First regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues for 15th day
Queries raised and replied, proposal submitted, approval sought
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw expresses condolence to earthquake victims of Tahlay Region in Tachilek

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—First regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued for 15th day at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 10 am today. It was attended by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw.

After taking position, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint announced the validity and start of 15th-day first regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as 653 out of 656 representatives attended the session, accounting for 99.54 per cent of attendance.

Members of union level organization Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs U Thein Nyunt, Minister for Commerce U Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein and Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung answered queries raised by U Thein Yi of Htantabin Constituency on “plan for construction of river-crossing bridge to link Tatthit Island and Bawle Island” and “upgrading of earthen roads in Lamutanlay Village and Kyutaw Village-tract to tarred facilities in Htantabin Township”, U Ko Gyi of Aungmyaythazan Constituency-12 on “prevention against prices manipulation and economic monopolization with existing law and by issuing new law and procedure”, U Htay Maung of Mandalay Region Constituency-12 on “government’s plan for harmonious development of national education and potential role of private sector in future education system”, U Win Maung of Mandalay Region Constituency No (2) on “Proficiency of 4 Skills English Language”, Daw Lei Lei Win Swe of Tamway Constituency on “measures to stabilize commodity prices and maintain stable commodity prices”.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives and Member of Union level organization Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun discussed the proposal of U Htay Oo from Hinthada Constituency that “Pyidaungsu Hluttaw opposes economic sanction on Myanmar” and sought approval of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Under provisional agenda, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker submitted proposal that “Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s condolence goes to victims of earthquake of magnitude (7.0) Richter Scale with its epicenter in Tachilek Tahlay Region, eastern Myanmar which has claimed 73 lives and injured 125 to now.” The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the proposal which was recorded.

Dr Banya Aung Moe from Mon State Constituency No (7) submitted proposal that “the government should take measures to restore national consolidation and internal peace”, Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency No (4), “the government should set up a particular department to deal with migrant labourers under a suitable ministry”, Dr Aye Maung of Rakhine State Constituency No
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw sought the approval.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced that the 15th-day first regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw ended and the 16-th day regular session will continue at 10 am on 28 March.

The session came to an end at 3:40 pm.

**Education Minister replies to question on four skills of English Language proficiency**

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March-At today’s Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session, U Win Maung of Mandalay Region Constituency No-2 put a question on arrangements to be made for new generation of today to be proficient in four skills- Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking- of English Language, saying that English Language plays a vital role in political, social and economic affairs. It is important for today’s new generation to know English in this world of Globalization.

Regarding the query, Minister for Education Dr. Chan Nyein replied that the Ministry of Education is encouraging teachers of Higher and Basic Education to be proficient in their four skills (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking) and placing emphasis on use of more effective teaching methods and modern teaching aids and conducting English Language competitions.

For promotion of English Language Proficiency, English Proficiency Courses are being conducted for faculty members of universities and degree colleges. English language is being used in compiling and reading researches, except Myamarsar.

For students of Higher Education, English language is being taught in degree and postgraduate courses. Arrangements have been made to improve the English language proficiency of students by establishing 57 multimedia lecture rooms and 93 language labs in 44 Universities and Degree Colleges. Besides, students are being nurtured to be proficient in their English by taking part in English Language competitions such as debate, roundtable discussions and essay contests which are held on significant days of the State.

English Language Proficiency Courses are being opened at Myanmar- India English Language Training Centre which was set up in 2009 and the centre produced 2000 trainees. Under Human Resources Development Programme of the ministry, National Centre for English Language was opened in 2005. So far, 12000 trainees have been produced from English Language Proficiency Postgraduate Course and English Language Proficiency Course.

Starting from 2006-07 academic year, English Language Teaching Refresher Courses for primary and middle school teachers have been opened for two times and English Language Teaching Refresher Courses and orientation courses for high school teachers for three times. Effective methods are being used in teaching English in basic education level.

In 2006-07 academic year, 1123 BA and MA (English) holders were appointed as SATs after taking Educational Technology Course.

To upgrade the teaching methods of English teachers, they were sent to attend courses and workshops held at home and abroad.

Township level, Region and State level and Central level English Language contests for primary and middle School students are held yearly starting from 2008-09. So far the competitions have been held for three times.
There were 35288 schools equipped with multimedia platform where English language is being taught effectively with the use of multimedia devices.

According to the above-mentioned ways and means, arrangements have been made for students of basic and higher education level to be proficient in four skills of English language.

**Query about prevention of price manipulation, economic monopolization in line with existing laws or by enacting new laws and procedures answered**

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March – U Ko Gyi of Aungmyethazan Constituency at today’s Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session questioned what measures should be taken to handle price manipulation and economic monopolization, how they would be prevented with the existing laws and whether it was necessary to enact new laws and procedures.

In response to the questions, Minister for Commerce U Tin Naing Thein said the existing laws to take action against price manipulation and economic monopolization that can affect the people are the Control of Imports and Exports Temporary Act, the Essential Supplies and Services Act and the Sea Customs Act, the Land Customs Act, the Contract Act and the Sale of Goods Act. Besides, under the permission of the government, authorities can deal with such issues by issuing orders. If there is breach of those orders, necessary measures will be taken in line with the existing laws. Pea trading scandals and illegal trading are being exposed and action is being taken against them in line with the existing laws. As there were cases of complaints about price manipulation and monopolization with a wealth of foreign currency in hand, investigation was made and action was taken. The State always takes action whenever there are any malpractices against the right of the private sector to trade openly in the market economy system.

Now, necessary procedures are being studied and drafted to amend and supplement some of the existing laws and promulgate new laws so as to catch up with the current conditions of the market economy.

All ASEAN nations are making plans to finalize the competition law in 2015 according to ASEAN Economic Community. Now it has been drafted and prescribed in Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia. In the world, some nations have prescribed fair trade competition law instead of competition law, anti-monopoly law, anti-trust law and against unfair competition law. These laws are prescribed to make sure that there is no individual’s or group’s monopolization of production, service and trade in the market and that a competition system emerges.

For drafting a competition law, the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development is conducing studies in coordination with related departments.

Section 36 (b) of the 2008 constitution states that the Union shall prevent acts that harm public interests through monopolization or manipulation of prices by an individual or group with intent to endanger fair competition in economic activities. Regarding the question of U Ko Gyi, measures are being taken to implement the provisions of Section 36 (b) of the constitution.

**PBANRDA Minister replies to question on upgrading earthen road in Lamudanlay Village in Htantabin Township**

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March - At today’s session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, U Thein Yi of Htantabin Constituency asked whether there is a plan to upgrade the earthen road to gravel one in Lamudanlay Village of Kyudaw Village-tract in Htantabin Township of Yangon Region, and he would like to know the time for upgrading it if it is possible.
In his response, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs U Thein Nyunt said that the Development Committees Law was promulgated as Law No. 5/93 on 1 April 1993 by the State Law and Order Restoration Council to undertake urban beautifying and rural development. Section 9 of the law was stipulated to carry out 31 tasks and supervise them.

According to the law, tax and revenue are to be collected for spending it on beautifying of urban area and development of rural areas.

As Htantabin Township has least amount of tax yearly, the State provides cash assistance for urban and rural development tasks and upgrading roads.

For example, the township has five miles and seven furlongs long tarred roads, one mile long gravel road, 21 miles long laterite roads and 73 miles and seven furlongs long earthen road and 114 bridges at present compared with two miles long gravel road and eight miles long earthen road in 1998.

Spending funds of the State, three miles and one furlong long earthen road linking Yangon West University and Ayeywalay Village was upgraded to the tarred one from 2000-2001 to 2010-2011 financial year.

Development Affairs Department gives priority to population density, needs of economic development and needs of regional development in constructing the rural roads. Whenever the report is submitted to the State due to deficiency of township funds, the government allows the plan on the priority.

According to Section 254 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Chief Ministers of Region and State have the responsibility to manage the spending of funds in line with the Budget Law in the townships.

That is why officials at different levels will review the facts of priority for upgrading the earthen road in Lamudanlay Village of Htantabin Township.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker comforts hospitalized Amyotha Hluttaw Representative

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March-Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, accompanied by officials concerned, visited Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Tin Myint of Bago Region Constituency No (3) who is receiving treatment at Nay Pyi Taw People’s Hospital (1000-bed) here this evening.

The speaker and party, together with Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Phyu Phyu and personnel of the hospital, comforted Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Tin Myint.

Education Minister elaborates on government’s plans for progress of national education

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March- At today’s Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session, U Htay Maung of Mandalay Region Constituency No (12) put a question about government’s plans for harmonious development of national education and the potential role of private sector in future education system.

Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein replied that his ministry has been implementing 30-year longterm education promotion plan in connection with 24- Special Development Region Project, Project for Progress of Border Areas and National Races, and rural development schemes being implemented by the government.

With a view to turning out highly-qualified human resources for the nation and particular region and covering access to education, the Ministry of Education has been undertaking such works as upgrading degree colleges to universities, opening new degree colleges and universities, recruiting lecturers and
instructors, organizing new learning programmes in states and regions across the nation. In 1988, the nation saw only 32 universities and degree colleges, whereas the number has risen to 161 now, five times more than in 1988.

It means learning opportunity has increased five times in higher education sector.

More learning programmes have been organized and the number has tripled from 79 in 1988 to 215 in 2010. Before 1988, number of lecturers and instructors at universities and colleges was over 5600 and now has doubled, reaching more than 12,000 including over 3000 Ph.D holder faculty members.

As a result, number of undergraduates pursuing higher education has risen from over 110,000 in 1988 to over 500,000 now. Regarding basic education sector, over 40900 basic education schools were opened in 2010-2011 academic year.

Over 274,000 teachers are training over 8.05 million students. The number of basic education schools has increased over 7100, teachers over 100,000 and students over 2.81 million in comparison with 1988. 1074 basic education schools have been founded in border areas, providing over 2.1 million students access to education.

Every one ward and five villages in the nation have three basic education schools in general and the approximate distance between the school and the home is about 1.4 miles.

In basic education schools, pre-primary education classes were opened and opportunities to pursue education have increased as a result of school-enrollment week activity in the third week of May prior to new academic year to ensure that all children at school-age go to school and extended opening of post primary schools to encourage children who have finished primary education continue learning at basic education middle schools.

Due to those efforts, school enrollment rate of basic education school has increased from 67.13 percentage in 1988 to 98.37 percentage in 2010-2011 academic year, net study rate at basic education schools has risen from 74.7 percentage to 84.61 percentage, and continue-study rate at middle schools has reached to 77.61 percentage from 45.6 percentage.

Myanmar is practising free basic education system, bringing benefit to over 5.15 million students at primary education level. The free basic education system is in compliance with United Nations Millenium Development Goal and Subsection (c) of Section (28) of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and is the programme No (2) of the 30-year long-term education promotion plan.

Regarding private role in education system, private schools were allowed to run in the past and now tuitions are permitted in accord with tuition law.

The Ministry has been drafting bills and making plans to cooperate with private sector in future education system.

**Industry-1 Minister explains measures to maintain stable commodity prices**

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March- At today’s Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session, Daw Lé Lé Win Swe of Tamway Constituency said that commodity price has been surging across the nation since the beginning of January and that especially people with low income are facing hardships due to price rise of basic foodstuffs, and asked what contributing factors to rising commodity prices are and the government’s measures to deal with the situation and maintain stable commodity prices.

For his part, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung said that local and foreign issues and special phenomenon-rise of global oil and gold price, climate change, world’s financial market change, global
political and military issues, inland transportation charges, bridge and road-passing charges, and black market- have adverse effect on commodity prices.

During 2010, world’s crops production declined due to climate change across the globe.

Decline in world’s food production led to an increase in rice, edible oil and foodstuff prices beginning the third quarter of 2010. United Nations, World Food Programme and other responsible organizations concerned about the issue. Commodity price across the world is on the increase as some countries have stockpiled foodstuffs.

One of the reasons of high commodity price in Myanmar is that rice and foodstuff for domestic consumption have leaked into neighbouring countries that are facing rocketing food prices.

World’s crude oil price has been surging gradually since September last year.

Drop in oil production resulted from political instability of oil-producing countries in the Middle East added fuel to the situation, which was worsened when the world’s industrialized nations began to store crude oil, being afraid that oil supply would be cut off. The rise in oil price resulted in increased transportation charges which led to rising commodity prices.

Another factor was the rumors of pay rise for governmental staff. Oil production in oil exporters (Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Bahrain, Oman, Tunisia and others) from the Middle East has declined by two third and countries that posses oil are storing it, which leads to rise in oil price. The situation was further worsened when other countries felt worried about the situation in the Middle East and have began to store oil and other commodities.

Domestic oil use has increased due to mining of jade, jewels, gold and other minerals in this summer. Over 1,100 companies are working in jade mining industry alone and its oil consumption reaches over 2 million gallons per month. Over 400 companies working in gold and other mineral mining industry use over 1.4 million gallon of oil. These companies are stockpiling the oil for fear of potential oil shortage resulted from instability in Middle East, making oil price rocketing high.

To prevent huge damages of roads, ASEAN standard transport system was adopted. Transport charges hit high as transport entrepreneurs is not used to the system.

Regarding speculation of raising salaries of government staff, storing commodities by some merchants makes the increase in demand and price in the market.

Following fabricates broadcast of foreign media in previous January and February, deposits were drawn out from two domestic banks.

But the situation is now stable with this news fading out as rumors.

Commodity Price Supervisory Committee watches production, export and consuming of commodity and estimates that the food security covers the entire nation. The State is setting sight on sufficiency of rice, oil, salt, meat, fish, onion, garlic, chili, pulses and beans and vegetables. A total of 1566.303 million of baskets of rice were harvested from 19.933 million of summer and monsoon paddy farmlands.

The amount is sufficient for 59 million of population accounting for nearly 160 per cent. Rice production increased from 631 million baskets in 1988 to 1566.303 million now. Edible oil is somewhat sufficient as 322.435 million of edible oil is produced from 9.271 million acres of farmlands of oil crops. Onion, garlic, chili and pulses and beans production exceeds local consumption. Local food security will not be a matter of concern in any circumstance.

Meat and fish production has been increased to meet local consumption.
Compared with 4.1 kg in 1988, the meat individual annual consumption has surged to 24.8 kg. Fish individual annual consumption has increased to 59.9 kg from 15.3 kg and egg consumption to 122 from 21. Meat and fish exceeded the local consumption are exported. A total of 532.909 million US dollars were obtained from meat and fish export in 2009-2010 compared to 10.38 million US dollars in 1988. In 2011-2012, the estimated amount of fish and prawn production is 2618.8 million viss, that of meat is 1273.252 million viss and that of egg is 3332.1 million eggs with the cooperation of international projects, local and foreign experts, entrepreneurs and organizations.

With short- and longterm objectives, the State is realizing meat and fish sufficiency and price stabilization.

The State is boosting development of agriculture, breeding and production yearly by ensuring enough commodity is in market, transport charges are reasonable and by reducing unnecessary stages and controls which increase the production price. The State controls food leakage to other countries, joins hands with related organizations to eradicate of rice and food storage following rumours, pursues private entrepreneurs not to play prices and to participate in market, encourages swift commodity flow and helps improve agricultural and breeding production.

Political and economic instability in some foreign countries and playing price by some businessmen are the contributing factors for current price increase. For this situation, the State has arranged to distribute fuel and helped the swift transport and basic foods are sufficient in the country. So, the State can maintain the price stabilization well.

Construction Minister replies to question on construction of bridge between Tatthitkyun and Bawlekyun in Htantabin Township

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March- At today’s session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, U Thein Yi of Htantabin Constituency asked whether there is a plan to build a bridge for linking Tatthitkyun and Bawlekyun in Htantabin Township, and he would like to know when it will be built.

Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint replied that Htantabin of Yangon Region was an isolated town in the past. After 1980, nine miles and six furlongs long Htantabin-Thidaaye asphalt road was constructed from Yangon-Pathein Road.

Therefore, Htantabin has easy access to Yangon day and night.

The government built 1940 feet long Hline River Bridge (Myochaung) and 1940 feet long Bawle River Bridge (Yebawthoung) as two-way RC facilities for development of Bawlekyun region. The 29 miles and two furlongs long Hmawby-Yedwingon- Myochaung-Yebawthoung- Kungyangon-Ywatha Road was constructed. The roads were linked with Ywatha and Aphyauk and Ywatha and Uto.

Kokkowa River between Tatthitkyun and Bawlekyun flows into Hline River near Htantabin. Mouth of Kokkowa River is about 1000 feet wide, and if the bridge is constructed, the facility will be 1900 feet long including approach roads on both sides.

People from Htantabin Township and Tatthitkyun may travel to Bawlekyun along nine miles long Htantabinjunction of Yangon-Pathein road, one mile and two furlongs long section from Shwepyitha-Danyingon junction, 12 miles and four furlongs long section from Danyingon junction to Hmawby, five miles and one furlong long section from Hmawby to Yedwingon, two miles and four furlongs long section from Yedwingon to Myochaung Bridge and 16 miles and six furlongs long section from Myochaung Bridge to Bawle Village, taking two hours.

At present, there is no plan to build a bridge between Tatthitkyun and Bawlekyun.
Due to requirements of the regions, the Ministry of Construction is carrying out construction and maintenance of roads and bridges. In this regard, the ministry builds under 180 feet long bridges under its plans and takes approval from the government to construct above-180 feet long bridges.

Tatthitkyun and Bawlekyun of Htantabin Township have better transport based on Yangon and Hmawby, so there is no plan to build the bridge at present.

Nine Hluttaw representatives and Finance and Revenue Minister assess proposal submitted by U Htay Oo from Hinthada Constituency

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—Nine representatives held discussions about the approved proposal “This Hluttaw opposes the economic sanctions imposed against Myanmar” submitted by U Htay Oo from Hinthada Constituency at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session today.

Wunna Kyaw Htin U Win Myint from Sagaing Region Constituency (3) said that the West Bloc has tightened economic sanctions against Myanmar since 1997, thus harming the nation’s economic growth and ordinary people.

Economic sanctions also harm foreign trade and Foreign Direct Investment. Myanmar receives least Official Development Assistance and no finance assistance from World Bank, I.M.F and ADB, and have adverse effects on labour intensive industries and tourism industry.

However, there was marked increase in turnover in trade with Asian countries: from 878 million in 1987-88 to over 12 billion US dollars in 2009-2010. The contribution to trade with Europe and America declined sharply from 30% in 1990 to only 5%. Sanctions also harm Myanmar exports’ competitiveness.

Economic sanctions are against a principle of WTO, and so he seconded the proposal, he said.

U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency said that economic sanctions imposed by the US, EU and Canada harm employees and employers, and money transfers. Rich natural resources alone are not enough for national development.

Sanctions also harm FDI. So, he is in support of the motion.

He suggested that a suitable foreign policy be laid down to address the issue as economic sanctions also have effects on the West Bloc, and ASEAN countries are demanding lifting sanctions.

U Tun Aung Kyaw from Ponnagyun Constituency said that economic sanctions harmed the nation especially states. The US government has imposed economic sanctions against Myanmar exercising Customs and Trade Act since 1997, and it tightened sanctions in 2003. That dealt a blow to some states and regions including Rakhine State in export of marine product and finished wood products and hotels in MraukU archaeological site and Ngapali Beach Resort, handicrafts and travel services.

In 2003, Myanmar was the fourth largest marine exporting Asian country to the US. Trade embargo hindered prawn farms.

In 2010, Myanmar held an election and took a giant step toward democracy. So, the US and EU countries should lift economic sanctions, he said.

Dr Myat Myat Ohn Khin of Ayeyawady Region Constituency (10) said that in Myanmar, women enjoy all due rights, as evidenced by the fact that many of the hluttaw representatives are women.

Due to the market economy introduced to the nation in 1988, women got jobs in factories and garment factories. However, the economic sanctions imposed in 1997 and tightened in 2003 led to the closure of
many factories including garment factories. That made about 50,000 women redundant and had adverse effect to their families.

Many job-lost women became sex workers, and many fell victim to unfair treatment and forced marriage abroad. So, public’s outrage can turn to those foreign countries imposing sanctions against Myanmar.

She said that she was opposed to all sanctions and news fabrication, and seconded the proposal.

Daw Dwe Bu from Injiangyan Constituency said that every country and people shall have the right to choose the policy they like and deal with internal affairs without foreign interference for development. That is the theme of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

The people have chosen the most appropriate way to democracy. Turning a blind eye to objective conditions of the nation, the West Bloc is imposing economic sanctions and trade embargo, which affects both Myanmar and the US, Britain and EU. So, she seconded the proposal, she said.

One of the reasons of imposing sanctions is fabrication of news. So, she is opposed to retorting news stories that disrupts national development.

Now, democratization is in full swing in Myanmar.

And the people will keep trying for greater development in the process. So, the people will have to welcome mutual cooperation with other countries.

So, the people have to work closely to surmount the economic sanctions that hinder the national goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed country.

Dr Myat Nyana Soe from Yangon Region Constituency (4) said that some are claiming in their own interests that economic sanctions affect the ruling government, not the people.

Sanctions caused disruptions to national development and deny humanitarian assistance to Myanmar. Banning their citizens from investing in Myanmar, they are violating human rights.

Prohibition of import of agricultural inputs is disruptive to agriculture and life of farmers. And blocking the flow of technologies to Myanmar is violation of technological rights.

All hluttaw representatives are required to deal with economic sanctions in order to safeguard national interests. So, he seconded the proposal, he said.

Daw Nan Wah Nu from Kunhing Constituency said that parties objected to economic sanctions through announcements. In addition, ASEAN countries called for lifting sanctions.

In the economic sector, Myanmar has to rely on other countries for some kinds of goods such as fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural tools and machinery. Process cost is two to three percent, which causes burden on the people. These are evil consequences of economic sanctions.

Due to economic sanctions, Myanmar lost opportunities to get monetary and technological assistance from IMF, ADB and IFI. In comparison with neighbouring countries, Myanmar lost money and technology worth millions of US dollars in the period of economic sanctions.

Owing to lack of foreign direct investments, development tasks faced loss for development of national races and remote areas.

Economic sanction imposed against Myanmar is no beneficial to both sanction imposers and victims. The sanctions imposed with the reasons of democracy and human rights are meaningless for the new Myanmar country that starts democratization process. He on behalf of all Myanmar people said that
time has come to welcome progress of Myanmar with assistance and encouragement instead of continuing sanctions, and she deeply supported the proposal.

U Hla Maung (a) U Naing Hla Maung of Chaungzon Constituency said that economic sanctions imposed by the US and the EU do not benefit the Myanmar people.

Therefore, all the people are not happy with sanctions. Five national race parties declared a joint statement for removal of sanctions. With regard to the sanction issue, the word “objection” was included in the discussions of U Htay Oo.

He suggested that the word “I would like to request to lift the sanction” should be used instead of the word “objection”.

Indeed, the request to lift the sanction is not to hope for easily lifting the sanction. So, it is necessary to show the capability of the nation by successfully realizing multiparty democracy system.

Only when the multi-party democracy system can be realized practically, will all democratic nations of the world support Myanmar. Therefore, the US and the European countries must lift the sanctions, and so he said that he supported the proposal.

Dr Pwint Hsan of Mayangon Constituency said that before imposing sanctions against Myanmar, over 300 garment industries were operated with the larger strength of workers. Due to economic sanctions, a half of industries were closed down and about 850,000 workers became jobless. In consequence, their families faced difficulties.

Businesses, government departments, foreign embassies, NGOs and other enterprises, running with US currency faced difficulties due to economic sanctions on transfer of money.

The US and its accomplices banned investment in Myanmar and put pressure on international monetary organizations to cut loans and assistance to Myanmar. In addition to economic sanctions, the UE and Canada restricted import of timber and gems from Myanmar and banned financial services.

Their activities made an impact on tourism industry due to misinformation for tourists.

Economic sanctions are designed for political reform, but people missed job opportunities and losses in social economic fields. Hence of U Htay Oo in accord with the wishes of the people.

He expressed his opinion that inventing fabrications, economic sanctions withheld real situations to cause the political change, as they liked. If one reviews discussions, paper compilation and articles of internal and international communities, the wrong doing activities of imposers can be seen.

Without giving priority to prosperity of Myanmar and the people, the activities in support of economic sanctions with selfishness and sending misinformation are destructive acts of the persons who do not want to serve the interest of the State and the people.

Therefore, he objected the releasing of all misinformation that turns a blind eye to endeavours of the State and the people and progress of sound foundations for building a new democratic nation.

As the government has been implementing the sevenstep Road Map of the State for democratization process and improvement of human rights, at present the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is being convened for handing over the duties of the State to the democratically elected government as the last step.

Moreover, Myanmar is further strengthening friendly ties with neighbouring countries, regional countries and other global nations that wish to cooperate with Myanmar and the people for serving their interests. Therefore, he deeply supported the proposal of U Htay Oo.
With regard to the proposal, Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun said that the US government started imposing the sanctions against Myanmar under the pretext of human rights and democracy in 1997 applying the International Emergency Economic Powers Act of 1997-IEEPA.

IEEPA is a United States federal law authorizing the U.S Presidents to regulate commerce after declaring a national emergency in response to any unusual and extraordinary threat to the United States which has a foreign source.

Beginning May 1997, the successive US presidents from the time of President Bill Clinton to that of President Obama has issued the national emergency in May yearly and continued imposing sanctions that Myanmar unusually threatens the national security, foreign policy and economy of the US.

In this regard, he would like to discuss an issue that who really threaten national security, foreign policy and economy. With the common sense, everybody knows that least developed Myanmar with over 50 million population cannot threaten superpower US with 300 million population which has the strongest economic strength and the biggest military might spending a half of world total military expenditure.

Although economic sanctions cannot effectively stop the endeavours of the State and the people for development of social economy, the sanctions can impact on factories and workshop projects that create job opportunities for the people.

In 2003, many garment factories were closed down in Myanmar due to sanctions against imports of Myanmar by the US according to its Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act. Disadvantages of sanctions left about 120 garment factories in 2009 compared with about 300 factories in Myanmar before the sanctions. Due to the sanctions, hundreds of thousands of female workers of garment factories became jobless. Of them, 95 per cent were female workers from aged 18 to 35. The sanctions imposed by the US affected the fishery industry.

From 1988 to 2003, Myanmar stood fourth in Asia in importing fishery products to the US. If the sanctions were not imposed, Myanmar may stand second in the fishery importing countries.

Due to prohibiting the transfer of monetary, Myanmar suffered from difficulties in remittance service. The prohibition on financial and monetary services caused crises to businesses, government departments, foreign embassies, NGOs and all the works relying on US monetary system for trade and remittance. As the US traveller’s cheque could not be used, the tourism industry faced difficulties.

The World Bank stopped to disburse no more loan to Myanmar beginning 1987. However, IMF and WB provided financial assistance to Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia during the South-east Asian financial crisis in 1997. In the event of cyclonic storm Nargis in 2008, they did not provide any coin to Myanmar. The US and the EU officially banned the international financial organizations not to disburse monetary to Myanmar in 2003 and 2004.


In calculation that everybody should get US 45 dollars per year, 50 million population of Myanmar lost US 2500 million dollars yearly. Such amount of money is equal to one-year proceeds of selling natural gas from Myanmar. If Myanmar gets ODA regularly beginning 1998, the amount of money can contribute a great deal to development of the State, education and health sectors of the nation.

Generally, the big country imposes economic sanction against the small country to dominate the activities and policy of the victim country for liking of the big country. In addition, the imposer country
intends to remove the government of the victim country and substitute its puppet government as an act of regime change.

WTO members US and EU countries imposed sanctions against Myanmar by breaking the Article I and Article III of General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT 1947) on nondiscrimination among the WTO member countries in trade and creation of opportunity in equal term without abiding by the provisions of the WTO.

According to Section 35 of the Constitution, the State economic policy is market-oriented economic system.

Only when the entrepreneurs have capability to compete in the domestic and international markets through the market-oriented economic system, will the State’s economy develop. If the domestic market is being realized in line with the market-oriented economic system and the international market is being banned, the development of market will be far from the goal of Myanmar. In consequence, merchants, farmers, workers and consumer people will face greater difficulties at the free market and free trade stage.

It is obvious that the US and its lackeys that imposed sanctions against Myanmar have been holding foreign policy of occurring regime change and to install puppet government rather than the issues of democracy and human rights.

Myanmar have made utmost efforts by overcoming the various obstacles and prohibitions and the government is striving for construction of important infrastructures, roads and bridges, implementing hydropower projects for energy sector, building dams and river water pumping projects in clusters, building the modern Tatmadaw for State defence and constructing the schools, universities, hospitals, dispensaries and medical institutions in all parts of the nation. As a result, the nation has established the sound foundations for economic and political sectors. Therefore, the approval should be sought at the Hluttaw for the proposal of U Htay Oo.

The Hluttaw took decision by vote with 625 for, five abstentions and four against that the Hluttaw approve the proposal.

Source: “The New Light of Myanmar” 26 March 2011