

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses power sector

Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

The seventh regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw held its 27th-day meeting at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning.

At the meeting, U Sai Aung Kyaw of Kehsi constituency asked if there was a plan to release to the public the Namt Tone Pond and the catchment area of 31 acres, as well as 165 acres of farmlands to the original owners, after the lands were confiscated by infantry battalion 131 in Kehsi Township. Deputy Minister for Defence Rear Admiral Myint Nwe said the lands were included in the 580 acres of armed force land under infantry battalion 131, and the land was granted to the battalion by the order of the Ministry of Home Affairs dated 15 January 2004. In the question, it was stated that 165 acres are farmlands, but when the infantry battalion took over the land, there



Deputy Minister for Defence Rear Admiral Myint Nwe.

Photo: MNA

were only 15 acres of temporary hillside farmlands without any ownership documents. Some 3.5 acres were a cemetery that had already been relocated when the infantry battalion took over the land.

The Namt Tone Pond fills up through groundwater seepage, and the town people are using it as a source of water supply, as well as for electricity supply by setting up a small mini hy-



Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing.

Photo: MNA

dro power plant. Furthermore, it was being learnt that in the 2017-2018 fiscal year (FY) budget, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has allocated Ks187 million to maintain the pond.

Therefore, Namt Tone Pond and its watershed area of 31 acres will be released to the people according to their demands. The so-called 165 acres of farmlands, however, were granted to the bat-

talion by the Ministry of Home Affairs, and there is no evidence of past ownership. Furthermore, they are close to the battalion buildings and due to security reasons, cannot be released back, said the deputy minister.

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing replied to a question posed by U Toe Thaug of Mongmit constituency on the plan to provide 24 hours of electricity to Mongmit Town. To provide electricity to Mongmit 24 hours per day, electricity has to be transmitted from 132-KV Letpanhla substation to Zayetkwin substation through 24.65 miles of the Mogok-Mongmit 66-KV power line and a 66/11-KV 5 MVA substation constructed in Mongmit Town. These works were conducted with the union fund for the 2014-2015 FY budget. To connect the four wards in Mongmit with the Mongmit substation, 6 miles of 11-KV power line, six 11/0.4-KV transformers and 14.5 miles of

a 400-volt power line were constructed with the State government's fund for the 2014-2015 FY and the 2016-2017 FY. To provide 14 villages in Mongmit Township with electricity, 10.8 miles of 11-KV power line, 21 11/0.4-KV transformers and 21.97 miles of a 400-volt power line were constructed with the State government fund in the 2016-2017 FY and the 2017-2018 FY, said the deputy minister.

At the moment, electricity is being provided to Mogok from Zayetkwin by a 33-KV power line, but the power line's life was long, and it passed through deep forests and mountains causing leakage and resulting in unsatisfactory power supply to Mogok. So, a new 66-KV power line was constructed and completed in early March. The shift from the old to new power line has not yet taken place to avoid disruption during the matriculation examination.

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Amyotha Hluttaw discusses road construction work, corruption

Aung Ye Thwin
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

The seventh session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 27th-day meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning.

During the day's meeting, asterisk-marked questions were answered by Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin.

U Kyaw Kyaw of Rakhine State constituency (4) first asked if there was a plan to upgrade the inter-village road that connects Gonkyun Village, Mrauk U Township, with Panmyaung Village, Minbya Township, in Rakhine State. Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin explained that the road was not in the union road list. First, the road must be included in the list prepared by the Ministry of Construction. The Rakhine State government must submit the proposal to the union government's office to include it in the list, according to regulations, and once it becomes a road under the Ministry of Construction, funds will be requested, and depending on the availability of funds, the road will be upgraded accordingly, said the Deputy Minister.

U Myint Naing of Rakhine constituency (5) asked about the plan to upgrade the inter-village road in Kyauktaw Township that connects Yangon-Sittway road and Kansauk village-Kan Thone Sint-Donnar-Nichay-Aukla village and the building of a 120-foot-long reinforced concrete bridge crossing a branch of Yoe creek near Kansauk Village. The deputy minister replied that the laying of concrete on the 4-mile and 1.3-furlong portion of Kansauk-Kan Thone Sint road, on which the earth work has already been completed, and the building of a bridge across Yoe creek near Kansauk Village was earmarked to be undertaken with the 2018-2019 fiscal year (FY) union fund, and depending on the funds received, it will be implemented. Once these works are completed, the remaining works to upgrade three miles of the Donner-Nichay-Aukla inter-village connecting road will be allocated with the yearly union fund and state fund and implemented, said the Deputy Minister.

Replying to a question by U Myo Htat @ Salai Myo Htike of Chin State constituency (12) on the plan to build a motor road from Kanan Village tract,



Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin. **PHOTO: MNA**

Kanpetlet Township, to Hmontanu Village tract, Kanan-Pike Taw-Hmontanu-Chysnugya, the deputy minister replied that after the 2020-2021 FY period, fund requests would be made for the 19-mile-long and 3-foot-wide Htohn-Hmontanu-Chysnu road, and it will be implemented once the funds are made available.

The 20-mile-long and 6-foot-wide road from the Kanan road turnoff to Pike Taw-Htohn road was designated a priority road, and on the demand of locals, a fund request will be made in the 2018-2019 FY period, and the work will be implemented once

the fund is received, said the deputy minister.

The Hluttaw representatives then discussed the bill on the amendment to an anti-corruption law (fourth revision).

Dr. Khun Win Thaug of Kachin State constituency (11) said the bill must be worked on, so that there is no need for further amendments. He spoke of the importance to reduce corruption when the development of Myanmar was being undertaken through new programmes and reforms were being implemented with increasing momentum. The level of corruption and the slow pace of development in the country are directly related, said the Hluttaw representative.

In the 2016 Transparency International Index, Singapore is at number 7 with 84 points, while Myanmar is at 136 with 28 points. In 2017, Myanmar rose to number 130. However, corruption in the country has not declined. Thus, the bill must be enacted to protect the country from corruption, while it is hoped that the Anti-Corruption Commission and the public at all levels can expose corruption, said the Hluttaw representatives.

Naw Chris Tun @ Dr. Arr Kar Moe of Kayin State consti-

tuency (7) said that when the law was enacted in 2013, Myanmar was at 172 out of the 176 countries in the world. During the previous government's tenure, there were 600 complaints, of which only three cases were investigated. In 2014, when the first Anti-Corruption Committee was formed, 4,353 complaints were received of which only 46 cases were investigated. Therefore, in the 2016 Transparency International Index, there was a slight gain for Myanmar at the 136th position. Both the newly formed second Anti-Corruption Commission and the fourth revision to the bill on the amendment to the anti-corruption law are important, said Naw Chris Tun @ Dr. Arr Kar Moe of Kayin State constituency (7).

The bill was also discussed by U Kyi Win of the Ayeyawady region constituency (12), Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency (11), Naw Hla Hla Soe of Yangon region constituency (10), U Hla San of Magway region constituency (1) and U Hla Myint @ U Hla Myint Than of Mon State constituency 11.

The 28th-day meeting of the seventh session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 14 March. ■

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives outgoing Malaysian Ambassador

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received outgoing Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Mohd Haniff Bin Abd Rahman, who completed his tour of duty in Myanmar, at the guest hall of the Amyotha Hluttaw, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, matters relating to the growing



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than meets with Malaysian Ambassador Mohd Haniff Bin Abd Rahman in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and Malaysia, economics and travel were discussed.

The meeting was attended

by Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw office. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Thura U Shwe Mann receives Denmark Ambassador to Myanmar

CHAIRMAN of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann received Mr Peter Lysholt Hansen, Ambassador of Denmark to Myanmar, at the Hluttaw affairs building I-11 in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday



morning. During the meeting, they discussed legal and bilateral

relations between the two countries. — MNA ■

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw holds joint bill committee coordination meeting

A coordination meeting of the joint bill committee on the Union Tax Bill was held in the second-floor meeting hall of building D of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw deputy speaker; Joint Bill Committee and Public Account Joint Committee Chairman U Aye Tha Aung; joint bill committee deputy chairmen, secretaries, joint secretaries

and committee members and public account joint committee members; Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win; 12 Hluttaw representatives who discussed the bill in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw; Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission members; officials from the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Home Affairs, Union Attorney General's office and the Central Bank

of Myanmar; businesspersons from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry; businesspersons and officials from the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneur Association, 20 representatives from among businesspersons paying the highest income tax and commercial tax; and officials from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's office. — Myanmar News Agency ■

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Once the examination is over, electricity will be transmitted to Mogok via the 66-KV line by 20 to 22 March, explained the Deputy Minister. Replying to a question by U Pe Than of Myebon constituency on the arrangements made to provide electricity to town folks in Myebon Town and villages in the Myebon Township, through which the national grid line passes, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing said that of the 2,600 households in Rakhine State's Myebon

Township, more than half were provided with electricity. To complete power distribution to the remaining wards of the town, a 2,060-foot-long 400-volt power line has been laid in the 2017-2018 FY period with additional funds from the State government.

Arrangements are being made to construct a 11/0.4-KV 200 KVA transformer for Thedan Ward with the 2017-2018 FY State government's excess fund, added the Deputy Minister. To distribute electricity to the six villages of Kyetyegy, Wa Kauk

Gyi, Pyin Chaung, Pyin Ngakhu, Ngamangyi and Lun Lone Pike in Myebon Township, the Rakhine State government's fund will be earmarked in the 2018-2019 FY budget to construct some 11 miles of 11-KV power line, eight 11/0.4-KV transformers and 5.5 miles of a 400-volt power line.

To provide electricity to villages in Myebon Township, where the national grid line passes through, the laying of 27.5 miles of 33-KV power line and the construction of a new 33/11-KV 5 MVA substation has

been planned for the 2021-2022 five-year plan, explained the deputy minister.

Similarly, questions raised by U Aung Thike of Seikpyu constituency, U Khin Maung Myint of Yaksawk constituency and U Tha Aung of Myothit constituency were answered by Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing. Next, the Hluttaw was submitted with a bill on the protection of wildlife and the conservation of natural areas, sent back by the Amyotha Hluttaw with amendments.

An announcement was made on the Hluttaw's agreement and

confirmation of the bill after the Pyithu Hluttaw speaker took the decision. Later, bill committee secretary U Kyaw Soe Lin tabled a motion to obtain the decision of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw by submitting the points of contention between the two Hluttaws on the bill on the protection of wildlife and the conservation of natural areas, to which Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint suggested that the matter be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The 28th-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw will be held on 14 March. ■



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint shakes hands with Malaysian Ambassador Mohd Haniff Bin Abd Rahman in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint receives outgoing Malaysian Ambassador

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received outgoing Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Mohd Haniff Bin Abd Rahman, who has completed his tour of duty in Myanmar, at the guest hall of Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting,

matters relating to enhancing friendly relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Malaysia and investment were discussed. The meeting was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw office. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Yearly SMEs Loan Status of JICA Two-Step Loan Project

