

Parliament to vote on tying referendum to general election

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

NAY 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

on an amendment to Section 59 (d) changing the word “military” to “defence” in a clause stipulating that a president must be “well acquainted with the political, administrative, economic and military affairs of the Union.”

In the letter, the Union Election Commission chairman said holding the referendum along with the upcoming general elections would save time and money. However, a referendum

should be held separately and requires more than K4,729 million to complete the task, according to the Speaker.

During a parliamentary meeting on 25 June, out of six proposed changes to the constitution, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw voted in favour of only one, the amendment to Section 59 (d).

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann previously suggested holding the referendum at the same time as



the general election to reduce costs.—GNLM

Representatives of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discuss holding referendum along with the coming general election.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

Term ‘political prisoner’ unconstitutional: ministry

NAY 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 Thetkalyin-Phaungpyin-Homelin-Khamti road will be upgraded at a cost of roughly K3 billion.

Deputy Governor of

the Myanmar Central Bank Daw Khin Saw Oo submitted the Bill on Banks and Financial Institutions before the Bill Committee read out its findings on the bill.

Bills amending laws on electing the President and Vice President, as well as foreign currency management, were submitted by the Hluttaw Rights Committee for approval of the parliament.—MNA



Deputy Minister U Soe Tint.

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NAY PYI TAW, 21 July — Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received Czech Ambassador Mr Jaroslav Dolecek at the hall of Pyithu Hluttaw, here, Tuesday.

Also present at the meeting were Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo, member of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Daw Aye Aye Mu and officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.—MNA

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with Czech Ambassador Mr Jaroslav Dolecek.

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Czech Ambassador calls on Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw

Defence Ministry to release confiscated farmlands to original owners



U Sai San Min of Shan State Constituency No 3.—MNA



U Paw Lyan Lwin of Chin State constituency No 9.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 July — Deputy Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Kyaw Nyunt granted 18.86 acres of farmlands and croplands 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 lands of farmers used in construction of military units in Lashio.

U Paw Lyan Lwin of Chin State constituency No 9 discussed enactment of laws for legal protection of prisoners with regard to the jails bill. It needs to allow prisoners to have rights of medical treatment and rights of worship on respective religions for their mental improvement.

U Aung Kyi Nyunt of Magway Region constituency No 9 focused on issue of political prisoners. He said that the jails bill should include provisions on protection of rights for political prisoners.—MNA

Ministry to continue prosecutions to recover bad debts

NAY 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 a second time with more serious charges

to protect public property and funds. The settlement of debt then increased from 0.5 percent to 9 percent, leaving the total bad debt remaining at K29.422 billion.

The total amount of debts from the 10 highest debtors including top debt-

or U Min Thein (Thone Pwint Hsaing), 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.

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