



**Karen National Union**  
**Supreme Headquarters**  
**Kawthoolei**  
[www.knuhq.org](http://www.knuhq.org)

**KNU President Gen. Mutu Say Poe's Felicitation Letter Sent on 2760 Karen New Year Day**

**Year 2760, 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Waxing Moon, Pyatho Month**  
**January 13, 2021 AD**

Today, the first Day of Waxing Moon of Pyatho Month is the Karen New Year Day. We the Karen people and all the people of the Union have journeyed through the year 2759 and arrived in the year 2760 Karen Era (KE). Accordingly, I extend my best wishes on the New Year Day for all Karen nationals and people of the Union to have noble blessings, unity, order, prosperity and peace of mind, in the New Year of 2760 KE.

As the Karen people are a nationality, they have and celebrate the Karen New Year Day, in like manner as the other nationalities. As the Karen people started to count their years at the time when the second wave of the Karen migration entered the land known now as the Union in 739 BC, the current year is Year 2760, according to the Karen Era. The Karen New Year Day is a dimension of the Karen culture in accordance with the Karen national traditions and customs, and the Karen people have been observing the Day through the ages for many centuries. As a result of changes and development in the flow of time, the living of Karen people among the other nationalities, and the narrowing of gaps between cultures and beliefs, the Karen New Year Day had been observed and celebrated in different ways.

For that reason, the far-sighted Karen leaders decided for the observation of the new year on one single day, and in the year 1937 AD, the Karen leaders submitted the proposal for the official recognition of the Karen New Year in the Parliament, and the Karen New Year Day duly received the official recognition. Moreover, the Karen New Year Day has been recognized as a gazetted holiday and all the government offices in country recognize the Day as a holiday, and as it has been celebrated officially all over the Union, it has become a day concerning the whole country. Nowadays, the Karen communities all over the world recognize and hold celebrations on the Day and members of other nationalities are sprightly participating in the celebrations.

As the Karen people are a nationality, they possess all the attributes of a nationality. Accordingly, in order for the Karen people to continue to exist as a nationality, to develop and progress in accordance with time, it is the duty of every Karen individual to understand, accept, value and recognize the Karen own literature, culture, language, customs and traditions, which are the Karen national characteristics and attributes, and to maintain, safeguard and promote them collectively in the daily life.

The present-day Karen nationals, in addition to having the duty to enable their contemporaries to maintain and safeguard heritages of our forebears, they have the duty to make the future youth leaders to continue to maintain the cultural heritages and

essence, and to safeguard them daily in the coming successive eras of humanity. This august and sacred duty is the duty of the entire Karen nationality.

At the present, as each Karen national individually and our national organizations and associations have valued, maintained and promoted the national characteristics and attributes, in the respective roles they are in, the Karen people are recognized as a nationality in the Union they inhabit and many places of the world, up to this day.

A nationality's existence and advance depend on every member of it maintaining, employing, promoting and collectively maintaining his/her cultural features in his/her daily life and additionally, the constitutional law of the country in which the nationality inhabit must provide for in writing adequately and precisely, in law, the guarantees of its existence. Moreover, the government responsible must arrange for aid and support for the implementation.

Throughout our Karen history, the Karen people have never been given protection, opportunities and support, in law, unlike the other nationalities, to flourish in consonant with time. The Karen people have never received the rights of freedom, equality and justice, in addition to the political, economic and human rights, appropriate for a nationality. Our Karen people had striven by various means to gain those rights and eventually they arrived at the situation where they had to take up arms for resistance in self-defense, when they came under military attack. Founded by the Karen leaders and in accordance with the task given by the Karen people, the Karen National Union (KNU) has been undertaking armed resistance for more than 70 years.

Currently, the KNU and some ethnic nationality armed resistance organizations have stopped the armed struggle, entered in a ceasefire agreement, have been holding talks for those rights with the government to find an answer politically. Ceasefire is not gaining peace in any sense. True peace will be possible only when our Karen and each of the other ethnic national entities inhabiting in our Union is recognized as a nationality variously, and the gaining of freedom, equality and additionally self-determination rights fully by them. It is necessary to enshrine those rights by clear provisions in the State Constitution. At the present time, while the elected government cannot form an administrative organization, the ethnic nationalities and the government between them must strive for nationwide peace. The KNU is endeavoring in accordance with the objective. To implement successfully as intended, it is necessary for each and every one of our Karen people to participate in the respective role he/she is in.

Just as our nationals' maintenance and the nurture of our national qualities is essential, an education in consonant with time is essential for a nationality to develop in the various sectors. The nations and countries of the world dominant in the economy, politics and military power, are the nations and countries which are excelling exceptionally in education. It is necessary for our Karen national youths also to make exceptional effort to gain modern education and strive for the development of our Karen people to be in line with the modern time.

The recognition by every Karen of himself/herself as a Karen and hold in esteem the Karen national attributes and characteristics, and collectively maintaining and promoting them in his/her daily living is the main key to the flourishing of a nationality forever.

On the occasion of celebrating in honor of the transition to our Karen New Year, I would like to wish and urge every Karen to identify and accept oneself as a Karen and pledge for bringing up and practicing our Karen national attributes and characteristics in our daily life, and collectively promote them in the respective role he/she is in.

**May All Karen Nationals and Members of the Union Have Joy and Peace in the New Year!**