Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 16 March, 2015

Union ministers explain budgets at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 March — Union level officials explained the budgets for ministries at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session on Monday. Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun told the national assembly session that four departments of the ministry asked for less expenditure for fuel oil, maintenance of machinery and receptions than in previous years, but Myanma Timber Enterprise had to seek more funds to pay income taxes for the 2013-14 fiscal year and cover increased salaries and pensions.

According to the union minister, Myanma Timber Enterprise will have little left over after it has paid salaries, wages, commercial taxes and income taxes and, as a result, the ministry will face difficulty if the proposed budget is cut by 5 percent by the Joint Public Account Committee. Union Minister for Health Dr Than Aung said at the session that about 25 percent and 66 percent of the proposed budget of the ministry will be spent on basic public and healthcare services, respectively, and only about 10 percent is allocated for human resources development, administrative and research purposes.

Although only about 25 percent is allocated for basic public health, most local and foreign assistance will go to the basic public health sector, the union minister explained. Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan said the Hluttaw cut the proposed budget of K 288 million for a new stadium in Lewe to K 100 million and for a synthetic track to K 137.4 million. The union minister said he aimed to build a modern stadium for township level for youths.

Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint explained that the earnings of his ministry dropped because of trade losses, deficits, lack of quality and price-competitiveness, and the hiring of factories to private entrepreneurs. Concerning the ASEAN regional trade agreement, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw said that if faced with unexpected challenges, Myanmar can temporarily revise current customs commitments or suspend reduction of customs duties in accordance with international conventions and rules and regulations.—MNA

Source: The Global New Light of Myanmar, 2015-03-17