



Chin National Front  
General Headquarters  
CHINLAND

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**Statement of Chin National Front On the Occasion of 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Chin National Day**

1. Today, 20th February 2003, is the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Chin National Day. On this historic day, Chin people laid down a foundation of national solidarity by overwhelmingly voting down the continuance of feudal administrative system in favor of a democratic system of governance.
2. Historically free and sovereign people, the Chin people were gradually subjugated under British colonialist power in the 19th century. With the purpose of regaining freedom from the British and to enjoy the right to equality and self-determination, the Chin people co-founded the Union of Burma with Kachin, Shan and Burman. However, ever since the birth of the Union and the gaining of independence chauvinistic Burman politicians and military cliques had dishonored the prime aspiration and agreements that existed between co-founders of the Union. Consequently, in the last fifty years, this betrayal has served to erode the distinct identities of the Chin people.
3. In trying to regain their national right to self-determination, Chin people have constantly insisted on a political dialogue with successive military regimes. We are strongly convinced that only through meaningful dialogue, can we achieve genuine national reconciliation.
4. The Chin National Front welcomes the proposal by the Royal Thai Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in taking up the role of mediator in order to facilitate national reconciliation in Burma. The Front also warmly welcomes the proposal of Senate Foreign Affairs Committee chairman Mr. Kraisak Choonhavan regarding the setting up of a special committee which will facilitate the reconciliation process.
5. As a people with distinct characteristic and identity, it is only the Chin people who have the responsibility to determine our own destiny and to work towards our national interests. It is the responsibility of the entire Chin nationality to work and to strive together in unity to regain our birthrights as a people to which we have been unjustly denied.
6. In promoting our national cause and in reconstructing our nation, the Chin National Front is going to work together with all the Chin people of inside and outside of the country as well as with all political parties. Furthermore, the Front is determined to work together with democracy and peace loving nations, international institutions, and other ethnic allies in establishing a federal state and in achieving the right of self- determination.

Central Executive Committee  
Chin National Front  
February 20, 2003