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Foreign interference in Rakhine doesn't work: China

China supports the Myanmar's government's efforts in safeguarding peace and stability and would not join other countries in condemning what many term a campaign of "ethnic cleansing" against Muslims, an official with the ruling Chinese Communist

Party said yesterday.

"Based on experience, you can see recently the consequences when one country interferes in another. We won't do it," said Guo Yezhou, a deputy head of the Chinese Communist Party's international depart-

ment. He told this to reporters on the sidelines of a party congress.

China believes that Myanmar's government and people can handle its problems on its own and are "capable of handling" the situation without out-

side help, Guo said.

"China and Myanmar are friendly, neighbouring countries joined by rivers and mountains. China will be affected if there's any unstable situation in Myanmar," he added.

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A harvester in a paddy field in Kangyidauk, Ayeyawady Delta. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

IRRI research project works to improve rice yields

AN Australian-funded five-year research project led by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Myanmar is working to improve local rice farmers' ability to adapt to agricultural challenges and respond

to market opportunities.

Through the Australian Government's Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), the MYRice project is working to transform the rice sector of low-

er Myanmar — the Ayeyawady and Bago regions — that account for more than half of the total rice-harvested areas in the country. By releasing new rice varieties and developing the capacity of local farmers, re-

searchers, and extension staff, the IRRI project has helped increase the productivity and income of small farmers, as well as foster greater overall participation by all stakeholders.

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Meeting on implementation of humanitarian assistance in Rakhine

A MEETING on the systematic implementation of a humanitarian assistance project by the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) was held yesterday morning at the Yangon Region Relief and Resettlement Department, at which Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye delivered a speech.

The Union Minister said the UEHRD Committee was formed with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as chairperson to cooperate and participate in multi-sector works for Rakhine State development. The work processes will be conducted country wide with government, state government and people working together in unity, the Union Minister said.

"The Rakhine State affair is the whole country's affair. The view of many countries in the world is negative toward our country, and the international view and the event on the ground

needs to be well understood. That is why the Rakhine State Advisory Commission was formed. Humanitarian assistance will be provided utilising the internal strength of the country", Dr Win Myat Aye said.

The Union Minister said the young people of the country will be essential in implementing the project.

"Resettlement will be systematically conducted by the government. The youth sector is important in development, and systematic work will be conducted according to the law to prevent conflicts from occurring again in the future. Work will be done for the two societies to live harmoniously. The above mentioned work will be conducted successfully by using the strength and forces of the youth. There is a need to reduce the psychological effects and feelings in providing humanitarian assistance. Works were done for peace and tranquillity in the society".

The Union Minister added that there is a need to collect

information from villages, and then explained about distributing humanitarian assistance.

The youth humanitarian co-ordination group then explained about the plan on assisting and participating in one of UEHRD's work processes of humanitarian assistance. The Union Minister and Deputy Minister further explained the plan.

It was decided at the meeting to immediately form youth groups, with each group consisting of 20 youths to provide humanitarian assistance directly to affected families in Rakhine State. Each group will conduct 20 days of humanitarian assistance work. The meeting was attended by the Union Minister, Deputy Minister, Yangon Region hluttaw representative, director generals, representatives of Ayeyawady Foundation, Youth incharges from National League for Democracy, Youth humanitarian coordination group, Youth Social Group and Yangon Youth Policy. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Nine private sector task forces formed to participate in UEHRD programme

NINE task forces were formed at a meeting yesterday held at the UMFCCI headquarters chaired by Dr. Aung Tun Thet, chief coordinator of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD). The meeting was attended by representatives of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries (UMFCCI) and affiliated associations.

The task forces were formed for sectors in which the respective associations possess special expertise, officials said.

For the political and social development of the country, the private sector reviewed the important and urgent works required in Rakhine State. The nine task forces were formed by combining the strength of private businesses to assist sector-wise in the reconstruction and development of Rakhine State, it is learnt.

The nine task forces were: Construction and Infrastructure; Agriculture and livestock breeding; Economic Zones Development; Information and Public Relations; Job creation and Vocational Training; Healthcare; Micro-financing; Fund raising through crowd-funding; and Tourism promotion. In addition to the immediate works in Rakhine State of resettlement and hu-

manitarian assistance, the groups will set up long-term and short-term plans to increase trade and investment for establishing businesses and creating job opportunities.

Preliminary work of the groups to set up policies for effectively implementing the work, selecting members, assigning duties and responsibilities will be conducted quickly and submitted to UEHRD at a private sector meeting to be held on Wednesday 25 October for confirmation, it is learnt.

After this, work group members, representatives of UMFCCI and affiliated associations will visit Rakhine State in the last week of October to conduct a study on preliminary requirements.

A group to coordinate and lead all the groups cooperating with UEHRD will be formed and UMFCCI President U Zaw Min Win invited private businesses and Myanmar businesses to contribute their professional expertise in the various sectors, it is learnt.

"We will show that private businesses can develop Rakhine State despite all the difficulties. Various platforms such as the internet, mobile phones and social media will be used for businesses and people of the entire country to participate" said Dr. Aung Tun Thet. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye addresses the meeting on implementation of humanitarian assistance projected by UEHRD in Rakhine. **PHOTO: MNA**

Second Intha National Day held

THE second Intha National Day was held on the hill of Inlay Hpaung Daw Oo pagoda in Nyaung Shwe, Southern Shan State yesterday morning.

Forty-eight boats rowed in a performance that paid homage to the Pagoda prior to the ceremony that began with In Yoe Yar traditional dances.

Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung then gave a welcoming speech,

followed by U Nay Myo, Nyaung Shwe Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative, reading the message of Intha National Day sent by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint.

The national day message sent by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than was read by Nyaung Shwe constituency 1 state Hluttaw representative U Khin Maung Win.

In attendance at the ceremony were the Deputy Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung, the Shan State Chief Minister and state ministers, representatives from the Hluttaw, ethnic literature and cultural groups, social societies and local residents. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Foreign interference ...

FROM PAGE 1

Mr. Guo also said that China's principle was not to interfere in the internal affairs of another country when asked why China's approach to the crisis in northern Rakhine was different from Western nations.

U.N. officials have described Myanmar's strategy as "ethnic cleansing", U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said on Wednesday.

Myanmar's National Security Advisor has urged the UN and international communities not to use the terms "ethnic cleansing" and "genocide" lightly regarding the issues in northern Rakhine State.

He made the remark at the meeting on the Situation in

Myanmar in the United Nations Security Council on 28th September in New York, after the terms were used in statements made by the UN Secretary-General and representatives of the member states of the council.

"There is no ethnic cleansing and genocide in Myanmar. Ethnic cleansing and genocide are serious charges and they should not be used lightly. It would be a sad commentary of our times if we allowed emotions to cloud over and assert that what is happening in Rakhine is ethnic cleansing without first undertaking a legal review and making a judicial determination," said U Thaung Tun, National Security Advisor.—GNLM—GNLM ■



File photo shows an aerial view of downtown Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Apartments with rental prices of Ks100,000 in high demand in Yangon

APARTMENTS with monthly rental prices of around Ks100,000 are in high demand in the commercial city of Yangon in the post-Thadingyut period, according to a report of the Myawady Daily issued on Saturday.

Local real estate agents say that the rental market booms after Thadingyut festival, especially in Hlinethaya, Shwepyitha, Dagon Myothit (South), Dagon Myothit (North) and other peri-urban areas, as the majority of potential renters sought

new accommodations away from downtown. According to the property agents, the rental prices of apartments in downtown still remains high, resulting in a decrease of rent market activity. Nyan Tun Lynn from Tainglonkyaw real estate services agency said it is his view that tenants are looking uptown because of the high rental rates in the downtown area. The rental market plays a crucial part in the smooth operation of property market, he added. In sub-urban areas,

the top-floor apartments have been rented for a monthly payment of Ks80,000 while rent for a third-floor apartment in the same area is around Ks100,000. Renters mostly make three-month or six-month rental contracts. In Latha, Lanmadaw, Pabedan, Kyauktada, Botahtaung and Pazundaung townships in downtown Yangon, the monthly rental fee for an apartment is between Ks150,000 and Ks600,000, said U Myint Lwin, a property agent.—GNLM ■

Import value goes up by \$1.5 bn in current FY

THE TOTAL import value reached US\$9.272 billion in the current financial year, \$1.5 bn more than that of the same period of last year, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

Between 1 April and 6 October, Myanmar bought \$3.379 bn worth of capital goods, \$3.577 bn worth of intermediate goods and \$2.316 bn worth of consumer goods from foreign trade partners, largely from its neighbours. According to the ministry's statistics, the import

value by government sector amounted to \$509 million while the private sector imported a wide range of products worth \$8.763 bn.

This fiscal year saw a decrease in import value of capital goods by the private sector.

The sector imported capital goods worth \$3.109 bn, a decrease in value of \$105 mn matched against the last FY.

This time last year, import value totaled \$7.717 bn, including \$201 million from the gov-

ernment sector and \$7.516 bn from the private sector, with the country importing \$3.231 bn worth of capital goods, \$2.556 bn worth of intermediate goods and \$1.873 bn worth of consumer goods. Medicines, personal goods, farming machinery, household goods, construction materials, foodstuffs, luxury products, automobiles and electronic devices have chiefly been imported from Southeast Asia, Asia, Africa, Europe and Western states.—Shwe Khine ■

Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade shows increase of \$4.7 mn

DESPITE the decrease in value of border import, Myanmar-Bangladesh total border trade this fiscal year increased by over \$4.7 million against the last FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Bilateral trade of the two countries totalled US\$9.939 mn in over first half of FY2017-18, with the exports exceeding the

imports by \$9.897 mn. From 1 April to 3 October of this year, trade through Maungtaung earned \$2.06 mn while trade from the Sittway border point was valued at \$2.645 mn. Ginger, peanuts, mung bean, dried plums, garlic, rice, saltwater prawn and fish, bamboo, blankets, candy, plum jam and footwear are included on the list of main export items

at Myanmar-Bangladesh borders.

Myanmar's international trade through sea routes accounted for 80 per cent of the total, and the rest was conducted via border gates.

The country conducts its border trade with neighbouring countries via 16 land border gates.—Swe Nyein ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့စဉ်: **"Sunday Special"** အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈)
မျက်နှာပေါင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar
နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကိုအောက်ပါမြို့များတွင်ဖုန်းနံပါတ်ဖြင့်

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Independent journalists visit troubled areas in Maungdaw

Three dead, one hurt in IED explosion in Maungdaw Tsp

"Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာပေါင်သော

နေပြည်တော်: မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့်ရေဒီယိုဌာနမှ ရုံးအမှတ် (၇) နေပြည်တော်၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ စီမံခန့်ခွဲရာဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၄၁၂၁၁၈

နေပြည်တော်: နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)၊ ယောက္ခဦးမြန်းလမ်း၊ ခရိုင်လမ်းခွက၊ နေပြည်တော်၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၆၇၃၆၁၂၉

ရန်ကုန်: The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၁၀၆၀၄၅၃၂၊ ၀၉၅၇၄၄၂၄၁၁၄

ပုသိမ်: လမ်း (၂၁ x ၂၁) ကြား၊ (၁၂ x ၈၃) လမ်းကြား၊ ပုလဲဇွေရောင်ရမ်းမန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၉၊ ၀၂၃၂၅၅၀

တောင်ကြီး: ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၀၂၁၁၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၃၅၇

မကွေး: နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ချေးအနီး၊ မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၇၇၁၂

တနင်္သာရီ: မြို့သစ် (၃-၈)၊ အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းဆုံလမ်း၊ မြို့နယ်လမ်း၊ ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၄၉၂

ကလေး: အောင်ဇေယျရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊ ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

မြင်းခြံနား: အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေချစ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြင်းခြံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

ဝေဇွေ: ရွှေဝတ်လမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊ မီးခတ်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်ကျည်မြို့ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဝေဇွေမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး: ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာထိပ်၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊ (၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆူဘုရားရှေ့၊ အဝေရာလမ်း၊ လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၄၀၆၇

ခြင်း: မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းရောင်းရမ်း၊ ကလွင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊ ခြင်းမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၈၃

မော်လမြိုင်: ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇၂၇၂၆

ပုဏ္ဏား: နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတပ်မတော်အနီး၊ ပုဏ္ဏားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၅၊ ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၃

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Voices from donation ceremony for UEHRD



Dr. Aung Tun Thet. PHOTO: MNA



U Zaw Htay PHOTO: MNA



Dr. Khin Shwe. PHOTO: MNA

ACEREMONY to donate money for the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) was held yesterday morning at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre, where State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi accepted Ks17.77 billion donated by businesspersons.

The following are the words of donors and officials who were at the ceremony.

Dr. Aung Tun Thet,
Chief Coordinator

“Our country can develop only through balanced cooperation of government, civil society organisations and private sectors. Today’s ceremony was held to honour the formation of a committee on Rakhine State and the implementation of a project as well as to honour the donors. Donation can be in any form. It can be in cash, in technology, even in a form of moral support. If we want our country to develop, succeed and be peaceful, people can donate what they can while businesses donate. We all need to try. At this age, while people are connected via internet facebook, can’t the people be organised through this? We are thinking about it. We need to thank today’s donors and recognise their ‘ce-

tana’.

We have a population of 51 million. If each of the 51 million donates a hundred, thousand, ten thousand, the total will be substantial. It will not only be for development of the Rakhine region, but for development of the whole country. It will show support to the new government.

As the donors are honoured, others will be enticed to step forward and do likewise. The amount is not important in donating. I would like to tell youths to come together and help in this technically advanced age. We understand that youths wouldn’t have much money. But they have strong wills. Another important thing is to change the mindset. For the country to be peaceful, it must start with you yourself being peaceful. For yourself to be peaceful, all the youths need to have good will toward one another. They need to have patience with one another and must understand each other. Today’s work is the start of this journey. Look at how happy this occasion is. The other day, donors turn up immediately after Daw Aung San Suu Kyi opened the event.

As people watch this on TV, we hope to have more donations. Some youth may feel bad and insecure for being unable to donate money because

they don’t have income. No, they can participate. For example, they can do so by their writings, by their thoughts.

When a person faces difficulty, it is a time of opportunity for that person. Difficulties faced by our country in the Rakhine region is an opportunity for our country. Don’t think of today’s donations being made by a single donor or an entity. This is solving on our own the problem the country is facing. It doesn’t mean we don’t need help from abroad. But the strength of a country lies within the country. This strength is not only the strength of the rich people or businesses. It is the strength of all the people. Every one of us needs to donate more or less within this week. We will use Facebook to make donations. People can individually say I can do this. Or I’ll do this in education, health etc. We want such responses”.

U Zaw Htay,
Director General,
Ministry of State
Counsellor’s Office

“I hosted a dinner where businesses were invited. They pledged to help. After their pledge, we arranged this donation ceremony. We explained about the programmes we will conduct in northern Rakhine State. They responded by offering to help in any way they could.

There are three priority programmes. First is repatriation and resettlement. Second is reconstruction. Third is development. In her speech, the State Counsellor spoke of development and long-term avoidance of conflicts. The enterprise will conduct all three programmes. There is a central committee for the Rakhine region. It was formed to find a long term solution for Rakhine State. Meanwhile, as the events of 9 October 2016 and 25 August 2017 unfolded, additional committees required were formed. The committee of Dr. Win Myat Aye is to specifically implement the suggestions of two Rakhine commissions, the Kofi Annan Commission and the commission of Vice President U Myint Swe. There is a Central Committee. Above it all, the international community is insisting on involvement in using their money. For example, UN organisations and INGOs are proposing to participate. Businesses and people are offering to participate. On top of it, the State Counsellor assessed the situation and formed an enterprise to involve local, foreign and government in the matter.

Priority works conducted by each committee are different from one another. A substantial amount was budgeted by

the government. On top of this, the intention was to conduct an international-level of work and thus donations were being accepted. The guideline of the State Counsellor was to have a border fence of international standard. We will strive toward this.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister and party will come on 23 October. There will be a meeting with Myanmar Minister for Home Affairs and high ranking officials on 23 October. Ministerial level meeting will be held on 24 October. When Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe went to Bangladesh, the discussion was based on the 1993 agreement. Based on this, Bangladesh made an agreement proposal. Our government had two meetings on this and the second one was held yesterday. A final draft was achieved. This had been submitted to the State Counsellor. Amendments made by the State Counsellor will be finalised when the Bangladesh minister visits. Based on the discussion, an agreement will be signed. Discussions need to be made with Bangladesh on the terms and conditions of accepting repatriation. Once the agreement is signed, there’ll be a time frame for repatriation. We have a list made by Rakhine State government. There is also a list of the remaining people.

Comparing these lists, there is a difference to the UNHCR’s announcement of more than 500,000 to 600,000. All will be reviewed. After the review, the repatriation will be as conducted in 1993. Once the review is conducted, the number to be accepted will be known. Special funds, as well as ordinary budget is used. Donations will also be used.”

Dr. Khin Shwe,
Businessman

I put up Ks1 billion. My daughter put up Ks350 million. U Aung Ko Win put in Ks3 billion. U Kyaw Win Ks1 billion. Rakhine State must be defended. Arrangements to raise chickens, pigs, ducks, goats and cows need to be made for the livelihood of the people in the region. Factories and garment factories need to be constructed. Infrastructure is another thing. The Mayyu Mountain range is difficult to cross. Roads need to be laid.

The government needs money to do this on its own. Businesses are in this on the same page as the government. Democracy must not be lost. So is the Rakhine region and border land at the border with Bangladesh. The government needs to set up firm plans and all have a plan to work together starting from the required money”.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Infinite strength of inter-faith prayers

Khin Maung Oo

IN Regions, States and cities across the nation, Peace Prayer Ceremonies of Inter-Faiths groups are being held. These ceremonies are being celebrated with a view to developing peace and prosperity in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and all its citizens, in accord with their respective religious traditions.

The State acknowledges Buddhism as a religion which is well-endowed with characteristics of value for most of the people to profess, with Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism recognized as existing religions for respective believers to worship. In other words, Myanmar,

our country is a nation with freedom to believe or worship, not mixing politics and religion. In the 2008 Constitution, it is strictly prescribed, "The abuse of religion for political purposes is forbidden. Moreover, any act which is intended or likely to promote feelings of hatred, enmity or discord between racial or religious communities or sect is contrary to this Constitution. A law may be promulgated to punish such activity."

However, with regard to the events in Maungtau in northern Rakhine State, some propagandists and agitators have been found to have spread fabricated news and rumors by shouting, "Stop Killing Muslims in Burma",

alleging that Muslims who profess Islam were being slaughtered in Myanmar. These slogans were designed for Islamic countries and Muslims across the world to feel hatred and get upset over Myanmar. We, the people of Myanmar are well convinced that these are not actual truths, but just fake propaganda.

Most of the people in Myanmar are Buddhists but we have been living cordially together with Christians, Muslims and Hindus for several thousand years. Being those who share the same land for food and shelter, we have a strong background history and we have faced difficulties through weal or woe in national affairs. Without any external

interference, different faiths and races will never be the cause for conflicts. Buddha's Teachings do not encourage bullying those who are weaker than us. These facts can be known to be true by studying Myanmar History and History of Buddhism. At such a time when international pressures is being applied unprecedentedly on our Government and our State Leaders with false allegations, we, the citizens of Myanmar need to send our prayers for the peace and prosperity in our country. We firmly believe that our prayers will surely have infinite impact on the nation. May all the citizens of Myanmar be filled with love for each other and may truth and justice prevail. ■

THE uprooted corruption in Myanmar is one of the issues or challenges for the democratic government. Until 2012, the corruption was rife in Myanmar. The notoriety of corruption tarnished the image of country and the general public disgusted the people in authority or in power. Thus, there had been lack of trust and cooperation between the public and the corrupt regimes in the last two decades. During the eras of the succeeding regimes, Myanmar had been notorious for the prevalence of malfeasance, malpractice and corruption among the public officials or public servants.

Actually malfeasance and malpractice are related to acts of bribery and corruption. In other words, they all are immoral, illegal and unfair practices. Public were reluctant to deal with public officials whenever they wanted to get access the public services. Bribery and corruption were blatantly practiced in various government offices and organizations. From top to bottom layer of hierarchy, almost every official was corrupt to some degree. The reason why they became corrupt personnel was that their salaries or wages were too low to tackle the skyrocketing prices of commodities and rising cost of living. Then they committed corruption when they were in authority. In spite of knowing that it is the violation of the public servant ethics, the corrupt public officials did not care the potential punishment by law or dismissal. At that time, rule of law was totally ignored by the corrupt officials. Even when the public lodged complaints against the officials for the bribery and corruption, the punitive action was not given to the corrupt officials. The general public have bitterly encountered the corrupt public services personnel and delayed services. Moreover, public had to go

through endless bureaucratic red tape to get some official permit or approval for doing legal business or trade.

Those who committed malfeasance, malpractice and corruption are in the administration or in the position of power. Some people in their profession commit malpractice as well. Obviously, their behavior and acts made the ordinary people troublesome and caused serious impediment to the socio-economic development. All those involved in corruption must be brought to justice for the violation of law and abuse of power indeed. During the eras of the succeeding of the regimes, rule of law was totally neglected and the judicial system was influenced by the regimes.

N.B. The Penal Code, enacted in 1861 is still in effect till now. "Of Offences By or Related to Public Servants" have been described from section 161 to 171 in Chapter IX in the Penal Code. These offences are related to corruption committed by Public servants. However, corruption has not been eradicated and it impeded economic growth badly.

As a result, people became

Eradicating corruption in Myanmar

By: Tommy Pauk

hapless and hopeless for choosing the incorruptible administrators and clean government. People were inclined to replace the corrupt administrators with the righteous ones by any means.

Now, people's desires for smooth transition, rights of democracy, good governance and clean government are being fulfilled by the democratically elected government. Furthermore, the Anti-Corruption Law had been enacted in 2013 and the Anti-Corruption Commission was formed in August 2013 in order to investigate and prosecute the violations of Myanmar Anti-Corruption Law. The Anti-Corruption Commission investigates allegations of corruption involving public officials. In addition, the Anti-Corruption Commission takes legal action against those who commits or attempts or abets any offences contained in the Anti-Corruption Law. Anti-Corruption Commission's motto is "No corruption for Prosperous Nation" and it is performing its duties and functions properly. People are also exhorted to give correct information and complaints with sufficient evidence to the Anti-Corruption Commission

whenever they encounter corruption in the public services sector. The Anti-Corruption Commission receives the complaints and information in respect to bribery and corruption. Due to effective manner of the Anti-Corruption Commission and the people's participation in combating corruption, public sector corruption cases have dramatically declined in Myanmar.

According to Transparency International's "Corruption Perceptions Index of 2014 Results", Myanmar had been ranked 156 out of 174 countries. As of Transparency International's "Corruption Perceptions Index of 2015 Results", Myanmar was ranked 147 out of 167 countries. Then, as of Transparency International's "Corruption Perceptions Index of 2016" Results, Myanmar was ranked 136 out of 176 countries. These ranks indicate that Myanmar has been combating corruption in the country effectively with the Anti-Corruption Law (2013).

Eradicating corruption in Myanmar is considered a national task. Myanmar must try to regain good reputation as a corruption-free country so that it can build up economic growth. People, government, law enforcement and the Anti-Corruption Commission are responsible for eradicating corruption in Myanmar. The functions and duties performed by the Anti-Corruption Commission are encouraging. The citizens appreciate its performance indeed. In conclusion, we Myanmar people ought to work together with the present government to tackle the corruption problem and ought not to encourage corruption!

Resources: Transparency International, Myanmar Penal Code (1861), the Myanmar Anti-Corruption Law (2013).