

## **Information Minister replies to question of U Saw Thein Aung of Hlaingbwe Constituency about aspiration of Kayin nationals**

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March-At today's Pyithu Hluttaw session, U Saw Thein Aung of Hlaingbwe Constituency put a question about government's plans for restoration of peace and stability in Kayin State and role of Kayin nationals in the process. He said that peoples of Kayin State aspire to ceasefire and peace for they are sympathetic towards war refugees in Kayin State.

In his response the question, leader of government Spoke Authoritative Team Minister for Information U Kyaw Hsan said that the government, like Kayin nationals, also has longed for ceasefire and peace. So, the government has made every effort to bring about peace and stability and development in the nation.

He then gave an account of endeavours of the government for peace and progress of the nation. In 1988, the Tatmadaw assumed State's duties as the nation was on the verge of collapse due to political turmoil. Since then, the Tatmadaw has strived for stability and development of the nation.

Stability or peace is instrumental in progress of a nation. During the period between 1948 in which the nation regained independence and 1962, there was almost no stability and tranquility in the nation because of multicolored insurgency. Stability could be restored to a certain extent between 1962 and 1988, but it was rather weak and fragile. The successive governments made several abortive attempts to restore stability in the nation and could not make remarkable progress of the nation.

Taking lessons from the history, the Tatmadaw and Tatmadaw Leader Head of State sought different but effective means to restore stability and could bring about stability in the nation practicing the policy which avoids seeking political advantages, is based on goodwill, pragmatic, beneficial to locals, and acceptable to anti-government organizations. So, 17 major armed groups and 23 small armed groups returned to legal fold. That means all armed groups against the government have returned to legal fold except three armed groups. So, the nation is enjoying the fruits of peace and stability.

The government while trying to restore stability has made endeavours for development of the nation. It has laid down plans and implemented for development of border areas and national brethrens. The Head of State as the chairman of the development project supervised for the success of the project. So far, over K 341.52 billion has gone to the project. In addition, 24 regions were designated as special development regions and seven rural development tasks were laid down for development of rural areas. Furthermore, five-year plans were implemented for economic growth of the nation. As a result, the nation today is witnessing unprecedented progress in every aspect. Almost every infrastructure for further development of the nation has been built and so the nation is on the right track to greater development.

The government has also made efforts for practicing democracy as aspired by the entire nation. National Referendum was successfully held in the face of various difficulties and obstacles. The constitution was ratified by the referendum and now the respective hluttaws are in session in accord with the constitution after the general election. Those hluttaws are forming Unionlevel, State and region-level legislative, administrative and judicial bodies which will establish peaceful, modern, developed democratic nation, which is the national goal of the nation.

In democratization process, the government has tried to make peace with armed groups for ever rather than for a period in accord with the constitution.

Most of the armed groups that have returned to legal fold have been dissolved in line with the constitution.

Some have even formed legal political parties and entered into national politics. Armed groups are also assuming the State's duties as border guard forces and regional militia forces in compliance with the constitution under the command of the Tatmadaw.

However, some armed groups are still refusing to follow the provision of constitution and the government is trying to make eternal peace with those groups with its genuine goodwill, farsightedness and sympathetic attitude. The door to peace is also kept open for the remaining armed groups in some border regions.

And it is also of the policy of the new government, said the minister.

Nevertheless, the armed groups need to have a thirst for stability like the government and the peoples. Only then, peace and stability can be created. Nowadays, some organizations which do not want peace themselves are trying to persuade or prevent other organizations longing for peace from the road to peace.

Those organizations even use threats and attacks to stop other organizations seeking for peace. Some certain remaining armed groups, exiles, super powers, INGOs are agitating national armed groups that have returned to legal fold but still fail to follow the provisions of the constitution to go underground. In reality, modest cooperation of some certain powers, INGOs and the neighbour is the effective solution to remaining unrest and disability in Kayin State. There are base camps which they call refugee camps in the territory of the neighbor near Myanmar border. Those camps are founded with contribution of some certain super powers, INGOs and the neighbour.

There may be some refugees in those camps as representative U Saw Thein Aung had said. Likewise, there are also a considerable number of insurgents, their families and exiles. Insurgents use those camps as their base and launch guerilla attack on the army, which is the reason that exchange of fires are still occurring in Kayin State. In fact, those remaining insurgents manage to be alive with the assistance of some certain super powers and INGOs.

The minister pointed out a similar case as an example. The north-eastern part of the nation once had been the home to Burma Communist Party. As BCP forces were strong and powerful, the Tatmadaw had to take hard and massive military actions against them.

The neighbour, as a friendly nation of Myanmar, took principled stand against interfering in internal affairs of other nations. As a result, BCP were demolished and stability could be restored.

If the neighbour would stand as a friendly nation, problems of Kayin State would soon be solved. No matter what, the incumbent Government and the new Government will keep open the door to peace for armed groups and will make efforts for peace and stability of Kayin State in accord with the constitution.

The new government will promote all sectors including agriculture, livestock breeding and transportation with added momentum for physical growth.

In addition, for mental growth, it will take wider actions for promoting the standard of education, health and social and cultural sector of the nation, with a view to flourishing genuine Union Spirit. The minister then made suggestion about the role of Kayin nationals in peace process, saying that peoples are to work for further development and stability of home regions in cooperation with the State and the region/state government to achieve widespread stability and then to full and eternal peace, stage by stage, in line with the constitution. The minister added that he believed that it is the best and most appropriate way for the nation to enjoy peace and stability.

In short, the minister said, the government is striving for development and stability of the nation. The new Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will also endeavour for progress of Kayin State and make effort for full and eternal peace in Kayin State with genuine goodwill, farsightedness and sympathetic attitude in line with the constitution.

People would see peaceful and tranquil Kayin State for sure if they are willing to partake in the peace process in line with the constitution.

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