

**Amyotha Hluttaw session continues for seventh day.
Eight questions answered, two proposals put forward
and members of the vice-president scrutinizing board selected at today's session**

NAY PYI TAW, 12 July-Amyotha Hluttaw session continued for the seventh day at Amyotha Hluttaw Building in Hluttaw Complex, here, today, attended by Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein and 210 MPs. Eight questions were answered, two proposals put forward and members of the vice-president scrutinizing board were selected at today's session.

Regarding the question of U Phone Myint Aung of Yangon Region Constituency (3) about whether the punitive actions against corrupt civil servants would be publicized, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung replied that the government exposed corrupt officials and take such punitive actions as retiring, dismissing or demoting them, or reducing their salary rates, or transferring them to remote regions or putting their names on blacklist with the interministry order of the ministries concerned. Courts concerned sentenced them to imprisonment for serious violation of law. Along with gradual maturity of democracy, punitive actions would be more transparent than now naturally.

Regarding the question of Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency (8) about if there is any plan to reclaim vacant and fellow land as farmland for peasants, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than replied that local farmers would be legally allowed to run farms on manageable scale. Region/ State governments concerned could tune management and supervision on farmland reclamation to the local needs.

Regarding the question of U Nyan Lin of Ayeyawady Region Constituency (3) about if there is any plan to cure the situation as people hardly salute to the State flag in cinemas, Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win replied that as the audience barely salute to the State flag in cinema, the reminder reading "All citizens pay respects to their national flag" in both Myanmar and English languages has been screened with slide projector in cinemas before the appearance of State flag on silver screen since 2006.

In the past, law enforcement polices were assigned at cinemas to search out those who did not salute to the State flag. They were taken out of cinema and fined as the punishment.

As no laws have been prescribed in State Flag laws and by-laws in connection with actions against failure to salute the national flag in cinemas, the Home Affairs Ministry should issue order and instructions as to salute to the national flag in existing State Flag laws and by-laws.

After the enactment of such order and instruction, it must be enforced to the letter.

In addition, the Information Ministry would set up educative signboards at visible places of the cinemas, warning the audience against failure to salute the national flag. The audience would be also urged to salute the national flag before the film through loud speakers. In addition, cinema owners would be asked to hire supervisory staff who are responsible for urging the audience to salute the national flags during its appearance on the silver screen.

Regarding the question of U Tin Maung Myint of Taninthayi Region Constituency (3) about if there is any plan to renovate Launglon central stadium, Deputy Sports Minister U Aye Myint Kyu replied that the renovation called for separate consideration that it could be taken into consideration only after the completion of XXVII SEA Games, in coordination with the region government. Regarding the question of Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency (8) about whether the amount of the difference between interest rates of debit and credit on bank accounts is different from or similar to that of ASEAN fellow countries and other nations; and whether the interest rate has effect on promotion of

domestic industries and trading, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun replied that the interest rate of credit on bank accounts in Myanmar is eight per cent, in comparison with three per cent in Laos, 6.10 per cent in Cambodia, 6.68 per cent in Indonesia, 0.13 per cent in Singapore, 0.35 per cent in Brunei, 2.63 per cent in Thailand, 3.26 per cent in the Philippines, 2.99 per cent in Malaysia, 14 per cent in Vietnam and 3.50 per cent in China, 4.09 per cent in Korea and 10.78 per cent in Bangladesh.

The interest rate of debit on bank accounts in Myanmar is 13 per cent, in comparison with 22 per cent in Laos, 17.00 per cent in Cambodia, 12.09 per cent in Indonesia, 5.38 per cent in Singapore, 5.50 per cent in Brunei, 7.13 per cent in Thailand, 6.21 per cent in the Philippines, 5.10 per cent in Malaysia, 15.32 per cent in Vietnam, and 6.56 per cent in China, 5.69 per cent in Korea, and 13.00 per cent in Bangladesh. So the difference in interest rate between Myanmar and its neighbours and other countries is not so much. Until 31st March, 2012, banks have loaned 3733451.36 million kyats- 29.88 per cent to trading sector, 21.44 per cent to agriculture/livestock farming, 19.29 per cent to industries, 10.18 per cent to service sector, 8.86 per cent to construction, 8.54 per cent to miscellaneous transaction activities, 1.18 per cent to transportation sector.

The figures show that loan was given most to trading, second most to agriculture/ livestock farming and the third most to industries, so the interests rate on debit in Myanmar has effect on trading and industrial sectors.

Regarding the question raised by U Aung Cho Oo of Bago Region Constituency (11) on the plan to replace old fire engines in Ayemyathaya Myothit and Ohthegon in Okpo Township and Sitkwin in Minhla Township, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe said household and population density of each Region/State city, township, sub-township and villagetract, workforce of auxiliary fire brigades, numbers of state and private-owned industries, numbers of fire outbreaks and amount of loss in ten years, and roads for fire engines are taken into consideration in setting priority to replace old fire engines with new ones.

U Nu of Yangon Region Constituency (10) raised question on injustice of judicial system to farmer Ma San of Kyaungsu village in Koete village-tract in Lemyethna Township in Hinthada District in Ayeyawady Region. U Phone Myint Aung of Yangon Region Constituency (3) asked whether there is plan to designate waiting rooms in courts.

Judge of the Supreme Court of the Union U Mya Thein answered that, regarding the first question, plaintiff U Soe Win lodged lawsuit against defendant Daw Ma San for retrieving K 1,220,000 loan in civil case No. 23/2009 at Lemyethna Township court.

The township and district courts gave hearings and presentations of witnesses were completely recorded.

There is no plan to conduct further investigations.

No corrections on the decisions of the township and district courts are needed as these are made in accord with the laws and rules and regulations.

Regarding the second question, the antechambers at courts could be constructed only when the respective Region/State governments have allotted sufficient land and fund to construct them.

As the priority is being given to the construction of spacious and tidy courts and offices, there is no plan to construct such anterooms currently.

U Hla Swe of Magway Region Constituency (12) submitted the proposal urging the Union government not to assign any clerical staff in ward/villagetract administration more than three years in the same

area. A Hluttaw representative seconded the proposal. As the Hluttaw agreed to discuss the proposal, Hluttaw representatives who are willing to discuss the proposal are called to submit their name lists.

U Nu of Yangon Region Constituency (10) submitted the proposal urging the Union government to allow regions and states hold matriculation exams and allow students to join their preferred universities by entrance exams. A Hluttaw representative seconded the proposal.

As the Hluttaw agreed to discuss the proposal, Hluttaw representatives who are willing to discuss the proposal are called to submit their name lists.

The Hluttaw confirmed U Zaw Myint Pe of Mandalay Region Constituency (5) as a member of the Vice-President Electoral College.

Today's Amyotha Hluttaw session concluded at 12.10 pm.-MNA

Source: NLM 2012-07-13