

THAILAND

31 May – 16 June 2016

MEDIA MONITORING REPORT # 149

PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

[A PLACE AT THE TABLE — Govt invites non-signatories of NCA to join political dialogue framework meeting](#)

The Global New Light of Myanmar, 3 June 2016

THE ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) government has opened the door to all stakeholders in the peace dialogue process, inviting non-signatory ethnic armed groups to participate in the upcoming political dialogue framework meeting.



During the first meeting with the United Nationalities Federal Council's (UNFC) Delegation for Political Negotiation (DPN) in Chiangmai, Thailand, yesterday, the government's peace negotiator Dr Tin Myo Win, in his capacity as the chairman of the Union Peace Conference— 21st century Panglong conference preparatory sub-committee 2, has officially invited leaders from the non-signatory groups to join the political dialogue framework meeting, which is scheduled to be held next week.

During the meeting, the non-signatories to the NCA discussed matters concerning participation in the peace conference and the terms and conditions which will enable them to participate. They also said they would review the political framework.

The sub-committee 2 arrived to Chiangmai on Thursday and met separately with the Shan State Rehabilitation Party (RCSS/SSA).

Link: <http://globalnewlightofmyanmar.com/a-place-at-the-table-govt-invites-non-signatories-of-nca-to-join-political-dialogue-framework-meeting/>

[Committee, subcommittees established for Union Peace Conference \(21st Century Panglong Conference\) preparation](#)

The Global New Light of Myanmar, 1 June 2016

A PREPARATORY committee and subcommittees for the holding of the Union Peace Conference (21st Century Panglong Conference) were formed yesterday with the release of Notification 26/2016 dated 31-5-2016 by the President's Office.

The Preparatory Committee was formed with Chief Negotiator Dr Tin Myo Win as chairman, Union Minister for the Office of State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe as vice chairman, Myanmar Peace Centre's special adviser U Hla Maung Shwe as secretary and 13 members.

The preparatory committee is tasked with making preparations for the involvement of all stakeholders in the Union Peace Conference (21st Century Panglong Conference) and the successful holding of the conference.

Subcommittee 1 is tasked with holding talks with signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA and will be led by Lt-Gen Yar Pyae as chairman, Padoh Saw Kwe Htoo Win as vice-chairman, Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong as secretary 1 and Dr Min Zaw Oo as secretary 2.

Subcommittee 2 is tasked with holding talks with NCA non-signatories was formed with Dr Tin Myo Win as chairman, U Hla Maung Shwe as secretary and seven members.

Link: https://issuu.com/myanmarnewspaper/docs/1_june16_gnlm

UNFC representatives meet with UPDJC leaders

Burma News International, 8 June 2016

The United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC) will have its representatives meet with leaders of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) for a discussion and detailed enquiry into the 21 Century Panglong Conference, before the end of June.

“The points taken from the meeting between government and DPN (Delegation for Political Negotiation) representatives are good. However, we still have many points that remain unclear. The new government group cannot state specifically regarding them yet. Therefore, we agreed to have our representatives travel and meet with the UPDJC members officially,” said Nai Htaw Mon, in an interview with MNA.

The UNFC’s 9 member groups have not signed the nationwide ceasefire agreement (NCA). Additionally, the United Wa State Army, National Democracy Alliance Army (NDAA), National Socialist Council Nagaland – Khaplang (NSCN – K) and Arakan Army are also yet to ink the NCA.



Link: <http://www.bnionline.net/news/mon-state/item/1789-unfc-representatives-meet-with-updjc-leaders.html>

EAO Leaders Agree to Follow 1947 Panglong Agreement Principles

Burma News International, 16 June 2016

Leaders of Shan and Kachin ethnic armed organisations (EAOs) agreed to follow the basic principles of the 1947 Panglong Agreement at a meeting held in Chiang Mai, Thailand from 7 to 8 June.



Panglong [Agreement].“

Sai Murng, the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) spokesman told reporters that the EAO leaders focused on issues brought up at the 1947 Panglong Conference, the contents of the 1947 Panglong Agreement, the Panglong pledges and the Panglong spirit during the meeting on 7 June.

General Gun Maw from the KIO said: “We discussed about how we will attend the upcoming meetings and how to approach the public. We unanimously decided to welcome the 21st Century Panglong Conference and negotiate without losing the basic principles of the

Link: <http://www.bnionline.net/news/network-media-group/item/1825-eao-leaders-agree-to-follow-1947-panglong-agreement-principles.html>

LAW AND GOVERNANCE

[Amyotha Hluttaw approves Ward and Village-tract Administration Bill removing guest registration requirement](#)

The Global New Light of Myanmar, 3 June 2016

THE Amyotha Hluttaw approved a Ward and Village-tract Administration Bill that removed the guest registration requirement from the 2012 Law yesterday.

U Aung Kyi Nyunt, member of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee, said that the colonial-era legislation that empowers authorities to detain suspects should be removed in order to bring it in line with the current situations.

According to sources, the bill approved in the Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday will be sent to the Pyithu Hluttaw.



Link: <http://globalnewlightofmyanmar.com/amyotha-hluttaw-approves-ward-and-village-tract-administration-bill-removing-guest-registration-requirement/>

ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT

[Agriculture ministry pledges to bring 24-hour water supply to villages](#)

Myanmar Times, 31 May 2016

The government has launched a project to bring water to every village in the country through a 24-hour supply system. Rural development department director general U Khant Zaw told the media on May 26 that the agriculture ministry was already spending K25-30 billion every year on water purification for drought-stricken villages.



“As part of the 100-day projects, we are digging wells and pools for more than 500 villages. We are also repairing and upgrading wells, pools and pump machines,” he said.

U Khant Zaw said the Ministry of Electricity and Energy was working with his department to provide or upgrade electricity in 1800 off-grid villages.

Now about 70 villages in Magwe and Mandalay regions have been provided with water supply systems as model villages for the rest of the country.

Link: <http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/national-news/20593-agriculture-ministry-pledges-to-bring-24-hour-water-supply-to-villages.html>

Myanmar, Singapore agree on visa-free travel

Then Nation, 7 June 2016

Yangon - Starting from December 1, citizens of Myanmar and Singapore need not to apply for visa for travel between the two countries, according to Myanmar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

In the statement, the ministry said on a reciprocal basis, Myanmar and Singapore will impose the visa-free travel for up to 30 days.

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong met with State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi at the Presidential House this afternoon. Shortly after their discussion, the visa exemption agreement was signed and exchanged by Myanmar's deputy foreign minister Kyaw Tin and the ambassador of Singapore to Myanmar Robert Chua.

Link: <http://www.nationmultimedia.com/breakingnews/Myanmar-Singapore-agree-on-visa-free-travel-30287643.html>

Japan agrees US\$28m loans

Eleven Myanmar, 4 June 2016

Japan will grant loans of US\$28.2 million for development projects, according to its embassy.

Tateshi Higuchi, the Japanese ambassador, and Tun Tun Naing, the permanent secretary at the Ministry of Finance, signed a memorandum of understanding for trainees to visit Japan, to control foot-and-mouth disease and the purchase of equipment used in search and rescue operations.

US\$1 million is earmarked for rule of law projects with courses for lawyers, community leaders and the public at rule of law centers to explain rights and obligations.

US\$5.5 million will be spent on scholarship programmes for human resources Development, US\$ 13 million for the control of foot-and-mouth disease and US\$8.7 million for economic and social development.

Link: <http://www.elevenmyanmar.com/business/japan-agrees-us28m-loans>

LAND AND PROPERTY**30-year land grant provided to specific villages in Mon State**

Mon News Agency, 6 June 2016

Mon State Government will provide a 30-year land rental grant in villages that have never experienced land issues, stated head of Mon State General Administration Department at 100-day Project meeting at State Government Office's Aung San Hall, last week.

"The 30-year land grant will be provided by the Home Affairs department at a ratio of one village per township. Those villages are on a list of village land records of the Home Affairs ministry and those villages are eligible for the grant as they have no negative land issues," said U Myint Thant Win, the chief director of Mon State General Administration Department, at the 100-day project meeting on May 31.



The 30-year land grant project covers 10 villages in respective townships across Mon State. Those villages are Than Thadar Village, in Kyaikhto Township, Ah-naing Pon Village in Belin Township, Chaungwa Village, in Thaton Township, Ye-zu Kwat Htit Village, in Paung Township, Kaw Kha Po Village, in Moulmein Township, Mu Rit Gyi Village, in Chaungzone Township, Paw Village, in Kyaikmayaw Township, Ah Khon Village, in Mudon Township, Pa-dar Ngan Village, Thanbyuzayat Township and Hnit Sone Village, Ye Township.

Link: <http://monnews.org/2016/06/07/30-year-land-grant-provided-specific-villages-mon-state/>

CENSUS AND ELECTION

Myanmar to launch door-to-door voter list survey

The Global New Light of Myanmar, 31 May 2016

PLANS are underway to register voters nationwide through door-to-door visits in order to ensure accuracy in future elections, the Union Election Commission (UEC) announced in the Pyithu Hluttw yesterday.



According to the UEC member, a pilot project to improve the list of voters will be conducted in Yangon Region's Kyauktada Township this June, and the process of compiling nationwide voters' lists will be carried out in cooperation with political parties, civil society organizations and international organizations.

The UEC plans to launch a poster campaign and voter education programmes for radio and television in order to encourage participation in the nationwide voter-list compilation process.

There were more than 23 million eligible voters included in the voters' list compiled ahead of the previous general election.

Link: https://issuu.com/myanmarnewspaper/docs/31_may_16_gnlm

OTHERS

Teachers Ask Government to Allow Students to Wear Traditional Karen Dress

Burma News International, 8 June 2016

School officials in the Win Yaw area of Kyain Seikgyi Township in Karen State want official government permission to allow their students to wear traditional Karen dress on designated days.

According to Saw Moe Aung, a teacher at Hpa-Pya Village in the Win Yaw area the Karen National Union (KNU) Education Department in Win Ye Township, which oversees the Win Yaw area, said that students in the area must wear traditional Karen dress on Mondays and Fridays.

Though the students wear traditional Karen dress on Mondays and Fridays Saw Moe Aung said that the teachers feel under pressure because they have not received official government permission to let students wear traditional Karen dress.

Government schools in Karen village in Win Yaw area have been wearing Karen traditional costumes on designated days since last year and other government schools in Mon and Shan villages have also been wearing their traditional costumes on designated days.

Link: <http://www.bnionline.net/news/karen-state/item/1791-teachers-ask-government-to-allow-students-to-wear-traditional-karen-dress.html>



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