

President attends the meeting of the Central Committee for Foreign Aid

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 Jan— President U Thein Sein has called for the recognition of development partners as stakeholders rather than donors and said their cooperation should be utilized as development tools in the policy making process.

Speaking today at the meeting of the Central Committee for Foreign Aid at the President's Office, U Thein Sein stressed the need to build trust between the government's foreign aid management committee and international donors.

He highlighted the importance of the development of strategies and tactics best suited for a local context.

Chairing the committee, he said that foreign assistances would be sought as required by the country's development objectives, reform strategies and areas of priority.

He revealed that poverty alleviation and socioeconomic improvement of the rural population that makes 70 percent of the entire population are priorities in the government's development scheme.

The government has been working on its framework on economic and social reform through a people-centered approach for 34 months. It has set accessibility of electricity and water, agricultural development, employment, tourism development, monetary sector development, and trade and investment development as priorities for the last 26 months of its term.

The President said international grants, loans and technical assistances have been flowing into the country, a shift from the government-funded development projects to projects funded by international development partners.

A brief on projects needing foreign grants and loans was given by Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw. Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein elaborated on loans and due dates for payment.

The President also called for the participation of all stakeholders in the policy making process by initiating regional development projects.

He said the government recognized the assistances of the international community, institutions, non-governmental organizations and supporters of development projects.

He also called for the systematic monitoring and evaluation of each project. The president urged those present at the meeting to ensure transparency, effectiveness and thorough administration in managing the projects.

He also said a series of reforms initiated by the government has put the country again on the world map.

Myanmar organized the first-ever Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum from January 19-20 followed by the declaration of the Nay Pyi Taw Accord. The second forum will be organized later this month, according to the President.

He also said most of the projects are in implementation process and the systematic management of the loans, aids and technical assistances would show significant outcomes within 26 months.

The meeting was attended by several officials, including Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Union ministers, the Union Attorney-General, the Union Civil Services Board Chairman, Region and State Chief Ministers and Chairmen of Leading Body of Self-Administered Division and Zones.

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