



Karen National Union
Supreme Headquarters
Kawthoolei
www.knuhq.org

KNU President Gen. Mutu Say Poe's Letter of Felicitation sent on the Occasion of 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) of Karen National Day

Dear Karen Nationals,

Today - on the occasion of Karen National Day, I extend good wishes for bodily health and peace of mind to the Karen nationals living far away in various countries, in addition to all the Karen nationals living inside and outside of the country, and in the border areas. The First Kawthoolei Conference held from November 23 to 25, 1953, adopted officially today, the 11th of February, for the Karen people to honor and celebrate as the Karen National Day, and the day has been recognized as the Karen National Day. Accordingly, today is the 75th Anniversary, or the Diamond Jubilee of Karen National Day.

February 11, 1948 was the day on which the Karen people (masses) living in many parts of Burma/Myanmar, held a historic demonstration of surprising magnitude. The Karen people's demonstration, or the movement was most orderly and peaceful one, and well known internationally. It was the day on which the demonstration had illustrated that the Karen people were high in morale, and on high alert with regard to the Karen national political goal and Karen national affairs. It was also the day on which the Karen people's attributes, the amicable and peace-loving nature, and the desire to lead a peaceable life were demonstrated, civilly and distinctly. The Karen National Day is for the Karen people to commemorate the day for the elevation and invigoration of their national consciousness and patriotism.

The demands made by the Karen people were:

- (1) Give Karen State, at once, [Recognition of Karen State] (Freedom);
- (2) Show Karen one Kyat, Burman one Kyat, at once, [Equality and Self-Determination] (Democratic Rights);
- (3) We Don't Want Civil War, (Peace);
- (4) We Don't Want Racial Strife, [Respect and Recognition between National Groups] (Harmony among National Groups), and they were done with civility, honor and peacefully.

Dear Karen Nationals,

The great Karen national movement had originated from the Karen National Association (KNA), founded in the year 1881. Our Karen people achieved progress in various fields of human endeavors, as a result of relevant security provided by the British government and the Karen people's own capability, diligence and unity. In addition to making advances in the fields of social welfare, education, health, sports, construction, economy etc., the Karens have gained much skills and knowledge in the different aspects of military matters, and have become buoyant.

In as much as gaining the physical security, the Karen people made serious effort to gain modern education by the study of literature, social sciences, physical sciences and technology. Our nationals who had gained higher education and skills could organize and lead our own people well. They started to form community based organizations and undertake management activities competently. They increasingly led ably in the educational, health and national security matters. Distinct advances were made in the field of economy also. In those times and days, our Karen

nationals were high in morale and they endeavored and engaged in any activities that would uplift our own country, in addition to our own nationals. Utmost efforts were made.

Dear Karen Nationals,

If we made an analytical study of the background regarding our own Karen people's national movement history, the growth in knowledge and skills, and all the development, we would find three main vital points. They are:

- (1) The physical security is the basis for other securities and all the development.
- (2) The respective Karen national organizations, and the advance in leadership of our own Karen national matters and affairs of the people, and progress in management, knowledge, skills and technology are one other basis for the development of our own Karen nationals.
- (3) The basic principle of our Karen people's economic development is due exclusively to the physical security, and because of this economic development, our Karen national movement has grown with great momentum and speed.

The above-mentioned three vital bases are the basic causes raising, strengthening and awakening our Karen national morale, and the driving force for the strength of unity and development. They have made world famous with regard to our own Karen people's honor, prestige, fame and magnificence.

Dear Karen Nationals,

On such a special and sacred occasion of celebrating the **Karen National Day**, it is necessary for us to be alert to the three vital bases. It is necessary to remember that for a people, deprived of physical security, knowledge, intellectual and economic security, absolutely cannot develop as a nation with dignity. For that reason, every time we commemorate our great Karen National Day, it is important for us to remember and honor our Karen national history, the life experience of the Karen people, the efforts made by our eminent Karen national leaders and our Karen nationals, in the past. However, it is not enough to end with just remembering the efforts made by the eminent leaders, but all the Karen in their own individual role and corner must cooperate and participate for achievement of the national goals, and political aims and objectives laid down by the eminent leaders.

Dear Karen Nationals,

In order to be able celebrate today the **Karen National Day** with full meaning, remember and honor the history of the **Karen National Day**, the life experiences of the Karen people, the efforts made by our own eminent Karen national leaders and the Karen nationals, in the past. We must be alert to the fact that we have to carry out the affairs of the Karen people with unity, and we have to diligently make the effort to write more about our Karen national history for knowledge of the new generation of Karen youths, who will take over and shoulder the national duties. Moreover, I would like to urge for learning the history of sacrifices made in sweat, blood and lives by our national leaders, and to strive on like our Karen national leaders and the Karen people in the past, who had striven with unity of leadership, thought and action.

On the occasion of the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) of Karen National Day, I am sending this letter of felicitation, with the exhortation to march and fight together, with understanding, mutual assistance, harmony and unity for the realization of our national aspirations and attainment of the political goal, on the basis of correct patriotic spirit, between the Karen groups and Karen organizations, for a harmonious and beautiful future with stability, peace and security of the Karen Nation.

General Mutu Say Poe
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