

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses classification of ethnic nationals

Kyaw Thu Htet,
Hmwe Kyu Zin

THE name Rohingya was never mentioned in any of the census lists, and it is not included among the list of 135 ethnic nationals, said Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe during the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting yesterday.

During the 12th-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday, U Tin Aye of Metmung constituency raised a question on the plan to inform the people of Myanmar, as well as those across the world, of there being no ethnic nationals under the name Rohingya. The Union Minister was responding to his question.

Union Minister U Thein Swe added that according to records, a race census was made by the British government in 1911, 1921 and 1931, prior to independence, and censuses were collected after independence in 1953-1954, 1973 and 1983. According to Part I - Provincial Totals of Races by Religion census report for 1921 and 1931, the name Rohingya was never mentioned.



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

When the ethnic race list was prepared for census collection after independence in 1973, it was based on the ethnic race list included in the 1931 census, 1953-1954 nationality lists, 1961 suggestions by the historical literature and culture office, operating under the ministry of culture, and suggestions by the Myanmar History Commission and coordination of ethnic national affairs committee of Burma (Myanmar) Socialist Programme Party. The 135 ethnic nationals in that census do not include the name Rohingya, explained the Union Minister.

The word Rohingya was not used in state-owned and private media, and Rohingya not being

included in the ethnic national list has been mentioned repeatedly. Myanmar diplomats in the world and United Nations organisations do not recognise the usage of that word, and if others were using it, official objections, protests and indications were made consistently, said the Union Minister.

The government is conducting work for the long-term benefit of the people and towards national interest. In conducting these works, it is not responding to sentimental words but to legal and formal processes in calm, dignified and effective ways.

The race list obtained from the 2014 census will be published only after consultation with eth-

nic affairs committee members; ethnic national leaders; ethnic national representatives; history, culture and social science experts; relevant departments and organisations, as there are contentious matters in the inclusion of ethnic nationals, sub-tribes of ethnic nationals, spellings, new names and classification of ethnic nationals, said the Union Minister.

Questions raised by U Sai Aung Kyaw of Kehsi constituency, U Naing Naing Win of Tamu constituency and Dr. U San Shwe Win of Yekyi constituency were also answered by U Thein Swe.

A motion urging the government to set up appropriate policies to assist Myanmar nationals who return to Myanmar after facing difficulties abroad for various reasons due to migrant labour laws of the host countries, tabled by U Sai Thiha Kyaw of Mairel constituency, was then discussed by Daw Khin Hnin Thit of Padaung constituency, U Sai Tun Aye of Mongshu constituency, U Sai Thant Zin of Hsipaw constituency, U Win Thein Zaw of Salingyi constituency, Daw Cho Cho of Oattwin constitu-

cy, Daw Nan Than Than Lwin of Hpa-an constituency and Dr. Daw Khin Sithu of Loikaw constituency.

In his discussion on the motion, U Thein Swe said the socio-economic development of workers and the employment of nationals are priorities for the ministry. The ministry has drawn up and is implementing policies on migrant workers and employment matters, added the Union Minister.

When our migrant workers return from abroad, whether they go there officially or not, or they have official documents or not, the ministry does its best to assist them. The union minister suggested the motion be put on record, as it is an important matter that the government is conducting consistently with all the ministries.

The Hluttaw decided to put the motion on record. In addition to this, the bill to repeal the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act 1948, returned without amendment by Amyotha Hluttaw, was also approved by the Hluttaw after the Hluttaw's decision was obtained. ■

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses Ponnagyun Industrial Zone

Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

THE seventh regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 12th-day meeting yesterday morning in Amyotha Hluttaw's meeting hall, where asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered and a motion was tabled.

First, U Kyaw Kyaw of Rakhine State constituency (4) questioned the progress of the work and how much longer it would take to complete the Ponnagyun Industrial Zone that has been under implementation for six years, since the first Pyithu Hluttaw took place. Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho said the industrial zone was earmarked to be constructed on 1,963.74 acres of land along the eastern part of Yangon-Sittway road in Rakhine State, Sittway District, Ponnagyun Township. During the previous government's time, it was designated and permitted as Industry Zone No. (22). Supreme Development Co., Ltd. and Myanmar Kyauk Phyu



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

Special Economic Zone Holding Public Co., Ltd. participated in the tender that was called in 2015. Myanmar Kyauk Phyu Special Economic Zone Holding Public Co., Ltd. was selected on 24 August, 2015, and a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on 16 September, 2015. The MoU term of four months was extended three times and on the fourth extension, the company defaulted on signing the MoU, which ended on 12 April, 2017.

Exo World Group Co. of Israel was permitted to lease 50 acres of land in Ponnagyun Industrial Zone to conduct livestock breed-

ing, cold storage, manufacturing of animal feed, fuel and lubricant storage for ships in the Rakhine State government's meeting of 28 July, 2017. Granting of permission and the start of preliminary works by Exo World Group Co. was informed to the State directorate of investment and company administration on 24 January, 2018, said the Union Minister.

According to the conceptual plan of the industrial zone, it will include small and medium factories; garment works; livestock, prawn and fish factories; and wood-based factories. Interested economic entities and organisa-

tions will be widely invited and permitted to work systematically at set rates and taxes. As the Ponnagyun Industrial Zone is in a least developed region, local and foreign investors will have special privileges and incentives, as mentioned in the Myanmar Investment Law. Interested local and foreign businesses were being invited, and as the works of the implementation committee on the recommendations of the advisory commission on Rakhine State are being implemented, and with the special privileges and incentives, local and foreign companies will invest in the Ponnagyun Industrial Zone, explained the Union Minister on behalf of the Rakhine State government.

Next, questions by U Pe Tin of Mon State constituency No (6) on the government Aung Bar Lay lottery and U Mya Min Swe of Bago Region constituency (9) on ceasing the collection of the city entry toll were answered by Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Set Aung and Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung

Myint Tun.

Similarly, questions by Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency (11) and U Myint Naing of Rakhine State constituency (5) were answered by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw and Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing.

Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency (11) then tabled a motion urging the government to give priority to the least developed states and regions and to implement One Village One Product (OVOP) rural development strategy with the relevant ministerial departments, including a budget for it. The motion was supported by U Sai Wan Hlaing Khum of Shan State constituency (3).

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than asked for the decision of the Hluttaw and then announced the acceptance of the motion by the Hluttaw.

The 13th-day meeting of the seventh session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw is scheduled for 6 February. ■