



ရခိုင်ပြည်နယ်ဆိုင်ရာနေ့စဉ်သတင်းအကျဉ်းချုပ် Daily News Brief on Rakhine State Affairs

January 25, 2018

Union ministers, advisors witness repatriation readiness

Thandwe January 24

A delegation comprised of Union ministers and members of the Advisory Board for the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State visited repatriation camps in Rakhine State on 24 January.

Together with journalists from independent media organisations, the delegation toured the camps in HlaPhoeKhaung, Nga KhuYa and TaungPyoLetwe.

The delegation consisted of Union Ministers from the Office of the State Counsellor, the Office of the Union Government and the Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, and members of the Advisory Board. The independent media group included journalists from TV Asahi, Nikkei, Kyodo, Asahi Shimbun, Fuji TV, NHK, Nippon TV, Yunan TV, Xinhua and ZVE TV.

The group led by U ThaungTun travelled to HlaPhoeKhaung camp in Maungtau Township, a temporary home of IDPs. The group toured the camp and the Union Minister talked with several Islamic villagers from nearby villages and asked them about their current state of affairs.

HlaPhoeKhaung camp sits on a 124.84 acre plot and contains 640 housing units for over 30,000 people. There are also over 500 reserve tents in case of emergencies.

The group then travelled to KanyinChaung Economic Zone. Afterwards, the Union Minister and entourage met with local residents and visited the economic zone.

The group then travelled to Nga KhuYa, a temporary centre for repatriation. There, they inspected the inspection process for repatriation and the process for issuing NVC cards. The group also inspected the sites for construction of temporary clinics, buildings for the Department of Foreign Affairs, Health, Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Labour and Immigration, and other offices of the Rakhine State



Government. The group proceeded to TaungPyoLetweCamp and inspected the temporary centre for repatriation.

—The Global New Light of Myanmar

We are now ready: Dr. Win Myat Aye

Naypyitaw January 24

On 24 January 2018, a group comprising members of the Advisory Board of the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine, Secretariat staff, and members of local and foreign media went to inspect reception centers for receiving displaced persons who left the Maungtau region of Rakhine State. These centers are TaungpyoLatWae reception center, Nga KhuYa reception center and HlaPhoeKhaung transit center. They inspected the readiness of the centers fully manned with all the requisite government service personnel.

The following extracts are interviews conducted with Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement -

- According to the agreement which has been signed with Bangladesh, we can accept repatriation within two months from the date of signature. The day that we can commence repatriation is 23 January.
 - Also in the agreement, when they send the people to our side, there are two methods. One method is to select the people who wish to return. That is we have to make a list of such people. When they make this list, they have to fill in forms. We have already sent these forms to Bangladesh. After they have filled in these forms, they will send these forms to Myanmar. Then we have to check these forms. We have to see if these people have lived in Myanmar or not. Also to see if terrorists are included in the list or not. After making the verifications we send back the list to Bangladesh. After the Bangladesh side has received this verified list they can send these returnees in groups.
 - Right now we have sent a list for 750 and 508. From this list the Bangladesh side will compile a list of people who wish to return. We have already checked and verified this list so it is easy for us. So they have to send us a list of people who wish to return. Thus we can begin the repatriation for the first batch.
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- In the advisory board there are five international professionals and five local professionals. Coincidentally this advisory board arrived on the 23rd January, the day the repatriation process was supposed to begin. So they decided to come here and that is why they are here today. So they have seen with their own eyes. They saw that our repatriation centers are ready.
 - The transit center which is to serve as a holding place was also ready. They will not be kept here for a long time. They will have to stay in the transit center only while the houses are not yet ready. I don't think it's going to be long, only a few months.
 - Under our Physical Arrangement, we will verify the returnees at the gate here first. If it is found that returnees had lived in Myanmar according to our documents and list, they will stay this camp for just one night, and they will be transported to HlaPhoeKhaung transit camp where they will be accommodated and will be supplied with food and provided with health care services.
 - Bangladesh sent the list of displaced people who want to return and we scrutinized the list and sent it back to them. The returnees need to fill forms in Bangladesh. They need to take some time to complete the process. I think that the reason why they were not ready to begin the repatriation is due to delays for repatriation process on their part. I think that if they take two weeks for the repatriation process, they might not be ready for the repatriation. So, we just need to wait for a day they will send the list of returnees to us.
 - Since our government took office, we have been striving and giving priority for harmony between the two communities. We must find the root cause of the conflict and must settle it. When we do it, we have considered recommendations of Mr. Kofi Annan and findings of the investigation commission led by Vice President U Myint Swe. Now, we are implementing the recommendations. The first priority is national verification in accordance with the 1982 citizenship Act. We have to take steps for scrutinizing the displaced people. They would get freedom of movement and would gain access to education and health care services and would get job opportunities in accordance with the status granted after the scrutinization. If they are
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okay, no more conflicts will happen again here. That's why, we are implementing the recommendations giving priority to this step.

—The Global New Light of Myanmar

Sitagu Asia Royal eye specialist team provides eye treatment in Maungtaw Maungtaw January 24

The Sitagu Asia Royal eye specialist team visited Maungtaw People's Hospital in Rakhine State on 24 January morning. The eye specialist doctors provided medical treatment to patients in the region, some of whom had never received ophthalmic care previously.

"In 2002, Venerable Sitagu Sayadaw said he wanted to start giving medical treatment in Natmawk, Magway Region, and Panthanaw, Ayeyawady Region, the birthplaces of General Aung San and former UN Secretary General U Thant, respectively. Accordingly, we performed it, and our mission is gaining momentum. Medical treatments are being conducted in 32 townships in 14 regions and states. We have been giving medical treatment to the eye patients for over 10 years, and we have cured 100,000 patients who regained their eyesight." said Asia Royal Managing Director Dr. Myat Thu.

—Aung Ye Thwin, The Global New Light of Myanmar
