

President U Thein Sein's monthly radio address

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 Sept—The following is the full text of the speech delivered by President U Thein Sein through radio programmes to the entire people on 1 September.

My Fellow Citizens,

I would like to inform all of you about the recent changes and developments that have taken place in our country in the month of August just as I have done previously on this radio program.

Just as I have mentioned earlier last month, the previous thirty months in the office can be considered as the first-half of our five-year mandate. During that time, my government tried to lay democratic foundations necessary to meet two fundamental aspirations of Myanmar citizens: to lead a harmonious and peaceful life under a fabric of rule of law; and to promote socioeconomic development.

As we continue to lay these foundations, my government in the coming thirty months will work hard to prioritize and improve the livelihoods and day to day needs of the people so that our people can begin to enjoy the tangible benefits of the socioeconomic reforms. We will focus on improving the fundamental livelihood and socio-economic needs of Myanmar people such as: access to drinking and usable water; access to electricity; improvements in telecommunications; job creation; agricultural sector and rural development. Likewise, we will continue to carry out reforms in the education and healthcare sectors which are important not only to meet today's needs but to also meet the future needs of our nation.

I want to especially focus on the issue of National Reconciliation Process and its related issues in this radio address.

If we reflect on the political process that has brought about current reforms under my administration, we can see that we have established some concrete changes. We must also recognize that the friction between the executive and legislative branches that have played out is a natural corollary to this new political system and climate, especially in the early stages of transition. However, instead of blaming each other in counter-productive ways, we must learn from this experience to establish new approaches, communication channels and frameworks that allow us to work together better.

Both the executive and legislative branches must keep this constructive perspective in mind as they exercise their constitutional authorities within the boundaries of deference to reach a common goal of building a democratic society. I would like to encourage all political leaders to work together despite differences in opinion, find lessons from this political friction, discuss and negotiate equitably, and strive to construct a stronger political process and more vibrant political culture.

Finding solutions through discussions and negotiations does not always mean compromising. Even though we may have differences in beliefs and opinions, I am just encouraging everyone to exercise sound judgment, broad-mindedness, right intentions, wisdom and energy when working towards creating a sustainable political process and fostering a better political future.

Speaking as the head of the executive branch and the head of state, I will do everything in my power to respect, protect and ensure the right of the executive and legislative branches to fully exercise their respective powers and execute their duties. At the same time, we all need to work hard to strengthen an independent judiciary branch so that rule of law can prevail in our country.

88 Peoples Movement Silver Jubilee held earlier last month commemorates an important movement in our political history. The fact that we can celebrate this event together shows us that we are moving towards to a new political culture where “those who agree to disagree can still work together.” I greatly appreciate such leaps in our political culture.

In order to become a modern society, I believe that we need to solve our disagreements through peaceful and non-violent discussions and negotiations geared towards findings a common ground. For all of us with different beliefs and opinions, we need to build a certain level of trust where we will be able to work together. It is also my strong belief that we can build that trust only by working together. While there were concerns regarding the 88 Peoples Movement Silver Jubilee, genuine political will on all sides made this event a success.

As a society, we must never forget our history. Instead we are beginning to see a nurturing of a new political development that can break away from our turbulent past filled with pain, suffering and loss. I would like to urge all of us to strive together and continue to nurture this political progress.

In August, there were floods in some areas of our country. We have coordinated with state and regional governments for rescue and resettlement of individuals and recovery and rehabilitation of paddy fields affected by the floods. We are also working hard to provide relief to some parts of the country that were affected by droughts. We must be more vigilant with regard to natural disasters and make necessary preventive preparations in the future.

In the coming thirty months, my government will work hard to effectively and efficiently engage in people-centered development efforts. In order to realize synergy between the government and the people in building New Myanmar, my administration has already established Township Development Supporting Committees and Township Development Affairs Committees. The Union Ministers from the National-Level Reform Steering Committee have traveled around the country to meet with members from the township committees to have open and frank discussions, better understand the difficulties faced by the committees at the local level, and work together to find solutions to these problems.

Rural development is one of our most important reform priorities. To carry out these efforts more effectively, I have restructured and reformed a new Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development to functions as the focal ministry for rural development efforts. The new ministry has been working very closely with civil society organizations, international organizations, and experts to develop strategies and policies. People from rural areas will be able to see and enjoy those benefits in very near future.

My government has been persistent in our efforts to achieve nation-wide peace, foster economic development and mould a better future for our young people.

In order to achieve our national cause to build a democratic society, the legislative, executive and judiciary branches, political parties and other political entities. Armed Forces and the people of Myanmar must work together to shape our new political culture, make the right kind of political changes and progress, and build a strong political process that becomes an integral part of our national process for change. We must continue our reform and development efforts as well as reestablish important social values such as wanting to live in peace and harmony among different the faiths and ethnicities.

Let me conclude this month's radio address by urging all of you to work together on these issues in order to achieve one the most important goals for our society: National Reconciliation. May you all have peace of mind and good health.

MNA
