

### **Vice President visits Phakant, 11 August 2013**

Nay Pyi Taw, 11 Aug—Chairman of Union Peacemaking Work Committee Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, accompanied by Union Ministers Dr Mya Aye and Dr Myint Aung, Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai, Commander Maj-Gen Tun Tun Naung, deputy ministers, Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, diplomats, representatives of UN agencies, left Myitkyina for Phakant this morning.

At the Baptist Church in Hngetpyawtaw Ward, the Vice-President said that he arrived there to fulfill the requirements of IDPs, make arrangements for the IDPs to return home of their own accord and attend to their needs. He invited words of the local people for fulfillment.

Next, the donation ceremony followed. The Vice-President donated K 7,010,000, the Chief Minister of the state 50 bags of rice, the deputy minister for Border Affairs K 445,000, the deputy minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement 45 boxes of instant noodle, the deputy minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry 10 boxes of instant noodle, the deputy minister for Health 20 boxes of instant noodle, Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Federation K 3,180,000, Mining (Gold) Co K 2 million, Patron of Htoo Foundation U Teza 300 bags of rice, Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Khet Htein Nan K 500,000, Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Federation K 27.6 million for construction of Ayemya Thaya Post Primary School.

At Phakant BEHS, the Vice-President met departmental officials, support committee members, townselders, religious associations and national race organizations. The Union Minister for Mines explained mineral resources and transport and the Deputy Minister for Home Affairs drug elimination.

After attending to the needs of the locals, the Vice-President said that it is very difficult to visit such a famous place because the town has transport barriers. People from four corners of the country moved to this place for their livelihood. Jades from Phakant are a main foreign currency earner of the country and are what made the country known to the world.

Myanmar is still among poor countries even though being a resource-rich country. The sure point is that raw materials of natural resources are sold without being value-added.

He called for collaboration between gems entrepreneurs, local authorities, officials from the ministry and local people for environmental conservation.

He urged gems entrepreneurs to run their businesses in the legal bounds.

In his conclusion, he urged the people make cooperation with the government for ensuring peace and stability and the development of the country.

Next, the deputy minister for Border Affairs presented one copier, the gems entrepreneurs association from Phakant K 10 million and Shwethanlwin Co one set of Sky Net receiver.

Afterwards, the Vice-President and party cordially greeted the internally displaced persons. They then went to Indawgyi Region in Hopin Sub-Township and paid homage to Indawgyi Shwemyinzu Yayle Pagoda and donated cash to the fund.

The Vice-President met local people from eleven village-tracts in Indawgyi Region at the Dhammayon of the pagoda and clarified matters on current political, economic, administrative and judicial affairs of Myanmar.

On behalf of Htoo Foundation, Air Bagan, AGD Bank, Myanmar Treasure Hotel Group and Aureum Hotel, Htoo Foundation Patron U Tayza donated K 120 million for upgrading entrance road to the pagoda through an official. Then, the Vice-President and party arrived in Mohnyin Degree College where they met the principal and faculty members, towns elders and departmental officials.

The Vice-President touched upon extending the entrance road to the college presented by the principal.

Then, Vice-President delivered an address. He said: The purpose of the trip is: to let people know government's reform processes; to help Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) and provide necessary infrastructure development in Mohnyin District; and to hear the voices of local people.

As a political reform, the government has opened up a new channel for inclusiveness of all political parties in the political process. And the government has embarked on sweeping reforms such as granting amnesty for prisoners of conscience, throwing away of censor's pen, giving goahead to private dailies and TV channels, formation of the associations and the unions, freedom of assembly and expression, local peacemaking processes and national reconsolidation.

The country sees economic reforms such as transformation of State owned businesses to private owned ones, encouragement of market-oriented economic system, old-age cars substitution programme, foreign exchange rate, easy access to mobile phones, increasing staff's salaries and additional allowances, enactment of Foreign Investment Law and creating rooms for fair competitions between the businesses.

Taking a look at administrative sector, ward/village administrators are elected in accord with people's desires. And the government ends its control on Township Development Affairs Committee's affairs. Green light is given to power supply by private sector.

Now people come to get chance to lodge a complaint about corruption. Action is being taken against those corrupt persons in accord with the laws. The complaints call for strong evidences, without making accusations against individuals.

To make complaints about cases to the authorities, anyone can do so through MPs, management committee and supporting committee of administrative bodies, anti-corruption committee and print media and on-line media.

The most important thing is that anyone shall take responsibility for reportage and interviews and shall have courage to face the consequences.

The second thing is to help overcome the challenges including livelihood of IDPs in Kachin State caused by last year armed conflicts.

The government would assist in solving livelihood problems of IDPs and will work together with international organizations to clear land mines and to build low-cost housings.

Only when infrastructures including transportation, health, education, electric power and monetary infrastructures could be built, will the state be on track to development and it depends on the peace in Kachin State.

The cash donation ceremony followed. Managing Director U Kyaw Htaik of Diparmin Gems Co donated K 10 million each for Mohnyin Degree College and Technological College, Managing Director U Than Shwe of Kabahein Gems Co K 10 million for regional development, San Family Gems Co K 10 million for teaching aid of the degree college and Shwethanlwin Co two sets of Sky Net receivers higher institutions.

Next, the Vice-President and party arrived back in Myitkyina and met MCCs at Malikha Yeiktha and discussed matters on education, health and social affairs of the IDPs and invited their cooperation. Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham cordially greets local people.— MNA

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