



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **State Counsellor briefed ASEAN Foreign Ministers on recent developments in Rakhine State**

Myanmar hosted a Retreat of ASEAN Foreign Ministers at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 19th December 2016. The Retreat was chaired by Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic which is the current Chair of ASEAN.

The Retreat was initiated by the Government of Myanmar with the aim of apprising fellow members of the ASEAN family of Myanmar's efforts in ensuring peace, security and development in the Rakhine State. It was also intended to strengthen ASEAN unity and solidarity.

During the Retreat, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi briefed the ASEAN Foreign Ministers on recent developments in Northern Rakhine State following the coordinated armed attacks against three Border Police Outposts at the beginning of October. She also provided information on her Government's efforts to address the issue, including the provision of humanitarian assistance to both communities in Northern Rakhine State in cooperation with the UN Agencies.

State Counsellor reiterated the Government's serious commitment to the resolution of the complex issue and the need for time and space for the Government's efforts to bear fruit. She also emphasized the importance of strengthening ASEAN unity and resolving the differences among ASEAN family members through peaceful and friendly consultations.

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Government of Myanmar for convening the meeting and for the briefing on developments in the Rakhine State. There was a candid and transparent exchange of views based on the spirit of ASEAN family and ASEAN Community. ASEAN welcomed the steps taken by the Government of Myanmar to address the challenges in the Rakhine State. They also suggested ways and means of promoting peaceful coexistence and harmony among the communities, protecting the human rights of the civilian population and providing greater

humanitarian assistance and health care for all in the State. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers expressed readiness of their countries to help with humanitarian and development assistance. The Government of Myanmar reiterated its readiness to grant necessary humanitarian access and to keep ASEAN members informed of developments in the Rakhine State.

Myanmar also expressed her appreciation of the understanding and warmth with which fellow members of ASEAN have responded to the national reconciliation and peace issues in the Rakhine State.

The Retreat was attended by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; Dato Erywan Pehin Yusof, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam; Mr. Kan Pharith, Under Secretary of State of the Kingdom of Cambodia; Ms. Retno Marsudi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia; Dato Sari Anifah Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia; Mr. Perfecto Rivas Yasay, Jr., Secretary of State of the Republic of the Philippines; Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore; Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand; Mr. Nguyen Quoc Dzong, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam; and Mr. Le Luong Minh, Secretary General of ASEAN.

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**  
**Nay Pyi Taw**  
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