

Press Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
on the unfounded allegations against Myanmar
regarding the nuclear programme

In recent days, the international media reported allegations that Myanmar has been attempting to develop a nuclear programme in collaboration with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with an aim to acquire nuclear weapons.

Those reports are merely groundless allegations with political motives to exert pressure on Myanmar.

Moreover, as these accusations are fallacious information originated from media sources and individuals who are seeking to undermine the national interest of Myanmar, and are also based on a single source of some deserters, fugitives and exiles, the news reports lack reliability, objectivity and impartiality. Myanmar did not see the need to respond to these groundless accusations as they are totally far from the realities in Myanmar.

Following the adoption of US government's engagement policy towards Myanmar, the US Senator Jim Webb and Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell visited Myanmar and started the engagement process between the two countries.

At a time of resumption of engagement between Myanmar and US, those unfounded allegations were made up by the anti-government elements in collaboration with news media with political purpose in a timely manner. Besides it was also an attempt to tarnish the image of the Myanmar government and to disrupt its on-going political process at a time when the government is exerting all out efforts to holding general elections for democratic transformation. As a result of surfacing of those allegations, Senator Jim Webb who was scheduled to visit Myanmar in early June has postponed his planned visit.

Being a member of the United Nations, Myanmar always respects and abides by resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations. Moreover, it has been actively participating in the UN Conference on Disarmament in Geneva as a founding member of the Conference.

Myanmar is also a party to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) and has signed the Safeguard Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1995. At the regional level, Myanmar as a member of ASEAN, acceded to the Treaty on Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone.

In its drive for the advancement of science and technology and the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purpose in health and education sectors, Myanmar had had an agreement with Russia for the construction of a 10-Megawatt Nuclear Research Reactor, in addition to sending trainees to other countries including Russia. However, the plan was suspended without implementation due to inadequacy of resources and the government's concern for misunderstanding it may cause among international community. In fact, that project was arranged to be implemented under the Safeguard Agreement of IAEA.

It is necessary to view separately with a clear differentiation between peaceful use of nuclear energy and production of nuclear weapons.

Myanmar has all along supported the legitimate rights of every state to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. While supporting non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, Myanmar supports the principles of non-politicizing the NPT and non-discrimination against developing countries in the NPT implementation.

Myanmar has constantly contributed to regional peace and stability in collaboration with ASEAN member countries. Myanmar will never engage in activities that would affect regional peace and stability.

Exerting pressure on Myanmar based on groundless nuclear accusations and making allegations with political intent to intervene in the internal affairs or with geopolitical strategic purposes will in no way contribute to the regional and international peace and stability.

Myanmar is just a developing country which lacks sufficient infrastructures, technology and financial resources to make nuclear weapons. Some experts concluded that Myanmar is not in a position to make nuclear weapons.

Based on these facts, it is reiterated that the allegations of Myanmar trying to develop nuclear weapons are unfounded and no efforts have been made to do so.

Myanmar only wants peace and has no ambition to become a nuclear power state.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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