

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 20 March, 2015

Sharing power, resources, taxes critical to states, regions, self-administered areas

MP: Nay Pyi Taw, 20 March — Defence Services representative Brig-Gen Tint Hsan tabled a motion Friday in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw calling for the parliament and the central government to revise laws on the sharing of legislative power, resources and taxes with regions and states. He stressed decentralization in those three areas, saying that regions and states have been unable to make use of their rights provided in the constitution and strive for their own development over the past four years.

Power sharing, resource sharing and tax sharing will enable regions, states and self-administered areas to rely on themselves and benefit their people, he said. The speaker welcomed the motion, saying it would pave the way for national reconciliation and peace if the parliament and central government acted on it, urging parliamentarians to take the motion into consideration in studying and amending the constitution.

The central government is engaged in discussions with regions, states and self-administered areas with respect to the sharing of power, resources and taxes, according to U Kyaw Kyaw Win, Deputy Minister at the President's Office. He said steps will be taken to amend existing laws and write new laws as necessary. U Saw Hla Tun from the ChaungOo constituency urged the parliament and the central government to send an account of new salaries no later than 23 March so as to endorse the budgets bill of 2015.

Dr Lin Aung, Deputy Minister for Finance, responded that the growth of the country's economy is still sluggish and that there will be side effects triggered by increased salaries. According to him, the government uses over K237 billion a month as salaries for all of its staff and pensioners. New salary rates were calculated by the central government based on its budget allotments on hand, with the deputy minister saying timing is of the essence given the sensitivity of financial issues. --MNA

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