
POLITICAL MONITOR No. 8

OFFICIAL MEDIA

POLITICAL PRISONERS, ACTIVISTS, STUDENTS FREED UNDER PRESIDENTIAL PARDON

Myanmar's new government has released 113 political 'prisoners of conscience' including political activists and students facing trial connected with political, according to police sources. Included were 69 students from Thayawady Prison. The release comes a day after newly appointed State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi pledged to strive for the granting of presidential pardon to political prisoners and other political activists deemed to be unfairly detained. Concerning those who remain detained for political reasons but come under the umbrella of people eligible for pardon, the State Counsellor's Office released a statement on 8 April stating that the cases of those who were attending hearings on 8 April were revoked but the process for dropping charges against those who had not yet been assigned a fixed court date will require further work. Aung San Suu Kyi pledged in the statement that the process for releasing the remaining detainees would be carried out when courts reopened after the Myanmar New Year holidays which ends on 20 April. Many activists and human rights group welcomed the released and urged the new government to end the cycle of political arrest and detention as well as releasing all other prisoners of conscience— including those students who are facing charges in other courts. 2,178 prisoners were also released for good behavior annually granted by the Director-General of the Correctional Department.¹

WORLD LEADERS CONGRATULATES PRESIDENT HTIN KYAW

US President Barack Obama phoned his Myanmar counterpart President Htin Kyaw on 6 April on the latter's assumption of the Presidency and to express his support for Myanmar's new government. President Obama said he appreciated Myanmar's historic effort to effectuate democratic reform and also urged President Htin Kyaw's regime to strive to make Myanmar a country of inclusive politics, economic development and improved human rights. He also said the US is would provide assistance to Myanmar and asked to be informed of Myanmar's future plans. President Obama informed President Htin Kyaw to have a detailed discussion with the proposed ambassador to Myanmar. President Htin Kyaw expressed his high appreciation for the popular support. He said: "I'm confident President [Obama] and the United States will continue to provide assistance to us. We want US investment in Myanmar, and we'd like to cooperate in various sectors with USAID. With the support of you and our other friends, I believe Myanmar will achieve its goals soon." Similarly, the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon also congratulated Myanmar President Htin Kyaw on the latter's assumption of office on 5 April and on his elections as the first civilian President of the country in more than five decades. The changes symbolizes the dramatic recognition by people from all walks of life in the country of sacrifices and struggles endured by the leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD) Aung San Suu Kyi and her senior colleagues including President Htin Kyaw, as well as other representatives of the NLD to bring democracy to the country, he said. Ban Ki-Moon also called to bring political inclusion and inclusive socio-economic development to the country and assured President Htin Kyaw of the continued support of the United Nations to Myanmar. He expressed his wish to visit Myanmar again and to meet the President at upcoming ASEAN meetings. President Htin Kyaw thanked the UN Secretary-General for his congratulatory phone call and his vow to support Myanmar for meeting its challenges. The President also pledged to work together with the United Nations and to strive for ensuring peace and stability, socio-economic development and the promotion of human rights in the country. President Htin Kyaw also assured the UN Secretary-General on Myanmar's continued contribution to the works of maintaining

¹ Political prisoners, activists, students freed from jail under presidential pardon – http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/9_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 9 April 2016 (p. 1)

international peace and security, sustainability and environmental conservation in the international arena.²

MYANMAR LEADERS MEET CANADIAN FM

President Htin Kyaw received Canadian Foreign Minister Stéphane Dion on 8 April in Nay Pyi Taw and discussed the promotion of cooperative efforts for national reconciliation, climate change, environmental conservation, culture, education and health. State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi also met with the Canadian Foreign Minister and held discussions on sharing Canada's experience for the successful establishment of a federal Union, bilateral cooperation in information sector pivotal for ensuring the effective performance of governmental functions and enhancing women's economic empowerment through creation of small businesses and employment opportunities. The Government of Canada has pledged CAD 44 million (USD 33.5 million) to help ensure a federal union system, efficient administration and women's participation development in Myanmar. The announcement was made after the meeting between Canadian Minister for Foreign Affairs Stéphane Dion and his Myanmar counterpart Aung San Suu Kyi.³

PRESIDENT EXPRESSES ENTHUSIASM ABOUT COOPERATION WITH CHINA

President Htin Kyaw received a Chinese delegation led by Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Nay Pyi Taw on 6 April. During the meeting, Myanmar President stated his government's enthusiasm to cooperate with China, saying that there was room for bilateral cooperation in ensuring better living standards for the peoples of both countries. The Chinese Foreign Minister responded and pledged China's support for the government's emphasis on economic growth, better quality of life for the people, internal peace processes and better international relations, especially with its neighbours. He also expressed his country's willingness to cooperate with the host country in the high-speed rail system linking Yangon with Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay, adding that China would want to act as a mediator in the process of national reconciliation while respecting the country's sovereignty.

The visiting Chinese FM also met Myanmar Minister for Foreign Affairs Aung San Suu Kyi in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 April and held general discussions to promote and further strengthen ties between the two countries. Though the talks were held successfully it has been reported that the discussion did not involve any issue of China's controversial projects in Myanmar. The purpose of Wang Yi's visit to Myanmar was to extend congratulations to the new government on their smooth democratic ascension to becoming the ruling party. Aung San Suu Kyi thanked the Chinese FM for his visit as it marked the first visit of a foreign high-ranking official under the new government, saying that the friendship between neighbouring countries is of great value to the socio-economic development of the people and expressed that the new government attaches great value to Myanmar's friendship with neighbouring countries. Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that Myanmar has seen change in internal affairs but China's friendly relations with Myanmar have remained unchanged, pledging that China would not interfere in the internal affairs of Myanmar. "China supports the choice of the Myanmar people and I hope Myanmar will find itself on the right path in conformity with the country's reality," Wang Yi said. He further said that the two sides had reached some agreements during the talk but did not mention anything in detail. Regarding China's huge controversial projects in Myanmar, Wang Yi said such challenges can be solved through the means of friendship and

² US president congratulates Myanmar counterpart –
http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/7_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 7 April 2016 (p. 1 & 3)/
Ban Ki-moon congratulates President U Htin Kyaw –

http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/6_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 6 April 2016 (p. 3)

³ President meets Canadian FM –
http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/8_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 8 April 2016 (p. 1)/
Canada commits CAD 44 million to support Myanmar –
http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/8_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 8 April 2016 (p. 1)

cooperation. Asked how the new government will handle the controversial Myitson Dam project in Myanmar, referring to Aung San Suu Kyi's pledge during her election campaign that the NLD would ensure transparency in regard to the contracting of the project, she replied that she had not yet read the contract.⁴

PRESIDENT HTIN KYAW MEETS ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

President Htin Kyaw met Italy's Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni Silveri on 6 April and discussed ways of creating new levels of bilateral cooperation in agriculture, food security, small and medium enterprises, tourism and protection of cultural heritage. Present at the meeting were Union Ministers Aung San Suu Kyi, Dr Pe Myint and Thura Aung Ko while the Italian Foreign Minister were joined by Italian Ambassador to Myanmar Pier Giorgio Aliberti.⁵

PRESIDENT SIGNS STATE COUNSELLOR BILL INTO LAW

President Htin Kyaw signed the State Counsellor Bill into the law, creating the post of the State Counsellor for Aung San Suu Kyi in the new cabinet. The bill was passed by the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) on 1 April and by the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) on 5 April. The bill was sent to the President without a vote in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) as it was approved by both houses. During the debates military representatives opposed the bill, claiming it violated the separation of powers as outlined in the constitution but stated that if it was in line with the Constitution they would support it. Military MP Brig-Gen Maung Maung told reporters after the bill was passed by the Lower House that the passage of the bill constituted 'democratic bullying' by the majority. "The bill was drawn up with the aim of ensuring a multi-party democratic system, a market economic system, a federal Union, peace and development in the Union," said the Chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee Tun Tun Hein. The bill includes five chapters and eight articles and guarantees NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi's right to contact government ministries, departments, organisations, associations and individuals and makes her accountable to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The term of the office for the State Counsellor is equal to the term of the president "who has taken office for the term of the current second parliament", according to the bill. Aside from the opposition presented by the military MPs, the bill has also drawn criticism by others who claim the NLD government should be using its early days in power to enact policies that benefit the public, including the release of political prisoners, rather than focusing on consolidating power in the person of the party's leader.⁶

PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW APPROVES APPOINTMENT OF MINISTERS, ATTORNEY-GENERAL, AND AUDITOR-GENERAL

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the appointment of 2 Union ministers, Union Attorney-General and Union Auditor-General on 5 April. Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced that the Pyidaungsu

⁴ President expresses enthusiasm about cooperation with China
http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/7_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 7 April 2016 (p. 3)/
Sino-Myanmar Ties Unchanged: FM Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with her Chinese counterpart –
http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/6_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 6 April 2016 (p. 1)

⁵ President U Htin Kyaw meets Italy's Foreign Minister –
http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/7_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 7 April 2016 (p. 3)

⁶ President signs State Counsellor Bill into law –
http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/7_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 7 April 2016 (p. 1)/
State Counsellor Bill passed by Lower House –
http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/6_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 6 April 2016 (p. 3)/
One more Debate: Amyotha Hluttaw members give nod to State Counsellor Bill –
http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/2_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 2 April 2016 (p. 1)/
Don't Rush It: Military to support State Counsellor Bill if found constitutional –
http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/5_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 5 April 2016 (p. 1)

Hluttaw had approved without rejection the appointment of Pe Zin Tun as Union Minister for Electricity and Energy, Dr Myo Thein Gyi as Union Minister for Education, Tun Tun Oo as Union Attorney-General and Maw Than as Union Auditor-General. The session also gave its approval on appointment of Dr Than Win as Vice-Chair (2), Win Htein (*former Lower House MP*), Nyi Tun (*former member of the Union Civil Service Board*), Bo Win (*retired Director-General of Education Planning and Training Department – Ministry of Education*) as members of the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission. The Speaker also announced that the chair position of ASEAN Inter-parliamentary Assembly which was previously held by Su Su Lwin of Thongwa Constituency was filled with MP Zaw Thein of Wakema Constituency. (*Please see Appendix A, B, C and D for full text of Notification No.5.2016, Order No.9/2016, Order No.10/2016 and Order No.11/2016*).⁷

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF CIVIL SERVICE BOARD

In accord with the provisions stated in section 246 (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, section 16 (b) (5) of the Union Government Law and section 5 of the Union Civil Service Board Law, Dr Win Thein has been appointed as Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board. (*Please see Appendix E for full text of Order No.12/2016*).⁸

21-MEMBER FINANCIAL COMMISSION FORMED

In accord with the provisions stated in section 229 (a) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 11 (a) of the Union Government Law, a 21-member Financial Commission has been formed under Notification No. 6/2016 dated 5 April 2016. (*Please see Appendix F for full text of Notification No.6/2016*).⁹

LANDMINES STILL PRESENT SEVERE RISKS TO MYANMAR

Myanmar is still designated as one of ‘the highest mine risk areas’ in the world, according to the 11th Annual International Day for Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action held in Yangon on 4 April. UNICEF Myanmar’s Deputy Representative Shalini Bahuguna called on all parties to stop the use of landmines and explosive weapons and to protect schools, health facilities and other places used by children from any attacks. She said the new chapter in Myanmar’s history is an opportunity to act immediately to protect innocent lives, adding that Myanmar should join the 162 countries that have signed or ratified the International Mine Ban Treaty. In his address to the meeting, NLD Patron Tin Oo denounced the use of landmines and pledged that the National League for Democracy will ensure that words are turned into actions. The United Nations launched the Myanmar Portfolio for Mine Action Projects in 2016 with a total funding appeal of US\$5.8 million, said sources within the

⁷ Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves two Union ministers, Union Attorney-General, Union Auditor-General –

http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/6_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 6 April 2016 (p. 1)/

President proposes transfer of two of Daw Suu Kyi’s ministries –

http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/5_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 5 April 2016 (p. 2)/

Notification No. 5/2016: Reformation of Union Government –

http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/6_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 6 April 2016 (p. 4)/

Order No. 9/2016: Appointment of Union Ministers –

http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/6_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 6 April 2016 (p. 4)/

Order No. 10/2016: Appointment of Union Attorney-General –

http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/6_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 6 April 2016 (p. 4)/

Order No. 11/2016: Appointment of Union Auditor-General –

http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/6_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 6 April 2016 (p. 4)

⁸ Order No. 12/2016: Appointment of Chairman of Union Civil Service Board –

http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/6_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 6 April 2016 (p.4)

⁹ Notification No. 6/2016: Formation of Financial Commission –

http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/6_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 6 April 2016 (p. 4)

UN, adding that many challenges remain, and the support being provided is clearly insufficient, with only 26 per cent of the required resources being secured to date. According to UNICEF and its partners, 21 casualties have been documented in the first three months of 2016, and 59 casualties were documented from landmines and explosive remnants of wars, causing 17 deaths and severe injuries to 42 people in 2015.¹⁰

UNION MINISTER URGES STATE MEDIA TO EMBRACE ‘PUBLIC-FACING’ CONTENT

State-owned media should report not only departmental press releases but also news that embraces “public-facing content”, said newly appointed Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint on 3 April. The Union Minister met officials from the departments and enterprises, including chief editors, editors and reporters from state-owned dailies at the Printing and Publishing Department in Yangon. The new government will strive to turn state-run media into a public-facing platform—a slight change from what the previous government called ‘public service’. The cabinet members are ultimately accountable to the people and responsible for informing them of their ministerial undertakings, Dr Pe Myint said, stressing the need for the dailies to act as intermediaries between the government and the public. He urged state-owned papers to focus on news that combats weaknesses, shortages and inconveniences in dealing with governmental departments. The Information Minister also hinted at leaving the power to choose news content in the hands of the editors-in-chief.¹¹

UNOFFICIAL MEDIA

EU-FUNDED POLICE TRAINING ABRUPTLY CALLED TO A HALT

A controversial Myanmar police training program funded by the EU and the UK has been abruptly halted following failure to reach an agreement with the military that included issues of parliamentary oversight. Police trainers last month were suddenly told by international donors to pack their bags and leave, according to sources knowledgeable about the program who asked not to be named. At the heart of the issue over the breakdown was a failure by international donors and the military-controlled Ministry of Home Affairs to agree on a memorandum of understanding, according to representatives of civil society groups who attended recent trainings and were briefed by the EU.

Reform of the police force, notorious for its brutal and sometimes deadly crackdowns on peaceful protests, has been a showpiece of the EU assistance program to Myanmar, costing 9.5 million euros (US\$10.2 million) since November 2013. The project went ahead even after EU-trained units used excessive force to break up student protesters in Letpadan in March last year, with the EU saying the incident demonstrated that further training was needed. Its termination – or at least suspension – is an embarrassing blow to the EU and the UK but also a setback for NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi who endorsed the program. Given the fraught state of relations between the new government and the military which controls three key ministries – reaching a deal to restart the program is likely to involve difficult negotiations. Senior police officers, who appear to have been overruled by their military superiors, were also dismayed at the end of training, according to some participants. The end came in March when the Home Ministry stuck to its refusal to allow its police officers, as well as members of parliament, to attend UK-funded training sessions which had gone ahead despite the absence of an MoU.

¹⁰ Landmines still present severe risks to Myanmar –
http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/5_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 5 April 2016 (p. 3)

¹¹ Union Minister urges state media to embrace ‘public-facing’ content –
http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/4_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 4 April 2016 (p. 4)

The crux of the dispute, according to participants in the program who asked not to be named, appeared to lie within Myanmar's complex separation of powers, with the Tatmadaw refusing to allow what would be seen as parliamentary oversight of the military-controlled police. As the EU set out in a project note last September, "At the heart of every democratic system is the parliamentary and public control of the state's institutions, including the police. This is why the project explicitly provides capacity building directly to the Myanmar Parliament as well as to civil society actors and the media, to enable them to hold the police accountable and encourage them on their path towards a democratic police service." Asked to comment on the reasons for the breakdown in training and the failure so far to agree on the next phase, the EU said, "the future programme is currently being formulated in consultation with all relevant stakeholders and will build on previous successful EU engagement with the police." An interim UK-funded police training project was set up to bridge the gap between the EU training that ended in September 2015 and the follow-up that was planned to start this year. Neither the UK nor the Ministry of Home Affairs would explain why an MoU could not be reached. A spokesperson for the UK embassy in Yangon said they were "not able to comment on specific project discussions". It is also not clear why the Ministry of Home Affairs had allowed nearly two years of training to continue up to September 2015 without an MoU. Asked for the legal basis for that period of training, a EU spokesperson in Yangon said, "Trainings under the EU-funded 'Support to the Myanmar Police Force' project were implemented based on an exchange of notes between the EU Delegation and the Ministry of Home Affairs."

The training had involved senior and junior police officers, as well as MPs and civil society organisations. The Geneva-based Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), an international foundation working worldwide on security sector reform, collaborated with parliament to improve police accountability to the legislature. Aung San Suu Kyi had been closely involved in the training and, according to DCAF's report, personally pushed for more accountability. "In response to the request of Aung San Suu Kyi in her capacity as chair of the parliamentary Rule of Law committee, DCAF conducted a series of capacity-building workshops on the role of parliament in police governance. These workshops ended in specific recommendations for strengthening police accountability," the report said. But as the former parliament – dominated by the military and the Union Solidarity and Development Party – prepared to make way for an NLD-controlled legislature after the party's landslide election win last November, the interest of the Ministry of Home Affairs in police reform training seemed to diminish. Police Major Pyae Sone, from Yangon Region, confirmed there was no training at the moment and that no date for further training had been set. Internal training was continuing, he added. He declined to comment further.

Asked about the fate of the program before the 30 March handover to the new government, NLD spokesperson Zaw Myint Maung and Ye Htut, spokesperson for former President Thein Sein, said they did not know if or when the EU training would continue. Daw A Mar Ni, a Metta Campaign activist from Mandalay who attended training under the recent UK-funded program said she was disappointed that no representatives from the police force had been present. She called it "ridiculous" that training designed to foster cooperation between police and civil society went on to only involve the latter.¹²

SHAN STATE TENSION INCREASES AS NEW GOVERNMENT SEARCHES FOR PEACE

The elusive road to peace remains entrenched in Shan State, as Myanmar's first democratically elected civilian government took office on 1 April. Over the past year, the military has fought with at least 6 different armed groups in Shan State, according to the Shan Herald News Agency. The day President Htin Kyaw took office, army troops exchanged fire with the Ta'ang National Liberation

¹² EU-funded police training abruptly called to a halt –
<http://www.mmmtimes.com/index.php/national-news/19809-eu-funded-police-training-abruptly-called-to-a-halt.html>
(Myanmar Times) 4 April 2016

Army (TNLA), a group that didn't even exist when former President Thein Sein became president in early 2011. In recent months, tensions between Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) that signed the National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and those that have not signed have been increasing.

"A worrying development since the signing of the NCA has been the increased division between signatory and non-signatory EAOs," said a report recently released by Burma Partnership (BP), an NGO led by long-time activist Khin Ohmar. In the weeks leading up to the official handover of power to the National League for Democracy (NLD), the situation in northern Shan state appeared to have become even more precarious with the arrival of more military reinforcements, said the ethnic news agency. Burma Partnership noted that the government reinforcements have put civilians under further stress. The BP report said the number of IDPs [Indigenous Displaced Persons] as a result of armed conflict reportedly increased up to 662,000 in 2015, due to 70,000 fleeing war. A national ceasefire agreement that ends all fighting between the government and ethnic armed groups and between ethnic groups themselves should be at the top of the new government's agenda.¹³

NLD PLEDGES TO ADDRESS NPT LAND DISPUTES

The Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Myo Aung has pledged that the National League for Democracy (NLD) will try to resolve land-grabbing issues in the Nay Pyi Taw. Myo Aung said: "I know land disputes are common in Nay Pyi Taw as I am also an MP. I will deal with the issues in line with the law for the farmers. I learnt that the issues in Nay Pyi Taw are not worse than those in other regions. It is because Nay Pyi Taw is not large. I know generally that there is not much to do." "It is too early to comment on every case and it will take time to understand them all. I will try my best for them and I know people are suffering," he said.

Elderly people have been jailed under the 2009 Nay Pyi Taw Municipal Act and hundreds of farmers have been sent to prison. Sources say the act will be amended. President Htin Kyaw appointed Myo Aung as Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council on 1 April. Previously he served as MP for Dagon Seikkan in the 2012 by-elections and won the East Dagon constituency in last November's general election.¹⁴

CSO WELCOMES WOMAN LEADERS IN NLD ADMINISTRATION

The role of women in the executive and legislative branches of government in Myanmar, though still low by international standards, is higher than under any previous government, drawing praise from the Gender Initiative, a local civil society organization. "There is still a great need for women's participation in these two sectors. We hope that under the new NLD government women can participate in various departments with the leading roles. But in the nomination list submitted by President Htin Kyaw, there is only one woman Minister, Aung San Suu Kyi. In the State and Region governments, 2 women were selected as ministers, and it is encouraging to see women involvement in politics," said Salai Isaac Khin, the Director of GDI. Tin Ei serves as speaker of the Mon State parliament, while Nan Khin Htwe serves as Chief Minister of Kayin State and Dr Le Le Maw serves as Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region. More women are participating in parliamentary committees than before, according to Salai Isaac Khin. Among the 800 women who ran in the 2015 election, 150

¹³ Shan State tension increases as new government searches for peace – <http://mizzima.com/news-domestic/shan-state-tension-increases-new-government-searches-peace> (Mizzima) 5 April 2016

¹⁴ NLD pledges to address NPT land disputes – <http://www.elevenmyanmar.com/politics/nld-pledges-address-npt-land-disputes> (Eleven Myanmar) 3 April 2016

were elected. Women made up 4.5 per cent of the previous parliament, while they make up 13 per cent of the current parliament.¹⁵

ANALYSIS

The visit by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi as the first foreign dignitary to be received by the new NLD administration in Nay Pyi Taw is a reflection that Sino-Myanmar relations will remain a priority for both nations. However, relations between the two countries in recent times and especially during the term President Thein Sein has been strained and to what extent Beijing can accommodate Myanmar remains to be seen. The visit by Chinese FM Wang Yi will no doubt be based on reassuring the authorities in Nay Pyi Taw of China's goodwill to promote and further strengthen the fraternal Pauk-phaw friendship. Myanmar's political transformation from military-rule to democratic governance is still in its early days and due to the complex nature of institutions and different stakeholders with varied interests, the government will need to adopt a different approach from that of its predecessors in dealing with China. In this regard, attention should be given to resolve the long-standing armed conflicts between the Myanmar government and the EAOs and other armed militia groups along the border near Yunnan Province. It, therefore, is crucial that if the Sino-Myanmar relations are to improve they should enter a new phase in accordance with international standards of mutual respect, transparency and social accountability. Furthermore, the recent shift by Myanmar towards the West and the international community will no doubt have given Beijing some concern and it now faces strategic rivalry to maintain and gain influence over Nay Pyi Taw as the number of suitors have grown. Sino-Myanmar relations will be tested during the term of the NLD government and China can expect to see greater challenges as it strives to promote its interest in Myanmar. And is so doing, Beijing will need to balance its short-term interests and long-term values when dealing with Myanmar.

¹⁵ CSO welcomes woman leaders in NLD administration – <http://www.elevenmyanmar.com/local/cso-welcomes-woman-leaders-nld-administration> (Eleven Myanmar) 4 April 2016

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Notification No.5/2016 on the Reformation of the Union Government

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President's Office
Notification No. 5/2016
13th Waning of Tabaung, 1377 ME (5 April, 2016)
Reformation of Union Government

In accord with the provisions stated in section 200 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 6 (a) of the Union Government Law, the Union Government has been reformed with the following persons.

(1) U Pe Zin Tun	-	Union Minister for Electricity and Energy
(2) Dr Myo Thein Gyi	-	Union Minister for Education
(3) U Tun Tun Oo	-	Union Attorney-General

Sd/ Htin Kyaw
President
*Republic of the Union of Myanmar*¹⁶

Appendix B: Order No.9/2016 on the Appointment of Union Ministers

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President's Office
Order No. 9/2016
13th Waning of Tabaung, 1377 ME (5 April, 2016)
Appointment of Union Ministers

In accord with the provisions stated in section 232 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 12 of the Union Government Law, the following persons have been appointed as Union Ministers for ministries shown against each.

(1) U Pe Zin Tun	-	Union Minister for Electricity and Energy
(2) Dr Myo Thein Gyi	-	Union Minister for Education

Sd/ Htin Kyaw
President
*Republic of the Union of Myanmar*¹⁷

Appendix C: Order No.10/2016 on the Appointment of the Union Attorney-General

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President's Office
Order No. 10/2016
13th Waning of Tabaung, 1377 ME (5 April, 2016)
Appointment of Union Attorney-General

In accord with the provisions stated in section 237 (a) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, section 15 (a) of the Union

¹⁶ Notification No. 5/2016: Reformation of Union Government –
http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/6_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 6 April 2016 (p. 4)

¹⁷ Order No. 9/2016: Appointment of Union Ministers –
http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/6_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 6 April 2016 (p. 4)

Government Law and section 5 of the Union Attorney-General Law, U Tun Tun Oo has been appointed as Union Attorney-General.
Sd/ Htin Kyaw
President
*Republic of the Union of Myanmar*¹⁸

Appendix D: Order No.11/2016 on the Appointment of the Union Auditor-General

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President's Office
Order No. 11/2016
13th Waning of Tabaung, 1377 ME (5 April, 2016)
Appointment of Union Auditor-General
In accord with the provisions stated in section 242 (a) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, section 16 (b) (4) of the Union Government Law and section 5 of the Union Auditor-General Law, U Maw Than has been appointed as Union Auditor-General.
Sd/ Htin Kyaw
President
*Republic of the Union of Myanmar*¹⁹

Appendix E: Order No.12/2016 on the Appointment of the Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President's Office
Order No. 12/2016
13th Waning of Tabaung, 1377 ME (5 April, 2016)
Appointment of Chairman of Union Civil Service Board
In accord with the provisions stated in section 246 (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, section 16 (b) (5) of the Union Government Law and section 5 of the Union Civil Service Board Law, Dr Win Thein has been appointed as Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board.
Sd/ Htin Kyaw
President
*Republic of the Union of Myanmar*²⁰

Appendix F: Notification No.6/2016 on the Formation of the Financial Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President's Office
Notification No. 6/2016
13th Waning of Tabaung, 1377 ME (5 April, 2016)
Formation of Financial Commission
In accord with the provisions stated in section 229 (a) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 11 (a) of the Union Government Law,

¹⁸ Order No. 10/2016: Appointment of Union Attorney-General –
http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/6_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 6 April 2016 (p. 4)

¹⁹ Order No. 11/2016: Appointment of Union Auditor-General –
http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/6_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 6 April 2016 (p. 4)

²⁰ Order No. 12/2016: Appointment of Chairman of Union Civil Service Board –
http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/6_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 6 April 2016 (p.4)

the President has formed the Financial Commission with the following persons.			
No.	Name	Current Portfolio	Designation
1.	U Htin Kyaw	President	Chairman
2.	U Myint Swe	Vice-President	Vice-Chairman
3.	U Henry Van Thio	Vice-President	Vice-Chairman
4.	U Tun Tun Oo	Union Attorney-General	Member
5.	U Maw Than	Union Auditor-General	Member
6.	Dr Khat Aung	Chief Minister for Kachin State	Member
7.	U L Phaung Sho	Chief Minister for Kayah State	Member
8.	Daw Nann Khin Htway Myint	Chief Minister for Kayin State	Member
9.	U Salai Lian Lwal	Chief Minister for Chin State	Member
10.	Dr Mying Naing	Chief Minister for Sagaing Region	Member
11.	Dr Lei Lei Maw	Chief Minister for Taninthayi Region	Member
12.	U Win Thein	Chief Minister for Bago Region	Member
13.	Dr Aung Moe Nyo	Chief Minister for Magway Region	Member
14.	Dr Zaw Myint Maung	Chief Minister for Mandalay Region	Member
15.	U Min Min Oo	Chief Minister for Mon State	Member
16.	U Nyi Pu	Chief Minister for Rakhine State	Member
17.	U Phyo Min Thein	Chief Minister for Yangon Region	Member
18.	Dr Lin Htut	Chief Minister for Shan State	Member
19.	U Mahn Johnny	Chief Minister for Ayeyawady Region	Member
20.	Dr Myo Aung	Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council	Member
21.	U Kyaw Win	Union Minister for Planning & Finance	Secretary
<p><i>Sd/ Htin Kyaw</i> <i>President</i> <i>Republic of the Union of Myanmar</i>²¹</p>			

²¹ Notification No. 6/2016: Formation of Financial Commission – http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs22/6_April_16_gnlm.pdf (GNLM) 6 April 2016 (p. 4)