

Vice- President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends a meeting between the Union Peace-making Work Committee and National Races Representatives

Nay Pyi Taw, 31 Aug— “The country could be subjected to other countries politically, economically and socially if it is lack of development and moving backward due to armed conflicts,” said Vice- President Dr Sai Mauk Kham at a meeting between the Union Peace-making Work Committee and National Races Representatives at the Ministry of Rail Transportation, here this morning.

It was also attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Vice-Chairmen of the Work Committee U Aung Min and U Thein Zaw, the Union Ministers, deputy ministers, MPs, Special Advisor to UN Secretary-General on Myanmar Mr Vijay Nambiar, KNU Chairman General Saw Mutu Sae Po and party, Col Hsai Hla from RCSS/SSA and party, national races affairs experts and officials.

In his opening speech, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said that the new government shortly after taking office extended an olive branch to national race armed groups to make peace.

As a three-phase peace talks, several rounds of Region/State-level, Union level and Hluttaw-Level peace talks were held step by step. The government has reached 11-point initial agreement with KNU on 12-1-2012; 8-point initial agreement with RCSS/SSA on 2-12-2011; and initial agreements with other groups to make ceasefire, he said.

Easing armed conflicts is not an easy task. It is found that there are fights more or less even though both sides have reached ceasefire agreements. He urged those concerned to continue maintaining already-prevalled peace and stability. And he called for mass participations in an attempt to enable the country to end the armed conflicts said to be one of the longest in the world, he added.

In doing so, those concerned should not point accusing fingers at each other but to hold talks with forward looking attitude. Compromising is a must. The country could overtake neighbouring countries through cooperation among all national races. In the past, being a leading country in the Asian region is strong evidence, he added.

Myanmar people are searching green pasture in other countries due to the country’s lagging behind in development. He called for reaching eternal peace through tolerance, honesty and keeping promise.

KNU Chairman General Saw Mutu Sae Po said that KNU carries out peace-making process by dividing political, military and economy fronts and is in no wish for taking advantages in the talks. International situation including Myanmar’s situation have changed and thus all

must keep up with the rapid pace of change. He reaffirmed that KNU would certainly join hands with the government for reaching eternal peace.

General Secretary Phado Saw Kwe Htoo Win discussed nation-wide ceasefire, building trusts, lasting peace, resolution of conflict in political dialogue and end of armed conflicts.

Lt-Col Sai Ngin from Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army (RCSS/SSA) discussed matters on work progress in internal peace process of Union Peace-making Work Committee within two years, saying that further political dialogue with the committee formed by the Hluttaw proposed by the President in making peace with ethnic armed groups could make national race groups misunderstand the government's peacemaking process and Hluttaw should assist in peace process in accord with the norms of international conflict resolution carried out by the government.

Political and Military Advisor to the chairman of KNU Saw Tu Tu Lay clarified Myanmar's peace process should be carried out to bear fruits before 2015 general elections and discussed enactment of necessary laws by the Hluttaw to achieve national level agreements through political dialogue.

Then, Vice-Chairman of Union Peace-making Work Committee U Thein Zaw and Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw Dwe Bu explained the Hluttaw's role in union peace-making process and protecting the rights of national races.

Those present took part in the discussions.

In his concluding remark, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said that it needs to draw lessons from the past in making peace process. The Vice-President called for cooperation of all in peace process with honesty, saying that a nation-wide peace needs patience and tolerance. He suggested not the government but organizations and individuals should take part in peace process.

The Vice-President continued that phase-3 of peace process is to be implemented by the administrative bodies and drawing of time frame for the peace process will be coordinated by the State. Although informal talk (Track-2) was prioritized in previous peace-making process, official talk (Track-1) and informal talk (Track-2) will be carried out in the future, he added. He called for effective implementation of peace processes in order to ensure perpetual peace.

Afterwards, the Vice- President cordially greeted those present.

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