

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses educational sector

By Kyaw Thu Htet,
Hmay Kyu Zin

THE seventh session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw held its 16th-day meeting yesterday morning, where six questions were asked and answered, while a bill was discussed and approved.

At the meeting, U Aung Hlaing Win of Mingaladon constituency raised a question about the plan to permit casinos on islands where only foreigners will be allowed to gamble. Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung said casinos on islands where only foreigners are allowed to gamble are not legally permitted. However, the ministries concerned are not averse to legalising this, and there might be a way to carry this process forward. After the gambling law is amended or relaxed, permission can be obtained from the ministries concerned to legalise

gambling in casinos for foreigners, said the Union Minister.

A question by U Sai Ngaung Hsai Hein of Maukmai constituency on the plan to construct a new school building for a basic education primary school in Holoin village tract, Konmatlan Village, in the 2018-19 fiscal year was answered by Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun, who said a 60x30-square-foot single-storey building will be constructed.

Responding to a question put forth by U Min Thein of Taungwingyi constituency on the plan to open a technical high school for students from towns such as Aunglan, Sinbaungwe, Taungwingyi, Myothit and Natmauk, U Win Maw Tun said students from these areas were being permitted to attend technical schools in other areas as hostel students, and thus, there was no immediate plan to open a technical high



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

school in the area mentioned.

In response to a question by Dr U Aung Khin of Pyin Oo Lwin constituency on the plan to include vocational schools in the national education strategic plan to reduce unemployment in Myanmar, U Win Maw Tun said this was included in the plan and was being carried out. In the future, this will be expanded further, added the Deputy Minister.

The Deputy Minister then responded to a question raised by U Khin Maung Thi of Loilem constituency on the plan to upgrade the Loilem Township Myoma Maipun Basic Education Middle school (sub), and not-

ed that it was only half a mile away from Myoma (Maipun) Basic Education High School, and as students could obtain a middle school education at Myoma (Maipun) Basic Education Middle School (sub), there was no plan to upgrade this school.

Responding to a question posed by U Ar Moe Si of Khaunglanphu constituency on providing sufficient qualified teachers in Khaunglanphu Township schools to raise the township's passing rate in the matriculation examination, U Win Maw Tun said there were two Basic Education High Schools in Khaunglanphu Township, where

headmasters and teachers were conducting special classes and extra classes for the students. The Ministry of Education requires more than 30,000 teachers, and plans are underway to appoint over 10,000 teachers each year for three consecutive years. Based on the number of teachers appointed, they will be allocated to Khaunglanphu Township, said the Deputy Minister.

Proposals to amend the forest bill submitted by the natural resources and environmental protection committee were then discussed and the Hluttaw's decision was taken. ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses health sector

By Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

THE seventh session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 16th-day meeting in the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, where asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered. The Hluttaw's approval was also obtained after a report on two bills was read and a bill was tabled.

First, U Chit Htwe of Magway Region constituency (3) raised a question on the plan to build a rural health centre in the Magway Region, Natmauk Township, Htanpinkongyi Village. Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe replied that the Magway Region Public Health Department had recommended building a rural health centre in Htanpinkongyi Village. The requisite arrangements will be made to build this in the 2018-2019 fiscal year (FY), but if, for any reason, it is not done due to other priority works, it will be

built in the 2019-2020 FY, said the Union Minister.

Replying to a question raised by U Kyaw Thaug of Sagaing Region constituency (1) on the plan to provide surgical stainless steel rods at affordable prices to treat patients with broken bones, Dr. Myint Htwe said the Department of Medical Services had a profit margin of 10 per cent for high quality medicines, while a budget of Ks43.8 billion had been earmarked for the 2017-2018 FY to purchase medical equipment. Some 2,000 surgical steel rods are being bought for the 2017-2018 FY. A surgical steel rod is sold for between Ks130,000 and Ks160,000 and is bought from China and India. Surgical steel rods from America cost more than Ks500,000 and, therefore, are not used. Surgical steel rods from China and India are of good quality, while Myanmar was receiving assistance from other countries. For example, on 25 December, 2017, the Surgical Implant Generation Network, along with AMFA, donated 912 surgical steel



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe. PHOTO: MNA

rods to nine people hospitals and two military hospitals, explained the Union Minister. A question by Dr. Pyae Phyo of the Ayeyawady Region constituency (7) on the plan to upgrade the Shwelaung cottage hospital was also answered by Dr. Myint Htwe. Next, a report by the Amyotha Hluttaw bill committee on the findings and recommendations for a bill related to the protection of wildlife and the conservation of natural areas, sent back by the Pyithu Hluttaw with confirmed amendments, was read and explained



Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw. PHOTO: MNA

by committee member Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye. In her explanation, she said the bill committee had conducted detailed discussions with the Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, relevant ministries, officials from World Wildlife Fund Myanmar, experts from the attorney general's office, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and the legal affairs and special cases assessment commission of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

She further asked the Amyotha Hluttaw to approve the bill, as it had been amended by the bill committee, along with its latest

amendments (by Pyithu Hluttaw). After the Hluttaw's agreement was obtained, the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker announced the approval of the bill. Later, a report by the bill committee on the findings and recommendations for a 2017 bill to amend the vacant, fallow and virgin lands management law was read by committee member Daw Kyin Ngike Mann. The Amyotha Hluttaw speaker then announced the approval of the bill, after the Hluttaw's agreement was obtained.

A motion related to the bill was tabled by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw. The motion was supported by U Maung Maung Latt of Sagaing Region constituency (9). The Hluttaw's agreement to confirm the amendment was obtained, after which Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced the confirmation.

The 17th-day meeting of the seventh session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 14 February. ■