Pyidaungsu Hluttaw suspends commercial tax for all recharges from mobile users until new fiscal year [incl. 90 acres of old broadcasting station in Mayangon township]

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 May-- The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Wednesday discussed an important motion concerning a 5% commercial tax for all recharges from mobile users, with members of parliament calling for its suspension until the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein cited two foreign mobile operators, Telenor Myanmar and Ooredoo Myanmar, as stating that the service of telecommunications is internationally regarded as the same as that of information and technology. “Their complaint has caused confusion in differentiating the two kinds of services.” According to the union minister, the government has informed the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw of the rescheduling of the new tax for the new fiscal year in line with the 2015 Union Tax Law. He said he would accept the parliament’s decision on whether to excuse the application of the new tax in 2015-2016 fiscal year. The parliament decided in favour of the suspension of the 5% commercial tax for all recharges from mobile users.

Another motion discussed at the parliament was concerned with inviting tenders for privatization of an old broadcasting station, which was built on nearly 90 acres of land in Mayangon township in 1958. The current broadcasting station is on Pyay Road near the Hanthawady Roundabouts in Kamayut township. Mps called for the suspension of the selloff, demanding the requirements of the tender be reexamined and stressing the need to form an investigative committee to ensure transparency. Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway pledged greater transparency in tendering. According to him, the old station will be turned into a media complex. The parliament approved the suspension of the tenders for privatization of the old broadcasting station. --MNA