

## **Three-month extension period for Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand**

Nay Pyi Taw, 19 Dec — Issuance of temporary passports for Myanmar migrant workers in Myanmar is being carried out at five centres in Thailand. As the process is due to expire on 14 December this year Thailand has proposed to stop the process of issuing documents to Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand and to carry out the process at the new centres on the side of Myanmar.

Out of nearly 2.5 million Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand, it is estimated that only about 1.5 million had been registered and the remaining one million are unregistered and undocumented. The closure of current five centres could result in loss of jobs, travelling expenses and unwanted difficulties for workers.

President U Thein Sein held coordination on Myanmar migrant workers with Prime Minister of Thailand Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra in Dawei of Taninthayi Region, calling for extension of deadline without stopping the ongoing process. The Thai PM approved to extend the deadline for another three months and, if necessary, deadline will more be extended.

For ensuing the process of issuing temporary passports to workers as quick as possible during the extension period, tasks of opening more centres and appointing more staff and other necessary measures will be made with added momentum. *MNA*

***Source: "The New Light of Myanmar 2012-12-20***