

Pyithu Hluttaw

Immediate action by Union Government needed in Rakhine: MP

Swift administrative and security measures by the Union Government need to be taken in northern Rakhine State, an MP said in a motion put forward during yesterday's meeting of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

The motion was put forward by Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathaytaung, who urged the State Government to implement better regional administrative and security plans as soon as possible.

"Crimes committed by extremist groups in Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yathaytaung townships in northern Rakhine State are harming national security, rule of law, area consolidation and depredation of the national people", she said.

Daw Khin Saw Wai said immigrants are infiltrating into the country almost every day and the population is booming, and as it is, the area is gradually becoming the one in which alien people are coming to live exclusively.

The MP outlined a series of events over the past year that she



Major-General Aung Soe. PHOTO: MNA

said warrant immediate action. Last year, extremists attacked three border outposts in Buthidaung and Maungtaw townships, killing 9 border security officers. During an area clearance operation, a senior military officer was killed.

More recently, a large man-made tunnel apparently used for



U Myo Zaw Aung. PHOTO: MNA

training terrorists was found in the May Yu hills, together with hand-made firearms, huts and provisions. Three men who attacked security forces were killed. On August 3, terrorists killed eight Mro nationals who were working on farms. On August 4, border guard forces who went to arrest RSO (Rohingya Solidarity



Daw Khin Saw Wai. PHOTO: MNA

Organisation) terrorists who had been in Auk Nan Yar village, Yathaytaung came under fire.

Due to these events, Daw Khin Saw Wai said, locals were becoming anxious and being displaced to other regions. Religion and race-based extremists in Maungtaw and Buthidaung are getting money and weapons

from international organisations, and are now conducting terrorist attack trainings systematically, she said.

The Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw announced that parliamentarians who would like to discuss the motion need to enroll their names.

Other issues discussed yesterday included a question raised by U Myo Zaw Aung of Kawlin constituency as to whether there are any plans to control moonshine which is being produced illicitly. Major-General Aung Soe, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, said the practice of distilling moonshine should be halted.

"Producing local moonshine should not be done. Instead, liquor produced in centrally controlled distillation factories should be encouraged more than ever. Moonshine which is locally produced should be levied heavily. Tax should not exceed imported liquors and numbers of liquor shops should be limited", he said.—MNA ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th regular session 45th day meeting

Thuya Zaw, Mi Mi Phyo
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

Ministry of Education is planning to upgrade the schools in disaster-prone areas to be able to resist disasters, said Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun yesterday at Amyotha Hluttaw.

"Arrangements are being made recently to coordinate with state and region governments' social ministers together with Ministry of Construction to construct buildings that are appropriate to areas where there is heavy rain and flooding or weather is dry and hot or earthquake and natural disaster prone areas," said the deputy minister in his answer to a question raised by U Myo Win of Mon State Constituency-8 at the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th regular session 45th day meeting was held yesterday morning at Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall.

MP U Myo Win raised the question how did the ministry response to cases of new school buildings which are found inappropriate to local needs when



U Win Maw Tun. PHOTO: MNA

they are completed.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun said when the buildings were found inappropriate for the ground situation, the ministry sought recommendation from the regional governments and gave instructions to construction companies concerned to redesign the buildings.

Next, questions by U Zaw Hein of Taninthayi constituency 7, U Myo Htat (a) Salai Myo Htike of Chin State constituency 12 and U Myint Naing of Rakhine State constituency 5 were answered by Deputy Minister for Education U



U Myo Win. PHOTO: MNA

Win Maw Tun.

Afterward Amyotha Hluttaw bill committee report on bill to amend Farmland Law was read by committee member Daw Ohn Kyi of Mandalay Region constituency 4.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker then obtained the confirmation of the hluttaw on the bill to amend Farmland Law section by section.

Hluttaw announced the approval of the bill after a motion to approve the bill was tabled by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw and U Win Tin of Chin State



U Maung Kyaw Zan. PHOTO: MNA

constituency 11 supported it.

U Maung Kyaw Zan of Rakhine State constituency 9, U Tet Tun Aung of Rakhine State constituency 2, U Sai Than Naing of Kayin State constituency 5, U Kyaw Thein of Rakhine State constituency 7 and U Kyaw Thaug of Sagaing Region constituency 1 discussed a motion tabled by U Khin Maung Latt, of constituency 3, Rakhine State, to take legal actions against violent attackers in Buthidaung and Yathedaung townships under the Anti-terrorism Law and to make arrangements for the survival of displaced national ethnic people.



U Kyaw Thein. PHOTO: MNA

Discussion ranges from taking care in amending, moderating and repealing rules and laws related to national security in establishing a democratic state to danger not only to Rakhine State but the entire country if terrorists are able to gain a foothold in Buthidaung, Maungtaw and Yathedaung, and a successful second step for the terrorists if local ethnic villagers abandoned their villages after terrorists first encroached and settled illegally in the country.

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th regular session 46th day meeting is scheduled for 21 August. ■

Peace and Stability in Rakhine State

By Khin Maung Oo

Geographically, Rakhine State is a fertile region for farming and it is rich in natural water resources. National ethnic people and local residents are earning their living there in peace. Being a coastal area, it abounds with scenes of natural beauty, which attract people as a permanent settlement. As the land abuts the neighboring country it became a promising border trade zone. Though being endowed with such virtues, Rakhine State has seen ugly and mischievous activities that harmed peace and stability of the region and national sovereignty.

The Union Government is systematically dealing with these events in deep and sober ways, with a view to

implementing national reconciliation, but the violent attacks of extremists are increasing more and more, committing atrocious killings of innocent local people and ethnic nationals almost every day. Accordingly, activities are being launched to protect people from being attacked and to take effective actions against terrorists and abettors.

Due to the increasing amounts of the victims, who amounted to 59 deaths and 33 missing ones till 9th August in Maungtau district, Rakhine State people have been greatly frightened. The victims include ward and village administrators, old and new 10-and-100-household-group leaders, those who co-operated with the government and the villagers who disclosed news

and information to the media. Very recently, 7 Mro ethnic nationals were cruelly killed by extremist attackers. The whole populace denounces these inhumane massacres of terrorists.

These violent attackers committed cruel acts within our sovereign state. They took advantage of the fact that the Union Government has been dealing with these problems effectively according to the existing laws, rules and regulations. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the government to upgrade security in the state for the protection of innocent civilians as well as to stake legal actions against those who help terrorists.

Now that area clearance operations are underway to get rid of increasing violent attacks happening in

Buthidaung and Maungtau regions, Rakhine State and for the establishment of peace and stability in the region. In combination with Tatmadaw forces and regional security forces, local people can protect their lives and properties by sending reports promptly to security forces about suspicious activities in the area.

Rakhine is a part of the Union, and the Union is like an extended family. Hence, the affairs of the Rakhine State are the ones of the Union. Accordingly, I hereby urge all the nationals residing in Myanmar, political parties, NGOs and INGOs, countries with friendly relations and the international community to denounce these violent terrorist attacks. ■

Civil Service Reform Strategic Action Plan

By U Khin Maung
(A retired diplomat)

Introduction

For me, a retired civil servant, only a few days shy of my eightieth birthday, it is really a heart warning news to read that “Civil Service Reform Strategic Action Plan” is launched by our democratically elected incumbent government. As regards the terms “the civil service, and civil servant” the “Oxford Advance Learner’s Dictionary” has defined as follows:

The civil service is the government departments in a country except the armed forces, and the people who work for them. (government departments). Civil servant is a person who works in the civil service. And from another point of view, the civil service is a branch of public services or a kind of public servants. The Penal Code, in “chapter II, General Explanation” defines the term public servant in section 21, as follows:

First – Every covenanted servant of the Government.

Second – Every commissioned officer in the Military, Naval or Air Forces of the State.

Third – Every judge, etc. According to the explanations made in the Penal Code, the civil service is certainly distinguished and different from the military, naval and air forces of the state.

2. Well, the civil service reform strategic action plan and its vision is a blue print for extensive reforms. By these reforms, the civil service system will be changed to become more ethical, more efficient and to better reflect the diversity of the country. As regards

this plan, Her Excellency, the State Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has said *inter alia* as follows:

“The union government was committed to building the capacity of Myanmar’s Civil Servants and equipping them with the skills and expertise in a few years. Furthermore, H.E, the

The civil service is the government departments in a country except the armed forces, and the people who work for them. (government departments). Civil servant is a person who works in the civil service.

State Counsellor also said;

“We must take in a few years the issues that other countries have addressed gradually over many decades”. In this connection, it was also highlighted that “the Strategic Action Plan also notes the importance of “merit based and performance driven culture and systems”.

Civil Service System during the parliamentary democracy era.

3. After gaining back our independence and sovereignty from the British colonial rule, our mother land, Burma, (Myanmar) had applied the most

efficient and the cheapest administration system, left behind by the British colonial government, of course, with necessary adaptations, changes and reforms, so as to be in harmony with our traditions and culture.

In those days, the civil services, the backbone of the Executive Branch, was an independent, impartial, efficient and effective organ of the state.

4. Accordingly, the civil service personnel had to take the departmental examinations in four subjects, namely, criminal law, civil law, revenue and treasury. And for “Burma Civil Service B.C.S (Senior branch) officers, only when they had passed those departmental examinations by higher standard, they were appointed as “permanent”. For the B.C.S (Junior branch) officers, they must have passed those examinations by ordinary standard for being appointed as permanent.

5. Why? Under the then administration system, civil service personnel were entrusted with and empowered to serve as magistrates, treasury officers, revenue officers and general administration officers.

Well, no system is perfect. And our previous civil service system during the parliamentary democracy era was no exception, I think, So, we should take good aspects of our old service system and leave the out-dated aspects.

6. In my own opinion, the good aspects of our old civil service system, during the first parliamentary democracy government era, or during our first civilian government era, were many and varied.

To present only a few. In those days, there were many international renowned scholars, lawyers, civil

service personnel, diplomats etc. To honour those, who honour is due, may I mention only a few of them, And all those internationally renowned dignitaries, scholars, were in a wider sense of the term, civil service personnel or in essence, the right men, in the right places. They were, Dr. Htin Aung, the first Rector of Rangoon (Yangon) University, Ph.d, D.Litt, LL.D; Dr. Maung Maung, J.S.D (Yale) LL.D) (UTRE-CHT) of Lincoln’s Inn, Barrister-at-law; Chief Justice of the Union Supreme Court; U Thant, UN Secretary General; and Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja, Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt, Rector of Mandalay University, still hale and hearty, etc. etc.

Taking examples from all those highly distinguished civil service personnel, we could see that a highly educated, honest, hardworking, highly qualified and respectable civil servant could aspire and could have ambition and try his or her utmost to get to the highest career ladder. Nepotism, cronyism, prejudice and bias, and giving special preference to somebody or to some organization, were almost nil in those days. Meritocracy was just the rule, practiced and propagated for assignment and promotion in our old civil service system during the first parliamentary democracy era. So, we really hope and importance of merit-based and performance driven culture and systems.

Reference

- (1) The Global New Light of Myanmar. (11th July 2017 edition)
- (2) Her Excellency, The State Counsellor’s guiding principles.
- (3) Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary.