

THAILAND

19 - 31 August 2018

MEDIA MONITORING REPORT # 189

LAND AND PROPERTY

Confiscated lands returned to farmers in Taungoo, Ottwin and Kyukgyi Townships

Eleven Myanmar, 26 August 2018

A ceremony to return more than 480 acres of confiscated farmlands to farmers was held in Taungoo Township in Bago region on the morning of August 25, attended by the Chairman of the Central Committee for Re-scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands Vice-President Henry Van Thio.



In his opening speech, Vice-President Henry Van Thio said: "Ministry of Defence will return 481.93 acres of confiscated land to 123 farmers in Taungoo, Ottwin and Kyukgyi Townships and give temporary land ownership documents (form-3) to them. The Sub-Committee for Re-scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands are formed with parliamentarians and farmer representatives at regions, districts, townships and village-tracts. Respective sub-committees are working to return

confiscated lands to landowners in accordance with the land law."

At the ceremony, heads of respective battalions handed over 210.45 acres of land confiscated by the Southern Command to 60 farmers from Gyunkone village-tract in Taungoo Township, 10 acres of land confiscated by No.48 Light Infantry Division to ten farmers from Maegone village-tract in Ottwin Township, 261.48 acres of land confiscated by No.60 Light Infantry Division to 53 farmers Kyaukpone village-tract in Kyaukgyi Township.

In the time of the then-government, there were 148 cases in Bago region. A total of 22,406.95 acres of confiscated lands were solved in accord with the law. At that time, 15384.76 acres of confiscated lands were returned to 1,539 farmers. In the time of current government, 5,295 acres of confiscated lands were handed over to 86 farmers. So far, 11,161.69 acres of seized lands including above lands have been handed over to 2,748 farmers. A total of 1244.09 acres of confiscated lands remain to be solved.

Link: <http://www.elevenmyanmar.com/local/14729>

Over 100,000 acres of idle land in Taninthayi without oil palm cultivations to be confiscated

Eleven Myanmar, 31 August 2018

Among the land areas in Taninthayi Region allotted for growing oil palm, over 100,000 acres will be confiscated as they are not being used for intended cultivation purposes, according to a press conference organised by Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) on August 29.

"There is an estimated amount of over 100,000 acres. As coordination efforts are completed, the amount may be more. Upon completion, we can say exactly. Currently, there are over 100,000 acres," said Win Tin, director of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Under the previous government, MIC had allowed four foreign companies and one local company to grow oil palm in the region.

The five companies are; two from Indonesia and one each from Thailand, South Korean and Myanmar. They were allowed to grow oil palm on about 300,000 acres of land.

As the land area was too large, authorities under the new government made a field trip and found out that only about 40,000 acres were really growing oil palm plantations. Therefore, they came up with new plans to resize the areas without oil palm plantations.

MIC fixed the amount of acreage to grow oil palm by reducing the remaining acreage without real plantations and sent a report to the region government for scrutiny and approval.

According to investigation, over 100,000 acres are found to have been used for oil palm cultivation. For some areas, negotiations are ongoing due to difficulty of sustaining the cultivations. After complete assessment, all the areas where cultivation does not really exist will be confiscated.

Link: <http://www.elevenmyanmar.com/business/14840>



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Mon State gov't gives funding for Karen traditional ceremonies in Mon State

Network Media Group, 21 August 2018

The Mon State government said it has provided Ks 55 million for the Karen (Kayin) traditional wrist-tying ceremonies in the Mon State.



"The government needs to show recognition and provide support in preserving traditional customs of ethnic people," said Saw Aung Myint Khine, the Karen Affairs Minister from the Mon State government.

The Karen traditional wrist-tying ceremonies will be held on the township-level and

village-level in all ten townships and over 100 villages in the Mon State, where the Karen people reside.

Each township will receive Ks 1.5 million for the township-level ceremony and each village will receive Ks 350,000 for the village-level ceremony.

The Karen Affairs Minister said the state government started providing funding for the wrist-tying ceremonies in the state since last year.

The Mon State government said it has provided funding from its state budget for literature and culture-related programs of the Mon, Karen, and Pa-O people within the first half of the financial year from April to September 2018.

The state government has provided Ks 100 million for Mon people, Ks 150 million for the Karen people, and Ks 100 million for the Pa-O people.

Karen people live in all ten townships in the Mon State and most of them reside in Thaton and Bilin townships.

Over 300,000 Karen people live in the Mon State.

Link: <https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/mon-state-govt-gives-funding-karen-traditional-ceremonies-mon-state>

Government to Provide Electricity in Rural Areas Using €3 Million from Italy

Myanmar Business Today, 21 August 2018

The Amyothar Hluttaw (lower house) approved a plan for the government to provide electricity in rural areas using €3 million interest-free from Italy, said U Hla Kyaw, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in his remarks to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union assembly), on August 13.

The ministry will make solar panels affordable for many people through the program. There are two kinds of systems available. The first kind is individual panels that can be installed on each house or property. The second is a solar farm, which is an array of panels linked together to power multiple homes or an entire village.



The individual panels will vary in wattage and cost. The smallest is a 30w solar panel that cost over K220, 000. The house owner must pay K19, 000 for the item, and the government will pay for the rest through the program. Likewise, the 60w solar panel is worth K270, 000, and the homeowner must pay K50, 000, and finally a 100w solar panel is available at K370, 000, the cost to the owner is K150, 000.

For a solar farm, investors will charge for electricity over a period of time agreed upon by the residents, after which the residents will own the solar array, U Hla Kyaw said. No information on the size or cost of the solar farm option was immediately available.

The Rural Development Department will implement the program in accordance with the agreement between the investor and local residents.

Link: <https://www.mmbiztoday.com/articles/government-provide-electricity-rural-areas-using-3-million-italy>

Japan to help Myanmar deal with waste

Myanmar Times, 22 August 2018

Japan will provide waste management technology to Myanmar to help the country deal with its burgeoning garbage problem.



The aid was formalised in a memorandum of understanding on environmental conservation signed on Monday by Myanmar's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and Japan's Ministry of Environment.

"Japan will mainly assist us by providing the technology. We will quickly learn to effectively manage (our garbage) from Japan's 20 years of experience," said U Kyaw San Naing, director of policy and legal affairs at the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Japan will assist Myanmar in segregating waste and disposing of it systematically.

Among the different types of waste – kitchen, hospital and electronic – Myanmar is having the most trouble managing kitchen waste.

"It is fundamental to dispose of kitchen rubbish by segregation, if we want to adopt Japan's garbage system. If rubbish is separated and sorted into categories, garbage trucks can collect it by waste type. This system will be gradually and effectively implemented, though there are still some weaknesses," U Kyaw San Naing said.

In addition to promoting proper waste management, Japan will also help in reducing carbon emissions, conservation of biodiversity, and mitigating the effects of climate change.

Japan is currently operating a waste-to-energy factory in Yangon.

Link: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/japan-help-myanmar-deal-waste.html>

Myeik archipelago pearl farms to welcome tourists in October

Myanmar Times, 23 August 2018

Local and foreign tourists can start visiting pearl farms in Tanintharyi Region in October as part of a tourism-promotion programme, according to the Myanmar Tourism Federation.

Pearl farms in the Myeik archipelago are not normally open to the public, but tourism operators convinced government officials to allow tourists to visit them, U Myo Win Than, a federation central executive member,



said.

Among the 11 pearl farms that will be opened to the public are private farms on Golden Island, Lga Lone La Phal Island, Jalan Island and Kyun Su Island and a government-managed farm in Bokepyin Township.

The farms will be opened three days a week, and there will be no limit on the number of visitors. A visit to the farms would only require a day trip.

Visitors to the farms can see the processes involved the production of pearls, such as preserving the oysters in floating houses and incubation places where the oysters stay until they produce pearls. They can also buy pearls and oyster products at the farms. Visitors can also go snorkelling near the islands.

Most visitors to Myeik archipelago come from Thailand, but there has recently been a spike in domestic travellers.

Link: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/myeik-archipelago-pearl-farms-welcome-tourists-october.html>

Population Department launches new website with complete census data

Eleven Myanmar, 24 August 2018

The Department of Population launched a website with redatam database and micro census data at M Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

The website offers details of census together with maps and images. Those latest data on the website are different in design and format from those previously created by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population. Website browsers will be able to ask questions and make tables and pictures.

The new website will enable policy makers, regional administrative bodies, private sector, scholars, experts, social organisations and public members to seek complete data about Myanmar's population census.

Detailed national census can be studied from two websites of the ministry and they are <http://www.doperdatam.gov.mm> and <http://dopcensus.aceplusbeta.com>.

Despite complete data about census, records and other facts of individuals and details about organisations will be confidential. For those who want to collect 1, 5 or 10 percent of those data, contacts need to be made with the Population Department.

The latest national census was taken in Myanmar in 2014.

The 2014 tally put the Buddhist population at 89.8 percent of the nationwide total, with Christians making up 6.3 percent, Muslims 2.3 percent and the Hindu population 0.5 percent.

Link: <http://www.elevenmyanmar.com/local/14710>

Foreign tourists allowed visiting in Ruby Land

Eleven Myanmar, 24 August 2018

MANDALAY- The government officially allowed foreign tourists to visit “Ruby Land” Mogok Township, Mandalay Region since the beginning of August, says MP Saw Thauung Tin from No.2 Constituency in Mogok Township.



The foreign tourists were banned from visiting to Mogoke Township since the beginning of ex-government to incumbent government time.

However, the Mandalay Region Government Committee had submitted a proposal to boost job opportunities for locals and regional development tasks in Mogoke Township to the Union Government, said Dr Zaw Myint Maung, Chief Minister of Mandalay Region at the 800 Anniversary of Founding on Ruby Land of Mogoke City.

That's why government eased its restriction on foreigners' visit to Mogoke.

The festival was held from March 29th to 31st. During the festival, government allowed foreigners to visit Mogoke Township under limitation.

As for foreign tourists, they must be allowed visiting in only downtown Mogoke Township. "The mining permits for gems will not be renewed in Mogoke Township. That's why the gems produce is now decreasing. In doing so, the business of our township already declined. In my opinion, the tourism industry can support for us. If tourism industry will be blooming, there will be new job opportunities for the locals. Moreover, it will become an inflow of income one, social economic life of people will upgrade. In our township, there are many natural resources and traditional foods. It is a great chance for us to display our produces on the global via our land," said Min Thu from Mogoke who also invests in gems dealing and tourism industry.

In Myanmar, the restricted areas include: Naungmoon, Kawnglangphu, Sumprabum, Tanai, Hpakan, Injangyang, Hsawlaw and Chibwe Townships in Kachin State, Hpasawng, Shadaw, Bawlakha and Maisal Townships in Kayah State, Phapun and Kyainseikkyi Townships in Kayin State, Nanywan Self-Administered Zone in Sagaing Region, Kyaikmaraw and Thanbyuzayat Townships in Mon State and far-flung townships of the Shan State.

Link: <http://www.elevenmyanmar.com/tourism/14697>

Online registration of births and deaths trialled in Mon State

Myanmar Times, 29 August 2018

The government began testing an online birth and death registration system using mobile phones in Mon State on Monday, a senior government official said.

The trial, which was being jointly carried out by the ministries of Health and Sports, and Planning and Finance, was funded by UNICEF and Telenor.

"Practical data obtained from the testing will assist in drafting policies for nationwide birth and death registration on an e-platform," U Set Aung, deputy minister for Planning and Finance, said during the launch of the trial in Nay Pyi Taw.

The project aims to convert the manual data collection system using paper to a paperless digital system, so Myanmar would be able to keep up with international standards.

“The mobile birth and death registration starting today is a unique pilot in Myanmar that will help accelerate Myanmar’s attempt to put in place internationally-recognised Universal Birth Registration as per the directions of the birth and death registration guidebook released in October 2017,” U Set Aung said.

Registration of births and deaths started in Myanmar from 2001 to 2005, with 450,000 children registered in Mon, Chin, Kayin, Kayah, southern Shan, Magwe, Ayeyarwady, Nap Pyi Taw and Tanintharyi states and regions, he said.

Link: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/online-registration-births-and-deaths-trialled-mon-state.html>

Gov’t provides fund for development of ethnic literature curriculum

Kantarawaddy Times, 30 August 2018

The Karenni (Kayah) State government has provided over Ks 20 million to the Ethnic Literature and Culture Committee to develop the curriculum for ethnic literature.

Officials from the Ethnic Literature and Culture Committee submitted the needs for regional curriculum and teachers’ guide to the state government before they received the fund.

These curricula will be released by December this year.

The Karenni State government said it will favor and implement tasks on the development of traditions, culture, and custom, festivals, and literature and culture sector of the ethnic tribes residing in the state.



The state government made the donation on August 24 with the aim to uplift the culture and traditions and custom of ethnic people and publish books in their ethnic languages.

The Karenni State government provided Ks 42.1698 million to respective committees - Ks 9.45 million to publish “Facts about the Kayah State” book, Ks 5.5091 million to the Kayah Literature and Culture Committee, Ks 7.4775 million to the Kayan Literature and Culture Committee, Ks 3.378 million to the Kayaw Literature and Culture Committee, Ks 5.5185 million to the Gaybar Literature and Culture Committee, Ks 4.4671 million to the Manu Manaw (Kawyaw) Literature and Culture Committee, and Ks 6.0696 million to the Yintale (Pyantalai) Literature and Culture Committee.

The drafting of the framework for the curricula in the Karenni State, setting down and collecting regional contents for the regional curricula, syllabus for the curricula, lesson preparations, and layout design for the cover and inside pages of the textbooks (About the State, Ethnic Literature) have been discussed and approved during the five workshops.

Link: <https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/govt-provides-fund-development-ethnic-literature-curriculum>

LAW AND GOVERNANCE

Myanmar state counsellor calls for anti-corruption society

Mizzima, 29 August 2018

Myanmar State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi on Monday stressed the importance of making the country's economy corruption free in a meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw with business leaders, Myanmar News Agency reported Tuesday.



"If our country is known by the world as corruption free in the economic sector, there will be more people willing to invest in our country with trust," Aung San Suu Kyi told business leaders in Nay Pyi Taw Monday, citing the complaints on tender matters.

Suu Kyi attributed some irregularities in tenders to corruption, saying that she wants to be informed about it.

She warned of the big challenge in the tender process, pointing out that the slowness in the tender matters causes delayed completion of projects.

The corruption is most liable to occur in business economy and a country's economic dignity depends on how corruption-free the country is, she said.

She called for removing red tapes in the process of business undertakings.

She reminded the businessmen to bear in mind that they also have duties and responsibilities, saying that the democratic system will succeed only when the people realize their own duties and are capable of performing them. If everything is to be done by the government, then there is no longer a democracy, she added.

Apart from corruption, she urged business persons to help in striving towards peace and stability, citing Rakhine issue that the world is also focusing and calling for working hand in hand in resolving the issue as soon as possible.

Suu Kyi also mentioned the stability of exchange rate, export and import policies, reducing the bank loan interest rate for developers and reducing condominium property tax.

Link: <http://www.mizzima.com/business-domestic/myanmar-state-counsellor-calls-anti-corruption-society>

PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

National reconciliation to make step by step through negotiations: Suu Kyi

Eleven Myanmar, 22 August 2018

We must remove unelected representatives from legislatures and national reconciliation will make step by step through negotiations, said State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi during a speech titled "Democratic Transition in

Myanmar: Challenges and Way Forward” delivered at the 43rd Singapore Lecture held at Institute of South East Asia Studies (SEAS) on August 21.

She replied to a question raised by an attendee that he considered transition from military rule to democracy is not completed and would like to know how to deal with the situation.

“The constitution at present reserves 25% of seats in national and state legislatures for the military. We have only 75% of rights but 100% of the responsibilities and we have got to change that. We must remove unelected representatives from legislatures. This needed to be achieved through negotiations step by step, keeping in mind our needs for national reconciliation. Some parts of the constitution are not democratic and it concerns the power of the army. We will make negotiations to make amendment. We will use ways which cannot be hurt people. Our people were suffered much from the troubles and problems. We don't want to encourage the kind of revolutions that turned the country upside down. We will be patient but we will be persistent,” she said.



A student pointed out there are many criticisms that the NLD government cannot control over the military and asked if there is likely to be another coup in Myanmar and she replied that the government is working together with generals and don't need to be worried about another coup in Myanmar.

She added the 21st Century Panglong Conference was held for third time and we have important improvements after each of the conference. Serious challenges remain and armed conflicts continue to break out between the Tatmataw and the ethnic armed groups, as well as the ethnic armed groups themselves. We aim to resolve them through dialogue and negotiation, by preserving endeavour to build mutual trust and understanding.

She addressed the outside world can choose the issues on which they wish to focus and, after Rakhine, the one that is attracting most interest today is foreign direct investment. We want Myanmar to be business friendly, an environment where investors can be comfortable and secure and where their interests can merge harmoniously with our development aims. We prepared the Investment and Companies Laws to meet the nation interest and to have better economic practices. Myanmar's economy is developed due to ASEAN community. We will have mutual benefits if we continue to cooperate.

Link: <http://www.elevenmyanmar.com/politics/14674>

Mon parties will lead a dialogue to review on 21st Century Panglong

Mon News Agency, 23 August 2018

The All Mon Region Democracy Party (AMDP) and the Mon National Party (MNP), which are members of the Mon Unity Committee, will lead a political dialogue under the title 'Reviewing the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference'.

The political dialogue is slated for August 31 and September 1 at Paing Khit Hall in Mawlamyine, Mon State and



(MNP).

150 delegates from the AMRDP and the MNP will be invited to attend the dialogue, the coordinators said.

“Decisions have been set down in the Mon political dialogue, which was held in Ye. Among them, we need to review to what extent practical positions and demands have been obtained in the third session of the Panglong Conference,” said Nai Layih Tamarh, general secretary of the Mon National Party

The dialogue will include talks on peace and federal issues given by the New Mon State Party (NMSP)’s vice-chair Nai Hong Sar and the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) members Dr Min Nwe Soe and Min Zayar Oo.

“We will talk about peace and a little about federalism and review the presentations by the attendees,” said Min Nwe Soe.

The Ethnic-based Mon National-Level Political Dialogue was held in Ye for three days in early May, but only some social and land issues from the outcome were discussed in the third session of the 21st Century Panglong Conference, according to Mon delegates who attended the conference.

Link: <https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/mon-parties-will-lead-dialogue-review-21st-century-panglong>

Gov’t, KNPP unable to meet as previously agreed

Network Media Group, 24 August 2018

The government’s Peace Commission and the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) originally agreed to meet in mid-August but they are still unable to meet, the KNPP secretary 1 Khu Plu Reh said.

“Our delegation met with the PC (Peace Commission) while they were going to attend the third session of the 21st Century Panglong. We discussed about holding another meeting in the mid of this month. We are waiting for the notification letter from them. It hasn’t arrived yet. Nothing has come from their side. We are waiting for the letter,” he said.



The KNPP attended the third session of the 21st Century Panglong Conference as observers on July 11. It held an informal meeting with the Peace Commission while it was in Naypyidaw to attend the conference and both sides have agreed to meet again in Yangon in mid-August to discuss the signing of the nationwide ceasefire agreement (NCA).

After two members of the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC) - the New Mon State Party (NMSP) and the Lahu Democratic Union (LDU) - signed the NCA on February 13, the KNPP held an official meeting with the

Peace Commission in Loikaw on April 26 and two informal meetings – once in Yangon in March and another in Naypyidaw in July.

“They want to discuss about the issue on signing the NCA, but we are still unable to sign it due to various reasons,” said Khu Plu Reh.

He explained that the KNPP has been facing difficulties since its Peace Implementation Committee started holding informal meetings with the Peace Commission from the National Reconciliation and Peace Center in Naypyidaw on March 7, 2018 to implement the state-level and union-level ceasefire agreements.

“When we look at this peace process, there are still misunderstandings between the NCA signatories and the peace process they are carrying out. When we look at it as a whole, there isn’t much in the path to the building of a genuine federal union. That’s why it’s a little difficult for us to sign the NCA,” he added.

NMG has tried to contact the Peace Commission member U Naing Ngan Linn via the telephone to inquire about the halt in peace dialogue with the KNPP, but he did not answer the phone.

The KNPP is an ethnic armed organization that has been established since 1957. Although it signed a ceasefire with the Tatmadaw government on March 21, 1995, the ceasefire fell apart three months later after clashes broke out between them.

The KNPP signed a state-level ceasefire with the government in Loikaw, Kayah (Karenni) State in March 2012 and the union-level ceasefire on June 9, 2012.

Link: <https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/govt-knpp-unable-meet-previously-agreed>

KNU says they will engage with non-NCA signatories

Mizzima, 27 August 2018

The Karen National Union (KNU) said in a statement that they would engage with ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) which had not yet signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and would strive for achieving internal peace in the country.



The KNU issued the statement after the second meeting of Central Standing Committee held at Lay Wah camp from August 6 to 24.

The statement says, “We will fully coordinate on differences among dialogue partners based on mutual recognition, respect, sympathy and understanding.”

The KNU signed the NCA when President Thein Sein’s government was in power.

Link: <https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/knu-says-they-will-engage-non-nca-signatories>

UNFC discusses continuous participation in peace process

Karen Information Center, 28 August 2018

The United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC) held its central executive committee meeting at the Thai-

Myanmar border on Sunday (August 26) to discuss its continuous participation in the ongoing peace process.



The Central Executive Committee member U Tun Zaw told KIC News yesterday (August 27) that the UNFC reviewed the obstacles in the dialogue between the Delegation for Political Negotiation (DPN) and the Union Peace Commission and discuss its continuous participation in the ongoing peace process.

“We have the attitude to continue to follow this NCA path. When the UNFC tries to implement it, there are obstacles in the latest attempt made by the DPN. We reviewed how to proceed and continue based on it,” he said.

The DPN has met with the Union Peace Commission to create an arena for signing the nationwide ceasefire agreement (NCA) by trying to negotiate the differences in the definition of federal democracy and seek a pledge to get justice on the killing of the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) troops and a civilian. However, the Peace Commission has halted the negotiation with the DPN and it has also halted the dialogue with the UNFC member, Arakan National Council (ANC), one-sidedly, U Tun Zaw continued.

Although two UNFC members – the New Mon State Party (NMSP) and the Lahu Democratic Union (LDU) – have signed the NCA on February 13, the remaining members – the KNPP, the ANC, and the Shan State Progress Party (SSPP) – are still unable to sign it.

The UNFC was established with 11 member organizations on February 16, 2011. Now, only the NMSP, KNPP, LDU, ANC, and SSPP remain as members.

All member organizations attended the Central Executive Committee on Sunday.

Link: <https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/unfc-discusses-continuous-participation-peace-process>

Internal peace issue is still in deadlock, Nai Hong Sar says

Network Media Group, 30 August 2018

The New Mon State Party (NMSP) said it will strive to find solutions for internal peace together with other ethnic people even though there are still differences of opinion in the dialogue for internal peace.



On the 71st Mon Revolution Day of the NMSP, which fell on August 26, the NMSP vice-chair Nai Hong Sar told Network Media Group that differences of opinion still exist between the Tatmadaw and ethnic people.

"When the Tatmadaw was negotiating the

agenda, they said they will discuss self-determination and state rights only when we accept the non-disintegration from the Union policy. We have been in a deadlock on this issue,” he said.

He also said that the ethnic people do not want to secede but they cannot pledge not to secede.

“We asked the groups that signed the Panglong Agreement in 1947 to tell us their desire. What they have said is that, first of all, the nature of the agreement that was signed by their leaders - the 1947 Constitution - stated that the Shan State and the Karenni State have the right to secede after ten years. They don’t want to reject what is planned for good by their leaders for something worse. They can’t stand public criticism. They can’t accept it,” said Nai Hong Sar.

The ethnic people cannot promise not to secede at the time where they still have not obtained their rights and state rights. There will be more difficulties if there is oppression in the future and the ethnic people are not saying that they want to secede and they need full guarantee and rights, the NMSP said.

In a statement released by the NMSP on the 71st Mon Revolution Day, it stated that the third session of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong, which was held on July 11-16, was unable to discuss issues on self-determination and state constitution that are related to federal principles and there are still differences of opinion in the dialogue for internal peace.

The NMSP urged everyone to continue to find the solution together for internal peace.

Although the National League for Democracy (NLD) government has been able to form a government with acclamation from the public, it is facing various political difficulties under the 2008 Constitution and the peace implementation process is at a standstill, the statement said.

Link: <https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/internal-peace-issue-still-deadlock-nai-hong-sar-says>

Peace process participants, KNU hold workshop about NCA

Karen Information Center, 31 August 2018

Participants of the peace implementation process and the Karen National Union (KNU) are holding a workshop in Law Khee Lar (Lay Wah), Hpa-an District in the Karen (Kayin) State from August 30 to September 2 to review the nationwide ceasefire agreement (NCA) process.

Delegates of the KNU, the Union Peace Conference, the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC), the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC), and the Karen National Dialogue Convening Committee (KNDCC) are attending the workshop on reviewing the peace process.

The three-day workshop will focus on the ongoing peace implementation process, issues relating to the JMC and the UPDJC, issues submitted to the political, economic, social, land and natural resources, and security sectors in the Union Peace Conference, and Part II of the Union Accord.



Discussions and reviews obtained from the workshop will be explained to Karen community-based organizations and Karen civil society organizations at a workshop on September 3-5.

“We need to continue to support this peace process because it was anticipated by the ethnic people. I hope the ethnic people will discuss in the upcoming peace dialogues with more unity. I hope more technical aids will be used in the next dialogue,” said Saw Lay Ka Paw from the Karen Peace Support Network (KPSN), who attended the workshop.

This workshop was held based on the decision set down by the KNU’s 2nd Central Standing Committee meeting, which was held after the 16th Congress from August 6 to 24.

Link: <https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/peace-process-participants-knu-hold-workshop-about-nca>

OTHERS

Japan donates 50 tonnes of rice to flood victims in Kayin State

Eleven Myanmar, 19 August 2018

Kayin State government will continue providing flood victims with 50 tonnes of rice donated by Japan, during the rehabilitation period, Kayin State Chief Minister Nan Khin Htwe Myint told the Daily Eleven.



“Rice is essential for flood victims. There was a shortage of rice for two days despite the inflow of donation. Locals are unable to resume their works as floods last nearly one month. The government will provide necessary assistance to them during the rehabilitation period after the water recedes,” she added.

Due to heavy downpours since 21 July, floods hit six out of seven townships in Kayin State apart from Thandaunggyi Township. The disaster destroyed six bridges, 10,000 acres of monsoon paddy, 871.91 acres of fish and prawn breeding lakes in Kyin State. More

than 50,000 flood victims are still taking shelter at 50 relief camps.

According to the Asean plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR), Japan donated 50 tonnes of rice, UNICEF and the Rural Development Department, water supply and family health equipment and Myanma Agriculture Services, paddy seeds and onion, to Kayin State government, on August 17.

At the donation ceremony, Shimphalee, General Manager of Asean plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Secretariat said: “The APTERR plans to provide assistance to Myanmar. During Myanmar State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s goodwill tour to Japan in November, 2016, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe promised Japanese Yen 40-billion assistance for ethnics and peace process. Japan will continue supporting Myanmar’s efforts for the marching towards the peaceful country.

Link: <http://www.elevenmyanmar.com/local/14629>

Flood, landmine victims in Taninthayi Region provided with cash assistance

The Global New Light of Myanmar, 20 August 2018

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye presented cash assistance the landmine victims in Dawei District and Myeik Township in Taninthayi Township yesterday.

At the ceremony to provide cash assistance to the victims held in Myeik, Taninthayi Region, the Union Minister handed over K9.4 million for 47 landmine victims through a representative.

Afterwards, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye proceeded to Taninthayi and attended a ceremony to provide cash assistance to flood victims and landmine victims.

At the ceremony, the Union Minister presented K7.8 million for 39 landmine victims and over K30 million for flood victims through officials.

Following the meeting, the Union minister and party inspected the flood situation in Taninthayi and visited shelters and presented aid to flood victims staying there.

Link: <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs24/GNLM2018-08-22-red.pdf>

New flood relief camps opened in Kayin State

Mizzima, 24 August 2018

Authorities have opened new flood relief camps as water level in Thanlwin River has reached above its danger level, following continuous rain in Kayin State, Hpa-an District, Hlaingbwe Township, Shwe Gun Village, state media reported.

The water level in Thanlwin River reached 1158 cm on the morning of August 21 and in Shwe Gun Village above the danger level of 980 cm. Therefore, authorities opened a new flood relief camp and there are now about 1,861 persons from 411 families temporarily sheltering at the camp.



Township administrator, officials, social organization members and welfare organizations are planning to donate rice, food supplies and personal effects to the victims from the flooded areas.

Link: <https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/new-flood-relief-camps-opened-kayin-state>

Ethnic Mon people from Karen, Mon states attend Mon Revolution Day ceremony

Network Media Group, 27 August 2018

Mon youths from the Karen (Kayin) State have joined Mon youths and Mon people during the 71st Mon Revolution Day ceremony, which was led by Mon youths in Mudon Township, Mon State.



The Ceremony Organizing Committee said the Mon Revolution Day central ceremony was held at Win Sein Taw Ya Sasana grounds in Mudon on the full moon day of Wagaung, which fell on August 26.

The Ceremony Organizing Committee had to remove the slogan ‘You will gain your freedom only if you dare to rebel’, which was written in the Mon

language, from the 71st Mon Revolution Day ceremony signboard after it was prohibited by the Mon State government.

The Mon Revolution Day ceremony was also held at the New Mon State Party (NMSP) headquarters and respective districts under its control. Although the Tatmadaw prohibited the NMSP from wearing full military uniform during last year's Mon Revolution Day ceremony, it has not made any restrictions this year, according to the NMSP.

The full moon day of Wagaung has been designated as the Mon Revolution Day and it is celebrated by the NMSP and the Mon people every year.

Link: <https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/ethnic-mon-people-karen-mon-states-attend-mon-revolution-day-ceremony>

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