Budget for fiscal year gap discussed at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

THE spending plan for the six-month period created by the change in the fiscal year that now runs from 1 October to 30 September was the main topic of discussion at yesterday’s Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

The 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 7th regular session’s third day meeting was held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall.


Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe said that for the six-month period from 2018 April to September the ministry’s proposed ordinary income was Ks61.16 billion, an increase of Ks12.32 billion after assessment, thus becoming Ks73.48 billion.

Proposed ordinary expenditures were Ks34.54 billion, which was reduced by Ks3.69 billion after assessment, bringing ordinary expenditures down to Ks30.85 billion. Proposed capital expenditures was Ks4.17 billion, reduced to Ks1.62 billion after assessment and becoming Ks2.55 billion.

The proposed total ordinary and capital expenditures of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population was Ks38.71 billion, which was reduced by Ks5.52 billion after assessment, making the total Ks33.18 billion.

The ministry agreed to the increased and reduced assessed amounts and the implementation will be up to the standards set, explained the Union Minister. 

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Pyithu Hluttaw to discuss motivation of civil servants

THE Pyithu Hluttaw has decided to discuss a proposal to motivate civil servants by acknowledging their abilities and performance, providing them with insignias, arranging excursion trips and sending them to foreign countries under scholarship programmes.

The proposal, submitted by Dr. U Aye Min of Kayan Constituency, highlighted the low salaries and allowances of civil servants, which are not enough to meet the expenses for their basic needs.

The job burden on civil service personnel due to understaffing and poor working conditions, and the consequent low productivity; turnover and corruption indicate they need an environment that will promote their abilities and performance, said Dr. U Aye Min during the discussion in the Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday.

In support of the proposal, Daw Aye Mya Mya Myo of Kyauktan Constituency has urged the government to establish a mechanism that can prevent corruption among civil servants.

She also called on the government to adopt urgent measures to tackle corruption through reforms.—Kyaw Thu Htet

Bridges, wildlife and English teaching discussed at Amyotha Hluttaw

BRIDGE construction in Rakhine, a wildlife conservation bill, and a change in the way English is taught were among the issues discussed at yesterday’s meeting of the Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

U Kyaw Lin, Deputy Minister for Construction, said that the Apte-Wa and Barawa bridges in Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State will be completed before the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

The two bridges measure 30 feet long and 50 feet long, respectively, and will be upgraded to concrete bridges. U Kyaw Lin said the construction budgets for the two bridges have been included in the 2018-2019 financial year spending plan.

Also at yesterday’s meeting, Dr. Aung Myo, a member of the Bill Committee, read the amended Bill for Conservation and Protection of Wildlife and the Natural Environment sent by the Pyithu Hluttaw. The speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaiing Than announced that Hluttaw members interested in discussing the Bill can put down their names in the list.

Hluttaw members also discussed a motion set forward by Daw Htu May of Rakhaing constituency (11). The motion urged the Union Government to change the way the subject of English is taught starting from Grade 9 onwards to incorporate the four skills – Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening – in a modern context so that students acquire practical English.

Dr. Than Win of Mandalay Constituency (1) said that the citizens of Myanmar need to acquire English to integrate with the international community since the English language is used in legal, business and academic scenarios in more than 50 countries around the world.

He said that the current teaching methods in basic government schools focus more on reading and writing but lack proper teaching in listening and speaking. He said that to accomplish effective learning of English in schools, government teachers around the country require new skills for effectively teaching the language. He also said the schools will need proper equipment for teaching the language and that the types of examination question need to be updated for effective testing of language acquisition. Also involved in the discussion were four other Hluttaw members.

The third day of the 7th meeting of the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw will be continued on 18 January. —Aye Aye Thant(MNA)
JMC-U holds 14th meeting at NR-U (Yangon)

By Ye Khaung Nyunt

Union-level Joint Monitoring Committee-JMCU held its 14th meeting at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon yesterday, discussing ways for empowering the joint monitoring work.

Speaking at the meeting, Lt-Gen Yar Pyai, Chairman of the JMC-U, calling for seeking common strategies in compliance with the basic principles of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA.

“When strategies are laid down, both sides need to have same goal so that we can achieve peace without difficulties,” said Lt-Gen Yar Pyai. The participants of the meeting discussed Terms of Reference-TORs for civilian representatives, TORs for the commanders of both sides and duties of the technical assistance office.

JMC-U focuses on monitoring violations, scrutinizing and solving conflicts and it is required to promote quality of leaders and members of the joint monitoring teams at the grass root levels so that they can digest the terms of reference, he added.

Saw Issac Poe, Vice Chairman-1 of the JMC-U, stressed the need to do negotiation for the common agreement on defining the NCA and to establish a military-to-military machinery to get controlling troops and designating areas so that both sides can avoid armed clashes. U Pyai Sone, Vice Chairman-2 of JMC-U, said urged to make clear the opportunities between the signatories and non-signatories to the NCA.

He also said that representatives from the civilian groups would submit TORs for the civilian representatives to the meeting for approval.

The three-day meeting would end on 19 January.

Budget for fiscal year gap discussed at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

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Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said the ministerial departments are striving toward increasing learning opportunities and to implement quality education.

Especially in the rural and far-off places, the ministry is upgrading and opening basic education schools, providing opportunities to continue university-level education, employing required teachers, promoting and transferring teachers, maintaining required school buildings and university classrooms, replenishing education support materials, raising the curriculum, distributing textbooks, providing training for teaching and learning systems, providing management training, setting up libraries required in universities and schools, funding support for sports, arts, schools and education, exercise books, uniforms, office supplies and vehicles.

For this, the Ministry of Education will effectively and systematically utilise ordinary expenditures of Ks667.86 trillion and capital expenditures of Ks139.28 trillion, making for a grand total expenditure of Ks807.14 trillion, in accord with financial rules and regulations and in a transparent manner. The Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye said that for the six-month period from 2018 April to September, the ministry had proposed ordinary income of Ks5.27 billion, ordinary expenditures of Ks26.15 billion and a capital expenditure of Ks5.74 billion.

In providing social protection from conception to old age, mitigating losses and damages from natural disasters throughout the country, in preparation to face and respond against natural disasters and in providing a better social living standard to people who had faced natural disasters in comparison to their status before the natural disaster; the ministry will conduct financial management to benefit the people and in a transparent manner.

During the six-month transitional period of the financial year, the ministry will conduct works that are truly necessary, and the amount requested will be connected to the works that will be conducted in the following financial year, explained the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin explained that the projects in the National Planning Bill for the six-month period from 2018 April to September will be implemented with five policies, four aims and 40 work processes.

Ordinary income of Ks42.94 billion, capital income of Ks24.21 billion and debt income of Ks105.19 billion, making a total income of 172.34 billion is set in the Union Budget Bill for the six-month period.

Ordinary income of Ks42.94 billion include road/bridge toll fees, drawing/design fees, quality inspection fees, building/land rentals, tenant form sales and other income. Capital income of Ks24.21 billion includes aid from international organisations and the demolition sale of state-owned old buildings. Debt income of Ks105.192 billion includes loans from foreign countries and investment returns from joint venture companies.

The capital expenditures of Ks184.41 billion includes works includes five ongoing road projects, 41 bridge projects and new projects. New projects include three road projects, 17 bridge projects and 13 rural bridge works, and the amount requested were for works that could be completed in the six-month period.

Furthermore, public servant rental housing projects in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay were conducted as new projects and a request for additional funding for 2017-2018 was rejected but was being requested as these can be completed in the six-month period from 2018 April to September, explained the deputy minister for construction.—My Mi Phyo