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Challenges, development in Rakhine discussed

State Counsellor holds talks with Advisory Board of Committee for Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meeting with Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of the Advisory Board of Committee for Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE COUNSELLOR and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Committee for Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State, and its members at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw, at 11 a.m. on 2 April. Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai was accompanied by Advisory Board members Urban Ahlin, U Win Mra, U Tun Myat, U Khin Maung Lay, U Hla Myint and Dr. Khin Nyo.

During the meeting, the Chairman explained about the activities and the work plan of the Advisory Board. They exchanged views on matters related to the implementation of the preliminary recommendations of the Advisory Board, the ways and means to address the challenges and development in Rakhine State.

This was the second meeting between the State Counsellor and the Advisory Board since its inception.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, and Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin.

— Myanmar News Agency ■

Race-oriented political dialogue to be held in Mon State

A COORDINATION meeting to hold race-oriented political dialogues at the national level in Mon State, by New Mon State Party (NMSP) was held in the Mon State government office in Mawlamyine, yesterday.

The meeting was attended by National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) Vice Chairman and Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Peace Commission Chairman Dr. Tin Myo Win, Mon State Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan, state ministers, Peace Commission Vice Chairman U Thein Zaw, Secretary Lt-Gen (Retd.) Khin Zaw Oo, Ministry of State Counsellor's Office Director-General U Zaw Htay, Peace Commission advisor U Hla Maung Shwe and support group member U Kyaw Lin Oo, Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) Ethnic Armed Organization (EAO) Group representative U Khun Myint Htun, UPDJC Political Party Group Vice Chairman U Thu Wai, members of political dialogues supervision committee at the national level for Mon State, Naing Aung Ma Ngae from NMSP, and NMSP members.

At the meeting, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe said State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had sent them, as she had a keen interest in Mon State's national-level political dialogue.

On their part, they were present with due respect to the people of Mon State and NMSP. NMSP has agreed in the 14th UPDJC meeting to hold national-level political dialogues in Ye Township, and a supervision committee was formed to successfully hold the national-level political dialogues.

The NMSP will have the opportunity to reveal the wishes of the Mon State nationals, said the Union Minister.

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Dr. Win Myat Aye holds talks with Advisory Board of Committee for Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds talks with the Advisory Board of the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye and the Advisory Board of the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State held talks yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw over several issues for Rakhine State.

The Advisory Board was led by Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand.

During the meeting, which is the second meeting between the two sides after the January, 2018 meeting, they discussed matters related to inclusive talks, humanitarian aid, access to information, repatriation, resettlement and rehabilitation.

They also reviewed pragmatic measures taken for involvement of UN agencies in rehabilitation and development issues in Rakhine State, participation of youth volunteers and providing aid to the local people through the World Food Programme and Red Cross Movement.

The meeting also highlighted the construction of infrastructures such as roads and bridges, power supply, cash assistance to mothers and children, health care programme, education, free movement, stepped up efforts for national scrutinization process, arrangements for media coverage, closing of IDP camps opened in 2012, plans for launching a pilot project for development in Rakhine State joining hands with the ASEAN community, plans for promoting humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation and resettlement in Rakhine State joining hands with UN agencies and partner countries and contribution of expertise and businesses from Thailand in development of Rakhine State.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Rakhine State Chief Minister meets Turkish Ambassador in Sittway

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu met with Ambassador of Turkey to Myanmar Mr. Kerem Divanlioglu and party at the State Chief Minister meeting hall yesterday morning.

During the meeting the ambassador told of coming to help in the challenges occurring in Rakhine State and to learn of the present situation. The Chief Minister replied that after the occurrence of the conflict, works were being done for resettlement, receiving (of returnees), long term development and stability. In the matter of receiving (returnees) reception centres were prepared and readied as directed by the State Counsellor. More than six hundred houses were already constructed in Hla Pho Khaung Transit camp for more than 30,000 returnees. After temporarily staying in the transit camp, the returnees will be settled in their original place or a place nearest to where they previously stay. This is according to the bilateral agreement. Income generation measures are arranged so that returnees earn income while building their own houses. The government has formed a committee to receive and resettle returnees and Deputy Minister for Ministry of State Counsellor's Office is organizing this by basing in Rakhine State. Arrangements are made for the long term existence of the returnees as well as for the long term existence and socio-economic develop of ethnic nationals. If such development works are conducted, there wouldn't be conflicts anymore and the two societies can live for long said the Chief Minister. —Tin Tun (IPRD) ■

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu meets with Ambassador of Turkey Mr. Kerem Divanlioglu yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Public Sector Wage Bill compares favourably with similar countries: Myanmar-WB joint report

THE size of Myanmar's public sector wage bill compares favourably with lower middle income countries, according to a report released yesterday. The Myanmar Pay, Compensation and Human Resource Management Review was jointly conducted by the Government of Myanmar and the World Bank.

The review, supported by Denmark, Australia and UK-DFID, under the Myanmar Multi Donor Trust Fund, presents a comprehensive picture of the Myanmar civil service pay, compensation and human resource management systems, and their strengths and challenges.

"Myanmar is in a good place on the public sector wage bill, and there are opportunities to ensure compensation levels remain attractive and sustainable," said Shabih Ali Mohib, programme leader at the World Bank. "However, it is important to manage it prudently to ensure fiscal sustainability and to incentivise performance in the public sector."

The report also recommends developing better forecasting systems that take into account the trade-offs of higher pay versus more staff, and targeted compensation increases versus across-the-board adjustments; developing a centralised electronic payroll with possible linkages to financial management and human resource information systems; regularly monitoring the government's ability to recruit, retain and deploy skilled personnel; and updating the rates of operational expenses to enable staff to do their jobs.

"It is only the first step on the long journey of evidence-based reforms to manage the wage bill and the performance of the Myanmar civil service," said U Tun Tun Naing, Myanmar's Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

"This is the most thorough review of Myanmar's civil service so far," said Peter Lysholt Hansen, Denmark's Ambassador to Myanmar. "I encourage the World Bank to play an active role in supporting the Government of Myanmar to translate the recommendations into reality."

The review was undertaken from 2015 to 2017, in response to the Government of Myanmar's request for the World Bank's advice on compensation and human resource policies that reflect country-specific circumstances.—GNLM ■

Participants pose for the documentary photo at the launching ceremony of Myanmar Pay, Compensation and Human Resource Management Review in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 April. **PHOTO: GNLM**