It is with a heavy heart that we observe the citizens of Myanmar are having to bear the brunt of the ravages of COVID-19 pandemic. As we anticipated the third wave of COVID-19 we, the Ministry of Health, National Unity Government put all our efforts into, to the best of our abilities, protecting the health, lives and livelihood of the general public. From the time CRPH (Committee Representing Pyithu Hluttaw) formed an interim government, the Ministry of Health’s provisional healthcare policy included a programme on Prevention, Control and Management of COVID-19 Disease. Plans included COVID-19 Vaccination programmes in States, Regions, Townships, Wards and Villages.

After the forming of National Unity Government on 16th April 2021, as we, the Ministry of Health, anticipated untold difficulties in managing the pandemic and the vaccination programme with the changing political situation, we communicated with Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance - Covax Facility, the organisation that jointly, with the previous People’s Government rolled out the first vaccination programme. In the communication we proposed a vaccination programme more suitable with the changed political landscape. To achieve this we were in ongoing discussions and collaboration with International Organisations, international/national experts and Ethnic Health Organisations.

Based on the outcome of these discussions and consultations, for the general public to benefit from an efficient vaccination programme, at the beginning of April 2021, three proposals were submitted to Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance. (Please see chart.) There are ongoing discussions and consultations with other international organisations in order that the vaccine can be procured in good time for the general public.
The three pathways:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pathway 1</th>
<th>Pathway 2</th>
<th>Pathway 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vaccines procured from International donors. Inoculations by: NUG CDM healthcare workers, Ethnic Healthcare Organisation workers Military Council’s Healthcare workers (Protection to be provided by the UN or Some other neutral organisation)</td>
<td>Training to be given by organisations such as the UN. Inoculations by hired healthcare workers</td>
<td>Vaccines procured through the border areas. Inoculations to be done by: NUG CDM workers, Ethnic Healthcare Organisation workers</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In addition to vaccine procurement programme the other projects include:

1) On 7th July 2021, with the acting President as Chair, and Union Ministers from relevant Ministries under National Unity Government, and Representatives from the Ethnic Health Organisations as members, a National Committee for COVID-19 Disease Prevention, Control and Management was formed. The Commission’s Chair sent a diplomatic correspondence to neighbouring countries, the world’s powerful nations, International Friendly Organisations informing them of the critical situation in Myanmar and requesting assistance and aid.

2) A Taskforce was formed for battling COVID-19 after regular meetings and consultations between representatives from ethnic Health Organisations and the Ministry of Health.

3) **Preventative measures:** COVID-19 prevention health talks are being broadcast via the Ministry of Health’s website ([https://moh.nugmyanmar.org](https://moh.nugmyanmar.org)), and Facebook ([https:// facebook.com/MoHNUGMyanmar](https://facebook.com/MoHNUGMyanmar)) and social media networks. “By the Public taking care of the Public overcoming COVID-19” health campaign was run from 12th to 18th July 2021 with posters and video shows. “Right to breathe” campaign will start from 18th July 2021.
4) **Treatment Campaign:** Starting from 19th June 2021, Telemedicine ([https://facebook.com/telehealthmm](https://facebook.com/telehealthmm)) will aim to treat COVID-19 and other illnesses via online consultation and advice. COVID-19 Knowledge Centre ([https://facebook.com/ckcmohnuvgmm](https://facebook.com/ckcmohnuvgmm)) will answer all that the public would like to know, will give advice to healthcare professionals who are treating COVID-9 cases, Management programmes on webinar. Procuring equipment and medicines needed for treating patients, oxygen concentrators.

“With keeping the public’s health first and foremost, and keep the public well informed with transparency” as the motto of the National Unity Government, and with the wellbeing of the nation in mind we vow to make a stand together with the public and overcome this pandemic calamity and together march towards our common goal of reaching this new Federal Democratic Union of Myanmar.