

If entire people including U Za Khun Ting Ring and representatives participate in processes being implemented in accordance with the constitution, eternal peace will be achieved in the whole country including Kachin State

NAY PYI TAW, 22 March-At today's session of Amyotha Hluttaw, Hluttaw Representative Za Khun Ting Ring from Kachin State Constituency (4) in his question said that national unity was undermined by hundreds of years long federal rule and colonial rule; that in the postindependence period, some national races launched armed revolts against the government due to political and racial extremes, which caused great hindrance to national development; that those regions lagged behind others in development; that nation-building tasks could not be implemented effectively due to disunity among national brethren; that the nation can enjoy development only with peace and stability; that those national races are facing least development in the political, economic, education and health sectors as they do not get assistance from the government; that national unity reinforces non-disintegration of the Union and perpetuation of sovereignty; that peace talks were not successful and operations were therefore launched in the times of successive governments; that only if stability, peace and the rule of law are restored across the nation, will it be possible to implement projects for national development; that from 1990 to date, many regions have enjoyed gradual development due to ceasefire with national race armed groups; that ethnic groups admire peace and worry that development will go downhill due to lack of peace; that some groups are not ready yet to make changes for perpetual peace and development; that armed insurrection poses grave threats to the nation and the people; that the government is responsible for peace and development in the interest of the people; and that he would like to ask "what the government is planning to deal with armed groups to expedite tasks for restoration of peace and stability and all-round development of the nation".

Leader of the Government Spoke Authoritative Team Minister for Information U Kyaw Hsan in his reply said that like national races, the government admires peace and does not want to see less development due to lack of peace.

So, the government is working with genuine goodwill, farsightedness and understanding for eternal peace.

In 1988, the Tatmadaw took up State duties as anarchy reigned supreme across the nation and the effectiveness of administrative machinery came to a halt at the instigation of internal and external elements. Thenceforwards, the government has been working hard for stability, peace and national development in accordance with the objective "National reconsolidation" embodied in the four political objectives of the 12 objectives.

Peace and stability lies at the core of national development. Without peace, it is impossible to implement nation-building tasks. The nation lacked stability and peace from 1948 to 1962 due to multicoloured armed insurgent groups. Restoration of peace and stability was not satisfactory either from 1962 to 1988. The governments from 1948 to 1988 could not build peace and so they could not implement development tasks effectively.

The Tatmadaw and the Head of the Tatmadaw as well as the Head of State sought better ways, taking lessons from past events. A new policy was adopted which was not designed for political gains, which represented benevolent attitude, which complied with realistic conditions of the nation, which would benefit local people, and which was acceptable to national race armed groups. The policy manifested several points such as ceasefire would be called and the groups could still hold arms temporarily; but they shall stay in the designated region; they shall not recruit new members, reinforce their troops or collect extortion money; the government would provide aid for their living; the government would lay down projects for development of their regions; and they could submit political issues to the National Convention and the issues would be addressed in accordance with the constitution. So, all 17 major and 23 small armed groups returned to the legal fold and three break-away groups remained underground. Now, peace and stability has been restored almost the whole nation and the people have begun to enjoy fruitful results.

The government adopted the Project for Progress of Border Areas and National Races for development of the border areas where stability and peace had been restored.

The project is chaired by the Head of State. So far, over 341.52 billion kyats has been spent on the project. The 24 special development zones have been designated to expedite tasks. Seven rural development programmes were also laid down.

Similarly, five-year plans for economic development were implemented. Today, the nation has enjoyed development at the unprecedented level. The government has built almost all the infrastructural buildings for national development. So, the nation will continue to enjoy development. The nation will be able to enjoy incredible development if all national races work closely.

Despite various obstacles and challenges, the government managed to hold the National Convention for democratization.

And the constitution was approved through a referendum. Now, hluttaws are in sessions in line with the constitution to form legislative, executive and judicial bodies at the Union and Region/State levels. The forthcoming bodies will soon pursue the national goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation.

Peace groups have been transformed in a smooth way for perpetual peace. The majority of the peace groups have dissolved themselves in accordance with the constitution.

Some of them have formed political parties to practise national politics. Armed groups are sharing national defence duties as border guard forces and regional people's militia.

However, it is disheartening to note that some national race armed groups have not honoured the constitution.

The remnant armed groups have to be in favour of peace like the government and the people. Yet, some groups not only are not in favour of peace but also are misguiding other groups from building peace. In that regard, they use coercion and violent means. Some remnant insurgents, dissidents, certain powers and some INGOs are pursuing and organizing the national race armed groups, which have yet to comply with the constitution, to relapse into their old way.

The drive for putting an end to armed insurrection in border areas calls for cooperation of certain powers, some INGOs and the neighbouring country. Near Myanmar borders inside the neighbouring country are many so-called refugee camps that run with the assistance from certain countries, some INGOs and the neighbouring country. There may be some true refugees in the camps, but the rest are remnant insurgents, their families, and dissidents. Taking a stronghold in the camps, the insurgents attack Myanmar.

That is the root cause of fire exchanges go on.

Once, BCP with large numbers of troops were active in the northeast of Myanmar. The Tatmadaw had to launch fierce battles against BCP troops. The neighbouring country honoured the point “non interference in the internal affairs of other country”. So, BCP troops have dwindled away and peace and stability has been restored in the region.

In like manner, peace and stability can be restored the whole country if the neighbouring country maintains good neighborly relations and does not accept the remnant insurgents.

Anyhow, the present government and the upcoming government will keep trying in line with the constitution to achieve peace and stability the whole country including Kachin State. And the government will expedite tasks for all-round development and flourishing of Union Spirit in the regions where peace and stability has been restored well. The government will render assistance to enable Region/State governments to boost stability and peace in them.

The people including U Za Khun Ting Ring will have to make efforts in accordance with the constitution in cooperation with the Union government, and Region/State governments for greater development and peace and stability then eternal peace of their regions. That is the most appropriate and the most correct and the best way for all.

The minister concluded his speech, saying that all in all, the ruling government is working hard not only for development but also for peace through peace door. The new government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will continue to open peace door and try its utmost with genuine goodwill, farsightedness and understanding in line with constitution for development, peace and stability across the nation including Kachin State. He noted that if the entire people including U Za Khun Ting Ring and representatives participate in the processes being implemented in accordance with the constitution, eternal peace will be achieved in the whole country including Kachin State.

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