

## **The Current situation of Covid-19 outbreak in Myanmar**

Myanmar Government started the preparations for Covid-19 pandemic since January, 2020. And then the Central Committee on Prevention, Control, and Treatment of the 2019 novel coronavirus, led by the Vice President, was formed in 30-1-2020. After the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-2019) as a pandemic on 11-3-2020, the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), led by the State Counsellor, was formed in 13-3-2020. That Committee announced that the respiratory disease COVID-19 can spread rapidly in crowded places, the public is requested not to hold public gatherings, ceremonies and festivals (including the construction of pandals for the Myanmar traditional Thingyan festival). Relevant departments have been informed and the suspension period will be extended if deemed necessary. And then other related committees were also formed and started their works. Till date, the Government issues the necessary notifications, protocols and daily reports of Covid-19.

If the outbreak situation of COVID-19 in Myanmar is described, the first two COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases were detected on 23 March, 2020. The highest number of cases were found in week-16 (2nd week of April) i.e. about 3 weeks after first cases.

Numbers of COVID-19 confirmed cases were dramatically decreased at the end of April 2020 about 87% decreased in number in week-18 compared to week-16. The Ministry of Health and Sport analyzed and stated that the possible reasons for this dramatic decreasing are-

- Rapid containment procedure of confirmed cases, Intensified contact tracing and quarantine procedure of those contacts interrupt transmission chain.
- Because of the restriction of all international flights since 30 March 2020, the number of Imported confirmed cases become less in number.
- Asymptomatic and mild cases in the community have not attended to the public hospitals and health facilities and because of this; those cases cannot be tested.

- Currently, not all of the suspected cases, contacts and quarantine people are not tested.
- Stay at home and social distancing are good practice to reduce and interrupt the disease transmission chain.
- Active community participation is crucial in COVID-19 control.

Till 10-5-2020, in Myanmar, Total Specimens Tested are 11,222, Total Person Under Investigation are 3,757, Lab Confirmed are 180, Death among Lab Confirmed are 6 and totally 72 are recovered.