

## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets French Ambassador to Myanmar



NAY PYI TAW, 23 July — Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann on Thursday received French Ambassador to Myanmar

Mr Thierry MATHOU, who has completed his tour of duty in the country, at his office here.

Also present at the call

were Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo and officials of the Hluttaw Office.—MNA

### Amyotha Hluttaw



**Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population**  
**U Win Myint.**—MNA



**Deputy Minister for Construction**  
**U Soe Tint.**  
MNA



**Deputy Minister for Education**  
**Dr Zaw Min Aung.**  
MNA

### Pyithu Hluttaw

## Region, state ethnic ministries can be formed: President's Office

NAY PYI TAW, 23 July — If regional and state governments wish to form their own ministries for ethnic minorities' affairs, they must put the issue forward to President's office, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Kyaw Win told the Pyithu Hluttaw on Thursday.

Responding to an MP's question, the deputy minister said the President's Office had suggested regional and state governments put forward the issue so that the Union government can carry out procedures for formation of the regional ministries.

The government has been working on formation of a union-level ministry for ethnic minorities'



**Deputy Minister at the President's Office**  
**U Kyaw Kyaw Win.**  
MNA

affairs, aiming at serving in the interests of ethnic minorities in accordance with the law to protect their rights, he said.

The deputy minister responded to Dr Soe Moe Aung of Bilin Constituency, who had asked the President's Office if it had



**U Kyaw Ni Naing of Laukkai Constituency.**  
MNA

a plan to form a union ministry or regional ministries on ethnic affairs.

During the meeting, U Kyaw Ni Naing of Laukkai Constituency asked how many members would be allowed within an expanded leading body of the Self-Administered Divi-

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker warns recall bill could have unwanted consequences

NAY PYI TAW, 23 July — The Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Thursday sought approval from members of parliament in connection with the recall bill, over which the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw were divided.

Thura U Shwe Mann said the recall bill might have negative effects on measures for national consolidation, national reconciliation and democratic reforms, provoking confrontation and misunderstanding among political parties and ethnic groups.

The speaker stressed the possibility of taking legal action against unprincipled MPs in accordance

with the constitution, the parliamentary law and existing laws, warning that the issue had the potential to obstruct the upcoming general election.

He urged the Bill Committee to negotiate with political parties and

MPs for the recall bill and inform the parliament of the outcomes.

The parliament observed two minutes' silence to remember U Aung Thau, late representative of Taungtha constituency.

MNA



**Lt-Col Thein Lwin.**  
MNA



**Major Kyaw Naing Htay.**—MNA

## Farmers in Oaktwin Tsp to receive compensation over land acquisition

NAY PYI TAW, 23 July — The Ministry of Construction plans to compensate farmers in Oaktwin Township over the resumption of more than 1,000 acres of farmland for construction of the Yangon-Mandalay Highway, the deputy minister said Thursday in the Amyotha Hluttaw.

The ministry will disburse more than K1.5 billion to farmers on 29 and

30 July, setting compensation at K 1.5 million per acre, said Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint told the Upper House.

The deputy minister explained the programme in answering a question raised by a MP from Bago Region over delays in compensating farmers.

The Yangon-Mandalay Expressway was opened in 2010.

Regarding the national races and ethnics in the 2014 national census, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Win Myint said that the ministry would release the

draft of the list of ethnics in the future after discussing the issue with organizations concerned.

Currently, Myanmar has eight national races and more than 135 ethnics.

During the meeting, the Upper House bill committee put forward its recommendations on the Bill Amending the Election for the President and Vice Presidents Law and the marriage bill.

The Amyotha Hluttaw also agreed to discuss the Basic Education Bill and the Technical and Vocational Educational Bill.

GNLM

## Gov't, ethnic armed groups optimistic of ...

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Negotiations on who the NCA signatories and international witnesses should be and the number of ethnic armed groups to ink the ceasefire deal are set to take place on the third day of the talks, added the MPC senior adviser.

At the press conference following Day 2, spokespersons for both sides described the atmosphere of the latest talks as "a win-win situation."

Although Day 2 was concluded around 4.30 pm, the press conference started late as ethnic negotiators held informal talks with their government counterparts on ongoing fighting in some parts of the country.

On the issue, representatives from the Tatmadaw said at the talks that the military does not wish to see fighting while peace talks are under way, according to Pu Zing Cung.—GNLM