

National Convention reconvenes 99.44% of delegates attend

YANGON, 17 Feb—With the six objectives — Non-integration of the Union; Non-disintegration of national solidarity; Perpetuation of sovereignty; Flourishing of genuine multi party democracy system; Further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values namely justice, liberty and equality in the State; and For the Tatmadaw to be able to participate in the national political leadership role of the State — the National Convention reconvened at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, on 17-2-05 morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and members, Chairman of the NCC Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and members, chairmen and officials of respective subcommittees, delegates of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, National Unity Party, Union Kayin League, Union Pa-O National Organization, Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, Lahu National Development Party, and Wa National Development Party, representatives-elect of National Unity Party, Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, and independent representatives, delegates of national races from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of peasants from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of workers from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of State service personnel from the State Peace and Development Council, the President's Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, the Government Office, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General's Office, the Auditor-General's Office, the Multi-party Democracy General Election Commission Office, the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon City Development Committee, the Mandalay City Development Committee and ministries, other invited delegates, delegates of 17 armed groups who exchanged arms for peace, and representatives of other organizations.

Chairman of the NCCC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presided over the National Convention Plenary Meeting. Secretary of NCCC Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan acted as Master of Ceremony.

First, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan announced the start of the plenary session of the meeting as out of 1081 delegates, 1075 attended it, accounting for 99.44 per cent.

Next, the plenary meeting went into recess after the Secretary-1 had delivered an opening speech.

In his speech- Lt.-Gen Thein Sein said that since the Tatmadaw assumed of the responsibility of the State, it has been much worried, for the three possible dangers can harm national interest. They are the danger of Union disintegration, the danger of the explosion of conflicts at the collapse of national solidarity and the danger of the loss of independence. At the same time the Tatmadaw made concerted efforts to create a peaceful and prosperous life for the national people after laying down the four political objectives, the four economic objectives, and the four social objectives.

He continued that politics and economy correlate. The rise of better political conditions brings with it better economic conditions. Strenuous efforts were made to build national consolidation which is central to the restoration of peace, stability and the rule of law as well as to the creation of national political forces. After assuming the responsibility of the State, the Tatmadaw took great pains willingly to cultivate a sense of scruple like mutual understanding, tolerance and sincerity among the national brethren.

These well-intentioned endeavours produced belief and confidence, whereupon 17 armed groups of national races returned to the legal fold in succession. They are now lending themselves to the drive for regional peace.

He also pointed out that on the other hand, the Tatmadaw, throughout the course of history, has never lost sight of the interests of the national people. Moreover, it has pledged to go on making concerted efforts to turn into reality the ambitions, hopes, and wishes of the entire people. The Tatmadaw will also cooperate with the simple national people who entertain patriotism and Union Spirit until the seven-point Road Map has been successfully implemented.

Process of the National Convention - Lt.-Gen. Thein Sein continued to explain the process of the National Convention that the panel of chairmen took time to observe the proposed papers submitted by the delegate groups at the National Convention that was held from 17 May to 9 July 2004. And they also compiled assessment papers. After collecting suitable proposals made by the delegate groups, the panel of chairmen submitted them to the National Convention Convening Work Committee, which then submitted them to the National Convention Convening Commission. He said the findings of the panel of chairmen will be presented on this occasion so that other delegate groups can make assessment of them. And then approval will be sought.

He said that the Work Committee will present the principles concerning the sharing of legislative power at the Plenary Meeting.

The Work Committee will also clarify the matters related to the sharing of executive power and judicial power in different sectors like those concerning the Union, those concerning the Region or the State, and those concerning the Self-administered Area. The delegate groups are to hold discussions on the clarification and compile proposed papers. Later, the proposed papers related to detailed basic principles that shall be laid down for the executive and judicial sectors will be read out at the Plenary Meeting.

Afterwards, the meeting resumed and Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan explained procedures of the convening of the National Convention, which then went into a recess.

Diplomats and journalists observe National Convention- Also present on the occasion were Acting Dean of Diplomatic Corps Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun, ambassadors of embassies of Brunei, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Russia Federation, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, Bangladesh, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, Pakistan, Japan and Singapore, charges d' affaires of embassies of Nepal, the Philippines and India, diplomats from Egypt, Japan and China, regional coordinators of UN agencies, the president of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club and members, officials of the Ministry of Information, correspondents from The Yomiuri Shimbun, Fuji Television Network Inc, Tokyo Broadcasting System (TBS), The Nishinippon Newspaper Co, The Sankei Shimbun, NHK, The Mainichi Newspaper, Nippon Television Network Corp (NTV), The Tokyo Shimbun, The

Churuchi Shimbun, Asahi Shimbun, VOA, EPA, TV Asahi News, AFP, Ji Ji Press, Reuters, AP and Kyodo news agencies.

The NCCC chairman also had a cordial conversation with local and foreign correspondents and replied to their queries.