

## THAILAND

22 January – 1 February 2016

### MEDIA MONITORING REPORT # 142

#### PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

##### Suu Kyi, Military Chief Meet Again as Power Transfer Nears

Irrawaddy News, 25 January 2016

Burma Army leader Snr-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and Aung San Suu Kyi held talks on Monday for the second time since the National League for Democracy (NLD) chairwoman and her party emerged victorious in a Nov. 8 general election, according to the commander-in-chief's office.



Also present for Monday's meeting were Min Aung Hlaing's deputy Snr-Gen Soe Win and other high-ranking generals, as well as NLD central committee members Win Htein, Win Myint and Zaw Myint Maung, and Suu Kyi's personal physician Dr. Tin

Myo Win, the statement said.

"The two sides frankly discussed matters related to a peaceful transition in the post-election period, parliamentary issues, formation of the next government and measures to be taken to build permanent peace after the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement [NCA]," the statement read.

Link: <http://www.irrawaddy.com/burma/suu-kyi-military-chief-meet-again-as-power-transfer-nears.html>

##### Five Karen Political Parties to Unite Into One

Karen News, 29 January 2016

Preparations for the integration of five Karen political parties are now underway and it is planned that the five parties will unite within the year.

The decision to be integrated was made at an integration meeting held on the 26th of January in Rangoon where 30 delegates from Plone Sawor Democratic Party (PSDP), Karen Democratic Party (KDP) and Karen State Democracy and Development Party based in Karen state and the Yangon based Karen People's Party (KPP) and Karen National Party (KNP) attended.



"Main points are to change the 2008 Constitution and to [achieve] national equality and self-determination which are critical in forming a federal union. Both these [points] are agreed in

Principles by all the Karen parties. The other point is that the integrated party is not to be influenced by any other party or organization. We have basically discussed these things and decided to integrate.”

Link: <http://karennews.org/2016/01/five-karen-political-parties-to-unite-into-one.html/>

### **Ethnic youths call for greater role in peace process**

Myanmar Times, 28 January 2016

Ethnic youth groups in Kayah State say they want to get more involved in the peace process.

The Ethnic Youth Exchange, a forum taking place in the state capital Loikaw this week, heard a call to those involved in peace discussions to consider the views of the next generation.

Organizing committee member Ko Min Maung told The Myanmar Times that the incoming government should consider the matter.

He said the three-day forum’s objectives included more collaboration between young people, political forces and social organizations, greater unity among ethnic youth, and the development of a vision of development and future political participation, as well as the peace process.

U Ko Ko Gyi, of 88 Generation Peace and Open Society, delivered a speech on “Youth and Leadership” at the event. U Khun Myint Tun of the Pa-Oh National Liberation Organization also attended.

Link: <http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/national-news/18695-ethnic-youths-call-for-greater-role-in-peace-process.html>

## **LAW AND GOVERNANCE**

### **U Win Htein confirms names of Upper and Lower House speaker nominees**

Mizzima, 28 January 2016

NLD Central Executive Committee member U Win Htein confirmed the names of nominees for speakers for the House of Representatives (Lower House) and the House of Nationalities (Upper House) today, 28 January.



U Win Myint of the NLD is selected for nomination as speaker of the House of Representatives while U Mann Win Khaing Than also of the NLD will be nominated for speaker of the House of Nationalities.

U Ti Kun Myat, a Kachin parliament representative from the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) was nominated as deputy speaker of the House of Representatives while U Aye Thar Aung, a Rakhine ethnic parliament representative of the Arakan National Party (ANP), was nominated as deputy speaker

of the House of Nationalities.

Link: <http://www.mizzima.com/news-domestic/u-win-htein-confirms-names-upper-and-lower-house-speaker-nominees>

### **52 political prisoners released in amnesty**

Myanmar Times, 22 January 2016

More than 50 political prisoners, including one New Zealander, have walked free from prisons across Myanmar today, in a presidential amnesty for over 100 inmates.

“As far as we know, 52 political prisoners [have been released] from prisons in Mandalay, Tuangoo, Insein, Hpa-an, Myitkyina and Putao,” the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners - Burma (AAPPB) chair U Bo Kyi said.

U Zaw Htay, director of the president’s office, said President U Thein Sein had pardoned 102 prisoners following requests of many organizations. He said the president was working for the future of the country.

U Bo Kyi said while today’s release is a step in the right direction, there are still 409 political cases in the pipeline with 114 behind bars awaiting trial.



Link: <http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/national-news/18625-52-political-prisoners-released-in-surprise-amnesty.html>

## ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT

### New Mon Language Curriculum Ready for Government Schools

Irrawaddy News, 25 January 2016

The training of 400 teachers in a new child-centered curriculum for the instruction of the Mon language began this week in Moulmein.



Regional volunteers and civil servants who work as Mon language instructors in government schools will attend the training in the Mon State capital. Participants are from Mon and Karen states, and Tenasserim Division.

The Mon Language Curriculum Committee within the Mon State government has finished drafting primary-level textbooks, a basic Mon language book and a teacher’s guide for the upcoming school year. The materials were adapted from Burma’s national curriculum and are based on “mother tongue-based multilingual education,” an

approach in which students are instructed in their first language as a way to both preserve non-dominant languages and build confidence in learning.

Link: <http://www.irrawaddy.com/burma/new-mon-language-curriculum-ready-for-government-schools.html>

### Kayin government gives cautious green light to low-cost housing development

Myanmar Times, 28 January 2016

The Kayin State government has given a little-known company permission to build a major low-cost housing project near Hpa-an, after more than a year of due diligence.

The project is being built near to the Hpa-an industrial zone, on 20 acres of former military-owned land. The state government sold the land to Mya Htay Kywe Linn for K13 million an acre. Construction work began on January 24.

The project will include 2560 apartments of 600 square feet each, in five-storey buildings. Units can be bought in



installments or paid for upfront in cash. The price varies: apartments cost K8 million if the buyer pays immediately, or K10.8 million if they pay in monthly K30, 000 installments over 30 years.

Those who choose to pay installments can move into their apartments after two years of making payments.

Link: <http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/business/property-news/18706-kayin-government-gives-cautious-green-light-to-low-cost-housing-development.html>

### **New CCGT power plant to be installed in Mon State**

Mon News Agency, 1 February 2016

A project to construct a combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power plant in Mon State's Thaton Town was finalized at a contract signing between the Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise (MEPE) and China Engineering Energy Group (CEEC) in Nay Pyi Taw on January 26.



The Union Minister for Electric Power, U Khine Maung Soe, said at the signing ceremony that the new CCGT power plant, with capacity for 119-megawatt production, would meet the growing electricity demands in state and regional development, according to event attendees.

"The union government is handling this project directly, so I do not know the details. But, as far as I know the electricity produced by the power plant there will be distributed mainly in Mon State," said Nai Layih Aung, Mon State's Electricity Minister, in an interview with MNA.

To fund the project, the Ministry of Electric Power will receive International Development Association (IDA) loans from the World Bank.

Link: <http://monnews.org/2016/01/31/new-ccgt-power-plant-to-be-installed-in-mon-state/>

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