



The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
National Unity Government
Ministry of Labour



**Message of the Union Minister for Labour of The National Unity Government
of Myanmar on the International Migrants Day
(December 18, 2022)**

On 4 December 2000, the United Nations General Assembly declared December 18 as the International Migrants Day, emphasizing the growing number of migrants in the world and the crucial contribution they provide to the global economy and the development of the respective origin countries.

Migration is a global phenomenon driven by a number of unavoidable reasons and the number of international migrants has increased over the past five decades. The International Organization for Migration-IOM estimated that there were around 281 million international migrants in the world in 2020, which equates to 3.6 per cent of the global population. As well as international migrants, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is also increasing. It reached 59.1 million due to conflict and violence including natural disaster at the end of 2021.

In Myanmar, after the 1st February 2021 coup, the repressive violence of the military council has pushed the number of IDPs to more than one million for the first time, and over 70,000 have fled to neighbouring countries, according to the United Nations.

As a result of the coup, the economy has severely contracted and more people are traveling abroad to work. Due to the inability of the military council to properly manage regular migration and the bribery and corruption of the regulatory departments, there is an surge in illegal cross-border trips to work in neighbouring countries. In addition to not receiving the necessary preventive care and labour exploitation, the rights of those working legally are also being violated.

Under the military council, there is no protection for overseas migrant workers, and domestic ones are also facing all kinds of oppression. Basic labour rights and human rights are being violated and there is a situation of helplessness.

In building a prosperous community which guarantees humanity for all Myanmar people, not just migrant workers, all human rights, safe environment and

mutual support, it is very important to root out the military dictatorship and restore a genuine democracy within the county.

And cooperation of international organizations and governments is also essential for the National Unity Government to successfully handle the internal or international migrant workers' affairs.

Therefore, I would like to strongly request governments of countries in touch with Myanmar and international organizations such as IOM, ILO and UNHCR, taking into account the troubles and challenges faced by Myanmar migrants and migrant workers, to take the necessary measures engaging with NUG, and to provide concrete supports for overthrowing the terrorist military council and building a federal democratic union, which is the only solution to all the crises and challenges faced by Myanmar domestic and overseas migrant workers.

In conclusion, we are very proud and appreciated the participation and contribution of all Myanmar citizens in and out of the country to the Revolution by all means with their affordable strength, regardless of the challenges and threats. I would like to express my best wishes to all migrant workers within the country and working abroad, that they can live and work safely in the places they have arrived, and be healthy and happy in their hearts and minds.

Nai Suwunna

Union Minister

Ministry of Labour

National Unity Government