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## **Full Text of the Nation-wide Radio Address Delivered by President U Thein Sein on 1 August 2014**

My fellow citizens,

In this radio speech, I would like to give you the monthly update on the work of my government, and the developments that have taken place in our country. We welcome the July meetings of the armed ethnic groups in Laiza, Kachin State to discuss the nationwide ceasefire agreement. Our government provided necessary assistance for these meetings. The Union Peace Working Committee, program committees, and all the citizens are expecting positive results from these meetings will lead to agreements to ensure the signing of the nationwide ceasefire agreement and holding of inclusive political dialogue will produce enduring internal peace.

The political reforms that we are currently undergoing are not without challenges and difficulties. But, we remain undeterred; we will overcome them and continue to sustain the reform process. The one area where there is general consensus among different political groups is for the continued sustainability of the reform process and the nurturing of a democratic system. It is undeniable that since my government took office we have resolutely implemented reforms. It is also true that during the three plus years since my government took office, we have faced criticism and encountered constraints. I speak with conviction that I have tried to find solutions to these difficulties with good intentions and with the desires of the people in mind. Every transition from an old system to a new one will encounter constraints and challenges.

I am facing criticisms not with the ideas of the old system but striving to find constructive answers that are in line with the current political climate.

If we look at where our nation wants to be in the future, we are still behind in many measures. Addressing the weaknesses require the efforts of not just an individual or group but of the whole society.

I have already spoken of my government taking stern action against anyone threatening the nation's stability. In this regard, we are taking action against those who took advantage of fabricated stories to incite the recent violence in Mandalay. On behalf of the entire nation, I would like to convey my appreciation to everyone who vigilantly and dutifully maintained peace in Mandalay.

I had a very cordial meeting with members of dance, music and motion picture associations on July 12. On the basis of the feedbacks I received from them, the government will provide both immediate and long term assistance to these associations in promoting the performing arts sector. Artists are jewel of the country. I would like thank them for the contribution they have made to the development and nation-building activities.

July 19th of this year was the 67th Martyrs' Day this nation has commemorated in remembrance of the assassinations of the Father of Independence Bogyoke Aung San and other martyrs. In addition to showing our sorrow, we can repay their sacrifices by following their example. The Martyrs' Day ceremonies give us an opportunity to honor the nine martyrs and to salute their selfless sacrifice. If we look at the martyrs' backgrounds, we see that they held different political persuasions, and were of different ethnicities, and religions. However, despite their differences they all shared a common belief of selfless sacrifice for the benefit of the nation and its people. We must all strive to keep this spirit alive, and unite and cooperate in the implementation of the peace process and democratic process.

In July, we drafted the Action Plan for Comprehensive Strategy for Stability and Development of Rakhine State in consultation with civil organizations, government departments, and development organizations. The Action Plan will be finalized soon. I believe the successful implementation of the Action Plan will improve the livelihoods of the people of Rakhine State. But the Action Plan will only succeed with the cooperation of the government, civil organizations, community leaders, and international organizations. The government will provide necessary assistance to all the groups involved with the implementation of the Action Plan, and I also urge people of Rakhine State to act with foresight for the stability and development of the state.

Currently, we are encountering challenges developing the 3-branches system of government, that is, judicial branch, executive branch, and legislative branch based on the principles of separation of powers and checks and balances. During this process, it is essential we act to transition to a judicial system that better protects civil liberties, transition to people-based democratic governance, and developing legislatures. Although every civil servant involved in this process is trying his or her best, it is undeniable that there are delays and weaknesses. On this point, I would like to stress the need for civil servants to complete their tasks efficiently without negligence or finding reasons to delay. I also urge citizens to consider these efforts a national duty and give their cooperation.

The current situation is by no means perfect. However, this is the time for all of us to join efforts to ensure the reform process that all of us have nurtured and value stays on course.

In conclusion, I would like to inform you that I continue to strive for achieving internal peace, improving livelihoods, and ensuring a brighter future for our children.

I wish you all good health.

MNA

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