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Government of Myanmar and United Nations agencies initial MoU for assistance to the repatriation process of displaced persons from Rakhine State

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President U Win Myint, centre, poses with the chairman and members of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

President U Win Myint meets Drug Abuse Control Committee

More effort needs to be put forth toward drug abuse control works as a national duty

President U Win Myint met with the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Chairman Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and committee members at the Presidential Palace yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the President said drug abuse was increasing and ruining the lives of youths. Therefore, more efforts are needed to be put forth toward the committee's drug abuse control works as a national duty. Work needs to be conducted according to the UN Convention and must be done in cooperation with UN member coun-

tries, international organisations, regional organisations, local and international non-governmental organisations and the people.

The dangers of drugs needs to be communicated widely to the public, and treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts needs to be conducted. In addition, effective punishment must be made for planting, producing, possessing, transporting, distributing and selling drugs.

Regional drug control and eradication groups that include regional departmental authorities, civil society organisations and inter-

ested persons needed to be formed in townships, districts, states and regions. These groups need to be managed as necessary and cash rewards should be awarded. In addition, Drug Abuse Control and Eradication Special Groups need to be formed and directly managed by the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, said the President.

Present at the meeting together with the President were Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Chairman Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe,

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the President Announcement 3/2018

2nd Waning of Nayon 1380 ME
31 May 2018

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will establish an Independent Commission of Enquiry

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has decided to establish an Independent Commission of Enquiry as part of its national initiative to address reconciliation, peace, stability and development in Rakhine. This decision has also taken into consideration the Interim Recommendations of the Advisory Board for the Committee for the Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State. The Independent Commission will investigate the violation of human rights and related issues following the terrorist attacks by ARSA.

The Commission will consist of three members including an international personality. It will be assisted by national and international legal and technical experts.

Returnees from Bangladesh resettled in accordance with bilateral agreement

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and Rakhine State Minister U Aung Kyaw Zan supervised works for resettlement of the displaced people who returned from Bangladesh voluntarily earlier this week at the Hla Pho Khaung Transit Centre in Maungdaw Township yesterday.

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I would firstly like to address the three branches of the sovereign power of the State, who have been entrusted with power according to the Constitution, to exercise mutual respect, understanding, and trust as they collaborate for the good of the people. Additionally, I wish to urge the media sector, which serve as the ears and eyes of the public, to understand the seriousness of their duties and to hold in high regard the public sector that they serve.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018)

We have many opportunities to learn in order to overcome and eliminate the evil legacies of the past and to fulfill the aspirations for the future of the nation. We know how much loving kindness, truth and bravery are needed; how greed, anger and ignorance can impact negatively. We have learnt the importance of having good friends. The most important lesson we learned is the value of understanding and unqualified support of our people.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2nd Anniversary of NLD Government on 1st April 2018)

Government of the Republic of the
Union of Myanmar
Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor
Press Release

2nd Waning of Nayon 1380 ME
31 May 2018

Government of Myanmar and United Nations
Agencies initial MoU on assistance for the
repatriation process of displaced persons
from Rakhine State

On 31st of May 2018, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population (MoLIP) of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) initialed the Memorandum of Understanding to assist the government of Myanmar in implementing the “Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State”, signed between the Governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh on 23 November 2017. The UN Agencies will cooperate with the Government for the repatriation of the displaced persons, who have been duly verified so that they can return voluntarily in safety and in dignity.

The UNDP and UNHCR have been invited to take part in various stages of return and resettlement, and to support access to livelihoods through the design and implementation of community based intervention.

The Government of Myanmar had been discussing the MoU with UNDP and UNHCR since February 2018. The discussions have resulted in the MoU which will be signed soon.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Bill Amending the Union Budget Law, ...

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In cooperation with other ministries, the JICA loan was used for the Regional Development Project for Poverty Reduction Phase 1 and the installation of 128 diesel generators, as well as the construction of 127.29 miles of a 400-Volt ABC line, that were conducted and completed in five states and six regions. Further, the 33-KV Thanlyin-Thilawa power line, sub-station and Thakayta-Thilawa gas pipeline laying projects were all completed.

The ministry is imple-

menting 14 loan projects in the electricity sector and is jointly implementing two projects with other ministries to ensure that works are conducted according to the regulations and wastage is prevented, said the deputy minister. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker requested the Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the explanation on foreign loans to enrol their names. The second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's eighth regular session's seventh-day meeting will be held on 5 June.—Myo Myint, Myo Thu Hein ■

President U Win Myint meets Drug Abuse Control Committee

FROM PAGE-1

Vice Chairman Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, commission members Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw, Deputy Minister

for Education U Win Maw Tun, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung, Ministry of Information Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, Ministry of Health and Sports Permanent Secretary Dr. Thet Khaing Win, Political and Security Department Director General U Naing Swe Oo from the Office of the President, Union Government Office Director General

U Zaw Than Thin, Brig-Gen Ko Ko Oo of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Lt-Col Zaw Lin Tun of Chief of Military Affairs Security Office, Committee Secretary Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Aung Win Oo and Committee Joint Secretary and Chief of Anti-Narcotic Task Force Acting Police Brig-Gen Myint Aung.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye greets returnees during granting National Verification Cards (NVC) to them at the Hla Pho Khaung Transit Centre in Maungta Township yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Returnees from Bangladesh resettled in accordance with bilateral agreement

FROM PAGE-1

The authorities are making arrangements for resettlement of the returnees at or near their original places of residence.

At the transit centre, the Union Minister and party inspected the works for issuing the National Verification card to returnees, and for receiving citizenship scrutiny in accordance with the law being carried out by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population. The National Verification

Card is the first step in applying for citizenship.

Meanwhile, officials of the Social Welfare Department are collecting data from the returnees to bring back their relatives in Bangladesh through diplomatic channels. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has provided Family Kits to the returnees containing a week's worth of dry rations.

Out of 62 returnees who have been staying at the Hla Pho

Khaung Transit Centre in accordance with bilateral agreement, 10 left for their original places of residence while the authorities are making arrangements for sending all returnees to their original places, according to the authorities. The remaining 52 returnees were systematically handed over to the administrators of their respective villagers and the process was documented by the authorities.—Myanmar News Agency ■

UCSB, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Office of the Union Attorney-General hold press conference on 2nd year performance

By Han Mhwae, Lin Naing
(Myanmar News Agency)

A press conference was held by the Union Civil Service Board, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of International Cooperation, and the Union Attorney General's Office on their second one-year performance.

Union Civil Service Board

U Saw Valentine, a member of the UCSB, said they held entrance exams for 868 vacant government official positions across 20 ministries and government organisations. A total of 6,424 candidates took the examinations, and the UCSB then interviewed 984 from them and selected 751 for the positions.

The UCSB has interviewed and selected 1,180 candidates for the positions of assistant doctors and dentists for the Ministry of Health and Sports. UCSB helped with interviewing 2,664 candidates for gazetted officers for five classified ads, and 2,168 candidates for positions in four external organisations.

Civil Service Academies (CSA) was opened in each Central Institute of Civil Service across Myanmar by 2 January 2017.

The CSAs offer basic civil service courses, and Post Graduate Diploma in Civil Service Management (PGDPA). A total of 764 individuals graduated with PGDPA as part of the implementation of Public-Private Partnership (PPP). About 7,313 students attended ten different courses in Central Institute of Civil Service between April 2017 and March 2018.

The UCSB promoted 68 men and 30 women from Deputy Director to Director; 27 men and 8 women from Director to Deputy Director-General in ministries and government organisations during the second-year period.

The UCSB amended the Civil Service Law with 29 bylaws and four forms and released a combined statement (35/2017) on 9 June 2017. The UCSB is working under directions from the Office of the President to allow civil servants who have reached 60 to continue for one extended year of service. On 25 August 2017 a second bylaw was passed amending the Civil Service Law to allow staff members to fill in the position of another staff member preparing for pension during



Member of the UCSB U Saw Valentine talks to media at the press conference in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

their pension processing period.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of International Cooperation

U Myint Thu, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) Permanent Secretary, was the spokesperson for both MOFA and the Ministry of International Cooperation (MOIC).

He said that there was notable progress in the first-year performance, but misunderstandings and pressure from the international community arose after the ARSA terrorist attacks on 9 October 2016 and 27 August 2017.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry has organised diplomatic missions and state visits between Myanmar and other countries which contributed to raising awareness of the democratic transition, peace and national reconciliation, and development progress in Myanmar.

Both MOFA and MOIC have participated in regional development programmes such as the ASEAN, BIMSTEC, Greater Mekong Subregion Cooperation Program, Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Strategy, Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Program, Mekong-Japan Cooperation, Mekong-Korea Cooperation Plan, and the Lower Mekong Initiative.

At present, Myanmar has established diplomatic relations with 121 countries out of 193 countries. Currently there are 35 Myanmar embassies, 5 Myanmar Offices, 6 Consulates, and 13 Honorary Consulates across the globe, including newly established diplomatic relations with Malta, Ecuador, the Marshall Islands, Liberia, Guinea, Seychelles and the Holy See.

For the implementation of Dr. Kofi Annan's Advisory Commission on Rakhine, MOFA has also cooperated and coordinated with the Implementation Advisory Committee, which was formed and headed by Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai.

The Foreign Ministry and Myanmar Embassies, Missions and Consulates are practicing the approach called "people-centred diplomacy", which serves to protect the interests of Myanmar nationals and former Myanmar citizens living abroad. In order for Myanmar nationals to participate and assist in socio-economic developments, necessary help was given, including assistance to facilitate entry into the country. Visa requirements for social visits were relaxed to facilitate re-entry of former Myanmar citizens living abroad.

The embassies are conducting negotiations on cooperating with the corresponding host country regarding benefits of Myanmar's migrant workers and for illegal migrants to get permission to work legally in the respective countries.

MOFA helped in negotiations with India to plant nine border posts in Kabaw Valley and will soon hold an India-Myanmar Joint Boundary Working Group.

A protocol was signed on 23 November 2017 in reference to the agreement in 1998 to demarcate land on the northern part of the Naf River. The appendix to the 2007 Myanmar-Bangladesh-Naf River Border Agreement was also signed on that date. There are also ongoing negotiations for demarcating the Myanmar-China boundary for the third time since the 1993-1994 ground control point survey.

Office of the Union Attorney-General

Office of the Union Attorney-General Daw Nu Nu Yin said the Office of the Union Attorney-General has been implementing its strategic plan 2015-2019 to further strengthen the polices related with the rule of law and to gain respect from the people.

The second one-year period saw 91 times than the previous year in scrutinizing bills, rules, procedures, orders and instructions.

The Legislative Vetting and Advising Department also takes the role of negotiator in discussing regional agreements to be signed by Myanmar. The office also mostly scrutinized 15 kinds of contracts related with businesses including mining and construction of road and bridge infrastructure. Besides, the department also has to advise issues related with taking actions against service personnel under the Civil Service Law, international contracts, departmental contracts and local and foreign companies, seeing over 790 times than the previous year.

The pacts scrutinized by the office includes Myanmar-EU bilateral investment boosting and protection agreement, Myanmar-Singapore investment boosting and protection agreement, the regional multi-economic development agreement, ASEAN trade in services agreement and model ASEAN extradition treaty.

Office of the Attorney General and all levels of Law Offices represent the State in all criminal cases and civil cases in conviction and trial works where the State is the prosecutor. It participates in certiorari cases

in Union Supreme Court, Constitutional Tribunal of Myanmar and Union Election Commission. The main works of Law Officers are to provide legal advice before prosecution, participating in cases, withdrawing cases, closing cases and representing the State in civil cases. Compared to the first one year period 3,167 more cases were handled in the second one year period.

As part of efforts for anti-malpractices, instructions, guidelines and complaint phone numbers, notices notices and advertisements were made public in law offices. Complaints against law officers were handled in accordance to public servant law and rules. More effective actions like reducing in rank, temporary suspension from work and permanently discharged from being a public servant were conducted increasingly in the second one year period.

Law translation commission led by Union Attorney General had translated 81 laws from English into Myanmar.

Assessment of application for advocate and commenting on violation of the code of ethic of advocate were conducted by 11 member team led by Union Attorney General as chairman and member fee for court advocate council were adjusted to be in accord with the time.

As the State is giving priority to rule of law, a group to coordinate the rule of law and justice works was formed with the consent of the State Counsellor. During the second one year period, three meetings of the group was held, sub-work groups were formed in each states and regions, rule of law and justice works congress held and strategy drawn up based on the outcome of the congress.

Code of ethic for law officers were drawn with the support of UNDP and assistance of local and international experts. During the second one year period, the code of ethic was published, workshops held to explain about it, instructions issued to comply with it and managed.

In the norm for fair administration of justice book, international norm and local case judgments were included. By studying and practicing as described in the book, law officers can effectively protect and assure the rights of the public in accordance to the law. ■

Systematic arrangements made for returnees in safety and in dignity

THE government is making systematic arrangements for the resettlement of the 62 displaced people who returned from Bangladesh voluntarily earlier this week, with their security considered important.

This is a part of the commitment of the Union Government to the repatriation of the displaced persons, who have been duly verified so that they can return voluntarily in safety and in dignity.

We will carry out the repatriation and resettlement of the returnees in accordance with the law and bilateral agreement with Bangladesh and will invite the media to show the world that our works will ensure transparency.

When the local authorities carry out resettlement efforts for the recently displaced persons who returned voluntarily, they also pledged to bring back to Myanmar their relatives who

are in Bangladesh through diplomatic channels. Meanwhile, the authorities will have discussions with the returnees individually so that they can clearly understand the resettlement plan and measures for their livelihood.

We are ready for repatriation in accordance with the bilateral agreement and by working together to create a conducive environment to restoring peace and stability, harmony and sustained socio-economic development for all people in Rakhine State.

Currently, safety and security for the returnees is being given priority, and the authorities are making more efforts for border security.

Efforts at restoration of peace and stability have been carried out in Rakhine State since the terrorist attacks on 25 August 2017. The Rakhine State government is not only

performing repatriation and resettlement of returnees, but also planning for the long-term socio-economic development in collaboration with the Union Government.

On 31 May, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population (MoLIP) of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) initialed the Memorandum of Understanding to assist the government of Myanmar in implementing the "Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State", signed between the Governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh on 23 November 2017.

The UNDP and UNHCR have been invited to take part in various stages of return and resettlement, and to support access to livelihoods through the design and implementation of community-based intervention.

Myanmar welcomes the cooperation of the UN agencies in the repatriation of the displaced peoples, who have been duly verified so that they can return voluntarily in safety and in dignity.

Myanmar also welcomes constructive cooperation from the international community. ■

By Dr Aung Tun

WORLD No Tobacco Day was first observed in 1987, after a cabinet of the World Health Assembly (WHA) passed a motion supported by the World Health Organization (WHO), with guidelines to manage and curb tobacco consumption. The objective of observing World No Tobacco Day is to reduce tobacco consumption which can lead to deadly diseases like cancer and early death. Individuals, non-profit organizations and public health organizations actively participate in making this day a success by distributing placards and displaying posters with the latest information on the ill-effects of consuming tobacco and smoking. To propel its cause and appeal globally, WHA selects a fresh theme every year. The focus of World No Tobacco Day 2018 is "Tobacco and Heart Disease".

World No Tobacco Day 2018 aims to:

- Highlight the links between the use of tobacco products and heart and other cardiovascular diseases.
- Increase awareness within the broader public of the impact tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke have on cardiovascular health.
- Provide opportunities for the public, governments and others to make commitments to promote heart health by protecting people from use of tobacco products.
- Encourage countries to strengthen implementation of the proven MPOWER tobacco control measures contained in the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC).

Tobacco and Cardiovascular Diseases (CVD)

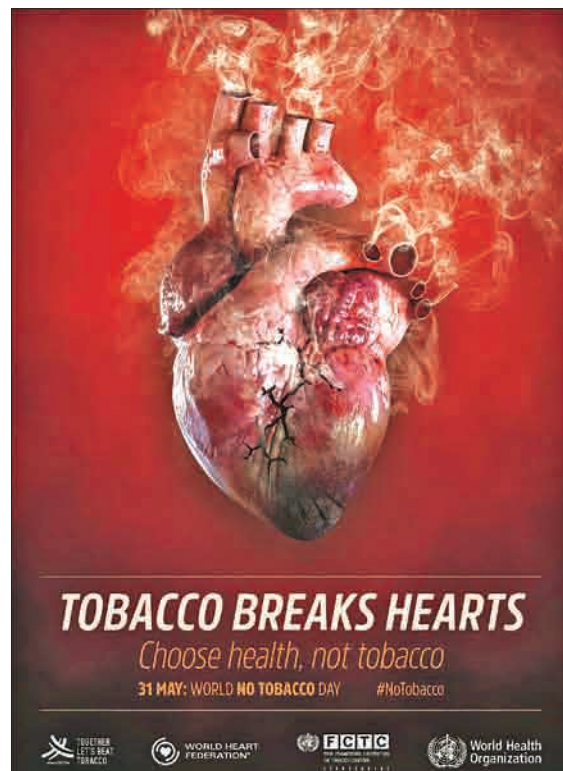
According to WHO, CVD is the leading cause of death worldwide and 12% of all heart disease deaths are contributed by active and passive smoking. Smoking is also the second leading cause of CVD, after blood pressure. Tobacco use is a principle contributor to the development of the following cardiovascular diseases.

- Ischemic Heart Disease
- Myocardial Infarction
- Heart failure and sudden death
- Arrhythmias
- Stroke
- Subarachnoid Haemorrhage
- Peripheral Vascular disease
- Malignant Hypertension
- Cor pulmonale
- Abnormal Aortic Aneurism

The general mechanisms by which smoking results in cardiovascular events include development of atherosclerotic changes with narrowing of the vascular lumen and induction of a hypercoagulable state, which create risk of acute thrombosis. The rapid decline in risk of a recurrent myocardial infarction after smoking cessation supports the role of smoking in thrombosis. In addition, abundant evidence demonstrates that smoking contributes to development of atherosclerotic plaque.

The Consequences of Tobacco use and Second-Hand Smoke

Tobacco use harms nearly every organ of the body and affects a person's overall health. There are more than 7000 chemicals in tobacco smoke, of which more than 70 are known to cause cancer. There is no safe level of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke. In adults, Tobacco use and second-hand smoke causes serious cardiovascular and respiratory diseases,



including coronary heart disease and lung cancer. In infants, it causes sudden death. In pregnant women, it causes low birth weight, premature baby and abortion. Almost half of children regularly breathe air polluted by tobacco smoke in public places.

The tobacco epidemic is one of the biggest public health threats the world has ever faced, killing more than 7 million people a year. More than 6 million of those deaths are the result of direct tobacco use while around 890 000 are the result of non-smokers being exposed to secondhand smoke. Around 80% of the 1.1 billion smokers worldwide live in low- and middle-income countries, where the burden of tobacco-related illness and death is heaviest. Tobacco users who die prematurely deprive their families of income, raise the cost of health care and hinder economic development.

Trends in Smoking and Smokeless Tobacco Consumption in Myanmar

Myanmar has one of the highest rates of tobacco use (Smoking and Smokeless) among men and women compared to other countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region. More than two in five men and nearly one in ten women smoke, which puts the health and wellbeing of themselves and their families at risk. Smokeless tobacco use is a problem where more than half of men and a quarter of women use this type of tobacco.

Findings from **Myanmar Global Youth Tobacco Survey (2016)** showed that 14% of students (26% boys and 4% girls) used tobacco (smoked and/or smokeless) while 8.3% (17% boys and 1.5% girls) were current cigarette smokers. 5.7% (11% boys and 1.5% girls) were current smokeless tobacco users. Seven in one current cigarette smokers bought cigarettes from a store, shop or street vendors while 63% of cigarette buyers below the permitted age were sold tobacco products. 1 in 3 students are exposed to tobacco products at home while 3 in 10 students are exposed to tobacco smoke inside closed public places. 7 in 10 current smokers tried to stop smoking in the past 12 months.

According to the **Myanmar Demographic and Health Survey (MDHS) 2015-2016**, it was found that two percent each of women smoke cigarettes and pipes or cheroots. By contrast, 32% of men age 15-49

smoke cigarettes and 14% smoke pipes or cheroots. 18% of women and 59% of men age 15-49 chew betel quid (contains betel leaf, areca nut, and slaked lime, and may contain tobacco).

Key Milestones on Tobacco Control in Myanmar

Tobacco control is one of the priority programmes of Ministry of Health and Sports. In July 1998 when WHO reorganized efforts within a new structure, the Tobacco Free Initiative (TFI), this movement greatly enhanced the momentum of the anti-tobacco activities in Myanmar. The National Programme on Tobacco Control was officially launched in January 2000 with the drafting and approval of the National Policy on Tobacco Control and Plan of action. The National Tobacco Control Committee was formed in March 2002. Myanmar proudly hosted the 4th Inter-country Consultation Meeting of Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in August 2002, where the countries of South-East Asia Region issued the "Yangon Declaration". The Control of Smoking and Consumption of Tobacco Product Law was adopted on 4th May, 2006.

In accordance with new administrative structure, the National Tobacco Control Committee was reformed in January 2011, headed by the Minister for Health and included heads of related departments and chairpersons of several national NGOs as members. In 2013, Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS) signed a MOU with International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) to strengthen tobacco control program in Myanmar. Several achievements were made between 2013 and early 2016. These includes adoption of a 100% smoke-free notification, adoption of a 75% pictorial health warning and establishment of a tobacco control cell at MOH as well as at State and Region Public Health Office. During the period, Myanmar has also signed Illicit Trade Protocol which will be endorsed in near future of 2016. Myanmar hosted a SEARO and Asia Pacific meeting on Illicit trade protocol in 2015.

Recently Ministry of Health and Sports established a tobacco Control Unit under the NonCommunication Disease (NCD) Division with dedicated human resource. Tobacco Control has been identified as one of the key interventions to combat with NCDs and other infectious diseases in National Health Plan 2016 to 2020. NCD Division has already developed National Strategic plan for Prevention and Control of NCDs (2017-2021). Tobacco Control is one of the main interventions within the plan.

Ministry of Health and Sports works with Attorney General and parliament health committee for legislation development. It works with Ministry of Finance for taxation and establishment of health fund for tobacco control. MOHS works closely with Ministry of Manpower, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Trade for their support to make effective enforcement of law and legislation. The collaboration will be further strengthened.

Ministry of Health and Sports has identified subnational government's role is very crucial to implement the tobacco control program as well as countering tobacco industry interferences at the local. Thus, MOHS plans to establish a subnational government alliance to accelerate their consolidated efforts for making tobacco control possible at each level. Working with subnational leaders would further

expand the people's participation in tobacco control movement. It also works with non-government sector such as World Health Organization, International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, People's Health Foundation, Universities, and media for policy advocacy and technical assistance.

The Launch of FCTC 2030 Project in Myanmar

Myanmar has been selected as one of 15 countries worldwide to receive dedicated international support from the United Nations through the "FCTC 2030 Project" to stop country's smoking scourge. The launching ceremony of FCTC 2030 project was held in Nay Pyi Taw on May 8, 2018. The FCTC project will run for five years until 2021 and will bring international support to Myanmar from the United Nations, including the Secretariat of the WHO FCTC, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and WHO. The support includes expert advice, technical assistance and peer support to strengthen the Government of Myanmar's programme of work on tobacco control. The Governments of the United Kingdom and Australia have generously provided funds for the FCTC 2030 project. The UN system looks forward to providing Myanmar with enhanced support to implement the WHO FCTC as part of its sustainable development plan.

The WHO FCTC is the world's treaty dedicated to ending the global tobacco epidemic and is comprehensive blue print for governments to stop tobacco use in their countries. Myanmar become one of the world's first countries to ratify the WHO FCTC, which today counts 180 countries and the European Union as Parties.

Myanmar is committed to the WHO FCTC and is looking forward to this new support to strengthen tobacco control policies and discourage tobacco use.

Choose Health, not Tobacco

Tobacco use causes health consequences as well as many social, economic and environmental problems which impede national development.

If we choose to, we can end the tobacco epidemic in Myanmar. But it's going to take all of us-parents, teachers, health care providers, communities, schools and policy makers supporting policies, programmes, and media campaigns that prevent tobacco use by youth and children. You can help your children healthy choices about tobacco use by

-Telling them: Key facts about tobacco including betel quid; You do not want any one-including them-to use tobacco in your house or car.

-Helping them: Refuse tobacco; Cope with their problems; Quit if they are current users.

-Making sure: Never give tobacco to children or teens; Set a good example by not using tobacco yourself; Know what they are doing and who their friends are; Network with other parents who can help you encourage children and teens to refuse tobacco.

Ref:

- Word No Tobacco Day Tool Kit, WHO, 2018 -FCTC 2030 Strategy: Myanmar, WHO FCTC Secretariat, 2018
- The Tobacco Atlas, 6th Edition, American Cancer Society, 2018
- The Health Consequences of Smoking-50 years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General, US CDC, 2014.
- Global Atlas on CVD prevention and Control, WHO, 2011 ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 29/2018

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Appointment of Union Minister

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 232, article 235 (d) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 12 of Union Government Law, U Soe Win has been appointed as Union Minister for Planning and Finance.

*Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar*

U Aung Lynn Presents Credentials to President of Panama

U Aung Lynn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Panama, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Juan Carlos Varela Rodriguez, President of the Republic of Panama on 22 May 2018 in Panama.—Myanmar News Agency

Complaints can be made on human rights violations

THE Myanmar National Human Rights Commission is receiving complaints on violation of the human rights of Union nationals. Upon receipt, it assesses, coordinates and resolves the complaints and informs and coordinates with relevant departments to resolve the matter.

If the fundamental rights accorded by the Constitution, rights accorded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in international human rights agreements in which the State had signed are violated, the violated person(s) or another person on behalf of the violated person(s) can complain via registered letter to the Chairman, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, No. (27) Pyay Road, Hline Township, Yangon or in person at the commission office.

Human rights violations include violation of children rights and women rights. For such violation, the violated person(s) or a duly conscious person(s) who knows of the violation can complain to the commission.

When a complaint is made, the following particulars should be included.

1. Name, address and contact numbers of the person who made the complaint (include phone, mobile phone, fax and email if available).
2. Details about the violation and supporting evidence and proofs.
3. Signed assertion that the statement is true and correct.
4. A copy of the national registration card of the person submitting the complaint.

Note: In assessing the complaint, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission may call the person making the complaint for an interview if required.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission ■