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## Rakhine Advisory Board submits Final Report

State Counsellor receives Advisory Board to Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received H.E. Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of the Advisory Board for the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State and its members at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw at 1400 hrs on 16 August 2018. H.E. Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai was accompanied by five members of the Advisory Board.

During the meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Board explained about the final report of the Advisory Board which has been submitted to the Committee for implementation as the Recommendations on Rakhine State today. This was the fourth and last meeting between the State Counsellor and the Advisory Board since its inception. Dr. Surakiart has also presented the Final Report of the Advisory Board to the State Counsellor:

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Thaug Tun, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye and Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi accepts the Final Report of the Advisory Board to Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State from Chairman of the Advisory Board Dr. Surakiart in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Vice President U Myint Swe inspects greening tasks, lacquer trade in Sagaing Region

VICE PRESIDENT U Myint Swe departed from Nay Pyi Taw to Sagaing where he was welcomed by Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr. Myint Naing, Regional Hluttaw Speaker U Than, Regional Minister for Security and Border Affairs Colonel Than Tun Aung and other officials.

The Vice President and his entourage first travelled to Wetlet Township and visited the hydroponic garden. In the garden's meeting hall, Director-General U Htay Aung of the Dry Zone Greening Department explained about the department's processes, the history of hydroponic gardening and its performances.

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The Vice President urged Sagaing Region authorities to increase the percentage of forests covering the dry zones, encourage the use of more firewood substitutes, expand firewood plantations, and fulfill annual project goals in a timely manner.

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Union Minister U Thein Swe receives Thailand delegation led by Labour Minister

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Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives PARI, Tokyo University Professor

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Committee for Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State, Advisory Board hold talks

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# Committee for Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State, Advisory Board hold talks

THE Advisory Board to the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State submitted its Final Report to the Union Government in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Advisory Board which is chaired by Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai held talks with the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday handed over its Final Report to the committee.

It was attended by Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Chairman of the Committee for Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State, U Nyi Pu, Chief Minister of Rakhine State and Joint-Chairman of the committee, and deputy chairman, secretary and joint secretary of the committee.

Speaking at the meeting, Dr. Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, expressed his satisfaction that the Advisory Board, since its formation in January this year, had taken its advisory and coordination role to promote further closer cooperation between the Union Government and the international communities in implementing the recommendations.

He also noted that since January 2018 when the Advisory Board began it works, relations between the Government of Myanmar and the UN had improved as seen by the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Union Government and the UNHCR and UNDP



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds talks with Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of the Advisory Board to the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State and its members in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

He also expressed his belief that the Committee on Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State will make progress in its ongoing efforts as the Advisory Board has already submitted its Final Report to the Union Government.

## Cooperation with UN in repatriation, implementing recommendations

Speaking at the meeting, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Committee for Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State, said MoU between Myanmar and UNDP, UNHCR for successful repatriation was signed on 6 June 2018. The Technical Working Group-TWG, comprised of representatives from relevant Ministries and UNDP and UNHCR, convened their

coordination meetings for three times.

He continued to say that the TWG also conducted their first field visit to Rakhine State from 21 to 23 July 2018 in order to effectively implement the MoU.

As agreed in 3<sup>rd</sup> TWG meeting, UNDP and UNHCR are now proceeding with the field assessment to the agreed 13 village-tracts encompassing the 23 villages, said Dr. Win Myat Aye.

## Full Humanitarian Access

Humanitarian assistances have been provided to all communities by the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Rehabilitation and Development in Rakhine State-UEHRD, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Red Cross Movement-RCM in accordance with the Humanitarian Principles, he said, WFP also provides food assistance to the communities.

“The Government of Myanmar has now established the Independent Commission of Enquiry as part of its national initiative to address reconciliation, peace, stability and development in Rakhine. The commission comprises two International Figures. The independent Commission will investigate the allegations of human rights violations related issues, following the terrorist attacks by ARSA,” said the Union Minister.

## Redouble the efforts on closure of IDP camps

Regarding the closing of IDP camps, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye said there are only 19 IDP camps left in Rakhine State, after closing three camps suggested in the interim report.

“As suggested by Advisory Board, now we are going to close six more camps. Now Ni Din IDP Camp in Kyauktaw is closed and all 85 families had been moved to new houses. Taung Paw Camp in Myay Bon was being closed and 100 new houses had been constructed and 100 families had been moved. Another 100 new houses will be build soon and budget are already allocated. Thet Kal Pyin and Gaung Dottha-1 and -2 camps in Sittway and Kyauk Ta Lone camp in Kyauk Phyu are also given priorities to be closed,” said Dr. Win Myat Aye.

Discussion between authorities, communities, international partners and IDPs are being carried out by the committee, said the Chairman of the Committee. “National IDP Camp Closure Strategy is being formulated together with the UN and partners. Workshop on that was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 June 2018 and continued meetings and discussions between our Ministry and UN partners to formulate the strategy very soon in accordance with international standard,” said Dr. Win Myat Aye.

## Comprehensive anti-terrorism approach

Myanmar and Bangladesh agreed to intensify cooperation on counter terrorism through exchange of intelligence, closer cooperation between the border-guard officials and conducting enhanced coordinated border patrols.

## Benefits of NVC holders

He continued to say that efforts were put in to speed up the national verification process in accordance with the existing

laws and regulations, adding that arrangements have been made for NV card applicants to simultaneously apply for the citizenship scrutinization process.

Freedom of movement for those holding NVC is granted in Maungtaw District as first step, and the authorities are trying to expand that to other districts, he added.

“We are considering and discussion to conduct the comparative study of the citizenship laws and practices on some ASEAN countries such as Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, Cambodia and Laos etc.,” said Dr. Win Myat Aye.

In his concluding remarks, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye acknowledged the tireless effort and recommendations made by the Advisory Board to the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State, expressing his belief that the final report will bring the opportunities to support efforts to get significant progress in implementation activities of the committee.

At the meeting, Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, handed over US\$ 60,000 for emergency aid in flood-hit areas across the country donated by the Friends in Need (of “Pa”) Volunteers Foundation, Thai Red Cross, to Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye.

Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, U Thaug Tun, Dr. Win Myat Aye, UEHRD Chief-Coordinator Dr. Aung Tun Thet and members of the Committee on Implementing the Recommendations on Rakhine State hosted a luncheon in honour the Advisory Board’s chairman and members. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Chairman Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai hands over the Final Report of the Advisory Board to Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye. PHOTO: MNA