

(Translation)

JOINT STATEMENT BY ETHNIC BRETHERN PARTIES

As in the near future the Union of Myanmar shall be commencing a system of governance that has the separation of the three powers of the state and democratic elections, even though there had been divergences of views in the past, we ethnic brethren parties have now pledged to build a new nation together. At the same time, it is our wish in particular that the new political configuration that is to emerge in the near future is one that has the praise of the tatmadaw, USDP, democratic forces and the entire populace. That the new nation may be inaugurated auspiciously, there are important issues on which we ethnic brethren parties would like to make an earnest request to the tatmadaw, USDP, the present government and to the international community. As such, the ethnic parties have come to an agreement and issued this statement.

- 1.) The economic sanctions that the United States and European Community have taken the lead in applying upon the Union of Myanmar have led to problems in trade, investment and acquisition of modern technology which are important for the development of the ethnic regions which have been underdeveloped throughout history. Not only that, they also diminish the prospects for the future.

Therefore we ethnic brethren parties collectively make a request that the sanctions regime led by the United States and European Community be reviewed and lifted.

- 2.) We, the group of ethnic brethren parties support the President who will be nominated by the tatmadaw and USDP to lead the new government that is to be formed soon. We request that the National Hluttaw elect an ethnic nationality leader as Vice-President.
- 3.) We request the respective members of the Hluttaw to appoint an MP from ethnic nationality parties as the Speaker or Deputy Speaker of either the National or People's Hluttaw.
- 4.) Similarly, in the appointment of state chief ministers, speakers and deputy speakers of state parliaments as well as state ministers in proportion by the President, we request that national ethnic unity be upheld by appointing MPs from the ethnic parties who won seats in the elections.
- 5.) So as to illustrate that military government has ended in the Union of Myanmar and that the process of democratic transition has begun, we ethnic brethren parties collectively request the present government and the government that is to come to declare a general amnesty as is the custom in various countries. At the same time, political prisoners convicted on various charges should be categorically regarded as political prisoners and they should be accorded privileges not less than those enjoyed by political prisoners in the past.

1. Shan Nationalities Democratic Party
2. Rakhine Nationalities Development Party
3. Chin National Party
4. All Mon Regions Democracy Party
5. Phalon Sawaw Democratic Party

U Sai Ai Paung (Chairman)
U Ohn Tin (Vice-chairman)
U Zoe Zam (Chairman)
Dr Min Nwe Soe (Gen Secretary)
U Saw Khin MaungMyint (Chairman)

15 January 2011

Head Office, Shan Nationalities Democracy Party