

Five more ministries hold press conference on one year performance

FIVE more ministries jointly held a press conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday on their performance in the first one-year period.

Director General U Zaw Htay, Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor, acting Permanent Secretary U Htun Ohn, Ministry of Religious Affairs & Culture, Permanent Secretary Professor Dr. Thet Khaing Win, Ministry of Health & Sports, Director General U Tint Thwin, Ministry of Hotels & Tourism, Deputy Permanent Secretary U Min Aye Ko, Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, departmental officials, responsible persons and media personnel from local and foreign media attended the press conference.

Director General U Zaw Htay, Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor discussed and explained about the ministry's aim, peace process, one year term of NCA and future aim and work done on peace, stability and development in Rakhine State.

Acting Permanent Secretary U Htun Ohn, Ministry of Religious Affairs & Culture discussed and explained about general work done on major pagodas in Myanmar, drafting of anti-hate speech law, formation of inter-faith peace and unity group, international cooperation on repairing earthquake damages to historical monuments in the Bagan cultural region, enacting of Artifact Protection Act and Rule, submission of Bagan and MraukU cultural regions, Mya Zedi (Raza Kumar) Stone Inscription, Bell Letter of Bayinnaung as World Heritage Sites, maintaining Bogyoke Aung San Museum (Yangon), re-discovering and developing of Myanmar traditional performing arts, performances of National University of Arts and Culture, preparation of Myanmar historical research paper and conducting of Library Management Diploma courses.

Afterward Permanent Secretary Professor Dr. Thet Khaing Win, Ministry of Health & Sports discussed and explained about the one-year performances of the Department of Public Health, Department of Medical Services, Department

of Human Resources for Health, Department of Medical Research, Department of Traditional Medicine, Department of Food and Drug Administration and Department of Sports and Physical Education.

Director General U Tint Thwin, Ministry of Hotels & Tourism then discussed and explained about setting up policy on tourism, coverage of existing law, international cooperation on tourism, increasing public-private cooperation, aims for responsible tourism, future of tourism, matters relating to human resources development, poverty elimination, uplifting of living condition and finding market.

Deputy Permanent Secretary U Min Aye Ko, Ministry of Ethnic Affairs explained about the establishing of Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, policy and aim of the ministry, protection and preservation of ethnic literature, fine arts, culture, tradition, work done together with state and region Ethnic Affairs Ministries, and opening of state and region departmental offices.

Afterward, local and foreign media questioned Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor on Rakhine State stability, national verification, anti-corruption, internal peace and rule of law; Ministry of Religious Affairs & Culture on matter of gold plate donation to Shwedagon Pagoda, proper maintaining of donated monies, salary and wages of employees, Sayadaw U Wirathu conducting taped speeches, recording a proper Myanmar history, matter of drone flying above religious buildings and sending of religious pilgrimages; Ministry of Health & Sports on latest situation of Zika virus, tender treatment of patients in public hospitals, outside purchasing of medicines and prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases like hypertension and diabetes; Ministry of Hotels & Tourism on home stay, work done on Bagan-Bangkok tour, community based tourism and status of issuing tour license; Ministry of Ethnic Affairs on war affected regions and involvement in the peace process to which answers and explanations



Director General U Zaw Htay, Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor. PHOTO: MNA



Permanent Secretary Prof. Dr. Thet Khaing Win from the Ministry of Health and Sports. PHOTO: MNA



U Htun Ohn, Acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs & Culture. PHOTO: MNA

tions were provided by the relevant responsible persons.

Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor

Director General U Zaw Htay, Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor responded to media questions at the press conference on one year performance and said the ministry was formed with the main aim to establish a democratic system, market economic system, setting up a democratic federal union and gaining union peace and development.

National reconciliation, peace

they participate will be decided in the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) meeting on 12 May. Political discussions will be conducted in the second Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong. In the first Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong, this was not done. Only papers were submitted. A true political dialogue with political gives and takes will be done this time.

Rakhine State is an important issue for our country's democracy transformation and reconciliation and we are putting much emphasis on it. Decision of the Human

who reveal the true situation on the ground were murdered. This is threatening a society with fear. Investigations are conducted on these murders and actions were taken on some of those who committed it. We are working together with Tatmadaw in order to effectively handle these matters. There were attempts to commit more terrorist acts and we were able to prevent it.

On the matter of eradicating bribery and corruption, the new government had setup departments to which the people can complain. Most complaints were on land matters. Second was on judiciary while the third was on departmental matters. The fastest country in eradicating bribery and corruption took 10 years and we need time to resolve this challenge.

Ministry of Health and Sports

The Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Health and Sports, Prof. Dr. Thet Khaing Win said in a press conference yesterday that the central government has approval to spend Ks1 trillion on the health sector in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The government spent Ks881 billion in the last FY.

He said they have been working on prevention of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV, malaria and non-infectious diseases such as, diabetes, hypertension, heart attacks, cancer and so on. They are also working on mental health support, treatment of accidental injuries and lifelong support for patients in collaboration with the World Health Organisation, UN Children's Fund, local and international organisations, and philanthropic associations.

There are 1,778 health departments nationwide and 70 per cent of them are able to run community health clinics. Currently there is a nutritional development effort in Rakhine and Chin States and a survey will be made to raise awareness of the importance of nutritional development around the country. Biosafety III laboratories have been built in Yangon, Mandalay and Taunggyi to systematically discover tuberculosis in patients.

In 2016, 120,000 HIV/AIDS patients were successfully treated and 790,000 cases of prevention of HIV/AIDS from mother-to-child were carried out. The number of ART health facilities was also increased by 60, bringing the total number of ART facilities to 300 around the country.

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and stability in Rakhine State were the main conduct of the ministry in the one-year period. Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong was based on the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and when conducting political discussion, important political discussion frame will be changed but NCA cannot be changed.

Review meetings of the political discussion frame were held by inviting NCA non-signatory groups like Union Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC), DPN, Wa and Mainglar groups. Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong was held in Nay Pyi Taw and both NCA signatory and non-signatory groups attended and submitted papers.

Join Implementation and Co-ordination Meeting (JICM) was held in Nay Pyi Taw with 8 leaders of NCA signatory groups on 24 April and the second conference of Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong was set to be held on 24 May. On 28 April, a delegation led by Peace Commission Chairman Dr. Tin Myo Win is holding discussion with UNFC and based on the discussion, possibility of UNFC attending Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong on 24 May will come about. It is not true that only NCA signatory groups are allowed to attend the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong and non-signatory groups are not allowed. All are accepted. How and in what way

Rights Council to send an international fact finding mission to Maungtau is not acceptable and agreeable for Myanmar.

While the government was conducting multi-faceted development in Rakhine State, terrorist acts were made intentionally. Actions will be taken against anyone violating human rights if evidence or proof is provided. Despite Myanmar issuing timely news, international media was seen having unproductive views. Depending upon the stability of the region, more media visits will be arranged.

On the matter of a Chinese diplomat's statement of China ready to mediate between Myanmar and Bangladesh on Rakhine affair, Myanmar and Bangladesh are making bilateral discussion to resolve the issue and like the international community, China can help by providing productive assistance. On the matter of National Verification Card (NVC) and developing better governance in Rakhine State, education process is underway on NVC and the main aim is to provide a full national right. After NVC is made, national verification process will start according to 1982 Myanmar National Act and other prevailing acts. The government could not do anything beyond the Acts.

In Rakhine State, those who answered the media, cooperated on local governance matter, cooperated with the government and those