

Deputy Minister for Agriculture answers land-use, public works questions at Pyithu Hluttaw

Kyaw Thu Htet
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw answered a series of questions posed by legislators about land-use regulations and various public works projects at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The deputy minister explained that parties wishing to use vacant land are required to submit a series of documents to

the ministry for verification and approval. He also said that land surveys are done with site visits and with satellite photos. Land records are mainly on paper, but the government intends to digitize its record system in the future. Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw also described the process by which water resources will be surveyed and distributed among three villages in Shan State and the budgeting of a Ks202 million gravel road upgrade in Bago Region. ■



Pyithu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw member takes exception to international body's reference to "race which never existed in Rakhine"

Thura Zaw, Mei Mei Phyo
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

The Amyotha Hluttaw's Women and Child Rights Committee presented its report about the United Nations' Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and a letter from the Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union regarding Myanmar's human rights situation. Daw Htu May of constituency No 11, Rakhine State criticized the Inter-Parliamentary Union for including "an invented term of a national ethnic race which never existed in Rakhine State."

"That situation harmed the rights of actual national ethnic

women in Rakhine State, so I hereby urge the Amyotha Hluttaw Women and Child Rights Committee, for the respective authorities who are to attend the matter to emphatically discuss the matter," she said.

"In addition, the situation of women and children in conflict areas should also be included in future reports as a special issues."

Dr Mya Thaung of constituency 7, Bago Region presented a motion to approve the report of the committee and the Hluttaw approved it. Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo described a 27-acre residential project for airport staff at the New Pakokku Airport in



Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin. PHOTO: MNA

Magway Region. Another 20 acres at the airport will be used for a hospital and government



Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo. PHOTO: MNA

offices. Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin described a survey project between Paletwa

Town to Mizoram State India to determine various stakeholders and compensation claims for landowners along a new road.

The deputy minister said that Chin State officials and Hluttaw representatives would be consulted on the public works project. Rakhine State constituency No. 3 Hluttaw member U Khin Maung Latt made a motion to increase counterterrorism efforts in Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yathedaung townships in Rakhine and to provide more assistance to displaced people.

The motion was seconded by Daw Htu May and tabled for a future session. The Amyotha Hluttaw will be in session again today. ■



Women's vocational training courses planned in Maungtaw

The Department of Education and Training of the Ministry of Border Affairs will conduct women's vocational courses at Women's Vocational Training School in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State. Daw Nilar Kyi, the principal of Maungtaw Township's Women's Vocational

Training School said that there are currently 50 women taking courses in tailoring, food processing and cooking. Maungtaw Township's Women's Vocational Training School was opened in 2000. The school offers 14-week courses on a trimester basis. — A One Soe/ Myo Thu Hein ■

INGOs in Rakhine to seek approval from state gov't

Rakhine State Cabinet issued the notification 1/2017 dated on 8th August describing a violent attacks happening in Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yathedaung Townships in Rakhine State.

The statement described that atrocious killings over civilians in Kainggyi, Mro ethnic village, in Maungtaw Township (South) in Rakhine State who are working on farms. Other weapons were regarded to be terrorist attacks.

The statement also announces the opening of a new security outpost at Kainggyi village starting from 5 August and increased border guard.

Due to anxieties and fears over surprise armed attack towards security forc-

es in Auknanyar village in Yathedaung Township, people from various villages were displaced to Cedipyin village. Now, for displaced people to be able to return to their original locations, security outposts were deployed in strong positions, in the villages—Chook Pyin, Padaukmyaing, Pyin Shay and Pauk Pin Yin. So as to be free from fear of losing their residences and farming lands on account of intruders, Tatmadaw forces, border guard police and Myanmar police forces have been stationed more than ever. In case of peculiar news and information in these areas, public-combined security system must be operated by informing security forces promptly.

The cabinet statement also re-emphasizes rules requiring all international non-governmental organisations operating in Rakhine State to have a memorandum of understanding with respective Union ministries and approval from the Rakhine State Coordination Committee and the Rakhine State Cabinet. And, finally the operation permit will be granted under the supervision of Rakhine State Cabinet.

It has been mentioned in the notification of the Rakhine State Cabinet that the tasks of having certificates of scrutiny of citizens made in effective and prompt way, in accord with 1982 Citizenship Law, will be submitted to the Union Government. —Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor receives Chairman of the APRC

State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received a delegation headed by Dr. Surakart Sathirathai, Chairman of the Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council (APRC) and former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at 10:00 am on 9 August 2017. During the meeting, they exchanged views on activities of the APRC and feasibility of cooperation between Myanmar and the APRC on the matters of ongoing peace process in Myanmar and resolving issues in Rakhine State.—Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with Chairman of the APRC in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends the meeting with Union ministers in Nay Pyi Taw over security situation in Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor, Union Ministers hold talks on security in Rakhine State

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held a meeting with Union Ministers in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday on the security situation in Rakhine State.

The meeting was attended by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Sein Win, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Kyaw Tint Swe, U Thein Swe and Dr Win Myat Aye, National Security Advisor U Thauung Tun, Deputy Minis-

ter U Min Thu, Acting Police Chief Police Brig-Gen Aung Win Oo, Rakhine State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Phone Tint, Rakhine State Social Affairs Minister Dr Chan Thar and departmental heads.

The meeting focused on plans for security and controlling violent attacks in the state, challenges encountered in scrutinizing for citizenship verifica-

tion process and prospects for solving the issue, providing humanitarian aid to the people and challenges for socio-economic efforts in the state, cooperation with Bangladesh and cooperation with UN agencies and international communities. The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.—Myanmar News Agency ■

UNESCO's Legal Advisor discusses cultural property

Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, met Mr. Etienne Clement the International Legal Advisor of UNESCO in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they dis-

cussed about the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, which Myanmar signed in 2013 and the legal

efforts and public awareness needed to face those challenges.

They also discussed planes to make Bagan a UNESCO World Heritage site.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Forum on Myanmar's Democratic Transition on August 11-13

A three-day "Forum on Myanmar's Democratic Transition" in Nay Pyi Taw will bring together more than thirty speakers from the country and abroad on August 11-13, 2017 in an exercise to review the progress towards democracy in Myanmar, the challenges faced and the roadmap for the future.

Organised by the Ministry of Information with support from a host of global and local partners, the conference will be opened by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. After her inaugural speech, Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint will lay bare the context in which the "Forum" is being organized, its objectives and what it seeks to achieve. The

venue for the 'Forum' is the Myanmar International Convention Centre-2.

Several ministers and lawmakers, leaders of civil society groups, media practitioners, business leaders and veteran civil servants and representatives from Myanmar military will be joined by a number of international participants that includes Indonesian Lt General (ret'd) Agus Widjojo, former Vice Chairman of the Indonesia and Tentara Nasional Indonesia's (TNI) Chief of Territorial Affairs and, one of its leading intellectuals.

Ambassadors from India, Norway and Singapore and other diplomats, UN functionaries and leading academics specializing

on Myanmar will join the intense deliberations at the Forum.

Six plenary sessions bringing together more than thirty speakers will be followed by as many 'winding-up' interactive sessions that will seek out views from a cross section of more than 450 participants that would include special observers from foreign governments and global bodies who support Myanmar's transition to democracy.

The Forum is seen as both a stock taking exercise in Myanmar's transition to democracy as to identify the hurdles that confront the complex process and chart out a roadmap for the future.

"The Forum will be the

largest review exercise on Myanmar's democratic process so far," said U Myint Kyaw, deputy permanent secretary of the Ministry of Information, who is heading the organizational effort for the 'Forum'.

"We are making detailed arrangements for three days of intense deliberations that would be conducted in a free and frank atmosphere."

At a time when the world is drifting towards intolerant right-wing sectarian regimes and even established democracies are showing signs of erosion of the spirit of democracy, Myanmar is struggling hard to emerge into a functional democracy, leaving behind more than five decades

of authoritarian rule. In the process, it faces many challenges like the one of establishing democratic federalism to ensure inclusive future for the nation's many ethnic minorities, many of whom have challenged the Union government with force of arms for decades. The Forum will inevitably focus on the ceasefires and the peace-making processes they seek to herald and two full sessions will be devoted to the issues involved. One session will focus on the transition from a command economy to a market economy, an important economic corollary to the political transition from authoritarian rule to democracy.—GNLM ■