

# *The* New Light of Myanmar

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Nay Pyi Taw, 7 Feb—*President Agga Maha Thayay Sithu, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sein sent a message on the occasion to mark the 67th Anniversary Shan State Day which falls on 7 February 2014. The translation of the message is as follows:-*

## **Esteemed national people and national brethren in Shan State,**

I am taking pride on sending my message to the celebration of the 67th Anniversary Shan State Day which falls on 7th February, 2014.

The birth of the Shan State Day in 1947 during the struggle period for the independence has become a milestone of our country's political history.

While our national leader General Aung San was holding talks serious with the British colonial government over gaining independence, Shan chieftains sent a telegram to the England and informed the British colonial government that General Aung San did not represent Shan State. To foil the attempt of the chieftains, the people of Shan State held a mass demonstration demanding to gain independence under one flag of the hilly regions and the mainland. Thanks to the successful mass demonstration, the people of Shan State led by General Aung San could decisively make the resolution to gain independence under one flag of the hilly regions and the mainland. Therefore, General Aung San held talks with leaders from hilly regions in Panglong, Shan State, and could try to reach the agreement that they all would work together with the mainland to achieve together the independence from the Britain. Thence, General Aung San held talks seriously with political leaders from Shan State and could make a resolution that "they will work together with the mainland for independence from the Britain speedily." In honour of the date 7 February, 1947, the historic resolution was made, 7<sup>th</sup> February is celebrated as the Shan State Day. "Shan National Flag" and "Shan National Anthem" were designated on the same day.

"Shan National Day" is a significant day not only for the Shan national races but also for all national races. This is the day on which our national leader General Aung San and national races leaders reached an agreement for the country's independence struggle and could build the trust through "the Panglong Agreement". That is to say, "the Panglong Agreement" is an important milestone for Myanmar's regaining her independence as well as standing as a starting point for national unity in the modern history of Myanmar's independence struggle.

Since regaining her independence, Myanmar society had suffered a series of bitter experience due to the conflicts based on political splits. Taking the lessons of these past experiences, all our people are to make efforts for ending these conflicts and a peaceful coexistence of all national races.

All people are urged to pursue the fundamental principles that emerged from "the Panglong Agreement" through "the Union Spirit" called "the Panglong Spirit".

Here I would like to add that the government, the Hluttaws, political parties and forces, the business organizations, the civil societies, Tatmadaw, armed national races groups and all citizens are to join hands in the country's reforms and peace-making processes. The government has reached ceasefire agreements with the majority of armed national races in Shan State. And plans are underway to hold a political dialogue there. I strongly believe that people in Shan State would play their parts for success of that dialogue.

All our national races are to establish the national unity based on "the Panglong Spirit" and then march towards a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation through a federal system.

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