



Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS)

Statement

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

Date: 26 June 2018

Marking the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26 June 2018, the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) issues the following statement:

1. RCSS is very appreciative of the designation of 26th June each year as the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking by the United Nations and the continuous efforts of the international community to eliminate the menace of narcotic drugs.
2. RCSS also appreciates the fact that the NLD government and President U Win Myint have a policy to eradicate narcotic drugs.
3. Since 1999 when its drug eradication policy was adopted, RCSS has been doing its best to fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking over the years. In 2012, RCSS signed an agreement with the Government and the Tatmadaw at Keng Tung to coordinate and cooperate in drug eradication, but the joint policy has yet to be implemented. On 27-28 October 2012, a tripartite round-table meeting, including RCSS, CCDAC and UNODC, was held at Tachilek, where (9) agreements were reached. Even though they have been agreed upon in principle, in terms of implementation, nothing has yet been practically done about it.
4. RCSS is sad and gravely concerned to see our people and peoples of other nations are still falling victim to drug addiction and one way or another having to be dependent on illicit trafficking for a living because more appropriate and effective solutions are still lacking.
5. The narcotic drugs are becoming more and more plentiful, and more and more lives of our young people, both male and female, are being ruined, which is a great loss to our nation. The danger of narcotic drugs is the enemy of our nation. It is destroying our nation. Thus, RCSS is against narcotic drugs in the strongest term.
6. What the international community in cooperation with Myanmar have been doing are only pruning methods, without serious efforts to tackle the root causes, so that narcotic drugs could not yet been eradicated until this day. It is like trying to prevent the smoke from attacking the eyes without attempting to put out the fire that is causing the smoke. The danger of drug could not be eliminated by repeatedly doing

only these same things. To really solve the problems of narcotic drugs, the following measures must be taken:

1. Chemicals used in refining narcotic drugs must be banned.
 2. Illicit traffickers, big and small, must be uprooted.
 3. People must be made aware of the danger of drugs and provided with decent livelihood.
 4. Everyone must know their responsibility to fight against narcotic drugs. In order to identify all those involved in drug abuse and illicit trafficking, people must cooperate in gathering and imparting information, and unitedly protest against them.
 5. People must be encouraged to grow drug substitution crops and markets must be created for them to be able to sell those crops.
 6. All those who are involved in illicit trafficking and bribery concerning narcotic drugs must be held accountable.
7. Drug eradication activities done by RCSS during 2017-2018:
1. Amounts of narcotic drugs seized: (7) viss (76) kyat of opium, (15.405) kilos of heroin, (213,905) tablets of methamphetamine. Numbers of illicit traffickers apprehended: (240).
 2. Numbers of drug addicts given rehabilitation treatment: (1,631) male and (26) female, (1,657) in total.
 3. Numbers of meetings, held in areas under RCSS control, involving members of the public and the RCSS, in which the awareness of the danger of drugs has been raised: (90) times. Numbers of attendees: (11,452) male and (2,400) female, (13,852) in total.

Central Executive Committee

Restoration Council of Shan State