President U Thein Sein addresses second regular session of first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Aug -Second regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw started at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here this afternoon.

It was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 600 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein gave a speech at today’s session which was also attended by Vice-Presidents Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Union Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo, Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Thein Soe, Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, and Union Ministers.

President U Thein Sein addressed the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. (The speech of the President is reported separately.)

In accord with Section 127 (a) of the Constitution and with Section 21 (a) of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw recorded the President’s address.

Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint then extended greetings. He said the first regular session of the first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was held for 18 days between 31 January and 30 March in 2011. With the attendance of almost all representatives, the President was elected along with the forming of cabinet and the judicial body was established with Union Chief Justice and Union Supreme Court Judge.

Those are the beginnings of the democracy transition in accord with the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Speaker said.

He referred Section 11 (a) of the Constitution as saying “The three branches of sovereign power namely, legislative power, executive power and judicial power are separated, to the extent possible, and exert reciprocal control, check and balance among themselves,” and Section 12 (a) of the Constitution as saying “The legislative power of the Union is shared among the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Region Hluttaws and State Hluttaws. Legislative power stipulated by the Constitution shall be shared to the Self-Administered Areas.”

The Speaker continued to say that the legislative power, executive power and judicial power are to be used separately at Union level and the major responsibility of the Hluttaw representatives is legislation and those are the basic principles of the State. Looking forward to the interest of the people, the Hluttaw representatives have the rights to raise questions and submit proposals, said the Speaker. Drafting bills, making questions and submitting proposals are the only way to check and balance the executive and judicial branches, the Speaker said. In the first regular session, the Hluttaw representatives were allowed to submit questions which are not starred and the questions answered by respective institutions would be sent back to them though the regular session of the Hluttaw was not convened, but no question was received in the interval, he added.
The Speaker said, in the second regular session, the Union government will submit bills. The private bills will also be submitted. Each Hluttaw is to discuss and pass the bills. If both Hluttaws pass the bill, it is to assume that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw also passes it. If not, it will be discussed again in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, he said. The Speaker called the Hluttaw representatives to discuss and access the bills in light of public interest.

He pointed out the motto of the Hluttaw “People’s voice is Hluttaw voice; People’s desire is Hluttaw desire; People’s hope is to be realized by Hluttaw,” as the significant feature of this session. Sticking to the motto, questions are to be raised, proposals to be submitted and bills to be accessed, he concluded.

On behalf of the Union government, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun submitted bill of revoking revenue law, bill of amending Myanmar stamp act, bill of amending commercial tax law, bill of amending income tax law, and bill of amending office tax law to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for consideration in accord with Rule 95 (b) of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw accepted the bills to discuss as all Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives approved.

In accord with Rule 95 (b) of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law, the bills will be sent to Joint Bill Committee for detail study before discussion in two Hluttaws. The Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the bills are to submit the name list to the Director-General of the Hluttaw Office not later than 26 August, 2011 (Friday) with the signed brief account of the subject to be discussed.

The dates of submitting findings and remarks by the committee and of Hluttaw representatives’ discussion will be designated separately.

The first-day second regular session of the first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was adjourned at 2.40 pm.

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