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Nay Pyi Taw, 7 July — Accompanied by the Union ministers, deputy ministers, diplomats, UN officials and departmental heads, Chairman of Central Committee for Implementation of Peace and Stability and Development in Rakhine State Vice- President Dr Sai Mauk Kham arrived in Sittway by special flight this morning. They were welcomed at Sittway airport by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin, the commander of Western Command and officials.

In his address at the meeting hall of state government's office, the Vice-President said that the government had resolutely taken actions against those involved in instigation, regardless of their races or religions, to restore peace and harmony in the country, doing it utmost to put an end to the communal violence, to ensure the safety and security of local people.

He continued that the government was solving the issue with the aim of bringing back peaceful and harmonious society and it was the optimal way to help these people. Donations of non-discriminatory, non-biased humanitarian assistance were being accepted and facilitated on the government-to- government basis, he added. He said that the main priority was to provide adequate shelters, foods, health care, education, and restoring their livelihood by bringing the local economy back to normal as monsoon is setting in; that construction of remaining around 50 houses of 989 built by the government would be completed very soon.

He assured that the government was implementing in the best possible way for the rights and opportunities of local Muslim people and at the same time it was giving its due attention to concerns of Rakhine people.

He said that the purpose of invitation to diplomats and officials of UN agencies was to witness the current works in progress, what are really necessary and how can coordinate in the future. He said he would like to officials of UN agencies to present reports reflecting ongoing development to their headquarters.

Next, the vice-chairman of the central committee, the chief minister, and the secretary of the central committee elaborated on work progress and chairman of work committee Union Minister U Aye Myint explained follow-up relief programs. Then, the Indonesian ambassador and an official of UNHCR made clarifications of continued cooperation in rehabilitation of Rakhine State. In his concluding remarks, the Vice-President expressed his belief that the remaining issues would be resolved through constructive suggestions and called for collaborative efforts to seek ways and means to address challenges during the inspection tour. He said the government would like to cooperate with international organizations and well-wishers, paying special attention on peace and stability and rehabilitation works for the sake of the local people.

He vowed to tackle the current issue through pragmatic ways for ensuring a peaceful and harmonious society. In the afternoon, the Vice-President and party on board Tatmadaw helicopters observed progress of building fence along the border in Maungtau Township. On their arrival at Thayaykonbaung village in the township, they viewed round progress of housing built by the Ministry of Border Affairs in cooperation with NGOs and village schools and clinic. The Vice-President cordially greeted local people at the village monastery.

The Vice-President and Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko provided them with four items including rice. After looking into supplying of drinking water, progress of housing and development at Mawyawady village in the township, they paid respect to the Sayadaw of the village monastery and offered provisions.

Next, the Vice-President met with local people and coordinated the matters related to economic, social, health and education. Likewise, the Indonesian ambassador and diplomats met with local people and asked about matters they wanted to know. In the evening, the Vice-President and party went to Khaungdotta relief camp where they inspected progress of eight-roomed quarters, temporary primary school building and clinic and met with locals at the camp. The Vice-President hosted a dinner to ambassadors and diplomats at Sittway Hotel.

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