

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw's 8th regular session holds 14th day meeting

THE Second Pyithu Hluttaw's eighth regular session held its 14th day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

2nd Bill Amending Myanmar Pearl Law

In yesterday meeting, Pyithu Hluttaw approved the 2nd Bill Amending the Myanmar Pearl Law which was sent with amendments from Amyotha Hluttaw.

Boundary Line is official term; Zero Line, No Man's Land are colloquial terms

MP U Maung Myint from Minkin Constituency asked the government why the state-run print media used the terms "Zero Line, Zero Line Area and No Man Land" and how the government planned to ensure there are no dwellings in the said zero-line area.

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun clarified the terms of reference used in the state-run print media regarding the boundary line.

It was found that the editorial team in the newsroom failed to correct the wrong usage in the news report on the Myan-



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

mar-Bangladesh bilateral meeting of the border authorities held on 21 February 2018, said the deputy minister.

Following the incident, the ministry informed the state-owned and private media to use the official term of reference, "Boundary Line", he said.

Besides, an article articulating the correct usage was published in the state-run media on 27 February 2018. He continued to say that Myanmar and Bangladesh signed the Demarcation of the Land Section of the Boundary, North of the Naf River on 12 November 1988, and paragraph

14 under Chapter 4 of the agreement said, "In order to make the boundary line easily identifiable and prevent the emergence of boundary line-intersected villages, neither High Contracting Party shall allow to build new houses or other structures of permanent or temporary nature, within a zone of 150 feet on each side of the boundary line."

Being prohibited houses within a zone of 150 feet from the boundary line, local people use "No Man's land" as colloquial terms, he said.

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun continued to say that it is

found that the land survey teams of the two countries also used the term "zero line" in order to make clear the difference between the 150-foot non-construction line and the Boundary Line, and the colloquial term "zero line" has hence become popular among the local people and land survey officials.

It is found that Myanmar and Bangladesh officials have been using the colloquial term at technical meetings for many years, he said, quoting the minutes of the meetings of the two countries held in 2006 and 2011.

The use of the colloquial term by the technicians cannot cause problems, but it can give rise to unnecessary complexities when the authorities and local people use the unofficial term, said the deputy minister.

Regarding the second part of the question, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun replied that the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Rakhine State Government are working together in accordance with the existing laws to ensure there are no dwellings in the restricted areas.

Afterwards, MPs discussed

a motion submitted by U Myint Thein of Wetlet constituency urging the Union Government to systematically collect unpaid tax revenue in a clear and transparent way.

Good practices, positive attitudes towards tax payments

U Tun Tun of Pwintbyu constituency discussed that good practices and positive attitudes towards tax payments need to be spread into the public. He said that instead of raising taxes it would be more beneficial to give tax awareness and education so tax evaders decrease and taxpayers increase. He said that Chapter (4)-Section (10) of the Customs Law states that the relevant ministry, in their task of tax collecting, can request aid and support from union ministries, state and region governments, and relevant authorities from self-administered zones to encourage taxpayers. U Tun Tun concluded by saying he approved the motion and wished for the swift development of the nation's economy and the emergence of a positive tax payment culture.

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Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw: Ministry of Education will provide additional life jackets for students, faculty residing near water bodies

UNION Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said the Department of Basic Education, operating under the Ministry of Education, is ready to implement its plans for the 2018-2019 academic year to provide life jackets for every student, educators, and faculty residing near the coast, rivers, or any water body, in line with the available budget. The ministry has also finalised plans to systematically recollect the life jackets by the end of the academic year.

The union minister made the remark in response to a question raised by Dr. Kun Win Thaug of Kachin State constituency (11). The Amyotha Hluttaw also held a question time, read two reports, and approved a bill.

Ensuring students and faculty receive functioning life jackets

The union minister said that during the 2016-2017 FY, the Ministry of Education had



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

distributed 19,788 small size life jackets worth Ks108.834 million and 17221 large size life jackets worth Ks103.266 million throughout the states and regions.

The union minister said the ministry had bought life jackets to replace the aforementioned

life jackets distributed two years ago, depending on their recommended conditions for use. Currently, the ministry has purchased 24,560 small life jackets worth Ks147.357 million and 22,121 large life jackets worth Ks143.787 million, a total of 46,681

life jackets worth Ks291.144 million, for this allocation and replacement purpose.

Budget needed to employ personnel in union auditor general offices

U Saw Than Htut of Kayin State constituency (2) asked if there were plans to employ more personnel for the office of the Auditor General of the Union and offices of regional auditor offices.

U Maw Than, the Auditor General of the Union, replied that the institution was undergoing a six-month reform, lasting from 1 April to 30 September 2018, and will only be able to appoint the necessary personnel after the salary budget for the 2018-2019 FY was approved.

Similarly, Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo replied to questions raised by

four other MPs.

Amyotha Hluttaw accepts amended Forestry Bill

Next, Daw Nwe Nwe Aung, member of the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee, read a report by the committee concerning the Forestry Bill, approved by the Pyithu Hluttaw and sent with amendments. Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than then called for and received the approval of the bill from the Amyotha Hluttaw.

UAG submits Myanmar Accountancy Council Bill

Union Auditor General U Maw Than then submitted the bill to amend the Myanmar Accountancy Council Law to the Hluttaw. Committee member Brig-Gen Tint Lwin then read the report concerning the bill, and the speaker announced that interested MPs could register to discuss the bill.

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Interview with boat crash survivors in Yathedaung Township



Shahdra Bi Bi (Maungtaw Township)



Mahmet Shawfeit (Bodawsawra village, Cox Bazar, Bangladesh)



Mizanu Ramawman (Nayapara village, Teknaf Township, Bangladesh)



Mohammed Zaylout Udain (Sawpawrondi village, Coz bazaar, Bangladesh)



Deesha (Myoma Kanyintan village, Maungtaw Township)

On the morning of 11 June, authorities discovered 104 people, 44 men and 60 women, together with a wrecked boat in Aungbarlay stream near Tharze village in Yathedaung Township, Rakhine State. They were transported to Nga Khu Ya reception centre where officials from the Department of Immigration performed mandatory inspections and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provided humanitarian assistance.

The following are excerpts from interviews with some of the boat crash survivors.

Shahdra Bi Bi (Maungtaw Township)

My aunt from my mother's side and her relatives are in Bangladesh. That's why I went

there. Other people wanted to go to Malaysia. My aunt is sick, that's why I wanted to be by her side with my other relatives. We were on our way back from Bangladesh. My parents are both on the Myanmar side that's why I came back.

Mahmet Shawfeit (Bodawsawra village, Cox Bazar, Bangladesh)

I was trying to go to Malaysia and get whatever work available there. There are a lot of people going to work in Malaysia like me. I contacted a broker to go there. The broker gathered a lot of people to send to Malaysia and we had to pay Bangladeshi taka 180,000 as brokerage fees. We were travelling to a ship which would take us to Malaysia and

then this happened.

It's going well here on the Myanmar side. I want to go to Malaysia. Their currency has high value so we can earn more daily wages than in Bangladesh. But I don't want to take the illegal route anymore. I want to go there with the government's help.

I'm thankful for the Myanmar government for taking care of us and giving us security while we're here.

Mizanu Ramawman (Nayapara village, Teknaf Township, Bangladesh)

I was going to Malaysia to earn a lot of money there. Working in Bangladesh is tiring. I want to provide for my aging parents. I've heard that you can earn more in Malaysia and it's not as tiring.

I was a footballer back in Bangladesh.

I contacted a broker and paid 180,000 in Bangladeshi taka for the brokerage fees. Our motorboat got caught in a storm and we washed up on Myanmar's coast.

The Myanmar government has been helpful and provided security. I just want to return to Bangladesh.

Mohammed Zaylout Udain (Sawpawrondi village, Coz bazaar, Bangladesh)

I knew travelling to Malaysia would be tiring but the money we earn working the entire day in Bangladesh is not enough to feed the family. That's why I decided to risk it but we ended up here in Myanmar. The Myanmar government has been helpful and

relocated us to the centre here. I understand and will follow the laws and rules here. I wish to return to Bangladesh with the government's assistance.

Deesha (Myoma Kanyintan village, Maungtaw Township)

I went to Bangladesh for medical treatment and was on my way back. I had to pay 5,000 in Bangladeshi taka for the ferry back here. The boat was over packed and water started to flow in. I started crying but then a motorboat was headed our way. We climbed over to the motorboat, not knowing it was headed to Malaysia. Then the motorboat crashed and we were stranded for three days before arriving in Myanmar.—News Team ■

Amyotha Hluttaw: Ministry of Education will provide additional life jackets for students, . . .

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MPs discuss Condominium Bylaw

U Htay Oo of Yangon constituency (2) tabled a motion to discuss the Condominium Bylaw concerning joint ownership. He said the bill, sent by the Pyithu Hluttaw with approval, states in Section 28 that the construction of a condominium required meeting the building standards set by the ministry (of Construction), State and region government, or the respective city development committee or similar organisation. U Htay Oo suggested rephrasing the section to include the construction of the building to meet the basic standards, in addition to the standards set by the ministry,

state and region governments, or city development committee.

U Htay Oo then mentioned that even though Section 24 (C) of the original Condominium Law states that a maximum of 40 per cent of the rooms in a condominium building may be sold to and owned by a foreign citizen, Section 34 of the Bylaw states that no more than 40 per cent of the condominium's total square feet may be sold to a foreign citizen. He suggested reviewing the law and bylaw, and making amendments, if necessary, as they both state the criteria of the maximum permitted amount differently.

The amendment to Section 45 (A) of the bylaw states that the contractor will maintain the custody of the available rooms

during and up to two years after the project's construction phase, and the contractor will hold on to custody after the two-year period until a temporary committee for ownership is formed. U Htay Oo discussed that this may place a heavy burden on the contractor for an indefinite period of time. He suggested making amendments similar to Section 36 of the original law, which states that a temporary committee can be formed if at least 30 per cent of the available rooms in the building are occupied, thus relieving the contractor of any burden.

The 15th-day meeting of the eighth regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held tomorrow.—Aung Ye Thwin ■

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The motion was further discussed by ten MPs.

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance, U Maung Maung Win, explained that the Internal Revenue Department has been collaborating with international organizations to implement a modern tax administration system since 2012. The first phase of implementation was carried out from 2012-2013 FY to 2016-2017 FY. The second phase will be conducted from 2017-2018 FY to 2021-2022 FY with a focus on reviewing and amending laws related to taxes.

The deputy minister and MP U Myint Thein then submitted the motion to the Hluttaw for approval.

After a discussion among

the assembly, Speaker U T Khun Myat then announced that the Hluttaw has approved of the motion.

The Speaker then announced that the Hluttaw approves the Second Bill to amend the Myanmar Pearl Law submitted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Next, the Pyithu Hluttaw discussed the 2017 Bill amending the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law sent with amendments by the Amyotha Hluttaw.

The Speaker then announced the Pyithu Hluttaw's approval of the bill. The fifteenth day meeting of the Eighth Regular Session of the 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw will be held tomorrow.—Aye Aye Thant/MNA ■