

## **Health Minister replies to proposal of U Paul Hlyan Lwin of Chin State Constituency-9**

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March - Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint responded to the proposal approved to be discussed 'to issue Sa Ma to graduated Chin male doctors as soon as possible and assign them to the regions of Chin State which are in need of doctors' made by U Paul Hlyan Lwin of Chin State Constituency-9 at the Amyotha Hluttaw session today.

The minister said that in the past, Universities of Medicine issued registrations of doctors (Sa Ma) to those who graduated with set qualifications only after they had performed their medical duties as service personnel for three years.

Since 2009, Sa Ma has been conferred on graduated doctors after they have been trained at refresher courses. Now, a total of 5498 doctors have obtained Sa Ma and 898 dental surgeons, Tha Kha after taking refresher courses. Arrangements are being made to issue Sa Ma soon to those who graduated after 2010 by conducting refresher courses for them. So, Sa Ma is being issued on a regular basis to all doctors, including Chin male doctors, who have graduated from Universities of Medicines with set qualifications.

At hospitals in Chin State, required specialists and assistant doctors have been appointed depending on the strength of doctors and health staff under the Ministry of Health. Doctors with various branches of medicine are being appointed at two People's Hospitals (200- bed) and two People's Hospital (100-bed).

Measures are also being taken to appoint more doctors at other hospitals.

Doctors who want to serve in Chin State are sent there only for a certain period and then they are assigned duties in the regions they like. When it comes to promotion, doctors carrying out their duties in Chin State are being promoted as a special right even before a prescribed duration of their service.

Plans for overseas study tours and performance of duties in foreign countries under the government programme are being prioritized for doctors who used to serve in Chin State.

Moreover, assistance is being rendered for entrance exams to take postgraduate courses. These plans are being made by the ministry as a special matter to make doctors willing to go to Chin State.

If regional bodies are to arrange meals, accommodation and transportation, health staff will be able to perform their public health duties more happily. Plans are under way to appoint 2014 assistant doctors and 185 dental surgeons soon in the whole nation. When appointments come, required doctors will be appointed in Chin State.

The midwives currently serving in the villages of Chin State have been sent by the ministry.

In addition, doctors are assigned duties in their own regions and states. There is no Chin national doctor from Chin State who is assigned duties in other states or regions. For ensuring the willingness of doctors to be in station hospitals, they are assigned duties in rotation for three months. As the clarification is perfect and complete, the proposal should be withdrawn, requested the minister. U Paul Hlyan Lwin said he thanked the minister for his clarification. Yet, station hospitals and rural health centres in Chin State are short of doctors and health assistants. Due to climatic and geographical conditions, doctors from other regions find it difficult to live in Chin State. So, it is more suitable to

appoint local doctors. Regarding the proposal, it will take the decision of the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker. The speaker then declared the withdrawal of the first part of the proposal “to issue Sa Ma to graduated Chin male doctors as soon as possible” as it has been completely clarified by the minister and approval of the second part “to send Chin male doctors to the regions of Chin State which are in need of doctors” as it is in progress and it will continued to be implemented.

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