

Pyithu Hluttaw's tenth regular session holds second-day meeting

By Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

THE Second Pyithu Hluttaw's tenth regular session met for the second day at the Pyithu Hluttaw's meeting hall yesterday. During the session, asterisk-marked questions were answered, a motion was tabled, a Bill was approved and a motion on the Bill was tabled.

Asterisk-marked questions

U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency, U Pe Than of Myebon constituency, U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo of Hline constituency, Daw Khin San Hlaing of Pale constituency, U Ar Moe Si of Khaunglanphu constituency, U Kan Myint of Thayet constituency, and Dr. U Soe Moe Thu of Myaungmya constituency raised asterisk-marked questions at the meeting. They were answered by Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) member and Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Set Aung and Deputy Minister for

Construction U Kyaw Lin.

U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency asked the government to clarify permitted foreign investments as of 31 March 2016, the increase in foreign investments in terms of sectors, number of investments, and amounts invested (in US dollars) between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2018. He asked if there were any instances where companies or projects were suspended or terminated for breaking laws, failing to follow agreements, and tax avoidance. He also asked about arrangements made to create opportunities for increasing investment in the agriculture and animal breeding sector.

To these queries, Deputy Minister U Set Aung replied that from 1988 to 31 March 2016 a total of 1,100 foreign investments were permitted and the total investments stood at US\$ 63.72 billion.

During the two-year period from 2016 to 2018, with the exception of the oil and gas sector



Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin.

and the construction sector, a total of 360 investments worth \$ 12.37 billion were made in the ten sectors, including agriculture, animal breeding and fishery, industries, hotel, and travel sectors, the deputy minister said.

The total foreign investment permitted by the incumbent government during the two-year period is 16.25 per cent of the total foreign fund inflows in the country in the 30-year period from 1988 to March 2018, so progress can be



Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Set Aung.

seen in the investment sector, he added. There were no instances of any action taken against any company or project involving foreign investors permitted by the MIC for not following the laws, agreements, or for tax evasion, the deputy minister said.

The agriculture and animal breeding sector, together with forest development and other forest works, aqua products production and aqua culture or aqua farming, have been designated

as promoted sectors, and those investing in these sectors can apply for a tax exemption of 3 to 7 years, depending on the region where the investment is made, the deputy minister said.

The MIC has also announced that the commission, along with state and region governments, will provide necessary support and assistance to any foreign investors proposing to invest in **agri-based value-adding production works**, animal breeding, **aqua products production**, and aquaculture, the Deputy Minister said.

Daw Khin San Hlaing of Pale constituency asked a question about the arrangements made by Myanmar to obtain benefits under the Eco Green City project, which is to be implemented in a joint venture with a private company, and asked the government to show how the project would benefit the country and people.

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Amyotha Hluttaw's 10th regular session holds second-day meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin

THE Second Amyotha Hluttaw held tenth regular session in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, and the Myanmar Gemstone bill, 2017—sent with an amendment by the Pyithu Hluttaw—was discussed.

Rakhine State's 16-bed Traditional Medicine Hospital

During the session, U Myint Naing of Rakhine State's Constituency 5 asked the government about plans to post medical staff and provide medical aids, facilities, and furniture to the 16-bed traditional medicine hospital at the Kyauktaw Township in Rakhine State.

Deputy Minister for Health and Sports, Dr. Mya Lay Sein, replied that the ministry has provided 16 beds, 16 lockers, two patient trolleys, four patient examination beds, besides two kinds of other medical equipments and seven types of furniture to the hospital. The medical superintendent of the hospital has informed the Director General of the Department of Traditional Medicine about this, the deputy minister said.

The ministry is also supplying medicines to the traditional medicine clinics thrice a year

across the country, she said.

For the traditional medicine hospital in Kyauktaw Township, the Ministry has provided 12 types of medicines at the amount of 14 viss and 50 ticals together with 21 types of medicine weighing 36 viss and 4 tins of medicinal plasters, she said adding that the medical superintendent of the hospital has posted an acceptance letter to the Ministry.

"The hospital currently has deputy medical superintendent U Aung Kyaw Soe, Assistant medical officer Daw Nilar Aye on its staff, and plans are under way to appoint assistant medical officer U Chit Ko Ko. In addition, the Ministry will appoint one sanitation worker and one security worker to the hospital in December," the deputy minister said.

"A total of 2,154 patients received medical treatment at the hospital, in February and October 2018. The Ministry will fulfill the requirements of the hospital, in collaboration with the Rakhine State Department of Traditional Medicine and the Traditional Medicine Plant in Yangon," she said.

Next, Daw Ma Ma Lay of Shan State constituency 8 asked if the government plans to build stadiums in Pindaya and Ywangan townships in the Danu Self-Administered Zone of



Deputy Minister Dr. Mya Lay Sein

the Southern Shan State. The Deputy Minister for Health and Sports said the ministry plans to build a stadium on a plot of land measuring 204 x 145 feet in Pindaya Township and a stadium on the plot of land measuring 340 x 180 feet, in Ywangan Township. Depending on the availability of funds with the Shan State government, the ministry will carry out the construction of stadiums in these areas, she said.

Vacant seats for doctors at hospitals Myitthar Tsp

Daw Hla Htay alias Daw Ohn Kyi of Mandalay Region constituency 4 asked if the Ministry has plans to fill the vacant doctor posts at the hospital in Myitthar Township, Mandalay Region, and at the 25-bed hospital in Kume, respectively. The deputy minister said the ministry had given per-



U Bawi Khin of Chin State constituency 3

mission for the appointment of 4 doctors. At present, Dr. Myo Htet and Dr. Cho Cho Thin Yi have been assigned to the Myitthar hospital with two other doctors.

The Ministry of Health and Sports has made arrangements to recruit new doctors and assign them to post in the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year, and plans are under way to fill the vacant posts at the hospital in Myitthar Township, the deputy minister said. Deputy Minister Dr. Mya Lay Sein also replied to questions raised by U Bawi Khin of Chin State constituency 3 and U Cin Khan Paung of Chin State constituency 6 at the session yesterday.

Myanmar Gemstone Bill 2017

Later, Hluttaw Representatives held a discussion on the

Myanmar Gems and Jeweller Bill 2017, which was sent with an amendment by the Pyithu Hluttaw. Dr. Khun Win Thaung of Kachin State constituency 11 proposed that Clause 1 of Chapter 1 should be retained, the proposal made by the Pyithu Hluttaw.

"Clause 15 of Chapter 5 must be amended so the State enjoys no less than 40 per cent, and Clause 17 of Chapter 5 must be amended to state that there must be no less than 3 town dignitaries to represent the people," he said.

He said he supported the abrogation made by the Pyithu Hluttaw according to Clause 23 (c) of Chapter 6 that could prevent gem smuggling and buying of gems at cheap prices.

He added that an amendment must be made to assign people chosen by regional and state governments, besides selecting local people and other suitable persons.

"According to Clause 57 (c) of Chapter 14, it is more suitable for persons who get permission to contribute no less than 2 per cent of the investment value to their respective states and regions, to carry out regional development work such as healthcare, education, and transportation," he said.

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's tenth regular session holds second meeting

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The Deputy Minister for Construction said the Eco Green City project supports the economic development of Myanmar and supports inflows of foreign investment as it is situated on the Yangon-Mandalay highway, which is connected to central Myanmar and stands at the junction of the Yangon-Bago-Ayeyawady regions. Also, the Yangon outer ring road passes through it, and it is connected to the Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex project and the Hlegu-Hmawby area development, he added.

During the project's implementation phase, 50,000 temporary job opportunities will be cre-

ated, and once the project starts, it will create 15,000 permanent job opportunities, the deputy minister said.

"The details of the project have been put up on the Ministry of Construction's website. Its benefits were explained to the media at the project briefing hall on 23 January 2018," he added.

The project was announced on Myanmar Radio and Television, and published in newspapers and journals, he said. Information on the project will be given to the people in a transparent manner, the Deputy Minister said.

The minister also answered questions raised by other Hluttaw representatives.

Motion to systematically develop urban (town) and rural (village) land project for human settlement

A motion urging the government to review and develop pasture land, vacant land, fallow land, and virgin land, and to implement town and village land projects to resolve the problem of lack of living spaces caused by the increasing population was tabled by Daw Mar Mar Khine of Thaton constituency.

She said that an increasing population has put a strain on the availability of living spaces, resulting in the rise of illegal squatting, which is a major challenge to the incumbent government. In the past, when the need

for pasture land was felt, the government established such lands and this needs to be replicated to settle those who don't have a place to live, she added.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced the Hluttaw's decision to debate the motion after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw. He asked Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the motion to register their names.

Decision and motion on Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Bill

Later, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's approval of the Theravada Buddhist Missionary University

Bill, returned with amendments by the Amyotha Hluttaw.

This was followed by Bill committee member U Nay Myo Tun tabling a motion to submit and discuss the Bill at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as two Hluttaws were in disagreement over the Bill, as approval was on amendment of the Bill committee and not the ten amendments of the Amyotha Hluttaw.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then announced that the disagreement on the Bill will be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for discussion and decision. The third-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's tenth regular session will be held today. ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Gems, jades sales attracts 1180 traders



Merchants checking quality of jade stones at the jade emporium in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

A special sale of 96 gem lots and 3,339 jade lots in local currency Kyat is being conducted through an open tender bidding system in Nay Pyi Taw, with the aim of providing raw gems and jades to local merchants.

Raw gems and jade stones were displayed inside and outside the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw from yesterday morning. Local merchants inspected the lots on display. Mainly jade lots are being put up for sale at the exhibition,

which began on 12 November.

On 12 and 13 November, 96 gems lots were put on display. They will be sold through an open tender bidding system.

The jade lots will be displayed up to 14 November. Lot numbers 1 to 1,150 (totaling 1150 jade lots) will be sold on 15 November; lots 1,151 to 2,300 (totaling 1150 jade lots) will be put up for sale on 16 November, and lots 2,301 to 3,339 (totaling 1039 jade lots) will be sold on

17 November through open tender bids.

The gems and jade lots will be displayed until the evening prior to the day of the sale. The names of successful buyers, lot numbers, and values will be shown on Kiosk machines and display boards.

A total of 1,186 gems merchants and businesses have registered for the sale, which ends on 17 November. —Mawsi (MNA)

(Translated by Thandar Aung)

Sino-Myanmar bilateral trade reaches US\$6 billion in mini-budget period

THE value of Myanmar's trade with China in the last mini-budget period (from April to September) totalled US\$6 billion, with exports pegged at \$2.89 billion and imports valued at \$3.1 billion, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The bilateral trade with China closely follows Myanmar's regional trade with ASEAN countries, which registered the highest growth in the same period.

The trade with China was higher on the border than over the sea. The Sino-Myanmar trade at the Muse, the Lwejel, the Chinshwehaw, the Kanpikete, and the Kengtung checkpoints totalled over \$3.3 billion, with exports worth \$2.42 billion and imports valued at \$876 million.

The value of the country's bilateral trade with China was \$11.78 billion in the 2017-2018

Fiscal Year, \$10.8 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, \$10.9 billion in the 2015-16 FY, \$9.7 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$7 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$4.95 billion in the 2012-2013 FY, and \$5 billion in the 2011-2012 FY.

Myanmar exports rice, several varieties of peas, sesame seeds, corn, fruits and vegetables, dried tea leaves, fishery products, rubber, minerals, and animal products to China. Machinery, plastic raw materials, consumer products, and electronic tools flow into Myanmar from China every year.

In the last interim period prior to Fiscal Year 2018-2019, China's capital inflows into the country amounted to \$302.3 million, with investments in 28 projects, according to statistics provided by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.—GNLM ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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