

**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Home Affairs
Myanmar Police Force**



**Speech Delivered by the Chief of Police at
the 49th Anniversary of Myanmar Police Force**

1st October 2013

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Comrades,

Today is the 49th Anniversary of Myanmar Police Force Day, which is auspicious for all of us and a very special day that we should take our pride. In other words, today is the day we can recall that we were able to establish a genuine police force in order to protect our people and serve for their interests 49 years ago.

Since its establishment after our Independence on the 4th January 1948, Myanmar Police Force have been transferred and upgraded several times garnering invaluable experiences throughout the history. Different governments of the country tried to transform our police force into an organization which is part of our people and can serve for the interest of the people. On the 1st October 1964, our police force was named People's Police with the aim of protecting the interest of people.

So as to change the impression of people on our police force, morality, discipline and ethical values of each and every personnel of Myanmar Police Force has to be changed, and sympathy and building warm relationships with people also matter. Therefore, polices have been made through times to achieve transformational changes within our police force. On the 1st October 1995, our police force was named Myanmar Police Force, and efforts have been made so that the whole organization would be esteemed with Five norms and standards: good morality, good discipline, loyalty, unity and efficiency.

Comrades,

In transforming the appearance and essence of our police force, Four main objectives have been set up: internal security, peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order, prevention of drug crimes and serving for the interest of people.

Comrades,

Our President has also given our force a set of guidance, Firstly, our police force has to ensure rule of law, and make people respect law and become law-abiding citizens within our own administrative mechanism. Moreover, since our police force plays a key role in ensuring the rule of law, Myanmar Police Force needs to be upgraded in all sectors to keep abreast with other world's police forces. We also have to learn and take examples of legal procedures used by other international police forces, and we have to try to achieve people-centered service and people-centered policing in our country.

Comrades,

According to the guidelines of our President , to achieve our objectives, we must have patriotism. We must be efficient in performing our responsibilities. Our police force must be a modern police force. Along with the constant changing world, we have changed the structure and appearance of our police force as well as the morality of our police personnel to be in line with the new democratic nation, and to best serve and protect our people, For instance, such new units as Marine Police, Aviation Police, Financial Investigation Unit, Anti- Trafficking in Persons Unit, Drugs Prevention Unit, Tourism Police, Highway Police, Trafficking Police, Forest Security Police and Petroleum Land Security Police have been established. These new police units are already carrying out their duties in their specific fields to fully serve the interest, of the people.

Moreover, Myanmar Police Force has been best granted the State Budget by the Government. Subsequently, uniforms and equipment of our police personnel have been upgraded to keep abreast with other international police forces and for better image of Myanmar Police Force.

Furthermore, the President's guidance is how we can achieve the Four objectives of Myanmar Police Force. In fact, people-centered policing is the best Suitable policing system for a democratic state. I would like to take

this opportunity here to explain briefly about the nature of democratic policing.

Comrades,

The first factor of democratic policing is **Accountability**. Here, accountability of a democratic police force ranges from accountability of the actions of individual police personnel to that of financial report on expenditures of entire police force. Our police personnel are holding powers and authorities granted by people. Therefore, it is accord with the existing laws in the eyes of people. If a police personnel broke a law, he would be prosecuted by both criminal law and police disciplinary law.

The second important factor of democratic policing is **Transparency**, because this factor can have the impact on information gathering of a police personnel and achieving impressive actions of police force. The most effective means of transparency is giving information to public via different media channels.

Nowadays, people can catch the actions and endeavors of Myanmar Police Force via media ensuring transparency between public and police force. Similarly, CCTVs have been installed inside the interrogation rooms of police stations in respect of human rights. Moreover, people's voices are carefully heard and people's feelings are taken into account by means of monthly meetings with heads of the community and local police. This can build up mutual understanding between public and the police. Accountability and transparency are life-bloods for feasibility of our police force's democratic actions and procedures.

The third factor is **Respect and Protection of Human Rights**. In fulfilling our duties, we who are responsible for taking legal actions must respect basic forms of human rights in orders to protect life and dignity of every citizen.

In accord with the democratic policy "No one is above the law", our police personnel must avoid discrimination and partiality regardless of color, gender, race, language, religion, belief, conscience, belongings, origin and

generation. We must treat our people with equity and Impartiality. It is vital for our police personnel that we must be very careful in our actions to avoid accusations and misconception of the people.

Comrades,

Regarding crime investigation, we must treat victims with sympathy and respect to their life and dignity without any kind of discrimination. Victims should be given such necessary assistance by police as protection for security and encouragement to relief their worries. Also in arresting suspects and criminals, basic forms of human rights and rights of the citizens must be taken into account. Most importantly, the use of force should be the last resort causing least damage. We must be able to apply such particular skills as Peaceful Settlement of Conflict, Understanding of Crowd Behavior, Persuasion, Negotiation and Mediation. In order to master these skills in conformity with international norms and standards, we have been conducting workshops and seminars in cooperation with UNODC, UNDP, EU and ICRC. Our police personnel are constantly joining trainings and seminars in foreign countries. As a result, the capacity of our police personnel has been enhanced, and we will continue such activities in the future.

The fourth factor we must know for democratic policing is the Code of Conduct for the police force in providing quality services and carrying out our duties for the public. To gain trust and respect of the public, police personnel must have good dignity, professional skills and respect in our Codes of Conduct. Moreover, our will must be strong enough to say 'no' to different kinds of incentives that can lead to abuse of power. We must try our best to serve the people with sense of accountability.

Comrades,

Here also I would like remind you the most dangerous form of crime. This is "Corruption". Corruption is the poison for all of us, which can derall our good endeavors and destroy good image of our police force as well as our

nation. Therefore, we must not only be incorruptible ourselves but also fight against any types of corruption.

In building trust of people in a democratic state, people-centered policing is the foundation. To apply this approach, we must have fairness and impartiality.

Our police force is heading to Service-Oriented Approach. And at the same time, we must adopt Proactive Crime Prevention rather than Reactive Response.

Comrades,

It is important for our police personnel to create fearless future for the entire people. In order to do so, we must be able to effectively prevent crimes and violent actions. Thanks to state-to-the-earth urban lifestyles, more open and transparent trade forms, hi-tech communication systems and natural disasters, nowadays human beings are prone to crimes violence and victimization. These situations have challenged and required us, police personnel, to learn modern concepts of crime preventions to deal with different and ntraditional forms of crimes in a timely manner. We also need to be skillful in problem-oriented policing and intelligence-led policing.

Comrades,

Today, police forces around the world are trying to counter violent actions threatening state and international security. In doing so, police personnel must respect and abide by domestic laws, State Constitution, Penal Code with human rights standards and international norms. The senior officials are monitors and coordinators to make this happen.

Comrades,

In conclusion, I want to highlight the importance of people-centered policing for a free and fair democratic society in our country.

Every action of yours must encompass transparency and accountability.

We, as much as possible, have to coordinate with the public and other relevant organizations in areas of conflict settlement for ensuring rule of law, as well as to maintain peace and tranquility of the State.

We must be good policing personnel who are incorruptible under any circumstances and idol citizen who are esteemed with good ethics and morale.

We must give fair treatment to all citizens.

The senior police officials must also monitor the actions of subordinates, who will in turn be rewarded for their good deeds. This, I believe, will strengthen the unity and efficiency of our police force.

I want to encourage all of you to try to build up mutual trust with the public and fulfill the needs of public with the best use of our own powers.

I wish you all to possess success, happiness and peacefulness!