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The Interim Executive Council of Karenni State

Press Release No. 02/2025

Statement by the Interim Executive Council of Karenni State (IEC)

on Thailand's Policy Granting Refugees from Myanmar the Right to Work

The Interim Executive Council of Karenni State (IEC) commends the Royal Thai Government for its recent policy decision granting refugees from Myanmar, including those who have fled from war entering neighboring Thailand and been taking refuge in nine temporary shelter camps along the Thai-Myanmar border, the legal right to work and live outside designated areas. This landmark resolution represents not only a profound humanitarian gesture but also a strategic approach that enhances the dignity, self-reliance, and well-being of displaced communities.

For decades, Thailand has shouldered the responsibility of hosting tens of thousands of people and providing a safe space for those who fled conflict and insecurity in Myanmar, many of whom were born and raised within the camps. In the face of dwindling international aid and global funding constraints, Thailand's initiative provides renewed hope and opportunity for refugees to support themselves, contribute meaningfully to local economies, and foster resilience for both host and refugee communities.

On behalf of the Karenni people, the IEC extends its deepest appreciation to the government and people of Thailand for their compassion, generosity, and steadfast commitment to humanitarian principles. The IEC reaffirms its readiness to cooperate closely with the authorities from the Royal Thai Government to ensure the effective implementation of this policy and to work jointly in addressing the needs and well-being of affected persons.

Looking ahead, the IEC remains committed to building constructive partnerships with the Royal Thai Government and agencies across all relevant areas, with the shared objective of promoting security, dignity, and opportunity for displaced populations while strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation between our peoples.

August 28, 2025