

New Year Greetings for ME 1381 from President U Win Myint

My dear esteemed citizens,

On this auspicious New Year day I send these greetings to all esteemed citizens with blessings for your good health and well-being.

My dear esteemed citizens,

On the day I took my oath of office as President in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018, I spoke about the three priority tasks of our Union Government. Furthermore, I have already spoken about the 11 tasks that needed to be carried out for the implementation of the above three priority tasks in my Myanmar New Year day message of last year.

As my New Year day message for this year, I report to you how much our Union Government has been able to achieve in the implementation of our goals during this third year.

Our Union Government has undertaken sector-wise reforms. If we were to show visible and tangible results you would see our successes to a certain extent in the area of preventing and combatting corruption, a chronic disease which has taken deep roots for many administrations. Our Union Government has been taking action against corruption in accordance with the law without favoring anyone with only the interest of the people and the country in our minds. We were able to establish branch offices of the Anti-corruption Commission in the regions/states and set up Corruption Prevention Units (CPUs) in the ministries.

With regard to combatting narcotic drugs, apart from the usual actions, we have initiated a special project by making it easy to report direct to the Office of the President. We have elevated the powers of the anti-narcotics police and on the other hand we have started using the reward and punishment system effectively. Because of this it may be seen that we have been more effective and successful.

Our ability to transfer the General Administration Department to the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government is also a significant reform measure because the GAD is an administrative organization that has daily contact with the people. This is because as our Union Government implements the reform measures it is necessary to begin our reform measures from the grass roots level and the GAD is one of the key departments.

We were able to give more agricultural loans than in previous years to improve the lives of farmers; at the same time efforts are being made to ensure that unnecessary obstacles and delays are eliminated in the settlement of land ownership cases. In the same way, in the case of lands which have been confiscated, to review these cases in accordance with State policies; to return lands which have been released to the original owners; and in the case of lands which cannot be released efforts are being made to en-



President U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

sure that reasonable compensation and settlement money are being given. You may all see that compared to previous years effective and expeditious actions are being taken.

The Union Legal Aid Board has been established and instructed to provide assistance and support to people in need of legal services who have been accused, detained, arrested, taken to court, sentenced, and imprisoned, namely poor and destitute people, children, women, elderly, people suffering from infectious diseases, migrant workers and displaced persons.

With regard to human rights, because of efforts being made to organize training courses and seminars, talks to create awareness and spread knowledge, translation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from the Myanmar language to 10 ethnic languages, you may all see that we have been able to give more protection in cases of human rights abuses.

Furthermore, we have been able to preserve and record the traditions and culture of ethnic nationals which are on the verge of extinction, and to prevent the disappearance of their language and literature.

My dear esteemed citizens,

The amount of Foreign Direct Investment that have flowed into the country from 1st April of the 2016-2017 to 31st March of the 2018-2019 fiscal amounted to USD 15.99 billion for a total of (584) projects from 22 foreign countries. These projects have been reviewed and approved by the Myanmar Investment Commission during the three year period.

During a similar period, the Myanmar Investment Commission reviewed and approved (359) projects submitted by Myanmar nationals amounting to Kyats 7390.34 billion.

During the first six months period of April to September 2018, the rate of increase of our GDP was 6.5 per cent.

During 2018, our country was able to meet all three indicators to be removed from the list of LDC (Least Developed Country) countries.

On the other hand we have imposed tighter administrative controls over departments that have lagged behind in the reform process. We have been making necessary changes to transform the judiciary into an impartial body depended upon by the people and well-respected by them. We built low-cost and affordable housing for the citizens. We have also been able to build housing for government employees to enable them to live in dignity after retirement. We raised the salaries and pensions of government employees to a reasonable amount. We are now giving out pensions using the Wave money mobile system. We were also able to raise the minimum wage of workers. We are making efforts to create more job opportunities within the country and at the same time creating job opportunities in foreign countries. We put in more efforts to protect our migrant workers working abroad and to ensure that they receive all their rights and entitlements. I have noted that measures have been taken for the safety and security of our migrant workers. I have also noted the implementation and emergence of more youth training schools, domestic science schools, and modern garment manufacturing schools. I have also noted rural vocational training schools and projects for training rural people for better paying jobs and obtaining clean drinking water.

We have been able to do more for providing electricity all over the country. We are able to build roads and bridges from east to west and north to south for ease of travel. We were able to upgrade roads and bridges according to each region. We were able to expand the territory for promoting tourism. These included granting visas using the E-visa system and upgrading of airports. We also accomplished projects for protection of river embankments and repair works for

embankments. We are also implementing projects for the sustainable management of our natural resources and projects for reforestation. We opened vocational training courses in IDP camps. We also provided financial support to handicapped people. We were able to formulate and issue laws, by laws, regulations, procedures and rules for the efficient and proper use of public funds without wastage in places where they are needed. In cases where there had been lack of responsibility and accountability we have taken effective action. We can thus say that all these measures have been taken in the interests of the people and that to a certain extent there has been progress.

We were able to successfully convene the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong 3rd Session and sign agreements of fundamental principles for a total of (14) points, namely 4 in the political sector; 1 in the economic sector; 7 in the social sector and 2 in the land and natural environment sector.

Mindsets and beliefs that have become habitual for over half a century, habits that are difficult to get rid of, and ways of doing things which are now ingrained in the mind, in spite of obstacles and efforts to cause problems along the path of democratic transition, within this short period of time we may see visible signs of progress. These may be seen as the fruits of success born out of a common belief and commitment that exists between the Government and the people working together in trust and good spirits.

In spite of all these successes and progress, at the same time in the international arena we may see that we are facing and solving efforts to put pressure, hurl criticisms and condemnations, and efforts to take action against us with regard to the Rakhine state issue. We are also facing and solving problems such as security breaches in northern Rakhine, matters relating to repatriation, and internally displaced persons due to conflicts occurring in certain areas. We are also meeting these challenges and solving them. I wish to state that, in fact I regard these difficulties as good opportunities for us to nurture our collective strength.

No matter how many challenges, difficulties and crises our Union Government may have to face, we firmly believe that with the understanding, compassion, participation, and cooperation of the people we will successfully reach our goal of establishing a Democratic Federal Republic. I wish to remind the people to be careful not to fall into the trap of religious, racial and political conflicts. We should also be careful of incidents designed to divert our attention. I also want you all to be careful not to be affected and swayed by efforts to incite the people by making reprisals.

May a democratic federal Union be established with collective strength of people incoming years

THE old year has ended and the new year has begun. We have all had many experiences in the year 1380 ME. In the new year, everyone must try to build a new outlook on life. We must get rid of bad habits from the previous year and adopt good habits to create a new life.

In the New Year, people must take lessons from the troubles, difficulties, strengths, weaknesses, and challenges observed in the past year.

In the old year, we witnessed achievements in tackling several obstacles to the democratic transition, thanks to the collective efforts of the government and the people.

Fighting deep-rooted malpractices such as corruption and combating drug-trafficking have been significant steps taken during the previous year.

Without the participation of the people, we could not have seen any progress in fighting dogmatic habits and beliefs, deeply rooted for over half a century.

At the same time, the people of the country must remain alert and not fall into the trap of conflict, and have a far-sighted vision on the transition to democracy.

The challenges can be considered as an opportunity for building the collective strength of the people.

No matter the challenges and obstacles ahead of us, we are confident that we can achieve success in building a democratic federal Union through the collective strength of the ethnic brethren born in the Union with friendship, mutual support, mutual assistance, mutual respect, and mutual understanding, based on the Union Spirit.

At the same time, the people of the country must remain alert and not fall into the trap of conflict, and have a far-sighted vision on the transition to democracy.

At the same time, we need to work with the united strength of the people and all branches of the democracy, professionals, and civil society organizations in marching towards our goal of a democratic federal Union.

May the democratic federal Union be established with the 'collective strength' of the ethnic people in the coming years.

Accomplishments of Nay Pyi Taw Council: Focusing on development, cleanliness and rule of law in urban and rural areas

"Nay Pyi Taw is part of the ASEAN Smart Cities Network and is working towards the status through an Action Plan to improve on three areas."

U Myo Aung, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council

Interviewer: Thi Thi Min
PHOTOS: MAIKHA

THE Nay Pyi Taw Council is setting its goal of development in both towns and villages in sight and is working diligently to achieve this. During the third year of the current administration, the Nay Pyi Taw Council has accomplished several work plans in Nay Pyi Taw's development, carrying out cleanliness of the city and upholding rule of law.

The media team enjoyed the chance to interview with the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung about the progress of the council during the third year of the incumbent government.

Q: What are some of the work plans the Nay Pyi Taw Council completed during the three years of the current administration?

A: There are 8 townships with 1 million residents in Nay Pyi Taw: around 350,000-400,000 is government employees while 650,000-700,000 are local populace. The main focus -especially in our third year- was to fill the gaps in health care, electricity, transportation and education that people need and the Nay Pyi Taw Council embraced the measures with great vigor. In addition, we are working with the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee to bring life to the city with clean streets, thriving greenery and neat public spaces in line with the laws and regulations in place.

Q: How is the council developing the education sector, amongst others?

A: In the education sector, we had over kyats 5492 million approved for the 106 work plans during the 2018-2019 financial year using the different funding sources from national to other donations. Over 96 basic education schools have been upgraded with additional 566 teachers employed on the national and regional levels along with introducing the new curriculum.

Q: What about the health sector for the public?

A: The council has spent over kyats 1700 million on 24 different work plans for its 6 month mini-budget. Our current emphasis is on immunization program such diseases as polio, diphtheria and acute pneumonia. There were no health outbreaks last year. There is also the 1000 bed Nay Pyi Taw hospital with 23 specialist units. Our biggest accomplishment in last year has been on the new wing for operating heart surgery. We operated on 79 patients successfully in our first batch and has treated over 100 patients over the 5 months. There is also the new X-ray machine installed that reduces the side-effects for the operator. Also, as part of the One Stop Service - a new initiative by the current administration- we treat and house child sexual abuse victims and orphaned/abandoned babies temporarily before handling them with the respective



Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung

government departments.

Q: What about improvements regarding infrastructure such as roads and bridges building?

A: The council is focusing on the big roads to connect the villages. There are a total of 624 work plans with kyats 31814 million budget from different sources for funding. These are spent towards upgrading existing infrastructure such as the Yangon-Mandalay highway with proper drainage so there will be no floods during monsoon.

Q: Can you talk to us more about the Irrigation, Livestock and Farmland sectors?

A: Nay Pyi Taw has a lot of farmers and most of their livelihood is working in the farms. This made Nay Pyi Taw very self-sufficient in the region regarding

staples. There are over 700,000 farmers working on rice paddy fields of 17000 acres producing up till 15 million tons of grains. The council is building drainage systems so there will not be floods during heavy rains. In the 2018-19 year alone, these systems have protected up till 2400 acres of land from flood. Regarding livestock, the council is also distributing vaccines along with giving training on raising livestock to over 5000 people.

Q: Can you elaborate more on distributing electricity?

A: The biggest advantage for Nay Pyi Taw is that we get our energy from dams including upper and middle Paunglaung dams. Out of the 796 villages in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, 432 villages have access to electricity with plans for the national grid to roll out to 48

more villages. The rest are also planned to gain access through the 2019-2020 and 2025-2026 financial years as we build more substations and wire lines.

Q: What about access to clean water?

A: There are a total of 30 dams that Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee is in charge of and 10 other managed by the Irrigation Department for drinking water. We also build wells for areas that the dams cannot reach. During the 2018-2019 financial year, there was a budget of kyats 6200 million for over 100 work plans.

Q: Can you elaborate on the plans for the socioeconomic development in the area?

A: Every year at Uttara Thiri Township, the residents are often burdened by floods in the area.

With the council's work plans activities, we managed to save over 2900 houses and 3500 acres of farm land from floods. There are also 43 additional housing units built for government employees in the 2017-18 financial year and 76 more during the 2018-19 financial year that is almost 20% finished. For socioeconomic development, there are more than 22 vocational training opened and planning to organize the 72 training workshops with a kyats 135 million budget planned for the 2018-2019 financial year.

Q: What about regarding rule of law?

A: There were educative talks by the law enforcements officers educating people on crime. There are 51 CCTV cameras that operate 24/7 around the gates of the towns. We have also amped up our efforts against drugs, busting 93 cases

alone last year.

Q: Can you explain to us about the small loans program with little interest that is available for Nay Pyi Taw locals?

A: EXIM Bank is working towards giving small loans with minimal interest to start farmers up for their crops. This year, the bank was able to lend to 22001 members for around kyats 3366 million. Such kind of systems protect farmers against loan sharks and lowers their interest by heart. For other SME loans, the second round of the SME program loaned kyats 4132 million.

Q: What about the efforts towards a clean city?

A: There was a new market opened last year - the Aung Zabu Market. Building such markets takes the vendors off the streets, keeping the streets cleaner and also helping with traffic and trash created from the sales. There were also 77 concrete bridges built, with over 3244 feet long roads built in townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. We also decided to give out tenders to build water-fountain park in 2018 and are already drawing out tender application outlines and requirements.

Regarding public information, we just started broadcasting the CATV line starting 2019 February. The channel will be broadcasting news, prospective govt projects and other services planned for Nay Pyi Taw. The Nay Pyi Taw Zabuthiri hospital have also recently expanded in 2018 so

that it will be able to accommodate more patients.

A unique thing we have done is regarding illegal squatters. There are over 1200 people illegally squatting in Nay Pyi Taw. We have started projects on building affordable housing on a 15 year installments.

Q: What about preventative measures against natural disasters?

A: Nay Pyi Taw, like other states and regions in Myanmar, experiences a lot of natural disasters with a total of 85 last year. This affected around 934 households with a total of 19000 people with 86 million kyats aid distributed for rehabilitation. There have been educational talks for natural disasters and earthquake simulations along with up till 227722 students trained by volunteer groups on aiding during a natural disaster.

Q: Can you elaborate more on the Smart cities initiative?

A: Nay Pyi Taw is part of the ASEAN Smart Cities Network and is working towards the status through an Action Plan to improve on three areas. The Hotel and embassy zones have been selected as a pilot area with smart street lighting installed in collaboration with Singapore. E-Government along with public services using ICT are also being implemented towards this step. The GIS database is also under construction so that people can look up electricity voltages and crowds in certain places online. The GIS pilot project is currently implemented in Thapay Gone district.

Q: Any additional comments?

A: There are 5 main road-maps that our senior advisor has given. Within those, there is a call for discussion regarding development. Our focus is tourism. We are currently working on building a studio for entertainment on an international scale for international attraction. Hopefully, our department contributes to the best of our abilities to aid in developing not only Nay Pyi Taw, but the country as a whole.

Translated by Myat Thu



Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung meets Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials, town's elders in Tatkon Town on 2 March 2019.



Union Minister U Thein Swe, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, Pyithu Hluttaw representative, in-charge of May May Hospital and representatives of employer and employee cut ribbon to open May May Hospital and Pharmacy in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 26 March 2019.

Over 200 prisoners released in Rakhine State

ACTING on an order from the President's office, the authorities yesterday released 210 prisoners from prisons in Rakhine State. Of the total prisoners, 116 inmates, including 109 men, 6 women, and one foreigner, were released from the Sittway Prison; 39 inmates, including 35 men, three women, and one foreigner, were released from the Buthidaung Prison; 31 men were freed from the Kyaukpyu Prison; and, 24 prisoners, including 23 men and one woman, were released from Thandwe Prison. The freed inmates were welcomed by their families and relatives. — Tin Tun (IPRD)

Translated by TTN

Over 430 prisoners from Mandalay Prison receive amnesty

FOUR hundred and thirty seven prisoners from Mandalay Prison received presidential pardons yesterday, among them 39 are women and three are foreigners, and most were serving terms for drug trafficking cases. "The prisoners who are released today have received correctional training and they also have received vocational skills. So, they are ready to serve the interest of their families and the country when they back their communities," said U Cho Win, Deputy Director of the Mandalay Central Prison. A total of 698 prisoners from Mandalay, Meikhtila, Myingyan, Yamethin, NyaungU and Nay Pyi Taw prisons were released yesterday. —Min Htet Aung (Mann Sub-printing House)

(Translated by GNLM)

IN Picture

Rakhine State Govt, people hold ceremony to pay respect to the aged



A troupe performs a traditional group dance at the ceremony to pay respect and provide aids to elder Rakhine people at the 55th Rakhine Traditional Ceremony in Sittway yesterday. At the ceremony local people and authorities paid respect and provided aids to 108 people aged 85 and above in Sittway. Meanwhile, authorities will present aids door to door to over 980 aged people who could not present at the ceremony. PHOTO: TIN TUN (IPRD)

Invitation for Bids

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT
SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE
IDA Credit No.: 5727-MM
Dated 18th April, 2019

Contract Title: Distribution Transformer for National Electrification Project
Reference No. : MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-G1/19

1. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for Distribution Transformer for National Electrification Project.
2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply of 11/0.4 kV- 50 kVA and 100 kVA, distribution transformer , for the total quantities of 4,900 transformers to be delivered in 2019 and 2020 to multiple destinations in all Regions and States of Myanmar. Domestic preference with the margin of 15% will apply. The goods will be grouped into 4 lots and bidders may submit bid for any one or more lots. Evaluation and award of contract will be on a lot-wise basis.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's [Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers](#) [edition of January 2011 revised in July 2014] ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to the paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting for the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Manager, Office No (27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, nep.pmoep@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 10:00 to 16:00 hours at the address given below.
5. Bidders can request complete set of bidding document from the purchaser via E-mail as mention below:

Attention : Project Manager
Project Management Office (National Electrification Project), Office Building No.27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy
City : Nay Pyi Taw
ZIP Code : 15011
Country : The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Telephone : +95 67 3431175
Facsimile number : +95 673431176
Electronic mail address : nep.pmoep@gmail.com

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 am, 4th June, 2019. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives at the address below at 10:00 am, 4th June, 2019.

Yadanar Hall, Office Building No.27,
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
City: Nay Pyi Taw
ZIP Code: 15011

7. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as described in the bidding document.

8. The address referred to above para 4 and 5 are :

Attention:
Project Manager
Project Management Office (National Electrification Project)
Office Building No.27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy
City: Nay Pyi Taw
ZIP Code: 15011
Country: The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Telephone: +95 67 3431175
Facsimile number: +95 673431176
Electronic mail address: nep.pmoep@gmail.com

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CALL
THIN THIN MAY,

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