

Message of Greetings sent by President U Htin Kyaw on the 66th Kayah State Day Celebrations Ceremony (15th January 2018)

Dear esteemed brothers and sisters residing in Kayah State,

I feel very honoured and happy to have this opportunity to send this Message of Greetings to the 66th Anniversary celebrations ceremony of the Kayah State Day which falls on 15th January 2018.

Today marks the Kayah State Day, a truly significant and auspicious day for all ethnic national brothers and sisters residing in the Kayah State.

I send my felicitations and good wishes for the well-being and auspiciousness of all Kayah nationals residing in the Kayah State, all Kayah nationals living all over the country and all Union ethnic nationals on this truly significant and auspicious Kayah State Day.

During the time when we established the States and Divisions after gaining our Independence, according to sub-section (1) of Section 180 of the 1947 Constitution, the Karenni

State was amalgamated into the Karen State and according to the Amendment Act, Section 8 of the 1951 Constitution (1951 Act Number 62), it was enacted that the word "Karenni State" should be substituted with "Kayah State" in all places where it occurs in the Union Constitution. The first Kayah State Day Ceremony was celebrated on 15 January 1952 and this year we are already in the 66th year.

If we look back into history, we may see that (9) Kayah ethnic groups and other ethnic groups have lived in the Kayah State from time immemorial in friendship and cordiality. After gaining Independence, because of mistrust and conflicts which lasted for many decades among the different ethnic brothers and sisters, Myanmar has lagged behind in politics, economic affairs and social affairs compared to other neighbouring countries.

It is for this reason that our Union Government is working hard to achieve national reconciliation and peace in the whole Union, something which has been hoped for and yearned by all Union nationals by convening Political dialogues and the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong.

As and when all ethnic nationals and ethnic armed groups living in the Kayah State participate and cooperate in the Peace Process, more new opportunities would open up for them and they would be able to enjoy the fruits of peace quickly.

The Lawpita Hydroelectric Power stations in Kayah State have existed for many years as very important electric power stations for the distribution of electricity in the country. At the same time, because Kayah State is endowed with many natural sceneries such as forests, mountains, deep ravines, and many streams and water-

falls including the Baluchaung waterfalls, irrigation canals and also blessed with beautiful pristine natural environments, it has the potential to be developed for eco-tourism.

Furthermore, we have built a bridge spanning the Thanlwin river (Pha Song) ; we have also established a border trading post in Maesei township and this township has been designated as a sister town of Mae Hong Song in Thailand and have been conducting practical meetings and also inviting foreign and local investments. For these reasons, not only more job opportunities for Kayah State ethnic nationals but also many new opportunities in other sectors will be created. It is ready to take off as a state with equal development within the state. Thus, at a time like this, peace is the number one priority for the Kayah State.

As we transform the Republic of the Union of Myan-

mar as a peaceful and unified Democratic Federal Republic, it is very important for all Union nationals to march in unity of spirit and equality.

I send this Message of Greetings as I urge all Kayah ethnic brothers and sisters to walk on the path to Peace with bravery and full foresight, increasing the momentum as you walk together hand in hand. You should all put forth concerted efforts for national reconciliation, Union peace and modernization; you should work hard for Kayah State to have a peaceful and beautiful future; and as you walk towards a new democratic country based on the firm foundations you have already achieved, to unitedly work together with all other Union ethnic national brothers and sisters.

Sd/-
(Htin Kyaw)
President

Repatriation camps will be ready on time, say officials

UNION MINISTER for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, who is also the chair of Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State-UEHRD, accompanied by the Chief Minister of Rakhine State, addressed the coordination meeting to publicize the cash-aid program of expectant mothers and their under-two-year old babies in Sit-tway, yesterday morning.

The Union minister and party met Islamic people temporarily living at a relief camp near Kyeeaganbyin village in Maungtau Township. The Union minister told them that he and the party had come there to coordinate the rebuilding of homes for them since, despite their homes having been destroyed by fire during terrorist attacks, they had not fled to the other country. Resettlement will be carried out within the legal framework. Village-type homes will be rebuilt in the areas



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye explains the resettlement program at Kyeeaganbyin Village in Maungtau Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

nearest to the places where they earn their livings. The project is to be carried out soon.

Chief Minister U Nyi Pu explained the resettlement program, noting that the deputy minister will coordinate with

administrators to implement it. The Union minister and party also inspected Hla Po Khaung camp, which will be a temporary medium camp for people who are to be accepted systematically by repatriation camps.

The 124-acre Hla Po Khaung will accommodate about 30,000 people in its 625 buildings. Forty buildings will be completed by 25 January and 100 by 31 January. Each building can accommodate 80 persons. The Union minis-

ter and party also inspected Belgium-made plastic tents for emergency use during the project period.

At the Ngakhuya repatriation camp they inspected the systematic repatriation plans. They assisted in the work of erecting buildings in time to house the staff working at the camp, and installing generators and power lines for two repatriation camps and a medium camp.

On arrival at Ohhtain village, where Hindu returnees will be housed, they observed construction and progress in building homes.

They also coordinated with UEHRD to set up covered rain tents to accommodate returnees at any time. Myanmar has already made preparations to be prepared to start the repatriation of persons who fled to the other country by 23 January, under the bilateral agreement reached with Bangladesh. —Myanmar News Agency ■



10th Rakhine traditional carriage pulling ceremony will be held in Sittway. PHOTO: NAING ZAW

10th Rakhine traditional carriage pulling ceremony to be held in Sittway

THE 10th Rakhine State carriage pulling ceremony will be held at the Winkabar Ground in Sittway Town, Rakhine State, from January 27 to 31.

“Mi Zan Ward in Sittway Town held again the traditional carriage pulling ceremony, which has been nearly extinct for 40 years. Now, the carriage pulling ceremony is being held alternately by the wards in Sittway Town.

The 10th Rakhine State traditional carriage pulling ceremony will be organised by Ywar Gyi

(north) ward,” said U Kyaw Min, who is a member of the organising committee.

The ceremony is a traditional festival held by the Rakhine people, which is performed to boost the production of crops.

The Rakhine people usually hold the traditional carriage pulling ceremony in Tabodwe, falling on the 11th month of the Myanmar calendar (between January and February), when galaxies and stars appear in abundance.—Naing Zaw ■

21 trainees attend snacks, juice making course

OFFICIALS from the Mon State small-scale industries department organised a vocational training course to learn how to create value-added food items, which attracted 21 people.

The course began on Thursday morning at Nat Hmaw Village, Chaungson Township, Mon State, with an opening

speech by Daw Khin Maw Thet, Deputy Director-General of the state small-scale industries department. During the seven-day course, trainees will receive instructions on preparing cookies which contain pigeon peas, fried pea stick, natural juices, wines, jams or jellies.—Maung Shwe Win (Pyay) ■



Mon State conducts a vocational training for value-added food production. PHOTO: MAUNG SHWE WIN (PYAY)



Painting onlookers observe the pictures displayed at the gallery.

PHOTO: THIHA KO KO (MANDALAY)

Watercolour painting exhibition in Mandalay

An art exhibition by U Min Lwin, entitled Present-5 Painting Art Exhibition, was held on Saturday morning at the Mandalay Hill Art Gallery, Mandalay.

U Thit Sar Lwin Soe, Deputy Rector of National University of Arts and Culture, Mandalay,

along with U Zaw Win from Mandalay Watercolour Painting Society and students specialising in painting from National University of Arts and Culture, Mandalay, as well as teachers from the Mandalay painting and sculpture school, attended the

opening ceremony.

The Present-5 Painting Art Exhibition, which will be held from 13 to 18 January, will showcase 70 paintings by U Min Lwin. Those interested can study the paintings from 9am to 5pm.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay) ■

Kadu ethnic cultural festival to be held

THE Kadu people, who belong to the Barmar ethnic group, will hold a cultural festival in In-Pin Village, Nant-Thar Village-tract, Inndaw Township, for three days beginning January 25.

“We celebrate our Kadu ethnic cultural festival annually. Last year, the festival was celebrated in Banmauk Township, and this year it will be held in Inndaw Township. The festival aims to promote unity, conserve

the Kadu customs, promote the Kadu language and display its cultural heritage. Competitions in rice pounding with foot-operated wooden pounders, cross-bow matches and tugs-of-war, among others, will be held during the festival,” said Ethnic Kadu Chairman U Kan Aung. The festival will be held with Kadu ethnic people from various regions and states, as well as other ethnic groups.—Kyaw Thiha ■



Performers entertain audience at the Kadu ethnic cultural festival. PHOTO: KYAW THIHA