

Home Affairs Minister responds to the question on upgrading of Rezwa sub-township to a township

NAY PYI TAW, 23 March-At today's Amyotha Hluttaw session, Minister for Home Affairs U Maung Oo responded to the query raised by U Paw Lyan Lwin of Chin State Constituency No.9.

In his question, U Paw Lyan Lwin said that he learnt that there was a plan to upgrade Rezwa to a township since the former government was in office. Rezwa Sub- Township in Matupi Township of Chin State was upgraded to a sub-township level in April, 2002. Local people thank the government for that. There are 16 villages near the Subtownship.

Rezwa Sub-Township is populated with 15000 and it has about 1600 households. Rezwa Sub-Township has governmental offices, basic education high school, station hospital, posts and telegraph office, township police station and 126-KW power station. Urban area with a population of about 2000 has about 400 households.

Rezwa lies at the heart of Chin State. It is far 105 miles north from Haka, 100 miles west from Thantlang, 105 miles east from Gangaw, 66 miles south from Matupi and 45 miles west from India border. He would like to know whether or not there is any plan to upgrade it to a township.

Regarding the question, Minister for Home Affairs U Maung Oo explained that he would like to present laws and procedures regarding formation of sub-townships.

According to Towns Act and Village Act (1907), formation of sub-townships is carried out. After approving Constitution (1974), the cabinet decided formation of subtownships in coordination with respective People's Council. After 1988, Ministry of Home Affairs issues announcement and carries out the formation of townships and sub-townships only after getting approval of the State Peace and Development Council, and approval and resolution of the cabinet.

The SPDC is making effort for being a peaceful, modern and developed nation. With the aim of building sound administrative system and effectively carrying out modern administration and economic and social affairs of the people, 82 sub-townships have been formed across the nation with the approval of the cabinet. Of those subtownships, Kyikha, Reedhorda and Rezwa include.

A sub-township is formed with 192 staff of 15 Departments under 11 Ministries. In sub-townships, Myanmar Police Force forms a police station (A-level) with the strength of 69 like other townships. To meet subtownship characteristics, BEPS, BEMS and BEHS are built. Regarding health sector, health care center (branch) and health care centers are upgraded into station hospitals (16-bed). With respect to transport sector, Department of Progress of Boarder Areas and National Races, Development Affairs Department and Public Works upgrade earth roads to gravel roads and tarred roads step by step.

Regarding electricity, Ministry of Electric Power No.2 distributes electricity through KVA power grids. And plans are under way to supply electricity to regions that have yet to get electricity access. Respecting information and communication sector, the sub-township is provided with library, satellite dish, telegraph office, post office, telephone and retransmission station.

With respect to sub-township's administration and judiciary, head of sub-township is vested with executive power. According to Section 13 of Judicial Act (2000), Supreme Court assigns head of sub-township as magistrate in their postings in order to carry out judicial duties.

According to Penal Code Article 32 (1) (a), they are also vested with first-class magistrate power.

To have the equal standards in forming the subtownships, the government undertakes the formation based on present conditions. The Section 54 in Chapter-2 of the 2008 State Constitution states that Where there arises a situation to alter or form the territorial boundary or change the name of a village, village tract, ward, town, township or district of a Region, State, Self-Administrated Division or Self-Administrated Zone concerned, the President shall act, as necessary, upon the recommendation of the Chief Minister of the Region or State concerned.

In addition, Section 109 (a) in Chapter 4 of 2008 State Constitution says that not more than 330 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives elected prescribing electorate in accord with law on the basis of township as well as population or combining with an appropriate township which is contiguous to the newly-formed townships if it is more than 330 townships. So, it is more unlikely to upgrade the sub-townships to the townships. The government forms the sub-townships. Those sub-townships have the same power as other townships. Thus, there is no plan to upgrade Rezwa to township at present.

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