Parliament to vote on tying referendum to general election

**Nav Pyi Taw, 21 July**

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will vote on whether to suspend a constitutional referendum scheduled to coincide with the 8 November general election, the Speaker of the joint assembly said Tuesday.

At the parliamentary meeting, Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann relayed a letter from the Chairman of the Union Election Commission recommending the suspension of the referendum.

The official told the Pyithu Hluttaw that the debts from the private sector paid back 0.5 percent of the total debt of K31.64 billion after they were slapped with lawsuits in April 2013.

The debtors were prosecuted after they were slapped with lawsuits. The settlement of debt then increased to 9 percent of the total debt remaining at K29.422 billion.

The total amount of debts from the 10 highest debtors including top debtor or U Min Thein (Thone Pwint Hsang), son of U Maung Maung Thein, with K6.755 billion debt, has already declined to K25.592 billion, of which the highest single debt accounts for K6.756 billion and the lowest K484.844 million.

The official said the bad debts are from the term of former Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Maung Maung Thein under the military government, not during the term of present civilian government.

**Term ‘political prisoner’ unconstitutional: ministry**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 21 July**

The term “political prisoner” contravenes the State Constitution, which grants all prisoners the same legal status, and will not be officially used, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun told the Pyithu Hluttaw on Tuesday.

The deputy minister said the government has already released a total of 70,904 prisoners held on a variety of charges, including 354 dissidents, under the presidential amnesty.

Regarding construction of infrastructure in Sagaing Region, Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint said the Thetkalkyn-Phaungpyin-Homelin-Khamti road will be upgraded at a cost of roughly K3 billion.

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**Defence Ministry to release confiscated farmlands to original owners**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 21 July**

— Deputy Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Kyaw Nyunt granted 18.86 acres of farmlands and crop-lands confiscated by No 41st Infantry Regiment will be released to eight original owners as the lands are clear from security line of the regiment at the Tuesday’s session of Amyotha Hluttaw.

U Sai San Min of Shan State constituency No 3 asked the plan to release confiscated farmlands and crop-lands confiscated by No 41st Infantry Regiment will be released to eight original owners as the lands are clear from security line of the regiment.

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**Ministry to continue prosecutions to recover bad debts**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 21 July**

— The Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development will continue prosecuting 10 debtors who collectively owe more than K25 billion, a senior official said Tuesday.

The official told the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw that the debtors from the private sector paid back 0.5 percent of the total debt of K31.64 billion after they were slapped with lawsuits in April 2013.

The debtors were prosecuted after they were slapped with lawsuits. The settlement of debt then increased to 9 percent of the total debt remaining at K29.422 billion.

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