

Unity, Peace and Development

THE Ethnic Sustainable Development Forum was held on 18th January 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw. The forum was held with the aim of discussing about ethnic affairs and regional development. This being so, it cannot be assumed that this forum is concerned with the frontier areas only. In fact, it is concerned with the entire nation and all the people of Myanmar.

All the national ethnic races have been co-existing here in Myanmar, a sovereign nation—on the same land made up of hilly regions, the main land, river basins, coastal areas and delta areas, which are designated as Regions and States. Accordingly, all these Regions and States are concerned with the Union-born nationals such

as Kachin, Kayah, Kay-in, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan.

In solving the problems of lagging behind in development as well, we will be able to create better results and a better future, provided that we must exert our concerted efforts with unity and strength, based upon positive thinking, right attitude, vision and our own firm stance.

At the above forum, U Henry Van Thio, the Vice-President said, “The Union Government is prioritizing implementation of regional peace and stability in the areas where the ethnic nationals are living. In some cases we have to proceed forward based on our similarities by setting aside different ideas and visions. Co-operation can be made, in spite of difference. Unity can be established in the midst of dissimilarities. The most important thing is to build up national peace. Only if good governance, correct instructions and just and fair administration can be accomplished together with peace, will we achieve national development. Then, we

will see all our people enjoy the fruits of peace. Regional peace and stability will bring about the socio-economic development of the region.”

Sustainable development of the national ethnic races is concerned with the whole nation and all our Union nationals. Yet, we are required to prioritize the tasks of bringing about development for our brethren national people and their regions that are lagging much behind in development. The main cause of challenges our country is now facing is none other than lagging behind in development in every sector. In a family, considerable inconveniences can cause consecutive problems and hardships in it, so also in a nation. In solving the problems of lagging behind in development as well, we will be able to create better results and a better future, provided that we must exert our concerted efforts with unity and strength, based upon positive thinking, right attitude, vision and our own firm stance. ■

A Glimpse of High Treason and Loyalty to the Nation

By Maung Sarga

PRESENTLY, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar constitutes respective Hluttaws/Parliaments seated by People’s representatives/parliamentarians elected by our entire national populace. Under the leadership of people’s representatives, the country is making its concerted efforts to reach the state of multi-development, by exercising 3 panels of the national sovereignty—legislative, executive and judicial powers, with the systematic manipulation, with a view to bringing about the eternal peace of the country through the national unity.

Every citizen must be loyal to their nation and the national people. Instead, if they are disloyal to the country, it is tantamount to betrayal of the people. Had a person been disloyal to the country he might have a tendency to make a revolt to his country. In case he will make an attempt to stage a revolt to the country, he will surely be sued and punished under the case of High Treason. Here, let me share a brief account of knowledge on high treason.

Meaning of high treason

In section 121 [1] of the Penal Code, the meaning of high treason

is defined as follows:

Whoever wages war against the Union of Myanmar or any constituent unit thereof, or assists any State or a person or incites or conspires with any person within or without the Union to wage war against the Union or any constituent unit thereof, or attempts or otherwise prepares by force of arms of other violent means to overthrow the organs of the Union or of its constituent units established by the Constitution, or takes part or is concerned in or incites or conspires with any person within or without the Union to make or to take part or be concerned in any such attempt shall be guilty of the offence of High Treason.

In studying the prescriptions of the section, 4 particulars can be found but the first three can be categorized into one group and the last one into another, thus mainly into two groups.

Penalty for the offence

Concerning penalty to be punished over the person who commits the offence of High Treason, it is strictly prescribed as follows:

122 (1) Whoever commits High Treason within the Union of Myanmar shall be punished with death

or transportation for life/20 years of imprisonment.

122 (2) Whoever, being a citizen of the Union of Myanmar or ordinarily resident within the Union, commits High Treason outside the Union shall be punished with death or 20 years of imprisonment.

Tracing the background history

To make offence of waging a war, inciting or conspiring against the Union, or any constituent more convinced, here is the section 121 of 1860 Indian Penal Code under the title of “Waging or attempting to wage or abetting waging of war, against the Government of India.”

Whoever wages war against the [Government of India], or attempts to wage such war, or abets the waging of such war, shall be punished with death, or [imprisonment of life] [and shall also be liable to fine.]

The prescription under section 121, detailed explanation has been given.

[A] Concerning waging wars there include kind of waging a war in the nation or advancement of forces from

After gaining Myanmar’s Independence, it was found that High Treason Act, 1948 [Act no/14, 1948] was enacted. With the explanations of the offences of high treason, the act had been promulgated as it was of great need for the enactment of penalties for those who committed, abetted or conspired concerning the offences.

an alien country as well as the ones outside the country.

[B] Concerning the validity of the offence, there is no restriction about numbers of those involved in the attempt. Attempts are valid regardless of arms and ammunitions, outfits, drums and fife band, flags or leading ones.

According to the prescription of the initially enacted penal code, it is found that those who just made only conspires cannot be punished, apart from those who conspired and abetted. Accordingly, for making punishment of those involved in attempted offences valid the following message had been included in the Indian Penal Code Amendment Act [27 Of 1870] saying “Anyone who committed or conspired or abetted or attempted the offences punishable under section 121 of the penal code in or outside India territory is required to be sentenced to death or life imprisonment.

Enactment of special law

After gaining Myanmar’s Independence, it was found that High Treason Act, 1948 [Act no/14, 1948] was enacted. With the explanations of the offence

of high treason, the act had been promulgated as it was of great need for the enactment of penalties for those who committed, abetted or conspired concerning the offences.

1. The act shall be known as Act on High Treason.
2. Whoever wages war against the Union of Myanmar or any constituent unit thereof, or any State or a person or incites or conspires with any person within or without the Union to wage war against the Union or any constituent unit thereof, or attempts or otherwise prepares by force of arms of other violent means to overthrow the organs of the Union or of its constituent units established by the Constitution, or takes part or is concerned in or incites or conspires with any person within or without the Union to make or to take part or be concerned in any such attempt shall be guilty of the offence of High Treason.

[1] Whoever commits High Treason within the Union of Myanmar shall be punished with death sentence.

[2] Whoever, being a citizen of the Union of Myanmar or

ordinarily resident within the Union, commits High Treason outside the Union shall be punished with death sentence.

Inclusion of high treason act into the penal code

Though the high treason act, 1948 was separately enacted under act 14 of 1948, it was re-included in the Penal Code under act 20 of 1950. In brief, evidently enough, it is valid as the offence of high treason even if anyone made conspires to disintegrate the Union or any parts of the Union.

As the emergence of such a law is of great importance for the country throughout the history, it had been enacted since time many years ago.

Anyone who commits the offence must be severely punished. Even a hint of such an intention to do so should not be conceived in our minds, and it is of great vitality for us to abide by rules and to be loyal to the country.

May all the citizens contribute our physical and mental labors for the nation and the entire populace, being loyal to our mother land. ■

Translated by
Khin Maung Oo

Myanmar farmers gain knowledge on laser levelling

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) funded project, Closing the Rice Yield Gap with Reduced Environmental Footprint project (CORIGAP), conducted a basic operator’s training and demonstration of laser-assisted land levelling technology in Letpadan, Bago Region Myanmar. More than 80 farmers were given first hand experience in using laser land levelling technology

LEVELLING rice fields reduces the amount of water used for land preparation and irrigation, improves the application of agronomic inputs such as fertilisers and herbicides, and increases grain yield and quality. According to research in Cambodia, land levelling has increased yield by 24 per cent per hectare.

According to Carlito Balingbing, one of IRRI’s postharvest and mechanisation engineers, “laser-assisted land levelling is a precision technology in agriculture that ensures efficient and accurate levelling of farmers’ fields. It enables uniform distribution of irrigation water and agronomic inputs, which in turn provides better yields and higher income to farmers.”

One of the activity’s highlights is setting up the laser technology system on a tractor. To fully demonstrate, participants needed a proper-sized tractor that has the optimum horsepower to move the scraper bucket around the field. Village leader U Naing Tun volunteered his equipment for the demonstration.

Balingbing, together with Yan Lin Aung, also gave an orientation on basic tractor operation and laser levelling equipment troubleshooting. During the session, the engineers explained about the cost of setting up the system and instructed the attendees on when it would be best to do field levelling. The knowledge shared with the stakeholders will help them maintain full use of the technology and sustain it for optimal field levelling.

Trainees have expressed their appreciation for this initiative. U Kyaw Min, Senator of Letpandan, said, “farming technologies (in Myanmar) are already outdated compared to other countries. It is important that we take advantage of this technology that is tested by researchers, so that work in the field will become easier and faster for farmers. Through this, we can develop our agricultural industry and export our crops to other countries.” FAR EASTERN AGRICULTURE ■



Levelling rice fields reduces the amount of water used in cultivation. (Image source: VALERIANO SERRANO/Pixabay)