

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 9th regular session holds sixth-day meeting

By Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

THE second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session held its sixth-day meeting at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning. At the meeting, asterisk-marked questions were answered by Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho and Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin. The Pyithu Hluttaw also decided on Condominium Rule, discussed and agreed to a motion urging the government to control and manage Build, Operate, Transfer (BOT) agreements conducted all over the country for constructing roads under a Private-Public Partnership (PPP) system.

Q&A session

Asterisk-marked questions raised by U Khin Maung Latt of Myanaung constituency, U Pe Than of Myebon constituency, U Ne Lin Aung of Mindat constituency, U Myo Zaw Aung of Kawlin constituency, U Kyaw Myint of Taikkyi constituency and U Aung Theik of Seikpyu constituency were answered by Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho and Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin.



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

Decision of the Hluttaw on Condominium Rule

Next, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat informed the Hluttaw about the Condominium Rule, returned by Amyotha Hluttaw with amendments, and obtained the decision of the Hluttaw.

A bill committee member tabled a motion to submit the rule to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for its decision, as the two Hluttaws were in disagreement on it, and the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced to submit the bill to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and to proceed further on it.

Discussion and agreeing to a motion on BOT

A motion urging the government to control and manage BOT agreements conducted all over the country for constructing roads under a PPP system tabled by U Kyaw Swe Win of Kawhmu constituency was then discussed

by Tatmadaw representative Maj Ye Soe, U Win Win of Minbu constituency, U Aung Htoo Myint of Aunglan constituency, U Zaw Min Thein of Laymyethna constituency, Dr. U Khin Maung Maung of Dagon Myothit (North) constituency, U Sai Oo Kham of Hsenwi constituency, U Sai Aung Kyaw of Kehsi constituency, Dr. U Zaw Win Myint of Singu constituency, U Myint Lwin of Twantay constituency, Tatmadaw representative Maj. Swe Myint Oo, U Zarni Min of Shwegu constituency, Daw Yin Min Hlaing of Gangaw constituency, U Nyunt Aung of Monywa constituency, U Win Myint Aung of Dabayin constituency, U Bo Gyi of Chauk constituency, U Ba Shein of Kyaukpyu constituency and Dr. Daw Khin Nyo of Dedaye constituency. In his discussion on the motion, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin said that during the ten-year period

from 2006 to 2016, 23 companies, constructing 32 road sections, were rescinded from constructing the roads because they were not following the contract agreement. This was done under the sole authority of the ministry, after the decision made at the management committee meeting, because these companies were unable to fulfill the contract at the initial construction stage.

However, if the company conducting work under the BOT system was able to complete assigned works during the designated time, with the recommendation of the respective state and region government, the companies receive permission from Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) to collect road-use tolls. Once MIC had issued the permission, the Ministry of Construction could not take any direct action against the company. As Myanmar Investment Law protects the investment, the ministry needs to submit first to MIC to take any action. MIC will check with the relevant company and depending upon the explanation of the company, the ministry will have to wait for a reply from MIC. If there is any disagreement, it will have to be resolved in an arbitration court and this will take

some considerable time to reach to a conclusion.

The ministry had conducted workshops on road/bridge BOT system and confirmed and approved drawing up new policies, rules, laws and procedures on BOT agreements. A decision was also made to obtain the agreement of the Union Attorney General office on these matters before PPP Law could be drawn up and to submit it to the Union government meeting and implement it.

There were weaknesses in the earlier BOT agreements and the ministry will conduct matters according to the workshop outcome. The ministry had formed BOT Task Force to oversee and manage the BOT works, and for the future development and success of these BOT works, Hluttaw representatives will be coordinated. As such the Pyithu Hluttaw is requested to approve the motion explained by the Deputy Minister.

An announcement was then made of the Hluttaw's agreement to the motion after the Hluttaw decided to approve the motion.

The seventh-day meeting of the second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session will be held on 8 August, it is learnt. ■

Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 9th regular session holds sixth-day meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin (MNA)

THE second Amyotha Hluttaw's ninth regular session held its sixth-day meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning. At the meeting, asterisk-marked questions were answered, a report read, a bill approved and a motion submitted.

Plan to control unethical liquor advertisements

Dr. U Kywe Kywe of Mandalay Region constituency 6 posed the first asterisk-marked question on plans to control unethical liquor advertisements. Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun answered that the Ministry of Information is following the rules of the advertisement policy in accepting and making advertisements.

State-owned and joint venture print, broadcast and digital media were also found to be adhering strictly to the announced advertisement policy. If any requirements or shortcomings are found, warnings and notices will



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

be made in accordance with the rules and regulations.

State-owned media and public media need to strictly follow the news media ethics on advertisements laid down by the Myanmar Press Council.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Home Affairs had also set up a policy to reduce consumption of liquors and beer and is following this policy in granting production license to companies producing liquors and beer, said the Deputy Minister.

Ministries and authorities concerned need to take effective action against anyone not following the set rules and regulations,

said the Deputy Minister.

Investment in Rakhine State's agro sector

U Khin Maung Latt of Rakhine State constituency 3 then asked the investment in agricultural sector in Rakhine State from international aid, assistance and loan from international organisations like UNDP, Japan's ODA, World Bank, ADB, JFAD, AFD and EXIM Bank since 2011 to date and plans to increase the investment.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw said there are limitations in the norms and practices of international organisations to

invest in Rakhine State's agriculture sector, and thus, there is no investment yet. Once those limitations are overcome, investment from aid, assistance and loans to Rakhine State agriculture sector will be implemented. Meanwhile, the government is implementing investment in Rakhine State's agriculture sector from its own fund, said the Deputy Minister.

Furthermore, a work program to open agriculture and livestock vocational training school, with the support of the Republic of Korea, is being discussed to be implemented.

For development of agriculture cooperatives in Rakhine State, loans from China's EXIM Bank is being used to provide small investment loans and as of end of June 2018, 40,603 cooperative members were given a loan totaling Ks 5,565 million. The Ministry of Planning and Finance is also providing long- and short-term loans to agri-based businesses through Two Step Loan system from Japan's JICA, said the Deputy Minister.

Report read and motion tabled on Bill amending the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law (2017)

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Lal Min Htan read and explained the report of the bill committee on the bill amending the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law (2017).

Afterwards, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than sought the decision of the Hluttaw and approved the bill amending the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law (2017), sent with amendments by Pyithu Hluttaw as amended by Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee.

Later U Lal Min Htan of Chin State constituency 10 tabled a motion to discuss and decide the bill disagreed by the Amyotha Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker then announced the Hluttaw's decision to submit the disagreement of the two Hluttaws on the bill to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. ■