Committee for Supporting Peace and Stability in Rakhine State provides aid to IDPs, pledges to build shelters

THE Committee for Supporting Peace and Stability in Rakhine provided aid yesterday at the state government office for those people displaced by the conflicts in Rakhine State.

Attending the event were Vice Chairman of the committee, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, committee members, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, members of the Rakhine State Cabinet, IDP representatives, social organizations and officials.

Speaking at the gathering, Chairman U Aye Tha Aung said that having collected data regarding how to pacify and ease the conflict in the short term and long term, the suggestions and related data will be submitted to the state government.

He continued, noting that suggestions and data collected at the meeting from monks, government officials, the state Hluttaw speaker, Hluttaw representatives, political parties and local residents proved to provide sound solutions to resolve the conflict, as the commission submitted them to the Union Government as an interim report.

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung (Right) delivers the speech at the committee meeting for providing aid to Inernally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Rakhine State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

As he stressed the importance of shelters for the IDP, he added that the infrastructures will be soon set up, along with health care and food programmes.

He also invited additional suggestions with data about the conflict from the attendees and said he appreciated the comments, for they have proven invaluable for the Union Government, the state government, committees and the affected people, in easing the conflict.

Afterwards, Vice Chairman U Nyi Pu said that the committee is working with a genuine spirit of charity for peace and development for Rakhine state.

Also, participants discussed their views and perspectives on the conflict.

Following the discussion, the Chairman of the committee presented endowments of a month's rice ration to the IDP.

He also stressed the importance of transparency regarding the endowment, saying that the information about construction of shelters for IDPs will be announced, in accordance with tender rules.

Regarding the suggestion, he explained that some of them will be carried out immediately and others will take time, as they need reporting.

He concluded by requesting collaboration and help from the Rakhine State Peace and Stability Support team.

It was also reported that a rice endowment of over K268. 5 million was given to 7257 households, making up 29839 people from Yathedaung, Ponnagyun, Pauktaw, Kyawktaw, MraukU, Minbya and Buthidaung.

In the afternoon, the commission chairman and his entourage returned to Yangon by air. —MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Passenger plane with failed front landing gear safely lands in Mandalay

ALL 82 passengers and seven crew members on board Myanmar National Airlines flight UB103 were safe after the captain made a daring touch down at Mandalay using only its rear wheels, as its front landing gear failed to deploy.

The domestic plane coming from Yangon landed at Mandalay International Airport at 9:09 a.m. with all passengers and crew members able to safely evacuate after the plane dragged its nose down the runway and came to a perfect stop.

While approaching Mandalay International Airport at about 8 am, Captain Myat Moe Aung informed the air traffic tower about the malfunctioning nose landing gear, and then circled the airport to burn off fuel to reducing the landing weight and the degree of a fire hazard.

The 82 passengers and seven crew members on board Myanmar National Airline plane lands safely in Mandalay yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

At 9.06 am, the Embraer 190 plane touched down on its back wheels only. It travelled on its rear wheels, continuing some distance along the runway on its nose, kicking up smoke, followed by an urgent and orderly evacuation of the passengers and crew.

"When the plane was about to land at Mandalay International Airport, the nose landing gear stopped functioning. The plane landed just with its rear wheels, as it could not deploy its front wheel. Coming down on its nose, the plane stopped after rolling for about 5000 feet on the runway. We provided all necessary assistance for the 82 passengers and crew. Because of the incident, the airport might be closed for about four hours. As the runway is 14000 feet long, arrangements are underway for the landing of small planes on the remaining 9000-foot runway of the facility. We expect landings by international passenger jets may begin in the afternoon," U Kyaw Hsan, the manager in-charge of the airport, told the media.

Dr Soe Myint, an anesthesiologist who was a member of a medical team flying from Yangon to Mandalay on its way to Sagaing to provide free treatment for local residents, said, "At about 8.15 am, I began to notice that the plane was still flying without reducing its speed. At that time, crew members came to us and told us that the plane had to circle the airport, as its nose landing gear was not functioning. Finally, the plane touched down safely at about 9 am. The captain remained in control and he made the right decisions."

Chief Minister of Mandalay Region Dr Zaw Myint Maung surveyed the damaged plane, and comforted passengers and the crew. — Min Htet Aung (Mann Sub-printing House)

(Translated by TMT)