

STATEMENT BY NATIONALITIES BROTHERHOOD FORUM

No.4 /2011

Introduction

We, the nationalities brotherhood forum, in friendship and unity, have discussed and issued statements up to this our 4th statement related to matters of concern to us. We are glad to see that the Government has taken note of and implemented some of the concerns we raised. Measures concerning the increase of pension benefits as well as implementation of poverty alleviation projects are good examples. However, we are of the opinion that much more remains to be done.

The armed conflicts which began to unfold in some of the ethnic regions soon after the 2010 elections, has brought us much sorrow. We believe that more time and effort need to be spent to find ways to bring internal peace. To that end, we wish to state the following:

1. In welcoming President Thein Sein's policy address of 30 March 2011, we issued Statement No.2 dated 27 April 2011, in which we stated the following:

“The ethnic regions of the Union of Myanmar are under-developed and in order for these areas to develop, peace is not only crucial but also a prerequisite. Consecutive governments have strived to bring about peace and stability but to date have failed in their efforts. Therefore, we urge the newly established democratic government, to focus on seeking peace in these regions to the fullest extent.”

2. Therefore, we would like to request all those involved to declare with immediate effect a conclusion of all armed conflict and enter into a cease-fire agreement.
3. We urge and call for the establishment of a peace committee under the leadership of the new government, to hold workshops to find solutions and establish peace. The committee will also include ethnic brotherhood parties, elected representatives, dignitaries, and experts.
4. The fighting has caused many hardships for innocent civilians in a similar way to those who encountered natural disasters. We, therefore, call upon the new Government, international and local social organizations and donors alike to provide the necessary humanitarian aid and assistance to the local population in the affected areas.

U Zo Zam,

Chairman,

Chin National Party



U Naing Ngwe Thei,

Chairman,

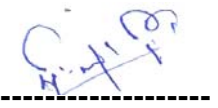
All Mon Region Democratic Party



U Saw Than Kyaw Oo,

Chairman,

Phalon-Sawor Democratic Party



U Sai Htwe Maung,

CEC,

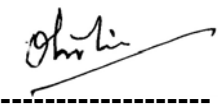
Shan Nationalities Democratic Party



U Ohn Tin,

Vice-Chairman,

Rakhine Nationalities Development Party



Dated: 3rd August 2011

Place: Yangon.