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Aid, rehabilitation, resettlement to be speeded up for N-Rakhine

THE Union Government has stepped up measures for humanitarian aid, rehabilitation and resettlement in northern Rakhine State, with priorities laid down by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday.

At the coordination meeting on Rakhine State held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday with relevant Union ministers in attendance, the State Counsellor discussed the effective supply of humanitarian aid to the people in the areas where terrorist attacks occurred, along with rehabilitation, resettlement and development in the same areas.

At the meeting, U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, who toured conflict areas and met with local people along with ambassadors from five neighbouring countries on Tuesday, reported on findings from the trip. Afterwards, Dr Win Myat Aye, Chairman of the committee on implementing the recommendations on Rakhine State, reported on implementing the works of the committee.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe reported on the security situation and Union Minister for Construction U Win Khaing on ongoing rehabilitation and construction



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the work coordination on Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

works for the villagers in northern Rakhine State.

Also present at the meeting were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Sein Win, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Kyaw Tint Swe, Thura U Aung Ko, Dr Aung Thu, U Win Khaing, U Thein Swe and Dr Win Myat Aye and deputy ministers U Khin Maung Tin, U Kyaw Myo and departmental heads.

The meeting was held one day after the diplomatic trip to the northern Rakhine led by Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe.

The trip showed the Myanmar government's willingness to implement a national verification and repatriation process, while Myanmar's neighbouring countries are urging them to take steps to solve the issue, which must be done through

negotiation between Myanmar and Bangladesh, officials said.

The Union Government has already announced that it will carry out the verification and repatriation of refugees in accordance with the agreed criteria set out in the Joint Statement between Foreign Ministers of Myanmar and Bangladesh in 1992.— Myanmar News Agency ■

We are young,
and getting
younger:
research study

RESULTS of research released on Wednesday shows that Myanmar is a young country, with 46.5 per cent of its population consisting of youths or children, and will even become statistically younger over the next few years, the study showed.

The Department of Population under the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population research paper on children and youths is based on population, census and demographic statistics from 2014.

The study shows trends in the population and facts on their social affairs, demographic statistics, lifestyle, health, marital status, schooling and employment. The facts and figures described highlight the image of the younger generation in Myanmar.

According to census and population statistics, 46.5 per cent of the populace are children and youths.

If the birth and death rates remain the same, the number of children and youths will increase a little bit within 10 years, estimating the number of children and youths at 24.5 million in 2024. By 2044, the number of children and youths is estimated to be 23.1 million. The study shows that efforts need to be made to encourage the country's youth to stay in school.

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Ministries, departments urged to carry out reforms for private business sector development

Vice President U Myint Swe has urged ministries and organisations to carry out reforms meeting international standards in order to solve the obstacles being faced by the country's private sector. He made the remark at the fifth meeting of the Private Sector Development Committee at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

"The development of the private sector is vital because it makes up 90 per cent of the country's economy," said U Myint Swe, in his capacity as chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee.

Speaking at the meeting, the Vice President also disclosed

that negotiations are underway to find an export market for excessive stocks of peas and beans that resulted from the recent import restrictions by India.

The Government has formed several committees to help develop the private sector, including the Committee for Basic Human Resources Development, Committee for Sourcing of Funds, Committee for Improving the Environment for Law and Regulations, Committee for Improving Trade and Investment and the Committee for Redefining the Role of the State in the Economic and Service Sector.

The Vice President said advice given at regular meetings



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers the speech at the fifth meeting of the Private Sector Development Committee in Nay Pyi Taw, on 11 October 2017. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

with private business owners totaling 157 points have been sent to concerned ministries, region and state governments and various working committees. The aforementioned organisations have taken action on 142 of the points.

According to the World Bank Group's 2017 edition of Doing Business Report, indices has been given in 10 business areas and each country has been given rankings.

The Vice President urged ministries and organisations concerned to take responsibility for the 10 business areas and work hard to improve the ranking of the country. The 10 business areas included in the publication are starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and resolving insol-

vency.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint reported on measures to be taken for the development of the private business sector and Union Minister U Win Khaing reported on power supply sector which includes in the 10 business areas. The Vice President ended the meeting by reviewing materials discussed and then gave a closing speech.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye meets with World Food Programme Director Mr. David Kaatrud on 11 October 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds talks with WFP Director

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye met with Mr. David Kaatrud, Director, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, World Food Programme, and party at the Makhala hall of the Ministry at 9:00 am yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to undertaking of Myanmar according to new operation and strategy of the World Food Programme (WFP), raising momentum in operating the social protection, schools that feed on nutrients activities of the Ministry in cooperation with WFP, development operations and emergency assistance services, humanitarian aid in Rakhine State, upgrading programme to high-quality training in disaster preparedness sector, works relating to the rule of law in Rakhine State Affairs, humanitarian aid programmes, security issues and family reunification

matters, need for temporary storage depots for Rakhine State, democratic transition of the State and role of socio-economic development sectors.

Afterwards, the Union Minister also met with Yangon-Laiza Peace Walk Team led by U Htet Aung Lin discussed matters relating to reports concerning the Buthidaung's ground conditions, the youths to participate in humanitarian activities in Rakhine State led by the government.

Then, the Union Minister received cash assistance Ks 820,000 from officers of the training course No 14 of the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar), Zeepingyi and Ks 15,000,000 from Construction and Housing Development Bank to the displaced ethnic people who fled from the terrorist attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists and gave them the letters of appreciation.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Discussion on Rakhine State Affairs, Challenges and its Future Scenario held

THE discussion on Rakhine State affairs, challenges and its future scenario was held on 11 October 2017 at Summit Park View Hotel in Yangon aiming at the discussion to be supportive to addressing the Rakhine State affairs basing on the exchange of views without any parameter sponsored by Myanmar National Human Right Commission.

The chairman of MNHRC and members, persons with high experience on Rakhine State affairs and representatives of local NGOs took part in the discussion.

The chairman of MNHRC, U Win Mra said that participation of the experienced persons in this event was much beneficial in trying to get good advice and more comprehensive view that were vital for the success in resolving the Rakhine affairs.

In the first part, peace

and stability of Rakhine State was discussed and Vice Chairman of the commission, U Sit Myaing acted as coordinator of the event. Commission member U Yu Lwin Aung discussed about the findings during the MNHRC's trip to Rakhine State between 24.9.2017 and 29.9.2017, Chief Minister (retired) of Rakhine State, U Maung Maung Ohn discussed on the experience of implementation works on the stability and development of Rakhine State, Vice Chairman (1) of Myanmar Press Council, U Aung Hla Tun discussed on the role of media in Rakhine State affairs and the participants made questions, assessment and discussion.

In the second part, the impact of Rakhine affairs on the international relation was discussed with Commission Chair-

man, U Win Mra acting as coordinator of the event. Commission member U Nyunt Swe discussed about the relation between UN and Myanmar.

The discussions were made on relationship between Myanmar and other countries including Bangladesh by research scholar of international affairs, U Ko Ko Hlaing, on the relation between Myanmar and ASEAN/EU by member of Myanmar Strategy and International Study, U Ba Hla Aye. The participants made questions, assessment and discussion.

Then the participants made final summing-up discussions on the topics discussed and the final result will be submitted to the President's office by Myanmar National Human Right Commission, it is learnt.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Ethnic Affairs Ministry's employees receive skills for social integration

MINISTRY of Ethnic Affairs and the organization of Search for Common Ground jointly conducted a workshop to improve the efficiency of the employees of the ministry.

In his opening address at the workshop at the ministry in Nay

Pyi Taw yesterday, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin expressed his hope that the workshop would be helpful for the peace making process in the country as the employees would receive training for handling and solving conflicts by seeking the

common ground of a conflict.

Mrs Isla Glaister, Country Director of the Search for Common Ground, introduced her lecture on social integration.

Thirty trainees are attending the three-day workshop.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Bribery and Corruption, the Danger for National Security

Khin Maung Oo

NUMBERS of people who fled Rakhine State into Bangladesh are increasing. Meanwhile, our country is making arrangements to systematically accept those who will come back into the country. It has been described in the notification 11/2017 issued by Myanmar National Human Rights Commission that it needs to systematically scrutinize so as not to include those who committed crimes and ARSA extremist terrorists in accepting Bengalis who fled the region, and simultaneously to lay stress on long-lasting co-existence in resettling them. The MNHRC included those

facts in its recommendations after making investigations in the areas where conflicts took places.

Local nationals and other minority groups as well expressed their worries over potential inclusion of criminals and terrorists mixed with those who will come back. And there are also people's concerns over threats of Al Qaeda, IS and religious extremists from South East Asia.

Although we are ready to fight against any military aggressions as for our national security, we must make systematically concerted efforts to remove terrorists and criminals under the disguise of refugees out of thousands of people who will enter

the country. According a news item a foreign expert pointed out that a possible way for those kinds of people to come back into the country is none other than the way of giving a tidy fortune. We must take this fact into great consideration according to previous events.

With a view to prevent the country from the dangers of uncivilized intruders, successive Chinese rulers built up the world-famous Great Wall by taking many years.

It was great and strengthened so much so that it was wide enough to drive fast a chariot in some places on the wall. Yet, there were many intrusions through the Great Wall

throughout their history. We had ever noted that such incidents were especially caused by internal traitors who exercised bribery and corruption. We must take a lesson from this example that a breach of the national security can happen at any time on account of such betrayals how much a wall is fortified.

Last but not least, we hereby call for all our citizens full of patriotism and nationalism to monitor, find out and get rid of potential entry of extremist terrorists in various forms of disguise with the intention of creating destructive and terrorist attacks in the country, every time and everywhere. ■

INTERNATIONAL Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ICESCR is one of the core International Human Rights Treaties. In December 1966, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the historic convention namely ICESCR and in force form January 1976. ICESCR is part of the International Bill of Human Rights along with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UDHR and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ICCPR.

The ICESCR defines a broad set of rights related to the economic, social, and cultural elements of life and it includes the rights to decent work, an adequate standard of living, housing, food, water and sanitation, social security, health, and education. Indeed it recognizes the rights of all people to self determination, pursue their economic, social and cultural goals, and manage and dispose of their own resources. Thus ICESCR always stand as essential as the freedom of expression or the right to a fair trial for ensuring human dignity.

Like other human rights, economic, social and cultural rights are the birth right of every human being. A child excluded from primary school because of school fees, a woman paid less than her male colleague for the same work, a person in a wheel chair unable to enter a theatre because there is no ramp, a man refused emergency medical care on account of his migrant status, an artist whose work is publicly distorted, these all are examples of individuals denied their economic, social and cultural rights.

Myanmar signed the ICESCR in July 2015. Two years and three months later on 6 October 2017, Myanmar ratified the ICESCR according to Ministry of Foreign Affairs Myanmar. What a great news to us as ratification the ICESCR means State guarantee

What a great news, Myanmar ratified the ICESCR

Dr. Khine Khine Win

its citizens the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights without discrimination and to ensure the equal right of man and woman to the enjoyment of these rights. State must prohibit discrimination in, for instance health care, education and workplace.

There are a number of clear benefits to the wider human rights movement if States ratify the core treaties. According to the UN data, a total of 164 countries have already ratified the ICESCR. Myanmar now became the State Party of ICESCR and this is the fourth International human rights treaty ratified by Myanmar out of nine International Human Rights Treaties. What I believe is that the most important benefit of ratification human rights treaty is the actual improvement in the human rights of individuals and groups in the ratifying State. Greater realization of human rights has the potential to empower the disadvantaged and marginalized, and contribute to a more just, inclusive and fair society. Ultimately, a State with a strong commitment to human rights is likely to be a State that is well-governed, secure and stable. Let me proudly say, ICESCR ratification is a mile stone for us, for our country.

In order to assume all monitoring functions of the implementations of ICESCR, there is committee on Economic, Social and Cultural rights. It is the body of 18 independent experts that monitors the implementation of ICESCR. All States parties are obliged to submit regular reports to the Committee on how the rights are being implemented. States must report initially within two years of accepting the Covenant and thereafter every five years. The Committee examines each report and addresses its concerns and recommendations to the State party in the form of "concluding observations".

Actually, State has the primary role to respect, protect and fulfill of human rights of its citizens, other various actor including NHRIs, CSOs also have important role to realizing the economic, social and cultural rights. In addition, different State organs (the legislature, the executive and the judiciary) also play the role on human rights including economic, social and cultural rights. They all need to work together to implement the ICESCR.

As we noted, human rights are crucial to development and economic, social and cultural rights are fundamental to development. Nowadays,

many Nations in the world have been implementing the 2030 agenda for sustainable development goals with different strategies and plans. The SDGs provide an appropriate framework for advocating and implementing economic, social and cultural rights within an overall approach to sustainable development which enhances economic prosperity, promotes social equity and facilitates the expression of cultural identity. Implementing SDGs successfully means implementing the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights of people, no doubt. We want development without discrimination.

In conclusion, I myself happily welcome Myanmar ratification of the ICESCR being the citizen of Myanmar as economic, social and cultural rights address the livelihood of all Myanmar people and it provide guidance to government on interpretations of rights enshrined in the ICESCR articles. It is really great news to us. ■

ICESCR means State guarantee its citizens the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights without discrimination and to ensure the equal right of man and woman to the enjoyment of these rights.

Order No.75/2017 establishing the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State was issued on 12 September 2017. Thereafter, Order No.83/2017 enlarging the membership was subsequently issued on 9 October 2017. The Terms of Reference of the two orders are identical. The following is the official translation of Order No.83/2017.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order No.83/2017

4th Waning of Thadingyut 1379 ME
(9 October 2017)

Establishment of the Committee for Implementation
of the Recommendations on Rakhine State

1. In order to implement the report of the Maungdaw Region Investigation Commission and the recommendations contained in the final report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State has been established with the following persons:
- | | |
|---|----------------|
| (a) Union Minister | Chairman |
| Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement | |
| (b) Chief Minister | Joint Chairman |
| Rakhine State Government | |
| (c) Deputy Minister | Vice Chairman |
| Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor | |
| (d) Permanent Secretary | Member |
| Union Government Office | |
| (e) Permanent Secretary | Member |
| Ministry of Home Affairs | |
| (f) Permanent Secretary | Member |
| Ministry of Information | |
| (g) Permanent Secretary | Member |
| Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture | |
| (h) Permanent Secretary | Member |
| Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation | |
| (i) Permanent Secretary | Member |
| Ministry of Transport and Communications | |
| (j) Permanent Secretary | Member |
| Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population | |
| (k) Permanent Secretary | Member |
| Ministry of Education | |
| (l) Permanent Secretary | Member |
| Ministry of Health and Sports | |
| (m) Permanent Secretary | Member |
| Ministry of Construction | |
| (n) Chief of Police | Member |
| Myanmar Police Force | |
| Ministry of Home Affairs | |
| (o) Managing Director | Member |
| Electricity Supply Enterprise | |
| Ministry of Electricity and Energy | |
| (p) Acting Director-General | Member |
| Administration and Finance Department | |
| Office of the President | |
| (q) Deputy Minister | Secretary |

Ministry of Border Affairs
(r) Deputy Minister
Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
Joint Secretary

2. The duties of the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State are as follows:
- (a) To effectively and beneficially implement the recommendations of the Maungdaw Region Investigation Commission and the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State based on the situation on the ground;
 - (b) To work towards ensuring the rule of law, peace and stability and peaceful coexistence among different communities;
 - (c) To draw and implement a strategic plan for the enhancement of security and speedy development of economic and social sectors in Rakhine State;
 - (d) To ensure the sustainability of ethnic villages and to work towards the closure of IDP camps;
 - (e) To formulate and implement necessary policies to develop infrastructure and to create more job opportunities in order to prevent the migration of local people;
 - (f) To prioritize efforts on ensuring that the area is free from terrorists attacks and the scourge of narcotic drugs;
 - (g) To manage the allocation of humanitarian aid and relief supplies provided by local and international organizations in accordance with the policy adopted by the State;
 - (h) To expedite the process of granting citizenship to those who qualify under the 1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law and to speed up the National Verification Process;
 - (i) To manage the expeditious implementation of tasks for ensuring that all communities in Rakhine State have equal access to education and health care services regardless of citizenship, religion, race and sex;
 - (j) The progress report regarding the status of the Committee's implementation shall be made public every four months;
3. The office of the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State shall be established and all expenses of the Committee shall be borne by the funds from the Office of the President.
4. The Office of the President and Rakhine State Government shall provide necessary security and administrative assistance to the Committee in the discharge of its duties.
5. An advisory committee will be formed with local and international experts and experienced individuals to provide necessary advice for the effective implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State based on the situation on the ground. A separate order for the establishment of the advisory committee will be issued.

(sd) Htin Kyaw
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Senior General receives American Ambassador

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Services received Mr Scot Alan Marciel, American Ambassador to Myanmar yesterday morning at the Zeya Thiri Bhimman Guest House on Kone Myint Thar, Yangon.

During the meeting, they discussed the Rakhine State issue.

Also present at the meeting together with the Senior General was senior military officers from the the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army).

In the afternoon, the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services visited Telecom International Myanmar Co., Ltd, (MyTel) in Dagon Township.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talk with Mr Scot Alan Marciel, American Ambassador to Myanmar in Yangon PHOTO: MNA