

Appendix B

President U Thein Sein addresses newly appointed officials of the Executive, Judicial and Legislative Branches of the Union at ceremony to take oath of office at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Chambers, Nay Pyi Taw on 31 March 2011

I extend my warmest greetings to members of the Union Government and heads of Union organizations present on this occasion and wish you good health and happiness, and that you will be unremitting in your efforts to serve the nation and the people.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session, which commenced on 31 January 2011, concluded yesterday. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has chosen and appointed the organizations and persons who will take charge of the executive, judicial and legislative branches at the Union level and likewise, the respective State and Region Hluttaws have elected and assigned similar tasks to the persons to take charge of these branches in their own regions.

So, those of us who have been elected and vested with due authority as leaders of the State and members of the government by the Hluttaw must now embark on the final step on the Seven-phase Road Map towards the realization of a modern, developed and democratic nation.

In implementing the final step of the Road Map it is essential to comprehend clearly what our perspectives should be and the policies we must follow. We as members of the executive and judiciary are responsible to

undertake our assigned tasks for the establishment of a modern, developed democratic nation and as such we must be committed without reservation to accomplishing the final step of the Road Map.

This is why I would like to say that the crux of the points I wish to make and the work programmes envisaged are of vital importance for the future of the nation.

Heads of Union Government, Union ministers and deputy ministers

The most important task of the new administration is to work together to create Good Governance and Clean Government. To achieve these aims, the work of the Union Government and the state and region governments as well must be transparent, accountable and consistent with the Constitution and existing laws. The people's wishes and desires must be respected and there must be assurance of all-inclusiveness. It is also imperative that actions taken by the government be expeditious and effective.

The second task of the government is to promote and propagate democratic practices. Today, our country has a Constitution as a foundation on which to build a modern, developed and democratic nation. The legislative, executive and judicial pillars that emerged from the Constitution have come to life. The people have enjoyed the right to elect Hluttaw representatives of their choice as well as the right to stand for election. All these are sound foundations for realization of an organized/disciplined and flourishing democracy.

To put democracy into practice effectively and conscientiously on the basis of these foundations, it would require that democratic practices be nurtured and pursued in the government, in various government departments and organizations and among the people. To accomplish this, the people on their part must learn to avail themselves of their rights and freedoms in accordance with the law, culture, traditions and moral codes of Myanmar.

Administrative bodies whether in carrying out their administrative tasks or in upholding laws and procedures must take care not to infringe on the fundamental rights of citizens. It is their task to guide and help citizens to enjoy their fundamental rights appropriately without harming the interests of the Union and society.

Moreover, in carrying out their tasks they must take into consideration the perceptions and responses of the people. If the people and administrative bodies alike clearly have a sense of balance between freedom and duty

and freedom and discipline and act accordingly, Myanmar society will surely become a fully flourishing democracy.

Heads of the Union Government, Union ministers and deputy ministers

Another important task is to ensure the rule of law. The rule of law is imperative for the building of a modern, developed and democratic nation. It is the duty not only of the judiciary but also of law enforcement bodies to ensure that the rule of law prevails.

Judicial bodies in carrying out their duties have the freedom to make judicial decisions in accord with the provisions of the Constitution; they have the right to handle judicial cases and pass judgment in the presence of the public except in cases under special legislative restriction. Judicial bodies must also ensure that every person is given the right to defence and appeal to which all are legally entitled. Moreover according to the Constitution, the Supreme Court of the Union has been entrusted with power to issue writs, and the first ever constitutional tribunal of the Union in the history of Myanmar has been formed. These organizations are not only to maintain and safeguard the judicial pillar, one of the nation's three main pillars from decline, but also to define constitutional provisions and scrutinize the functions of legislative and administrative bodies and thus determine whether or not they are in conformity with the Constitution.

Law enforcement bodies in performing their duties are also required to do so without fear or favour while they themselves must be exemplars in respect and abidance of the law. If the judicial pillar is upright and honorable and law enforcement bodies abide by the law and act within the law, our nation will be a nation with a disciplined democratic system where the rule of law prevails.

Another important task like the rule of law is to expedite governmental function and ensure its effectiveness. What the government needs to do is to raise the momentum for the materialization of the objects of the Five-year project that is now underway. The SPDC has laid a sound groundwork for national development and building on that we need to continue efforts for further development in the economic, education, health, transport, communications and construction sectors.

However to achieve these goals, we need to avoid negative tendencies such as flouting procedures, ignoring rules and regulations and disregarding extravagance and unnecessary waste. Furthermore since our government

is accountable to the people through the offices of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw we are obliged to consider the wishes and needs of the people. At the same time we also have to respect the role of the media, the fourth estate. We are obliged to keep the people informed about what they should know and also heed positive suggestions made by the media.

Another task to make the government's functions fast as well as more effective is improved consultation and cooperation among various ministries. Today, according to the Constitution, the nation is composed not only of the Union Government but also region and state governments which means that connectivity and cooperation among the governments is of greater importance. Nation-building tasks are so complex and demanding that their implementation is beyond the capacity of an individual or ministry alone nor can they be implemented by the Union Government, or a regional or a state government on its own. So, top-down or multi-lateral cooperation between or among various administrative bodies is a must to expedite the functions of the administrative machinery.

Heads of the Union Government, Union ministers and deputy ministers

At present, neighbouring countries and the international community are watching with great interest the kind of government that has been formed in accordance with the constitution; how it will discharge its duties, and what sort of relations and cooperation will there be between the Union government and Region/State governments?

Similarly, the people are watching the form and essence of the new government; the way it will function and what its future plans are. The people are waiting and watching with hopes for a better future. But Myanmar's democracy is new-born; it still needs to be cared for and nurtured for some length of time to reach maturity. In this process of nurturing, the role of those governmental organs in charge of administration at all levels is crucially important. Government affairs wield a great influence on the daily life of the people. The people judge whether a system is good or bad depending on how it affects their lives.

If the administrative mechanism guarantees security in daily life, if there is socio-economic security; if civil servants treat the people fairly, and if the people are able to lead a peaceful life under protection of the law, they will then have confidence in the Constitution that has shaped the administrative mechanism. And the people will put their trust in the legislative bodies and in the members of these legislative bodies.

Therefore, the first five-year term is the most crucial in building a modern, developed and democratic nation. If within this period of five years we can take the right steps, the future path of the nation will be smooth and steady. To achieve this goal, our government must be a government characterized by **Good Governance** and must of necessity be a **Clean Government**.

In addition, the government must be able in management and efficient in administration and have infinite good will towards the people. And it must safeguard and serve public interests.

The requisite of a Clean Government is the absence of moral turpitude. Bribery and corruption, tarnishes the image of the nation and the people. Therefore, we have to refrain from such misconduct not only personally but also steer away the organizations for which one is responsible from it. It is of absolute importance that we do not misuse the authority vested in us by the State to give preference to one's cronies and friends or to benefit our relatives. Only then, will our government be able to meet the criterion of a Clean Government.

In conclusion I would like to say in great earnestness that our country, as everyone is fully aware, has not yet achieved the status of prosperous nation. Compared to former times the nation made some progress during the tenure of the Tatmadaw government, but there are still many people for whom the basic needs of life have not yet been adequately met; there are still workers and labourers who lead a daily hand-to-mouth existence and the number of unemployed is high. As long as there are such numbers of impoverished people, I feel that we who are going to lead the country at different echelons of government and who are going to enjoy certain rights and privileges as befitting our responsibilities should set an example by not fully availing ourselves of these privileges.

So, the officials at the Union and Region/State levels, Self-Administered Zone or Division chairmen and executives, and the chairman and members of Nay Pyi Taw Council will not be enjoying monthly salaries in full as prescribed according to Ordinances 2, 3, 4 and 5 issued on 10 January 2011 under Article 443 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar by the SPDC in consideration of the nation's present situation, its financial situation and primarily for the benefit of the people. Instead we shall continue to enjoy the same rates of salaries and benefits, as the officials who served under the SPDC government.

In conclusion, I would like to respond to the proposals put forward by some Hluttaw representatives, that there are plans to raise the rates of salaries of service personnel and pensions of retired government employees depending on the development of the nation and in proportion to governmental funds in circulation, the extent of the inflation rate, consumer price indexes and the GDP when the time is opportune.

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Translation — Kyi Kyi Hla