Locals deserve benefits of tourism: Vice President

LOCAL people of a popular tourist destination deserve direct and indirect benefits of tourism, said Vice President U Henry Van Thio on his inspection tour of community-based tourism in Kayah State.

While visiting the villages of local ethnic groups, the vice president promised they would allocate more funds for vocational training of the locals so they can take advantage of the surging popularity of the region. The funds would be used for training of local tour guides, restaurateurs, hoteliers and arrangements for community-based eco-tourism.

Kayah State attracted 3,986 tourists during the period from January to September 2016. During his tour of the state, the vice president visited Hipwint Lake, near Ngwe Taung Village in Dimawhsow Township, where an umbrella-shaped volcanic structure of 227 feet in height and 115 feet in width that was created by a now-extinct volcano is located.

Package vacation tours feature the Taungkwe Pagoda, Myonarm Pagoda, Kandarawadi Palace, Hipwint Lake and its umbrella-shaped volcanic structure, the seven-tiered lake, the Hiseekha waterfall and the Lawpita Hydropower Dam.

The vice president enjoyed the performances of local troupes and presented cash awards. At the seven-tiered Lake in Tahnelale Village, he heard reports on the revitalisation of Kayah traditions that are attracting an increasing number of tourists.

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Vice President U Henry Van Thio is welcomed by Padaung ethnic women. Photo: MNA

COLONIAL-ERA LAW REPEALED

LAW REVOKING EMERGENCY PROVISIONS ACT APPROVED

MYANMAR has scrapped the Emergency Provisions Act, a law that was often used to quell dissent.

The government enacted the Law Revoking the Emergency Provisions Act, effectively abolishing the 66-year-old law. The law was signed yesterday by President U Htin Kyaw after it was approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the joint-session of the two parliaments.

The Emergency Provisions Act was enacted in 1950 after Myanmar gained independence from Britain.

Under the act, anyone committing treason - which ranged from sabotage of railways to damaging telegraph poles - could face life behind bars or even death. Hefty jail terms were also netted out for other crimes, such as spreading false news or disrupting public morality.

Also during yesterday’s session, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin sought approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to ratify Protocol to the ASEAN Charter on Dispute Settlement Mechanisms.

Six ASEAN countries including Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, Viet Nam and Laos have confirmed their entrance to the protocol, but Myanmar, Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore have yet to do so because they have to undergo a process of approval at home.

U Kyaw Tin said that Myanmar needed to ratify the protocol because it is a useful mechanism for peaceful resolution of disputes among member countries.

The Hluttaw is scheduled to discuss the protocol on 7 October.— GNLM with the Myanmar News Agency