

**Fourth regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw continues for second day.
Four questions answered, one bill discussed,
two bills approved, two proposals submitted**

NAY PYI TAW , 5 July-The fourth regular session of the First Amyotha Hluttaw continued for the second day at Amyotha Hluttaw Building in Hluttaw Complex here today, attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and 215 MPs.

Regarding the question of U Swe Aung of Yangon Region Constituency (12) about whether is a plan to upgrade Okkan from town level to township or (sub-township level), Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint replied that Okkan in Taikkyi Township, Yangon North District, Yangon Region is located beside Yangon- Pyay Highway, 18 miles from Taikkyi.

Okkan enjoys a booming economy with Tabuhla Dam, Okkan sugar mill, privateowned sugarcane plantations, and fish farms, presented with such socio-economic infrastructures as home for the aged, station hospital, rural health care centres, over 100 basic education schools, government departments, police station, sports ground and self-reliant electric power supply facilities.

Upgrading of Okkan to township or sub-township requires field survey report of the Yangon Region administrator, the agreement of the Yangon Region government, and the recommendation of the Yangon Region chief minister which will be submitted to the President Office in line with procedures. The Ministry of Home Affairs would take care of the proposal upon receiving the order of the President Office to the ministry. Regarding the question of U Htay Maung of Mandalay Region Constituency (12) about if there is a plan to repair the channel of Aungbale Dam in the north of Meiktila irrigating farmland in Thazi Township, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw replied that the channel is from Nat drainage ditch of Meiktila North Lake and is 9900 feet in length providing irrigation water to 655 acres of farmland.

Nat ditch is an old ditch of Meiktila North Lake used for dumping sewage, but it is also used for irrigation purpose. Water intake structure was built in 2009-10 to distribute water from Nat drain to Aunbale ditch which is mentioned as Aungbale dam in the question.

It is difficult to supply irrigation water to areas at the far distance of the ditch because of silting from rainfall, scarcity of water during monsoon paddy cultivation season, and provision of drinking water for urban population as the priority. Fund has been asked from the Union government to be able to irrigate water from Aungbale ditch to farmlands in Thazi Township and dredging of silt would be carried out upon receiving the fund allotment. Regarding the question of U Swe Aung of Yangon Constituency (12) about whether there is a plan to dredge the feeder canals of the Ngamoeyeik Creek as drains in villages of Hlegu Township are blocked by silt damaging the farmlands, the deputy minister replied that as the feeder canals of the Ngamoeyeik Creek are silted up, only 2400 out of over 3200 acres of farmland could be cultivated and over 800 acres are under the cover of grass, flooded. So those old creeks have been dredged and upon completion of the works, about 2000 acres of sumer paddy could be cultivated preventing about 3200 acres of farmland from flood. At present, the Boyayoe Creek has been dredged, dredging of Kyuyoe and Laydaungkan creeks started from the third week of July and Malikyoe and Kyawhlawyoe creeks would be dredged at the end of monsoon.

Regarding the third question asked by U Naing Tun Ohn of Mon State Consituency- 5 whether there is a plan to reestablish the State-owned rubber farms with cash assistance of WB, he replied that the new government was making efforts for reestablishing regular relations with the World Bank while seeking good ways in an attempt to get aids from it.

The World Bank is working together with Myanmar officials to give financial assistance and technical aids to Myanmar so that Myanmar can pay debts to the World Bank, build infrastructures and uplift the socio life of the people. After reaching agreement on settling the debts, Myanmar would be able to draw US\$ 300 million with low interest rate for development tasks in the country.

The new government has changed its financial policy to be in conformity with the economy of the country and is working together with the World Bank to draw the Financial Sector Master Plan and to do coordination for implementing development tasks in the country.

Myanmar has seen good prospects for getting financial loans from the World Bank.

When the loans are allocated, priority would be placed on nation building projects. The projects would be implemented in accordance with the reports of the ministries concerned.

Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation would draw plans depending on the aids and situations.

Regarding Import and Export Bill approved by the Pyithu Hluttaw, U San Pyai of Kachin State Constituency No 7 discussed the chapters and paragraphs of the bill to be corrected.

Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee decided to bring the bill before the Amyotha Hluttaw again.

Afterwards, Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw announced that Amyotha Hluttaw agreed with amendments made by Pyithu Hluttaw to the Bill amending 1955 Government Housing (Expelling) Act and approved the bill.

Afterwards, the chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw sought an approval for amendments to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Social Security Bill made by Pyithu Hluttaw and approved the amendments.

Afterwards, U Myo Myint of Mandalay Region Constituency No 6 tabled a motion urging the Union Government to hire an independent advisory engineers body for the projects which would be implemented with the local and foreign investment so that the projects can achieve long-term effectiveness and a representative seconded the motion.

Amyotha Hluttaw decided to discuss the motion and invited those who want to discuss the motion to enlist their names.

Afterwards, Dr Aye Maung of Rakhine State Constituency No 1 tabled a motion urging the Union Government to include the national race ministers and chairmen of leading bodies for selfadministered zones and self-administered regions in the cabinets of region or state governments in accordance with the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Amyotha Hluttaw decided to discuss the motion as over 40 representatives seconded it and invited those who want to discuss the motion to enlist their names.

The 2 nd day meeting of the Amyotha Hluttaw ended at 1.15 pm and the third day meeting will continue at 10 am tomorrow.

During today meeting, four questions were answered, one bill was discussed, two bills were approved and two motions were submitted.

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