

Pyithu Hluttaw

MPs debate Mandalay University upgrade, illegal tuitions, bank erosion

Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

THE 29th-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

Dr. U Hla Moe of Aungmyathazan constituency raised a question on the plan to upgrade Mandalay University, so it can provide high-level education and become a center for research.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun said buildings that needed major renovations, as well as those where new modern teaching rooms, laboratories and research rooms could be constructed, were being earmarked in stages.

The organisational structure of the university has been redrawn, and once this is approved, new subjects that can help create job opportunities and develop the socio-economic conditions of the people will be introduced. Also, the university's cooperation with foreign universities will be expanded. At the moment, memorandums of



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun. PHOTO: MNA

understanding have been signed with 33 international universities and organisations in the areas of teaching and research. Furthermore, arrangements are being made for foreign teachers and students to attend classes, and for local students to attend international seminars, workshops and conferences.

A committee has been formed to systematically upgrade Mandalay University, and projects for this purpose are being planned, explained the Deputy Minister.

U Min Thine of Bogale constituency complained about the illegal tuition centres at schools in



Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun. PHOTO: MNA

the Ayeyawady Region, and asked the government if there were plans to tackle these activities.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied that some 35 schools were being upgraded during the 2017-2018 academic year in the Ayeyawady Region.

As the Ayeyawady Region is a water-filled location and difficult to access, it is important to create educational opportunities for the children living there. Schools must have their own land, and if they have their own buildings, an application to operate a self-reliance primary school can be made to the

township education head office, he said.

The Ministry of Education is providing the necessary cooperation towards this end. Only if it is registered as a self-reliance primary school can it be upgraded, with the recommendation of the state-region government. If tuitions are being given to the schools without going through the proper steps, the relevant state-region, district and township education offices will take appropriate actions, according to the laws, rules and regulations, explained the Deputy Minister.

Next, Daw Cho Cho of Otwin constituency asked if there was a plan to use local materials, such as bamboo and wooden poles, to prevent erosion of the banks caused by the Sittaung River and Khabaung creek. Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Tha Oo replied that such local materials were used to prevent bank erosion caused along the Sittaung River from the 2014-2015 fiscal year (FY) until the 2016-2017 FY, with funds provided by the Bago Region government at five

locations. Although this can be termed a success, there are limitations and weaknesses in this method. It was found that this was suitable for small creeks, but it is not feasible to apply the same method in large rivers and deep water bodies, explained the Deputy Minister.

At the meeting yesterday, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun submitted to the Hluttaw a bill amending the television and broadcasting law.

Bill Committee member U Sai Pho Myat then read the committee's report on their findings and assessment of the bill, after which Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint requested that those Hluttaw representatives who wanted to table the amendment motion must submit their names.

Following this, an amendment motion submitted on the science, technology and innovation bill, confirmed and sent with an amendment by the Amyotha Hluttaw, was read by the bill committee. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint announced the Hluttaw's agreement and confirmation of the entire bill. ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses electricity supply, road repair work

Myo Thu Hein,
Hmwe Kyu Zin
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

The 29th-day meeting of the seventh session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw was held yesterday, in which Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing answered two asterisk-marked questions during the meeting.

Replying to the first question posed by U Maung Maung Latt of the Sagaing Region constituency (9) on the plan to provide electricity to the four wards in Khampat Town, Tamu District, Sagaing Region, the Deputy Minister said the town was 55 miles from the Kalay 230-KV main substation, and some 35 miles from the Tamu 230-KV main substation, which is being planned. It is more convenient to distribute electricity to Khampat Town from the Tamu 230/66-KV main substation, and the ministry is planning to build this main substation, said the Deputy Minister.

The funds for the construction of the Kalay-Tamu power line



Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing. PHOTO: MNA

and Tamu main substation have been earmarked in the 2019-2020 fiscal year budget, and the distribution of electricity to Khampat Town will be carried out only after the construction of this power line and the main substation, said the Deputy Minister.

The second question was raised by Dr. Mya Thaung of the Bago Region constituency (7) on the plan to repair the damaged Nyaungpintha-Seimngyi road in Pyu Township, Bago Region. The Deputy Minister said that Myat Eindre, a private company, had

been chosen by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation to conduct agricultural work in some areas of Pyu Township, Bago Region, in 2013.

This company used the Nyaungpintha-Seimngyi road to transport construction materials and heavy machinery, which damaged the road. In a letter dated 11 September 2017, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation was requested to repair the damage.

On inspecting the road repair work, it was found that holes and pits were simply filled-in with earth. The ministry ordered the company to repair the road properly and, currently, the company is conducting the repair work, said the Deputy Minister.

Next, the Amyotha Hluttaw committee member for Local International Non-Government Organisations Committee, U Tin Aung Htun of the Magway Region constituency (5), read and submitted the committee's work report to the Hluttaw, and the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker requested that those Hluttaw

representatives interested in discussing the report should submit their names.

Later, Amyotha Hluttaw Public Complaints Committee member U Khin Myo Win of the Taninthayi Region constituency (12) read and submitted the committee's work report. From 2 March 2016 to 31 January 2018, the committee received 5,212 letters with complaints.

A total of 91 case files were sent to relevant organisations, of which 44 cases were received back, while 47 cases remain outstanding. Some 195 cases were sent to relevant ministries, of which 84 cases were received back, while 111 cases are outstanding. A total of 357 cases were sent to states and regional governments, of which 87 cases were received back, while 270 cases are outstanding.

During the two-year period of the Hluttaw, the committee, with the permission of the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker, had responded through letters to 247 complainants. Some 655 complaints related to farmlands, while other

land confiscations were assessed. According to guidelines, the complaints were transferred to the Central Committee for Scrutinising Confiscated Farmlands and Other Land, chaired by Vice President U Henry Van Thio. The report recommended all relevant entities, along with the committee, to resolve the complaints, according to the laws, rules and regulations. Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than then asked the Hluttaw representatives who wished to discuss the report to register themselves.

Amyotha Hluttaw Mineral, Natural Resources Environmental Conservation Committee member Daw Shah Mu of Kayah State constituency (5) read and submitted the committee's work report. The report suggested providing equal opportunities, according to the law, to nationals seeking employment. The committee was formed according to the law and had overseen the government and budget assessment works, in accordance with the Hluttaw law and rules, said Daw Shah Mu. ■