolished. Indifference to the illegal activities of the lackeys and underlings for the perpetuation of power must be stopped. We vigorously denounce these unjust actions.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

Rangoon
18 August 2000