

Ceremony to receive Ovada from senior monks in Monywa held

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 Dec- A ceremony to receive Ovada from the senior monks in Monywa was held at Tin Win Tun Dhamma Beikman in the compound of Shwezigon Pagoda at 2.30 pm today. It was attended by senior monks from the monasteries led by Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Okkan Tawya Sarthintaik Agga Maha Gannavasaka Pandita Bhaddanta Nandawbhasa, the commander of Sagaing Region Police Force, senior police officers and members of police force.

The ceremony was opened with the recitation of Namō Tassa three times. Next, **Commander of Sagaing Region Police Force Police Col San Yu supplicated the matters regarding the ongoing situations stemming from Latpadaungtaung copper mine project in Salingyi Township of Monywa District and religious matters. Please accept my apology. We are very disheartened by injuries of monks in the crackdown of boycott camps in Latpadaungtaung project in Salingyi Township** *[highlight added]*.

The Latpadaungtaung project is a project under an official contract with a foreign country. We have learnt that authorities reconstructed houses, buildings and monasteries as the local people suffered losses. The monks later joined the boycott camps and forced the shutdown of the project with the political flavor.

The monks joined the boycott camps due to necessities of local farmers and their will to conserve the religious heritages. Later, the protesters even breached the laws under the cover of the monks.

The State also experienced losses as the legal business activities have been disrupted by the boycott camps on 18 November, 2012.

The Hluttaw had already decided to form an investigation commission after holding discussions on the situation regarding the Latpadaungtaung project. Likewise, even Union Minister U Aung Min met protesters at the boycott camps and made clarifications on the loss of the State. In the matters related to human rights, local administrative body officially imposed orders for the sake of the security of the State project in accord with the law. But protesters violated the restrictions imposed by local administrative body in accord with the law. We had already told villagers of three villages which left to move that they can stay there if they don't want to move at the moment and lump of earth from the project will be piled at the vacant lands. Coordination is being made for the other requirements of local people when they reported to the various levels of authorized concerned. As such kind of unlawful acts are seemed to hinder the inflow of foreign investments, the country faced considerable amount of loss. According to the situations, a statement urging the boycott camps to move from there by 12 noon on 27 November 2012 was aired through MRTV. Our security forces informed them of the request to move from there till 3 am on 29 November, more twentyseven hours beyond the previous deadline.

As they did not move from there, we, security forces, repeatedly requested the protesters to disperse that is twenty-seven hour late than the previous deadline once every half an hour.

We announced three times once every fifteen-minute that the security forces had to take actions in the area of the project in accord with the duty transfer of local administrative body.

We had to disperse the mob as the last step but with least number of forces using the legal rights for the sake of rule of law, community peace and tranquility and effect of executive power.

We repeatedly requested the mob and only used fire hose and tear bombs to disperse them.

We encountered difficulties in dispersing the mob under the law as monks were among the protesters.

Protesters taking cover of the Buddha and Sangha fled the scene first and the tear bombs unexpectedly wounded monks. We all were deeply touched by that.

We members of Police Force are particularly obliged to safeguard the rule of law and community peace and tranquility. So we had to because it is our responsibility.

We didn't intend to harm your junior monks in the incident. We have learnt that you also had discouraged them taking part in nonreligious matters. It hurt our hearts to see your junior monks who safeguard the Sasana wounded. As we are Buddhists, we all hope that monks led by you suffer from not even a single cut or bruise.

We humbly beg your pardon for our actions because we had responsibility.

The work of the Sasana is huge, and it cannot be carried out by a particular person but by only a number of great and noble persons. The Sasana had been blessed with works and activities even in the time of the Buddha. After the noble demise of the Buddha, the great and noble monks in the field of the Sasana including Ashin Maha Kasapa held the Buddhist Synod six times and were engaged in the Sasana activities. Nowadays also, the great and noble monks in the field of the Sasana are in the process of carrying out the works of the Sasana.

The Buddha , although He attained the Enlightenment in India, had made strenuous efforts for the flourishing of the Sasana in Myanmar, one of the five Theravada Buddhist countries, since the Bagan period. Therefore, the Sasana has been maintained in Myanmar by great and prominent monks including 13 Tipitaka Sayadaws, Dwipitaka Sayadaws and Abhivamsa Sayadaws.

There can be right or wrong in carrying out works.

Only when monks, laity and authorities concerned exercise patience towards each other in works, will they meet with success. They need to be reasonable and visionary in doing works, and they are all to strive together for the perpetuation of the Sasana.

Next, the commander of Sagaing Region Police Force and members presented offertories to the senior monks and for members of the Sangha who are receiving medical treatment at People's Hospital in Monywa.

The ceremony came to an end with three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Ciram Titthatu.

Source: NLM 2012-12-02