

Information Minister replies to question of Pyithu Hluttaw representative of Hlaingbwe Constituency

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March - At today's session of Pyithu Hluttaw, U Saw Thein Aung of Hlaingbwe Constituency questioned what kind of humanitarian aid is being rendered to the refugees in Kayin State due to armed clashes and to what extent aid measures have been taken.

In response to the question, leader of the government Spoke Authoritative Team Minister for Information U Kyaw Hsan said the government wants only peace and development, not war. It wants no bloodshed, either. But, measures have to be unavoidably taken to take the offensive for national security and for the security of the people and their property.

It is natural that armed clashes spark loss and damage for both sides. Besides, it is true that the people in the regions where armed clashes broke out will suffer economic, education and health losses, more or less. It has been known to all that the Tatmadaw government has been trying to seek peace since its assumption of State duties in 1988.

As a result, many of national raced armed groups from Kayin State have returned to the legal fold and they are DKBA group led by U Tha Htoo Kyaw, Haungthayaw special region peace group led by U Saw Thamuhe, Phayagon special region peace group led by Phado Aung San, Thantaung special region peace group led by U Saw Phery Moe, Thantaung (North) special region peace group led by U Ko Gyi, and KNU/KNLA peace council led by U Htay Maung Oo totalling six. Those groups had a strength of 5973 troops together with over 20000 people affected by the armed clashes. For those national races armed groups and public refugees, the government took systematic measures to provide necessary assistance.

Provisions, including rice, table salt and iodized salt, money, clothing, household items and consumer goods were provided for them. Moreover, to improve their livelihoods in the long run, seasonal and perennial crop strains, cultivation methods, winnowing machines, pumps, tractors and vehicles for business and transport purposes were provided.

In addition, pedigree piglets, chicks and breeding methods were provide for livestock breeding, and other necessary assistance for transport, education, health and communication sectors. So far, the State has spent K 6773.253 million or over K 6.773 billion for such assistance.

To ensure smooth transportation and construction work for Kayin national race armed groups, the Ministry of Defence helped license 383 cars officially.

Now, those national race armed groups have transformed themselves to be border guard forces. For those who were too old to be members of border guard forces, physically handicapped and unhealthy, the State provided them with lump sums of money, which totalled K 340.3 million.

As internal armed insurrections have not yet stopped completely, it has been 129 times from 1988 to date that the people were affected by the insurgents. Due to internal armed clashes, 12679 houses or 14953 households or 64929 people had to be moved to other places. Most of them are from Kayin State.

This is why for the whole Kayin State including the people of Kayin State affected by armed clashes, the government is working for the improvement of all sectors like economy, education, livestock breeding, communication and transport under the programme of progress of border areas and national races. For those measures, K 18812.86 million or over K 18.81 billion has been spent so far.

Despite the government's efforts for peace and development, some of the people are in the other country to live in refugee camps. However, most of them are remnant insurgents and their families, expatriates and those who fled after committing crimes.

As said in the first clarification, the government side by side with the people will try in accord with the constitution so as to ensure eternal peace after putting an end to all armed clashes and an eternal peaceful life in Kayin State, said the minister.

After raising and replying to the question, the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw said continued measures will be taken as there are points to be considered regarding the questions and answers. The clarification has made it clear to all that they have understood the issues of Kayin State more although they seem to be simple in a superficial manner. It is hoped that today's discussions will contribute to achieving peace completely. The State always opens the peace door and created opportunities to achieve peace. So the representatives are urged to convince the people that the public strength, genuine goodwill and cooperation are necessary for seeking eternal peace in the nation.

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