

NATIONAL

General Aung San Declares Firm Stand Against Election Disruption

"Our Government shall not permit any disruption of the forthcoming election. The electoral process shall remain free and fair, and no interference shall be exercised upon those who participate in it. Yet, let it be firmly declared that any attempt to disturb or sabotage the election shall be met with the full weight of authority".

(An excerpt from the radio address regarding the election, delivered by General Aung San on 13 March 1947)



PRESS RELEASE BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

Myanmar appears at the International Court of Justice - The Gambia versus Myanmar

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar is appearing before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the merits hearing of "The Gambia versus Myanmar", showing thus its respect for international law and the judicial role of the Court.

Being a responsible member of the international community and a State party to the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, Myanmar has maintained a sincere intention to cooperate with the Court in good faith since the initiation of this case in November 2019. Myanmar has participated in all stages of the proceedings, following every order of the court and engaging constructively with the judicial process. Myanmar has also taken steps

to fully comply with the provisional measures indicated by the Court and has submitted periodic reports as required.

These proceedings are of the utmost importance for Myanmar, which has been accused of one of the gravest violations of international law. It is the duty of the Government to defend the honour of the country and its people and to show to the Court and to the world that biased reports, based on unreliable evidence, cannot make up for truth. Myanmar places its confidence in the wisdom, independence, and impartiality of the International Court of Justice.

We trust the Court will assess the evidence fairly and objectively, and reach its judgement based on fact and settled

law strictly within the legal framework of the Genocide Convention. Starting this Friday, 16 January 2026 – after The Gambia's first round presentation – Myanmar will present to the Court the many reasons why the allegations made by The Gambia are flawed and unfounded in fact and law. During the proceedings, Myanmar will refrain from arguing the case in public outside the Court, in particular before the international media. While expectations are high, it is important to protect the integrity of the judicial proceedings from any outside pressure or interference.

In parallel with this Court process, the Government of Myanmar is discharging its state responsibilities and du-

ties by continuing to cooperate with Bangladesh and other international partners on humanitarian and displacement-related issues in northern Rakhine State. It will continue to do so, despite the difficult situation in northern Rakhine State.

In this context, Myanmar is committed to achieving the repatriation of the persons who were displaced from Rakhine State and are currently living in camps in Bangladesh. A bilateral agreement with Bangladesh was concluded for that purpose. Myanmar has also held discussions with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on matters relating to the repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine State, including cooperation under the tripartite Memorandum

of Understanding with UNDP and UNHCR, and practical arrangements to facilitate safe, voluntary, and dignified returns where conditions permit.

Myanmar reiterates that the "The Gambia versus Myanmar" case before the International Court of Justice is a State-to-State legal process concerning the application and interpretation of an international treaty, the Genocide Convention, and is not a forum for political accusations. Myanmar will address the allegations before the Court in a systematic, factual, and legal manner. Myanmar remains committed to engaging with the Court respectfully and in good faith, and to upholding the rule of law in the international legal order.

Myanmar Narrative Think Tank affirms country's commitment to truth and justice at ICJ

THE Myanmar Narrative Think Tank released a statement on Myanmar's commitment to truth and justice at the International Court of Justice on 12 January.

The statement reads, following the recent national elections, Myanmar is going to enter a pivotal new chapter and is at the threshold of commencing the implementation of nation-building initiatives. To successfully estab-

lish this new state, the constructive support and encouragement of the international community are vital. In this context, the ongoing proceedings at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) are of profound national importance, as they concern all Myanmar citizens whom the State represents on the global stage.

Myanmar maintains a steadfast tradition of peaceful co-

existence and friendly relations with its neighbouring nations. Regarding the case brought by The Gambia, a high-level Myanmar delegation, led by U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister for the Ministry 2 of the Office of the President, and Dr Thida Oo, Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General, has departed from Yangon for The Hague, Netherlands. They will

represent the nation by standing firmly on the side of justice and truth.

The submissions presented by the delegation to the ICJ align perfectly with the aspirations of the Myanmar people, who deeply cherish peace, stability, and the truth. We fully support their efforts to defend the sovereignty and dignity of the nation through these legal channels.

Myanmar Narrative Think Tank expresses its sincere hope that the honourable judges of the ICJ will uphold their noble judicial integrity and analyze the facts of the case impartially and without prejudice. A fair and objective assessment of the facts is vital for a resolution that respects both international law and the reality of the situation on the ground. — MNA/KTZH