



**Karen National Union
Supreme Headquarters**
www.knuhq.org

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KNU Statement regarding Bawgahta Hydro-Power Project

The previous successive governments, designating the Bawgahta hydro-power project, located in the Brigade 3 Area in Nyaunglaybin District of the **Karen National Union (KNU)**, as a State (government) project, had constantly tried to materialize it. On the part of the **Karen National Union**, it has the desire to undertake for the emergence of a preliminary feasibility study report, which is up to the international standard and that would serve as a model, based on the peace process.

For obtaining a preliminary feasibility study report of the international standard, the **Karen National Union** Central Executive Committee also has decided for the undertaking of field study by the **Karen National Union** Central Economic Committee composed of 14 district and central level leaders, formed at the 15th **Karen National Union** Congress, in order for the **Karen National Union** to resolve the economic challenges that might be faced during the entire peace process and the possible influx of business operations, into its own base areas, during the period of ceasefire.

Karen National Union Central Economic Committee, for the realization of the decision, has **signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for obtaining a preliminary feasibility study report** on the project of the Thoolei Company Limited and the Ministry of Electrical Power, and it will not ignore opinions of the local communities and engage in activities that might lead to human rights violations, but to undertake for the realization of **a feasibility study of international standard, for the understanding of guarantee for local participation, decision making and benefit sharing, protection of human rights and impact to the environment**. Accordingly, signing by the KNU on February 18, 2016 was not the signing of MOU for the realization of Bawgahta hydro-power project as reported by some sources, but it was only for the composition of **“Project feasibility study report”** that will take a period of 24 months.

The different stages of realization of the project will depend not only on the resulting report - local participation, decision making and benefit sharing – the participation and regulation by the Ministry of Electrical Power and the international support, but also on progress and success of the peace process.

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