

**Full Text of the Independence Day Address Delivered  
by President U Thein Sein on 4 January 2014**

**Esteemed people,**

I would like to greet all national peoples across the country on the auspicious occasion of the 66th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Myanmar governed by its own monarch had long been standing as a sovereign nation. In the 19th century, Myanmar fell under British colonial rule and lost her sovereignty. Today marks 66 years since Myanmar regained her independence through Union spirit, sacrifice spirit and the national spirits of all national peoples during the independence struggles.

**Esteemed people,**

Taking the lessons of the past events, all our people are to uphold our national duty: non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of national sovereignty to continue standing as a sovereign state.

It is high time all national peoples seek every possible ways to reach genuine and eternal peace after ending the decade-long internal conflicts. Coordination is being made for signing a nation-wide ceasefire agreement.

Thanks to the restoration of peace and stability in the country, the government could lay down plans for development tasks and daily existences of people across the country. The government is making reforms in the political, economic and social spheres and in the government and private development to fulfill two desires of people: becoming a peaceful country under the rule of law and the socio-economic development of all people.

In economic reform, great importance is attached to the socioeconomic improvement of the rural people, the poorest population of the country, while foreign investors are invited to obtain capital and technologies to revitalize the country's economy. As a healthy and intelligent citizenry would shape the future of our democratic nation, we are initiating pragmatic efforts in national health development and the national education promotion.

**Esteemed people,**

As the nation develops, the international community respects our country and all its people more. Myanmar took over the chair of ASEAN from Brunei on 10 October, 2013. Chairing ASEAN is a major duty for Myanmar on the international stage. As it is a proof of confidence in the country's political process and political developments, the duty is proudly assumed. The onus is on all national brethren to develop the nation as there are sound foundations for development.

**Esteemed people,**

To develop a peaceful, modern democratic nation, I hereby urge all the national peoples to implement the following 66th Anniversary Independence Day objectives dutifully and in harmony:

- (1) living through thick and thin together in the Union;

- (2) upholding non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national unity, and non-disintegration of sovereignty;
- (3) participating in the peace process to end armed conflicts and ensure eternal peace;
- (4) ensuring the peaceful, modern, discipline- flourishing democratic nation with the power of the people.

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