

Youths with enthusiasm working as teachers in Maungtaw

By Myint Maung, Zeyar
Photo: Ne Win Tun

Following the extremists terrorist attacks in the Buthidaung and Maungtaw regions in October 2016, the Rakhine government transferred female teachers in far-off rural areas to towns and started employing educated male youths returning from Malaysia, Thailand and Phakant who were interested in teaching. The age limit of 30 years was raised to 35 and they were employed as teachers on the basis of a daily rate paid monthly. Those employed as teachers in this way were then employed on a permanent basis starting in August. These teachers underwent 10 days of kindergarten and Grade 1 training in Maungtaw Basic Education High School No. (2). The following are interviews conducted with four of these teachers.



U Than Shwe.

me to enter into this profession. Earlier, there wasn't much recruitment for teachers. This job is for those under 35 years of age. In the past, it was for under-30 years old. Now it was raised to 35 years and I became interested. I plan to work permanently as a teacher.

U Zaw Han Tun
(Buthidaung Township, Latpankaing Village Primary School)

Before I got this job, I worked abroad. I faced many difficulties when I went to work in other countries. I like the rules and regulations set by my gov-



U Zaw Han Tun.

ernment and like the closeness of the staff. I'm also interested in this job so I ended up working in it. In other countries, I had to follow their rules and I became fearful. I don't feel safe. I went to work there because I don't have anything but I'm afraid for my life. (This job) is filling in the requirement of my country and my government. I'm also interested so I take up this job.

U Khin Tun Maung (Upper Kwe Chaung Primary School, Buthidaung Township)

I'm teaching young Khami ethnic children. As they are eth-



U Khin Tun Maung.

nic children, I have some language difficulties. But I'm trying my best by teaching together with local teachers. Before this job, I worked in Malaysia for seven years. Even though I'm a graduate, I have to take menial basic jobs so it was not convenient. As we are foreigners, we were treated differently and looked down upon. We had to do the most basic jobs.

U Zeyar Chit Myat Oo

I'm teaching second-grade children in Maung Hna Ma Village sub middle school, Maungtaw Township. I was born in Taungup, Rakhine State. The



U Zeyar Chit Myat Oo.

village in which I taught previously was burnt. As the students are not ethnic Rakhine, it is a bit difficult to teach. Everything is OK to teach students in this school. Before I became a teacher, I worked in a company in Yangon for six years. While working there, I learnt of the plan to employ teachers here and I applied for it. I got the opportunity of participating in the development of my region and became a teacher. so I'm proud and honoured about this.

Of the 543 teachers who attended the kindergarten and Grade 1 training, 452 were male. ■

Two bridges supporting Maungtaw region development

By Myint Maung, Zeyar
Photo: Ne Win Tun

WHILE Ministry of Construction is constructing a 49-mile long Sittway-Maungtaw concrete road for Rakhine State Maungtaw region development, it is also constructing five river crossing bridges along the road.

"Our Department of Bridges is completing the construction of the remaining five main bridges on the Ponnagyun-Yathedaung-Buthidaung-Maungtaw Road before March 31. We will try to open these bridges by the end of March. With the construction of these bridges, it is possible to travel by car from Sittway to Maungtaw", said Department of Bridges director General U Shwe Lay.

Of the bridges constructed by the Department of Bridges on this road, the two main bridges are the 880 ft. Yathedaung bridge on Ponnagyun-Yathedaung



Photo shows the construction of 49-mile long Sittway-Maungtaw Road supporting Maungtaw region development, Rakhine State.

Road and the 600-ft. long Saitin bridge in Buthidaung Township on Yathedaung-Buthidaung Road.

Other bridges on Buthi-

daung-Yathedaung Road are the 960 ft. long Panzin Chaung bridge, the 180 ft. long Aung Tha Chaung bridge and the 150 ft. long Yay So Chaung bridge.

There are other smaller bridges on Buthidaung-Yathedaung Road. But the five bridges are the main ones, and attempts are being made to complete the

Saitin bridge and Buthidaung bridge as soon as possible. Once these bridges are completed, road links between Sittway and Maungtaw will be established. ■