

## POLITICAL MONITOR NO.25

### OFFICIAL MEDIA

#### **UNION LEVEL PEACE IMPLEMENTATION CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPLACED**

The Union Level Peace Implementation Central Committee was re-organised under a Presidential Order on 5 July. According to the state-run media, the newly formed Central Committee sees the appointment of two new ministers and one Director-General as part of the re-constitution. Similarly, the Union Peace Work Committee has been reshuffled with former Minister for Electrical Power Zaw Min omitted after his resignation back in August 2012. *(Please see Appendix A and B for full text of Presidential Orders on the re-constitution of the Union Level Peace Central and Working Committees).*<sup>1</sup>

#### **US-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL MISSION MEETS MYANMAR LEADERS**

President Thein Sein received the US-ASEAN Business Council delegation led by Mr. Alexander Feldman in Naypyitaw on 8 July. At the meeting, President Thein Sein said Myanmar needed the support of the US-ASEAN Business Council for its economic development.

The US-ASEAN Business Council President replied that US companies would invest in infrastructure projects of the health and education sectors. The delegation was also received by Lower House Speaker Thura Shwe Mann, Ministers for Energy and Trade, NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi and officials from the Myanmar Chamber of Commerce. Companies participating in the mission included ACE, AIG, AT&T, Baker & McKenzie, Caterpillar, Chevron, Cisco, Citi, ConocoPhillips, Deloitte & Touche, General Electric, General Motors, IBM, KPMG, McLarty Associates, Metlife, Merck, Oracle, P&G, RMA, TE Connectivity and Visa.<sup>2</sup>

#### **AUSTRALIAN FM PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT TO MYANMAR**

Australian Foreign Minister Bob Carr called on President Thein Sein in Naypyitaw on 10 July. The two leaders discussed investment and aid and Carr also offered Australian support in ending the long-running ethnic conflicts in Myanmar. Both sides agreed that there was more to be done in the national reconciliation process. During the visit Carr announced that an additional \$3.2 million in humanitarian assistance for people displaced by ethnic unrest in Myanmar's Rakhine state would be provided. Bob Carr and party also held meetings with the Speaker of the Lower House, Foreign Minister and opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and exchanged views on strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Union Peace-Making Central Committee Reformed –  
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs15/NLM-2013-07-06-red.pdf> (NLM) 6 July 2013 (p.6)/  
Union Peace Making Work Committee reconstituted –  
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs15/NLM-2013-07-06-red.pdf> (NLM) 6 July 2013 (p.6)

<sup>2</sup> President U Thein Sein receives business delegation led by President of US-ASEAN Business Council –  
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs15/NLM-2013-07-09-red.pdf> (NLM) 9 July 2013 (p.1)/  
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets President of US-ASEAN Business Council and party –  
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs15/NLM-2013-07-09-red.pdf> (NLM) 9 July 2013 (p.9)/  
US-ASEAN Business Council to assist Myanmar energy sector –  
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs15/NLM-2013-07-10-red.pdf> (NLM) 10 July 2013 (p. 16)/  
Myanmar, US to promote trade, investment –  
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs15/NLM-2013-07-10-red.pdf> (NLM) 10 July 2013 (p. 9)

<sup>3</sup> Australia to grant 100 million Australian Dollars to Myanmar's educational reform this year –  
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs15/NLM-2013-07-11-red.pdf> (NLM) 11 July 2013 (p.1)/  
Myanmar, Australia see cementing relations, cooperation –  
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs15/NLM-2013-07-11-red.pdf> (NLM) 11 July 2013 (p. 16)/

## HLUTTAW SESSIONS – Highlights

### Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) sessions

The 7<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the First Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) held its 8<sup>th</sup> day meeting on 5 July. At the session, 10 questions were answered and one bill submitted.

- Regarding the question on **laws, procedures, directives and documents for the addition and change of name of the Citizenship Scrutiny Card (CSC)**, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Win Myint replied that the ministry is carrying out the work in accordance with the 1982-Myanmar Citizenship Law.<sup>4</sup>

The 7<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the First Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) held its 9<sup>th</sup> day meeting on 9 July. During the session, 10 questions were answered, 3 bills were accepted and one bill was submitted. The following issue was raised and answered during the session;

- U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Township Constituency raised a question on illegal money lending, the Deputy Minister for Home Affairs MPF Chief Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun replied that **actions would be taken against illegal money lenders by the Myanmar Police Force in accordance with ward or village-tract administrative Rules-2012. He added that if the existing Money Lenders Act 1945 and micro financing law were found not to be in conformity with the present times, amendments could be made in accordance with the constitution;**
- U Soe Naing, chairman of agriculture, livestock and fisheries development committee, submitted a **bill to improve the socio-economic status of farmers**, and U Khin Maung Nyo, member of the bill committee, read out **the report of the committee.**<sup>5</sup>

The 7<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the First Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) held its 10<sup>th</sup> day meeting on 10 July. At the session, the following questions and bills were raised and answered:

- **the Myanmar Special Economic Zone Bill** was passed at the session;
- Dr Nay Linn of Seikkan Constituency raised a question on the **criteria for allowing clinical and medical advertisements on state-run media.** In responding, the Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htwe said that advertisements are allowed with Companies' registration certificates, Import & Export Licenses and Drug Registration Certificates of FDA (Myanmar Food and Drug Board of Authority). In the past, the Press Scrutiny and Registration Division under the Ministry of Information allowed inserting of advertisements in journals and magazines in accordance with the designated rules and regulations but such practice no longer exists after the easing of its rules.<sup>6</sup>

## HLUTTAW SESSIONS – Highlights

### Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) sessions

The 7<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the First Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) held its 8<sup>th</sup> day meeting on 5 July. The following issues were raised and answered during the session;

---

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives FM of Commonwealth of Australia –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs15/NLM-2013-07-11-red.pdf> (NLM) 11 July 2013 (p. 9)

<sup>4</sup> Name addition in CSC aimed only for students and staff –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs15/NLM-2013-07-06-red.pdf> (NLM) 6 July 2013 (p.16)

<sup>5</sup> MPF to take actions against illegal money lenders if it receives complaints –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs15/NLM-2013-07-10-red.pdf> (NLM) 10 July 2013 (p. 16)

<sup>6</sup> Myanmar Special Economic Zone Bill passed at Pyithu Hluttaw –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs15/NLM-2013-07-11-red.pdf> (NLM) 11 July 2013 (p. 16)

- Four MPs discussed a proposal to protect the Indawgyi Lake which is being silted up and farmland damaged by the illegal gold mining in Kachin State. The proposal submitted by U San Pyae of Kachin State constituency No 7 **called on the Union Government and the Kachin State government to conserve the lake which is the largest in Myanmar and in the south-east Asia. He also urged ministries concerned to carry out a survey and to plan a budget in attempts to save the lake and the farmland;**
- Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung replied that **measures to conserve the ecological system including the lake and farmland damaged by illegal gold mining were being carried out and he also called on local authorities, related ministries, regional MPs and people to cooperate with each other in making efforts to save the lake and the farmland.** The proposal was put to a vote and approved by the Amyotha Hluttaw.<sup>7</sup>

The 7<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the First Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) held its 9<sup>th</sup> day meeting on 9 July. The questions on **distribution and selling of logged woods through government tenders and distribution of safe water from water treatment** were raised and answered during the session.

- U Myo Myint of Mandalay Region Constituency No (6) asked if there were plans to implement small-scale hydropower projects if requests were made by the respective state or region governments. In responding, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myint Zaw said that **the Ministry would coordinate and implement such requests according to its importance and needs.**<sup>8</sup>

The 7<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the First Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) held its 10<sup>th</sup> day meeting on 10 July. During the session, 8 questions were raised and answered during the session;

- 7 MPs discussed **the proposal on the Analyses of Rates** submitted by U Myo Myint from Mandalay Region Constituency No. (6) was seconded by U Sai Kyaw Zaw Than from Shan State Constituency No. (2). In responding to the question Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint said that the **Ministry of Construction sought approval for the books on Analysis of Rates to the Business Economics Committee on 28 June 2013 and the descriptions of the book will be developed and be updated if necessary.**<sup>9</sup>

## HLUTTAW SESSIONS – Highlights

### Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Session

The 7<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw convened its 2<sup>nd</sup> day session on 8 July. During the session, the following questions, proposals were submitted and discussed:

- U Tin Htut of Zalun Constituency submitted a **proposal for the investigation commission on land grabbing to urgently undertake and report on the issue.** In his proposal, **he stressed the need for transparency in settling land grabbing issues, calling on Union ministries concerned to solve the problems in accord with existing rules and working in partnership with farmers. He also asked the farmers to have patience while the ministries concerned and other organizations try to settle the this issue within the framework of the law. The commission have negotiated**

<sup>7</sup> Transport Ministry to issue Air Operation Certificate. Amyotha Hluttaw approves proposal to save Indawgyi Lake – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs15/NLM-2013-07-06-red.pdf> (NLM) 6 July 2013 (p. 16)

<sup>8</sup> Myanmar Timber Enterprise to sell 600,000 tons of hardwood annually to private sawmills through open tender – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs15/NLM-2013-07-10-red.pdf> (NLM) 10 July 2013 (p. 16)

<sup>9</sup> Loans need to be disbursed for water sufficiency in Yenangyoung – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs15/NLM-2013-07-11-red.pdf> (NLM) 11 July 2013 (p. 16)

between the companies and farmers, and so far K 5050.2 million has been compensated in Yangon Region. A total of 42273.66 acres in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions have been handed over to regional governments. In seven townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, K 1385.103 million as compensation for land and crops and K 4586.175 million as cost for building bridges and housings have been spent under the State budget so far, he said. He also reported to the session, the failure by region and state governments and union ministries in resolving the complaints on land grabbing issues lodged by farmers;

- The session also agreed for Myanmar to join the **Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property 1970 and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency-MIGA Convention**.<sup>10</sup>

The 7<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw convened its 3<sup>rd</sup> day session on 12 July. During the session, the following questions, proposals were submitted and discussed:

- Fifteen MPs discussed the proposal for the investigation commission on land grabbing to urgently undertake reports on land confiscation issues and urged the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to approve the report part 1 and part 2 of the investigation commission;
- In his discussion, U Sai Tun Sein of Mongpyin constituency also called on members of the region and state investigations commissions to avoid land brokers and not to be swayed by political instigations. He also urged the investigation commissions to seek land certificates, receipts of crop tax, ownership certificates and reliable witnesses for land ownership in attempts to settle the land confiscation issue without causing grievances to farmers. U Aung Thein Lin of South Okkalapa constituency expressed that it is a clear and transparent way to return the land to the original owners;
- **The findings of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union and the report 3/2013 of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts were presented to the session. The report called on the Union Government to carry out reforms in developing statistics and auditing and to ensure transparency in conformity with the new constitution.**<sup>11</sup>

## DIALOGUE WITH IRAN INCLUDES DISCUSSION ON RECENT SECTARIAN VIOLENCE

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Myanmar-Iran Deputy Foreign Ministers' meeting was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on 3 July in Yangon. During the meeting, promotion of bilateral ties between the two countries and progress of mutual cooperation in economic, trade, energy, hydropower, cultural and educational sectors were discussed. Myanmar also welcomed the proposal by Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi to hold a dialogue between Muslim and Buddhist religious scholars in order to help ease sectarian strife in Myanmar. The delegation held meetings with government officials and discussed bilateral cooperation between the two countries.<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>10</sup> Pyidaungsu Hluttaw urged to push settling land grabbing issues –  
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs15/NLM-2013-07-09-red.pdf> (NLM) 9 July 2013 (p. 16)

<sup>11</sup> MPs discuss land grab investigation commission's report at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw –  
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs15/NLM-2013-07-12-red.pdf> (NLM) 12 July 2013 (p. 16)

<sup>12</sup> Myanmar clarifies Iran on recent riots, resettlement –  
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs15/NLM-2013-07-09-red.pdf> (NLM) 9 July 2013 (p. 8)/  
Myanmar welcomes Iran's proposal for Muslim-Buddhist dialogue –  
<http://tehrantimes.com/politics/109060-myanmar-welcomes-irans-proposal-for-muslim-buddhist-dialogue> (Tehran Times) 6 July 2013

## UNOFFICIAL MEDIA

### **ETHNIC ALLIANCE MULLS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

An alliance of 15 of Myanmar's ethnic political parties said that it will submit to parliament constitutional amendments that give greater rights and representation in government for their minority groups. The group which comprises of representatives from all of the parties in the Nationalities Brotherhood Federation (NBF) gathered on 7 July met with legal experts in Naypyidaw to discuss amendments to the country's 2008 constitution.

Zo Zam, chairman of the Chin National Party and member of the alliance, said the discussions revolved around how to guarantee greater protection for ethnic minority rights. "Ethnic people have a responsibility to protect their rights and I think our recommendations for amendments to the 2008 constitution will be useful. We will submit some guidelines from the ethnic groups [to parliament]."

Salai Ngun Cung Lian, a constitutional expert who attended the meeting said the group also discussed how to amend the constitution to propose a federal political system and that people are afraid of implementing a federal system because they misunderstand federalism as secession from the Union.

The NBF, which at its last major meeting in June made plans to form a joint political party called the Federated Union Party ahead of the country's 2015 general elections, supports changing Myanmar's political system to a federal system that would give ethnic states greater autonomy.<sup>13</sup>

### **KACHINS DISCUSS CIVILIAN PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL PROCESS**

A public statement was issued after a two-day meeting of Kachin civil society organisations in Myitkyina. A total of 275 people from 46 organizations participated in the first ever meeting of Kachin civilians inside the government-controlled area on 9-10 July.

The statement said the purpose of the civil society meeting is for Kachin public to understand the current, civilian involvement in peace building, and to understand the role of the Technical Advisory Team and to collect the Kachin public's views and opinion for future political dialogues.

Meeting participants discussed the needs and opinions of the Kachin public that should be included and prioritized in future KIO-Burmese government talks. Representatives of Kachin civil society suggested the need to find and integrate technical and human resources. Setting communication channels for organizations and persons involved in different levels of peace process has been discussed. The meeting is jointly sponsored by the Peace-talk Creation Group (PCG) and a number of Kachin community-based organizations.<sup>14</sup>

### **SSA AND GOVERNMENT TROOPS CLASH IN SHAN STATE**

Government troops and the Shan State Army (SSA) were involved in minor clashes on 10 July. According to Shan State Progress Party/Shan State Army (SSPP/SSA) officials the latest clashes took place in Nawng Khio township, northern Shan State and in Monghsu township, southern Shan State. According to the SSA report, 3 SSA troops were wounded during the encounter and 3 were killed and 4 wounded on the Burmese side. "The Burmese troops demanded that villagers from Khum Ngeun must compensate for the loss of their 3 weapons to the SSA," said the report, "because they failed to notify them in advance of the SSA presence in the area." The SSPP/SSA and the government

---

<sup>13</sup> Myanmar Ethnic Alliance Mulls Constitutional Amendments – <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/nbf-07082013190451.html> (RFA) 8 July 2013

<sup>14</sup> Kachins discuss civilian participation in political process – <http://kachinlandnews.com/?p=23438> (Kachinland News) 11 July 2013

signed a ceasefire on 28 January 2012 but it has been reported that more than 100 clashes have taken place since then.<sup>15</sup>

### **ANALYSIS**

While there have been some welcome positive changes in Myanmar, many challenges and obstacles still remain before sustainable peace is reached. And if the long-standing ethnic conflict in the country is to become a reality the government will need to seek the support and cooperation of the Tatmadaw (military) and failure to do so can only jeopardize the country's national reconciliation and democratic process.

---

<sup>15</sup> Three clashes in one day – [http://www.english.panglong.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=5500:three-clashes-in-one-day&catid=86:war&Itemid=284](http://www.english.panglong.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5500:three-clashes-in-one-day&catid=86:war&Itemid=284) (S.H.A.N.) 12 July 2013

**APPENDICES**

**Appendix A:**

**UNION PEACE-MAKING CENTRAL COMMITTEE REFORMED**

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
President Office  
(Order No.14/2013)  
12th Wanning of Nayon, 1375 ME (5th July, 2013)**

<b>Sr.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Current Portfolio</b>	<b>Designated Portfolio</b>
1.	U Thein Sein	President	Chairman
2.	Dr Sai Mauk Kham	Vice-President	Member
3.	U Nyan Tun	Vice-President	Member
4.	Thura Shwe Mann	Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker	Member
5.	U Khin Aung Myint	Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker	Member
6.	Senior-General Min Aung Hlaing	Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services	Member
7.	Lt.Gen Ko Ko	Union Minister for Home Affairs	Member
8.	Lt. Gen Wai Lwin	Union Minister for Defence	Member
9.	Lt. Gen Thet Naing Win	Union Minister for Border Affairs	Member
10.	Dr Tun Shin	Attorney-General	Member
11.	U Hla Tun	Director-General of the President Office	Secretary

*Sd/* Thein Sein  
President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar.<sup>16</sup>

**Appendix B:**

**UNION PEACE MAKING WORK COMMITTEE RECONSTITUTED**

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
President Office  
(Order No.15/2013)  
12th Waning of Nayon, 1375 ME (5th July, 2013)**

“Union Peace Making Work Committee” which was constituted with the Order No 12/2012 dated on 3 May, 2012, of the President Office has been reconstituted as follows:-

<b>Sr.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Current Portfolio</b>	<b>Designated Portfolio</b>
1.	Dr Sai Mauk Kham	Vice-President	Chairman
2.	Vice-Senior General Soe Win	Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Commander-in-Chief (Army)	Vice-Chairman
3.	U Aung Min	Union Minister	Vice-Chairman
4.	U Thein Zaw	Pyithu Hluttaw Representative	Vice-Chairman
5.	U Ohn Myint	Union Minister	Member
6.	U Soe Thane	Union Minister	Member
7.	U Than Htay	Union Minister	Member
8.	U Khin Yi	Union Minister	Member

<sup>16</sup> Union Peace-Making Central Committee Reformed –  
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs15/NLM-2013-07-06-red.pdf> (NLM) 6 July 2013 (p. 6)



9.	U Win Tun	Union Minister	Member
10.	U Khin Maung Soe	Union Minister	Member
11.	<b>Region or State Chief Ministers</b>		Members
(a)	Chief Minister	Kachin State Government	Member
(b)	Chief Minister	Kayah State Government	Member
(c)	Chief Minister	Kayin State Government	Member
(d)	Chief Minister	Chin State Government	Member
(e)	Chief Minister	Sagaing Region Government	Member
(f)	Chief Minister	Taninthayi Region Government	Member
(g)	Chief Minister	Bago Region Government	Member
(h)	Chief Minister	Mon State Government	Member
(i)	Chief Minister	Rakhine State Government	Member
(j)	Chief Minister	Shan State Government	Member
12.	<b>Commanders from the Tatmadaw</b>		Members
(a)	Commander, Northern Command		Member
(b)	Commander, North-East Command		Member
(c)	Commander, Eastern Command		Member
(d)	Commander, Central-East Command		Member
(e)	Commander, Triangle Region Command		Member
(f)	Commander, South-East Command		Member
(g)	Commander, Coastal Region Command		Member
(h)	Commander, Western Command		Member
(i)	Commander, North-West Command		Member
(j)	Commander, Southern Command		Member
13.	Deputy Minister,	Ministry of Home Affairs	Member
14.	Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Deputy Minister,	Ministry of Border Affairs	Member
15.	U Tun Tun Oo	Deputy-Attorney General	Member
16.	<b>Pyithu Hluttaw Representatives of National Races</b>		Members
(a)	Daw Dwe Bu, Kachin National, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative		Member
(b)	U Soe Yei, Kayah National, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative		Member
(c)	U Saw Thein Aung, Kayin National, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative		Member
(d)	U Khun Lein, Chin National, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative		Member
(e)	Daw Mi Yin Chan, Mon National, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative		Member
(f)	U Ba Shein, Rakhine National, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative		Member
(g)	U Stephen, Shan National, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative		Member
(h)	U Hla Tun, Naga National, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative		Member
(i)	U Kyin Wam, "Wa" National, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative		Member
17.	<b>Amyotha Hluttaw Representatives of National Races</b>		Members
(a)	U Zakhon Ting Ring, Kachin National, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative		Member



(b)	U Hsan Yei, Kayah National, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative	Member
(c)	U Saw Tun Mya Aung, Kayin National, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative	Member
(d)	U Paw Hlyan Lwin, Chin National, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative	Member
(e)	U Saw Ohn, Mon National, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative	Member
(f)	U Ohn Tin, Rakhine National, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative	Member
(g)	U Sai Kyaw Zaw Than, Shan National, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative	Member
(h)	U Myat Ko, Naga National, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative	Member
(i)	U Sai Paung Nap, "Wa" National, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative	Member
18.	U Zaw Than Thin Director-General, Union Government Office	Secretary

**Sd/ Thein Sein**  
**President**  
**Republic of the Union of Myanmar.**<sup>17</sup>

<sup>17</sup> Union Peace Making Work Committee reconstituted –  
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs15/NLM-2013-07-06-red.pdf> (NLM) 6 July 2013 (p. 6)