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Dr. Aung Tun Thet, left, and Dr. Win Myat Aye, centre, applaud as children in Maungtaw show their National Verification Cards. **PHOTO: MNA**

Minimum wage set at Ks4,800 per day

THE National Committee on Minimum Wage announced yesterday that Ks4,800 per day, at the rate of Ks600 per hour, has been established as the minimum wage.

The official announcement signed by Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe came yesterday following a meeting of the committee on 29 December.

The new minimum wage will be applied across all regions and states to all businesses with 10 or more workers, officials said.

The decision was made after the committee took into consideration wage rates proposed by tripartite group meetings of employers, employees and the government.

The announcement stated that workers will receive not more than 50 per cent of the minimum wage during training periods and 75 per cent of the minimum wage during the three-month trial period.

Meanwhile, authorities urged management committees in special economic zones to submit the minimum wage for employees working in the special economic zones to the national minimum wage committee.—GNLM ■

Repatriation, resettlement on track

UEHRD makes inspection tours of Rakhine State to make plans for repatriates

Dr. Win Myat Aye, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, together with Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakh-

ine (UEHRD) Chief Coordinator Dr. Aung Tun Thet, and Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the planned repatriation and resettlement sites in Myo Mi

Chung, Kyun Pauk Pyu Su, Linbagonna and Pwintphyuchaung villages for those who fled to Bangladesh after the terrorist attacks of August 2017.

They coordinated on reset-

ting the repatriates to their original villages, or places nearby, to enable them to work in the same field as before, if they desired, or to take up better jobs.

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Meeting on IDP camps, freedom of movement matters held in Rakhine State

THE committee responsible for implementing the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State held a meeting on IDP camps and freedom of movement matters yesterday afternoon at the Rakhine State Government meeting hall in Sittway.

Chairman of the Implementation Committee and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye and Implementation Committee Joint Chairman and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu attended and addressed the speech at the meeting.

Dr. Win Myat Aye said the Rakhine State IDP camps set up in 2012 were meant to be temporary camps, but have been in existence for more than five years now.

“There is a need to provide rights of movement for those staying in the IDP camps, as well as for them to conduct matters for their livelihoods. It is more beneficial for them if they have opportunities for work, education and health instead of relying on humanitarian assistance. To im-



Authorities responsible for IDPs in Rakhine hold a meeting yesterday urging camp inhabitants to cooperate with authorities to enable free movement and better livelihoods. PHOTO: MNA

plement this, those living in the IDP camps are urged to cooperate and work together according to the law”, the Union Minister said.

The Union Minister, State Chief Minister, state ministers, state-level departmental officials and people staying in the IDP

camp discussed, coordinated and agreed on closing the present camp, resettling in an appropriate place and to continue discussion on details of their resettlement. Explanations were provided on the benefit of holding an NV Card and to verify nationality according to the law for acquiring free-

dom of movement. A NV card is a proof that the holder lived in Myanmar and will have the right to apply for national verification in accordance with the Myanmar Citizenship Law and have rights relevant to the categorisation, officials said. Children of NV card holders will also have the right

to apply for national verification.

Holders of NV cards will have the right to travel to any places in Myanmar according to regional orders and instructions, visit Bangladesh and return legally through officially opened border gates with border crossing papers, fish in international waters with a valid fishing license, and move freely within the Rakhine township where they live, according to notifications issued by the Rakhine State government.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Rakhine state ministers and responsible persons then met with management committee members of the Thetkeyyin IDP camp and discussed the current status of the camp, requirements to resettle Thetkeyyin IDP camp inhabitants and matters relating to freedom of movement.

The coordination meeting was attended by the Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Rakhine state ministers, state-level responsible officials and responsible persons from IDP camps in Sittway. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Repatriation, resettlement on track

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Yesterday afternoon, the Union Minister and his party arrived in Mrauk U District, Myebon Town, Taungpaw IDP camp, and met with displaced persons living in the camp. The Union Minister noted that long stays at the temporary camp would disrupt education, healthcare and other social matters, and urged the displaced persons to cooperate with officials. He added that acquiring a National Verification Card (NVC) to identify nationality would help them to establish more rights, as well as enable their travels. Furthermore, the Union Minister coordinated with several departments to fulfil their education and health requirements, close down the current camp and conduct systematic resettlements.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Arrangements are being made to allow repatriates to earn their living without any difficulty: Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye

An inspection tour by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye and Union Enterprise of Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development (UEHRD) Chief Coordinator Dr. Aung Tun Thet was made yesterday to the Maungtau region.

They inspected the relocation and resettlement projects conducted in Kyain Chaung, Kyun Pauk Pyu Su, Lin Bar Gone Nar and Pwint Phyu Chaung villages.

The following are the interviews with Dr. Win Myat Aye and Dr. Aung Tun Thet.

Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

Being a Chairman of the Implementation Committee, my visit to Rakhine State is mainly to implement the recommendations of the report of the Advisory Commission led by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and to make the resettlement of



Dr. Win Myat Aye. PHOTO: NWT

the UEHRD issue.

Regarding the implementation committee, we have already arranged to carry out two parts: to discuss matters relating to the closing of the refugee camps which were opened in 2012; and to relocate and resettle the refugee camps. In this regard, we met the officials concerned of the camps and departmental heads of the Rakhine State.

We will carry out the plans according to the rules and regulations. They all agreed to abide by the laws, and we will carry on this project according to the procedures.

We have already made vil-



Dr. Aung Tun Thet. PHOTO: NWT

lage plans to build the houses as the original structures and designs. Arrangements are being made to (allow repatriates to) earn their living without any difficulty, and to build the construction projects in Taung Pyo Letwe camp, Nga Khu Ya camp and Hla Pho Khaung camp.

We will implement the practical matters with on-the-ground conditions as a priority and the programme needs to be beneficial for the local people. We will implement how to relocate and resettle the people who will return from other countries. Our objective is to effectively provide humanitarian aid, as there are

many difficulties and problems on ways of living, food and shelter concerning the affairs which took place in Rakhine State.

Dr. Aung Tun Thet, chief coordinator of UEHRD

The purpose of our coming here is to look into the construction sites and to supervise the resettlement projects. We also invite all private sector organisations and businessmen to take part in the projects where they have expertise. This project is led by the government and private sectors have contributed enormously to it, as a whole. That's why we can prove that the businessmen from private sectors can turn this region into a developed state. We will invite all businesspersons and people across the country for taking part in this noble work through all sorts of platforms such as the internet, mobile phones and social media.—Zeya & Myint Maung ■