

## POLITICAL MONITOR NO.6

### OFFICIAL MEDIA

#### **PRESIDENT THEIN SEIN RECEIVES NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER**

President Thein Sein received Norwegian Foreign Minister Borge Brende in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 March and discussed Norwegian assistance in internal peace making process and further cooperation in hydropower sector, oil and natural gas production, human resources development and environmental conservation.<sup>1</sup>

#### **ETHNIC LEADERS MEET SPEAKERS OF UPPER AND LOWER HOUSES IN NAPYITAW**

Ethnic leaders from “Wa” Special Region 2, Mongla Special Region (4) and Shan State Progressive Party (SSPP) held separate meetings on 3 March during a recent visit to Naypyitaw with Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura Shwe Mann and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Khin Aung Myint, where they discussed the upcoming national census as well as the on-going national reconciliation peace process.<sup>2</sup>

#### **NATIONAL RACE PEACE GROUPS AND POLITICAL PARTIES READY TO COOPERATE IN CENSUS TAKING PROCESS**

Vice-Chairman of the Union Peace-making Working Committee Thein Zaw and Minister for Immigration and Population Khin Yi held a meeting with the delegates from national race peace groups and political parties for nation-wide census taking process in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 March. Vice-Chairman Thein Zaw clarified the purpose of census taking process and Minister Khin Yi reiterated the importance of conducting the national census and stressed the need for people’s cooperation and urged them to cooperate fully with officials in the process. The Central Census Committee issued an announcement on 28 February that stated that according to the request of national people and the agreement of local authorities, the census will be taken as of the first week of March in Putao District of Kachin State, Shan State (North) Special Region (2) and Shan State (East) Special Region (4). (*Please see full statement of the Announcement of the Census Central Committee as Appendix A and B*).<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> President U Thein Sein receives Norwegian Foreign Minister –  
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs17/NLM2014-03-03-red.pdf> (NLM) 3 March 2014 (p. 8)

<sup>2</sup> Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets delegates from Wa Special Region-2, Mongla Special Region-4 –  
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs17/NLM2014-03-02.pdf> (NLM) 2 March 2014 (p. 16) /  
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives representatives of Special Regions and SSPP, meets Bangladeshi PM –  
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs17/NLM2014-03-04.pdf> (NLM) 4 March 2014 (p. 8) /  
Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker meets delegates from Wa Special Region-2, Mongla Special Region-4, SSPP, trainees of M. Devs & CAES –  
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs17/NLM2014-03-04.pdf> (NLM) 4 March 2014 (p. 9)

<sup>3</sup> National race peace groups and political parties ready to cooperate in census taking process –  
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs17/NLM2014-03-04.pdf> (NLM) 4 March 2014 (p. 9) /  
Announcement on 2014 nation-wide census-taking process –  
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs17/NLM2014-03-01.pdf> (NLM) 1 March 2014 (p. 16) /  
Announcement of Central Census Committee –  
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs17/NLM2014-03-01.pdf> (NLM) 1 March 2014 (p. 16)

## HLUTTAW SESSIONS – Highlights

### Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) sessions

The 9<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the First Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) held its 20<sup>th</sup> day meeting on 4 March. The following issues and questions were raised on discussed:

- Deputy Minister for Transport Zin Yaw briefed the session and stated that inspection and registration procedures for the vessels with engines that are not more than the capacity of 20 HP have already been announced and rules and regulations for them will be set after the enactment of Inland Vessel Law which is underway.
- The report submitted by Pyithu Hluttaw Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee **suggested that damage happens to some development facilities such as roads and bridges and dams before their durability periods are over due to violation of prescribed rules and regulations by some locals. The report called on media to play a constructive role in informing the people of the development projects in a transparent way.**<sup>4</sup>

The 9<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the First Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) held its 21<sup>st</sup> day meeting on 5 March. The following issues and questions were raised on discussed:

- Deputy Minister U Aung Than Oo in responding to 2 questions said that a **feasibility study report is under consideration for the establishment of a power plant in Yebyu Township of Taninthayi Region and coordination is underway for acquisition of foreign loans for Mawlamyine-Ye-Dawei 230 KV power line project.** He continued that **Mulasheedi Hydropower Project will be implemented for electricity supply in the region instead of undertaking Htaka Creek hydropower project in Machanbaw Township, Kachin State** and that the new project with a generating capacity of 800 KW will be carried out under the Kachin State government's management;
- **Approval of Pyithu Hluttaw on the Bill amending the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law was sought at the session.**<sup>5</sup>

### Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) sessions

The 9<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the First Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) held its 19<sup>th</sup> day meeting on 4 March. The following issues were raised and answered during the session:

- Union Minister for Transport Nyan Tun Aung **submitted Bills to amend the Civil Aviation Law and the International Interested Law. The session approved to discuss the two Bills;**
- **The Amyotha Hluttaw National Planning and Development Project Affairs Committee's report on work progress in the third quarter of FY 2013-2014** was discussed by MP Daw Khin Wine Kyi. She highlighted the **importance of strict adherence to rules and regulations of extractive industries and the need for acquisition of capital and technological assistance from the government.** The report was approved by the session.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Development Fund Bill, Printing and Publishing Enterprise Bill, Media Bill – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs17/NLM2014-03-05.pdf> (NLM) 5 March 2014 (p. 9)

<sup>5</sup> Coordination underway for construction of waste-to-energy plants in Yangon, Mandalay – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs17/NLM2014-03-06.pdf> (NLM) 6 March 2014 (p. 8)

<sup>6</sup> Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Development Fund Bill, Printing and Publishing Enterprise Bill, Media Bill – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs17/NLM2014-03-05.pdf> (NLM) 5 March 2014 (p. 9)

### Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) sessions

The 9<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) held its 19<sup>th</sup> day meeting on 3 March. The following issues were raised and answered during the session;

- **The appointment and affirmation of the Anti-Bribery Commission took place during the session.**
- **The President's message** sent to the session to address land confiscation matters was documented by parliament. In his message, **the President stressed the need to address farmland grabbing cases in a transparent and speedy way, not later than the end of this June for lands of monsoon crops and the start of this September for lands of winter crops. He called for collaboration and cooperation of representatives in the tasks of the respective township land utilization management committees that are making field trips under the supervision of the central committee led by Vice-President Nyan Tun.**
- **The Bill amending the Myanmar Stamp Act and the Bill amending the Office Tax Act were approved and the Report on findings of Planning and Financial Development Joint Committee on the report on national planning work progress in the first 6 months for 2013-2014 FY was discussed.**
- **Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Lin Aung made clarifications on the report of Joint Public Accounts Committee, saying that budget surplus occurred in 2012-2013 FY as state-owned economic enterprises' capital expenditures on purchase of raw materials was not included in the budget. More emphasis will be placed on the proposed budgets of the ministries concerned, he added. Regarding the suggestion on the possible impacts of monetary policy changes in world nations against Burma, the Deputy Minister replied that Central Bank will be responsible for monetary policy while the Ministry of Finance will take care of fiscal policy. According to the Public Financial Management PFM Reform Strategy, Fiscal Policy and Strategy Division will be formed as of 2014-2015 FY for effective formulation of fiscal policies.**<sup>7</sup>

The 9<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) held its 20<sup>th</sup> day meeting on 5 March. The following issues were raised and answered during the session:

- **The session approved the Development Fund Bill, Printing and Publishing Enterprise Bill and Media Bill.**
- **The Joint Bill Committee submitted its report on Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Development Fund Bill that was sent back by the President with comments to the parliament. The report recommended the bill to be approved in accord with the approval of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as the bill focusing on the interests of the country and its people is in conformity with the Constitution;**
- **the Speaker announced that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw-approved bill would be sent back to the President. Approval of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on the Printing and Publishing Enterprise Bill and Media Bill was also discussed.**
- **Members of the Joint Bill Committee presented the committee's findings regarding the Bills amending the Income Tax Law and Commercial Tax Law and 2014 Union Taxation Bill to the parliament.**<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Appointees to Anti-Bribery Commission take oaths in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs17/NLM2014-03-04.pdf> (NLM) 4 March 2014 (p.8) (NLM) 4 March 2014 (p. 16)

<sup>8</sup> Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Development Fund Bill, Printing and Publishing Enterprise Bill, Media Bill – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs17/NLM2014-03-05.pdf> (NLM) 5 March 2014 (p. 9)

## UNOFFICIAL MEDIA

### **PARLIAMENT SPEAKER READY FOR 4-SIDED MEETING ON CONSTITUTION CHANGE**

Parliamentary speaker Thura Shwe Mann has said that he is ready to meet with the president, the commander-in-chief of the army and Aung San Suu Kyi. The four-side meeting was requested by the National League for Democracy (NLD) in a letter to the President's Office in November 2013 to discuss constitutional amendments. "We always met at the parliament session. I am ready for the quadruple meeting whenever. I can attend it when they arrange it. It is my principle to meet, discuss and cooperate," said Thura Shwe Mann addressing the press on 6 March. In return the president replied that he will consider the meeting only after the report by Myanmar's Constitution Review Joint Committee has been released. The joint committee submitted a report to parliament in January and the parliament formed another committee to implement amendments consisting of 31 members on 3 February. The committee consists of 14 representatives from the ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), two from the opposition NLD and 15 from various other parties. "If the constitution can be reviewed and amended, the country and its citizens will benefit. The constitution is a promise between the government and people. If both sides agree, all will experience the quintessence of the constitution and policies will be designated for the sake of the country," said the speaker.<sup>9</sup>

### **CENSUS: NO CENSUS IN PARTS OF KACHIN STATE / RNDP OBJECTS TO USE OF "OTHER"**

About 80,000 people living in areas controlled by the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) will be left out of Burma's nationwide census. While most of Burma's ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) have agreed to work with the government to administer the census in EAO-controlled areas, this is not the case in Kachin State. Fighting between the Burma Army and the KIO's military wing, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), since a ceasefire broke down in 2011 has left about 100,000 people residing in temporary shelters, at least half of them in 22 camps in KIA-administered areas. Many people are divided from family members, and many have misplaced their identification documents while fleeing violence. KIO spokesman and joint secretary La Nan said the organization was not ready to conduct a census in these areas and that there has been no invitation or initiations by any organization to conduct a census so far. He dismissed a letter sent from Naypyidaw to the Kachin State government and forwarded to the KIO, which invited the group to send representatives to the launch of the census in Naypyidaw last week, adding that the KIO already had records of all the people in its area and in its camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs). The officer in charge of the KIO's IDPs and Refugees Relief Committee said that more time was needed to conduct a census in conflict-affected parts of Kachin. In government-controlled parts of Kachin, the local government has reportedly decided to begin the census early to account for potential delays caused by the ongoing conflict. While in most of the country the census will not begin until 30 March, the DVB has reported that it was already underway in Kachin's Putao, Machanbaw, Nawnngmun and Suprabum.

The Rakhine Nationalities Development Party (RNDP) has released a statement objecting to the inclusion of "other" on the list of ethnic names in the upcoming nation-wide census. According to the 4 March statement, while they accepted international aid in for the census, collecting Bengali population figures must take priority over the improvement of international relations. RNDP central executive committee secretary Khine Pyi Soe said that keeping the option "other" was a political trick and insisted that it be replaced by "Bengali", which is the official name for them that are not recognised in Myanmar. The statement added that in the past the government neither focused on

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<sup>9</sup> Speaker ready for four-side meeting on charter change – [http://www.elevenmyanmar.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=5300:speaker-ready-for-four-side-meeting-on-charter-change&catid=32:politics&Itemid=354](http://www.elevenmyanmar.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5300:speaker-ready-for-four-side-meeting-on-charter-change&catid=32:politics&Itemid=354) (Eleven News Media) 7 March 2014

alien population numbers nor used state funds to collect population data. The RNDP has asked the government to take action against non-citizens under the 1982 Citizenship Law.<sup>10</sup>

### **GOVT ALLOWS MSF TO REOPEN SOME CLINICS, MAINTAINS BAN ON ARAKAN**

The Burmese government has allowed Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) to resume work in parts of the country, days after it ordered it to close its clinics, but not in the western strife-torn state of Arakan. MSF did not give a reason for the suspension but media reports said government officials had been angered by the charity's public comments on Arakan. The group has been giving care there to both ethnic Arakanese Buddhists and Rohingya Muslims, a mostly stateless minority who live in apartheid-like conditions and who otherwise have little access to health care. The United Nations and human rights groups say at least 40 Rohingya were killed by security forces and ethnic Arakanese Buddhist civilians in a restricted area of the state in January. The government denies that any massacre took place and has accused MSF of falsely reporting that it had treated victims near the scene of the alleged mass killing. MSF said in a statement on 1 March it had been allowed to resume work in Kachin and Shan states, as well as the Rangoon region, but that it remains extremely concerned about the fate of tens of thousands of vulnerable people in Rakhine [Arakan] state who currently face a humanitarian medical crisis. It said all MSF services are provided based on medical need only, regardless of ethnicity, religion or any other factor, and that it had to close clinics serving 30,000 HIV/AIDS patients, and more than 3,000 people with tuberculosis were not able to get vital medicine. Reports of incidents in Arakan are difficult to verify independently because large parts are off limits to journalists. The government has repeatedly rejected reports by MSF, the United Nations and human rights groups that Rohingya villagers in Maungdaw Township were attacked and their homes looted.<sup>11</sup>

### **WA LEADERS ASK PRESIDENT FOR AUTONOMOUS STATE**

Ethnic Wa leaders have reiterated their demand for an autonomous Wa state to President Thein Sein, when a delegation from the United Wa State Army (UWSA) met with him at the beginning of March on the sidelines of a meeting on the nationwide census, which will begin on 30 March but will start two weeks earlier in Wa territory of northern Shan State. The Wa leaders also met Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann where they discussed the role of the parliament and the upcoming census, which was the first visit to Nay Pyi Taw by the UWSA representatives. The UWSA is the largest ethnic armed organization in Burma, with 20,000 soldiers and has been granted the right to operate a self-administered zone in north-eastern Shan State, near the Chinese border. However, the UWSA has been increasingly pushing during the last year to upgrade its territory to the status of an officially recognized autonomous state. The well-armed UWSA reached a new ceasefire deal with the government in September 2011, to replace a 1989 agreement with Burma's military regime. In mid-2013, the UWSA called on the government to change the status of the Wa special region from Wa self-administered region, as it is currently described in the constitution, to Wa self-administered state. The UWSA is less enthusiastic about calls for a federal union. While other ethnic groups want constitutional amendments to give more political power to individual states, the Wa have resisted the idea of federalism because they are an ethnic minority within Shan State, without a state of their own. The UWSA leaders said they would likely add their names to the nationwide ceasefire accord, but added that they would wait to find out the exact wording of the final agreement before

<sup>10</sup> No Census for EAO-Controlled Parts of Kachin State – <http://www.irrawaddy.org/burma/census-rebel-controlled-parts-kachin-state.html> (Irrawaddy) 6 March 2014 / RNDP objects to use of "other" in census -

[http://www.elevenmyanmar.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=5289:rndp-objects-to-use-of-other-in-census&catid=32:politics&Itemid=354](http://www.elevenmyanmar.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5289:rndp-objects-to-use-of-other-in-census&catid=32:politics&Itemid=354) (Eleven News Media) 6 March 2014

<sup>11</sup> Govt Allows MSF to Reopen Some Clinics, Maintains Ban on Arakan – <http://www.irrawaddy.org/burma/govt-allows-msf-reopen-clinics-maintains-ban-arakan.html> (Reuters/Irrawaddy) 3 March 2014

committing. The UWSA has also refused to take part in peace talks with other ethnic armed groups, conducting only bilateral talks with the government. It failed to send representatives to ethnic meetings in Laiza in late 2013 and Hlaingbwe earlier this year.<sup>12</sup>

### **ETHNIC MEDIA CONFERENCE HELD IN SHAN STATE CAPITAL**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Ethnic Media Conference organized by the Shan Herald Agency for News (SHAN) in collaboration with Burma News International (BNI) was held from 4 to 6 March in the Shan State capital Taunggyi. There were over 300 participants, including Shan State Chief Minister Sao Aung Myat, Deputy Minister of Information U Pike Htwe, as well as political parties, civil society organizations and journalists from various agencies. According to Minister U Pike Htwe “The central government follows the constitution and provides freedom of expression; there is no more censorship. So far, there are over 300 journals registered and have got permits, and 9 journals in ethnic languages.” However, according to an ethnic reporter Sai Hark Khur “Ethnic media do not have full freedom of expression. For instance, when registering, the news agency has to sign a paper, saying they take responsibility for every word in the newspaper or journal they publish. Furthermore, the authorities ask for ethnic publications to be translated into Burmese for them.” BNI secretary Khin Maung Shwe said the conference was scheduled to discuss development of democratic media, women and media, and ethnic media. The first ethnic media conference was held in Mawlamyine, Mon State, in April 2013 and the next one will be held in Hakha, Chin State in 2015.<sup>13</sup>

### **ARMY INCREASES ATTACKS IN NORTHERN BURMA, SEIZES 2 SHAN CAMPS & KACHIN MILITARY BASE**

According to the Shan State Army-North (SSA-North), the Burmese Army has captured two strategically important SSA-North outposts in Kyethi (Kesi) and Mongshu townships following a 2-day offensive at the end of February. According to SSA-North Col. Parng Hpa, on the night of 28 February SSA-North troops were forced to withdraw from their camp in Kyethi, located about 16 km away from their headquarters at Wan Hai, after 2 consecutive days of bombardments and attacks. While the camp in Kyethi was under fire, 3 government battalions also took control of another SSA-North camp in Mongshu Township, which was being used as a hub to transport mining products from areas under SSA-N control. The Wan Hai area in Kyethi and Mongshu townships is located at a strategically important junction connecting northern and southern Shan State.

The SSA-North and the government signed a ceasefire in January 2012, however, fighting has continued, with the SSA-North claiming that it has engaged in more than 100 clashes since the ceasefire was signed and 5 camps have been taken over by government troops. The recent seizure of 2 SSA camps reportedly coincided with the arrival the General Secretary of the political wing of SSA-North, Shan State Progress Party Sao, Khun Hsai in Naypyidaw to join discussions about the nationwide census organized by the Department of Immigration and Population. The SSA-North area under attack is located west of the Salween River, while the allied United Wa State Army (UWSA) is

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<sup>12</sup> Wa Leaders Ask President for Autonomous State – <http://www.irrawaddy.org/burma/wa-leaders-ask-president-autonomous-state.html> (Irrawaddy) 3 March 2014 / Wa talks “not political” – <http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/national-news/9765-wa-talks-not-political.html> (Myanmar Times) 6 March 2014

<sup>13</sup> Ethnic media conference held in Shan State capital – [http://www.english.panglong.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=5746:ethnic-media-conference-held-in-shan-state-capital&catid=87:human-rights&Itemid=285](http://www.english.panglong.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5746:ethnic-media-conference-held-in-shan-state-capital&catid=87:human-rights&Itemid=285) (S.H.A.N.) 5 March 2014 / Chin State to host third ethnic media conference – <http://chinlandguardian.com/index.php/news/ethnic-news/item/2137-chin-state-to-host-third-ethnic-media-conference> (Chinland Guardian) 6 March 2014

based on the opposing river bank, according to another Shan rebel source, who said the government offensive also served to put pressure on the Wa.

The Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) also have forces in northern Shan State and have said that they have experienced a sharp increase in Army attacks since February 2014. According to TNLA general secretary Mai Phone Kyaw there have been about 20 clashes in Kyauk Mae and Manton townships in February and 2 clashes so far in March. He said the 77<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Division had been deployed during the operations, which has been active in attacks in northern Shan State in the past. Both the KIA and TNLA have not yet reached ceasefire agreements with the government. Kachinland News reported that the 77<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Division took over a KIA post on 2 March called Loi Hkam Bum, located in Namtu Township, northern Shan State. KIA frontline sources also reported that troops from Pyay-based 66<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Division (LID) have arrived in Nkhat Pa village located at the confluence of Hkama Hka and Mo Gaung Hka in KIA's 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion area in western Kachin State from Monyin on 1 March. The KIA has said the Burma Army seized a number of posts since last month, including a deadly attack on a rebel platoon stationed in Kachin State's Bhamo Township about an hour's drive from Laiza on the Burma-China border where the KIA is headquartered. In recent months, the Burma Army also carried out operations in KIA territory in Mansi Township, southern Kachin State. The increase in Burma Army operations in Kachin and northern Shan states risks undermining planned nationwide ceasefire talks between the government and ethnic groups.<sup>14</sup>

## ANALYSIS

The current constitutional amendment and peace process are key to the 2015 elections, and will no doubt determine Burma's future political landscape. To that end, the quadripartite meeting called for by Speaker Thura Shwe Mann with President Thein Sein, Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing and Aung San Suu Kyi could prove to be useful if not influential. On 2 January 2014, the President himself stated that "a healthy Constitution must be amended from time to time to meet the national, and economic social needs of our society."

However, while the idea to hold talks between the four remains unclear; it is important to note that the outcome of the amendment process will depend mainly on the position taken by the military. More importantly, the fact the quadripartite meeting will become in reality a meeting of the four likely presidential candidates for the 2015 elections, although doubts remain if such a meeting will take place at all.

It therefore is important that if it were to happen, the four leaders should address all issues and be open-minded and cooperative, but, more importantly, also take into consideration the interest of the people and country. If the on-going democratisation reform process in Burma is to become irreversible and truly democratic, the country will need to reform its judiciary and constitution accordingly.

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<sup>14</sup> Army Increases Attacks in North Burma, Seizes 2 Shan Rebel Camps  
<http://www.irrawaddy.org/burma/army-increases-attacks-north-burma-seizes-2-shan-rebel-camps.html> (Irrawaddy) 4 March 2014 /  
Government troops overrun another Kachin military base –  
<http://kachinlandnews.com/?p=24236> (KLN) 3 March 2014

## **APPENDICES**

### **Appendix A:**

#### **FULL TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT ON 2014 NATION-WIDE CENSUS-TAKING PROCESS**

1. Under the supervision of Central Census Commission, preparations for the 2014 nation-wide census taking have been carried out since 2-5-2011.
2. The preparation process includes disseminating the knowledge on census-taking across the country and holding several talks with those from political parties, social organizations, armed ethnic groups, religious organizations, literature, music, and dance troupes, film, media and national race correspondents. In addition, it covers knowledge sharing through mass media.
3. Regarding it, one-day talks with those from ten national races groups were held at Mount Pleasant Hotel on 26-2-2014. Plans are under way to continue holding similar talks.
4. The following points are the results that come out from the talks with them.
  - (a) As a preliminary step, a total of 135 national races are based on the census-taking processes in 1931, 1937 and 1983. It cannot be said dogmatically that this figures are correct.
  - (b) They have suggested that there are spelling errors and the disappearance of some national races and the emergence of new national races among 135 national races. According to their suggestions, this census-taking process would help the scrutiny of preliminary replies by the households of their own volition.
  - (c) After the census-taking process, collected the facts and figures will be sent to National Races Affairs, Public Administration and Services Committee in order to continue scrutinizing it. At the time, the process will go on in accord with the procedures after seeking the suggestions and helps from the tribal groups.
5. For more information, may visit Census Question-Answer session website: [dop.gov.mm](http://dop.gov.mm) and facebook page: 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census and dial ph-067- 431062, 431067, 431339 and 431336.

Central Census Committee  
28 February 2014<sup>15</sup>

### **Appendix B:**

#### **FULL TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF CENTRAL CENSUS COMMITTEE**

The second phase of making field trip for nation- wide census taking process 2014 will start as of 30 March to 10 April for 12 days. According to the request of national people and the agreement of local authorities, census will be taken as of the first week of March in Putao District of Kachin State, Shan State (North) Special Region (2) and Shan State (East) Special Region (4) under section 3 of the Population and Housing Census Law as it needs to take more time due to various situations such as climatic conditions, transport and language difficulties.

Central Census Committee  
28 February 2014<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Announcement on 2014 nation-wide census-taking process –  
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs17/NLM2014-03-01.pdf> (NLM) 1 March 2014 (p. 16)

<sup>16</sup> Announcement of Central Census Committee –  
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs17/NLM2014-03-01.pdf> (NLM) 1 March 2014 (p. 16)