Pyithu Hluttaw convenes
16th day meeting

Pyithu Hluttaw MP
U Tin Maung Oo
of Swepyitha
Constituency.—MNA

MNA

Deputy Minister for Health
Dr Win Myint.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
Daw Su Su Haing.

MNA

Deputy Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security
Daw Win Maw Tun.

MNA

Plan underway to implement pilot research for MDR-TB in 2015: MOH

By Khang Thanda Lwin

The Ministry of Health (MOH) is planning to implement a pilot research project for a shorter course regimen (lasting only 10 months) with 200 patients diagnosed with multi-drug resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) with the assistance of the three Millenium Development Funds (MDF), Dr Tin Mi Mi Khaing from the Aung San TB Hospital in Yangon, told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

The MDR-TB programme using short regimens is scheduled to start in May, 2015, following international standards and under independent monitoring by the World Health Organization (WHO), she added.

The shorter drug therapy is a popular treatment among the countries. If, successful, would significantly reduce time on treatment as compared to the current 20-month regimen, according to the 3MDG.

The 3MDG signed a US$11.5 million agreement with the ministry this week to treat about 2,000 patients with MDR-TB in 56 townships in Yangon and Mandalay regions to provide support in national responses for TB, the agency said.

The number of people with drug-resistant strains of TB is growing at an alarming rate. According to the WHO survey, Myanmar is one of the highest burdens of Tuberculosis across the world with, an estimated 180,000 new cases of TB every year, more than 40,000 of them in children. It is estimated that over 2,000,000 people die from TB each year when about 9,000 people diagnosed with multi-drug resistant TB.

To fight against multi-drug resistant TB, the Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut submitted a proposal to approve the a television and broadcasting bill and the Amyotha Hluttaw approved it, followed by an MP calling for the Union Government to speed up national development tasks in war-torn areas of ethnic communities.

The Amyotha Hluttaw agreed to discuss his proposal in its next session. —MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw
Staff housing comes under discussion at Upper House

Representatives participate in Tuesday’s session of Amyotha Hluttaw.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 October

The Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) dealt with a question enquiring the prospects of the government’s arrangements for the construction of houses in Yangon.

The government has designates plots of land for its employees in southern Dagon township and South Dagon township, sources said.

U Soe Tint, Deputy Minister for Construction, said that the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development (DHSHD) undertook the construction of infrastructure such as roads and drainage systems and transferred the task of land management to the Yangon City Development Committee.

He went on to say that the construction of all-weather roads, better drainage and supplies of electricity and water depends on the availability of budget allowance, which he said is still in need of the support of the Union Government.

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Nay Pyi Taw, 14 October

Pyithu Hluttaw held its 16th day meeting on Tuesday, answering seven questions by representatives on seven issues.

U Thein Tun Oo, representative of Amarapura township constituency, asked if few amount of compensation would be raised for those workers after losing in legal battle with employers.

Daw Win Maw Tun, deputy minister for labour, employment and social security, said that under the Labour Compensation Act, the family of deceased labour will receive from K150,000 to K450,000 as reimbursement.

Moreover, an ailing labour or injured one who turned to suffer severe disability will be compensated from K200,000 to K600,000. If those who are suffering no-serious injuries and registered for social welfare programme, they can enjoy one-third of their salaries.

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 October

The Deputy minister said that plans are underway to modernize this labour act.

U Aung Kyawng, representative of Myaung-U township constituency, asked of a plan to conserve the rare ethnic groups of Tarone and Eng.

U Than Swe, deputy minister for culture, said that conservation of Tarone and Eng peoples needs the collaborations of governments from respective states in promoting healthcare services for them, reducing child death rate, and developing maternal health and taking care older persons.

U Rain Bawm, representative of Waimaw constituency, asked if the union government would be able to take part in supporting disabled associations.

Daw Su Su Haing, deputy minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, said the government is protecting the rights of disabled persons, to reduce discrimination against disabled persons, to promote their dignity, capability and efficiency.

She also said that a bill for the rights of disabled persons has been drafted with the contributin of disabled association and the process is now progressing.

After enacting this law, a fund will be set up to protect the rights of disabled persons.

U Tin Maung Oo, representative of Shwepyitha constituency, asked if there would be a plan to broadcast the comparison of commodity prices among Myanmar, ASEAN member countries and neighbouring countries.

U Pike Htway, deputy minister for information, said local commodity prices are broadcast from Mandalay FM and Cherry FM, as well as from Myanmar Radio and Television and the Farmer Channel occasionally.

U Myint Soe, representative of Pyay/hwe township constituency, asked whether the public-related laws would be printed in state-owned media.

U Pike Htway answered that the state-owned newspapers have presented 77 bills and 104 laws since the first parliamentary session, covering all the laws passed by the parliament during the term of present government.

Major Aung Kyaw Lwin, representative of military personnel, asked whether education programmes would be conducted about the animal-to-human diseases.

Dr Win Myint, deputy minister for health, said educative programmes are being carried out for five prominent infectious diseases including H5N1, rabies and anthrax.

He also said that the educative programmes for these diseases are being conducted in cooperation with international organizations.—MNA

3MDG will provide essential assistance including both construction and renovation of MDR-TB wards to support infection control in public health and prison health facilities, said the agency.—GNLM

Singing Ceremony of 3MDG MDR-TB grant Agreement Nay Pyi Taw 9-10-2014

Officials of Ministry of Health and 3MDG at exchanging notes for US$11.5 million agreement. PHOTO: 3MDG