

Pyithu Hluttaw

Third-day meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw's tenth regular session held

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses civil service enhancement, reducing red tape, differs on bill

The third meeting of the tenth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Civil servants and red tape reduction

During the meeting, U Myint Lwin of Twantay constituency raised a question on the status of reducing red tape in civil service mechanisms.

Dr. Win Thein, Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, gave a two-part reply. "The first part is that the civil service is implementing decentralization under four processes," he said. He said the civil service is setting down the responsibility and authority for each civil servant level. He said it is providing proper training for each rank and is handling any cases of corruption according to the law.



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

In the second part of his reply, the UCSB Chairman said the Civil Services Personnel Law was enacted on 8 March 2013 and its related bylaw on 26 March 2014. He said these laws help with appointing staff, giving promotions, managing leave, setting rules, taking disciplinary actions, and pension plans.

The Chairman said the UCSB provides training courses for different ranks of civil servants at the two central institutes of civil services. Subjects taught

at the courses include staff rules and regulations, staff ethics, staff management, responsibility and accountability, the Civil Services Personnel Law, and its bylaws.

Myanmar Law Information System

Dr. Than Aung Soe of Minhla constituency raised a question about the Myanmar Law Information System. He asked what font the website uses, whether future support for Zaw Gyi Font will be provided on mobile

phones and whether the Union Attorney-General's Office or relevant ministry are uploading new information to the website.

Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint replied to the question. He said the website began supporting Zaw Gyi Font on 10 September with the help of Korean IT technicians. He said currently, new information is being uploaded to the MLIS website by the Data Input and Construction team from the UAG's Office. The team comprises 12 legal officers and staff from relevant departments.

Ensuring workers receive full payment in Minbu Tsp

U Win Win from Minbu constituency asked what plans are being considered for ensuring manual laborers in Mahn Yanan Myay, Minbu Tsp receive full payment.

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy, Dr. Tun Naing, explained that manual laborers in Mahn Yanan Myay

area, under the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, are paid under a piece rate system. Their payment depends on the weight of the cargo they are handling, he said.

The Deputy Minister explained that the Head Officer of the Township Freight Handling Association gives out the workers' payments with a signed cheque every 15 days. He said they are comparing the fixed equipment costs and cargo handling rates with local prices in each township that oversees oil and gas operations so that an appropriate rate can be set for each ton of cargo handled. He added they are planning to set new rates by 1 January 2019.

Monywa general hospital set for a later date

U Nyunt Aung from Monywa constituency raised a question asking when the unfinished 5-storey general hospital in Monywa is scheduled to be completed.

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Amyotha Hluttaw

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

THE Second Amyotha Hluttaw's tenth regular session held its third meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, and the Myanmar Gemstone Bill 2017, sent with amendments by the Pyithu Hluttaw, was discussed.

During the session, U Myint Naing of Rakhine State's Constituency 5 asked the government how it plans to mitigate road accidents and make arrangements for people injured in road traffic accidents occurring within 202.3 miles from An to Sittway townships.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, Major-General Aung Thu, replied that arrangements were being made, with the cooperation of the traffic police force and other relevant departments under the supervision of the Road Safety Council in Rakhine State, to reduce road accidents. The government also plans to educate people on road safety and share pamphlets about it extensively. The Ministry has also sped up the implementation of the statements outlined by the Road Safety Council.

U Kyaw Htway of Yangon



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

Region's Constituency 8 asked if the ministry plans to scrutinize the certificates of diploma, degrees, masters, and PhD of academicians and take legal action against those who give false and misleading advertising to students. Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said private schools, education services, and foreign educational institutions in Myanmar are currently operating in accordance with the Myanmar Companies Law under the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Ministry of Planning and Finance.

The Ministry of Education has been striving to enact the Private School Law, he said. But it cannot scrutinize the schools at present, he added. In the education sector, the Ministry is collaborating with the National Education Policy Commission, the National Curriculum Committee, the National Academic and Quality Assurance assessment committee and the Rectors committees, to offer remarks, suggestions, and scrutinize the process.

U Maung Maung Ohn of Ayeyawady Region's Constituency 5 asked whether the

government plans to open the Government Technology Institute in Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region. Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said that, at the moment, there were no plans to open a new technology institute in the township. Following this, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi answered the questions raised by Daw Sha Mu of Kayah State's Constituency 5, Dr. Sai Hsai Kyauk Sam of Shan State's Constituency 6, and U Htay Oo of Yangon Region's Constituency 2, respectively.

Next, Hluttaw Representatives held a discussion on the Myanmar Gemstone Bill 2017, which was sent with an amendment by the Pyithu Hluttaw.

Joining the discussion, U Kyaw Thiha of Mandalay Region's Constituency 12 said the Hluttaw has made new amendments to carry out the interests of the State and the people, in cooperation with the relevant regions / states approved by the Union Government. According to Clause eight, Chapter four of the Bill, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation had permitted plots for exploring minerals,

for mining jades and gems in gem-producing areas for medium-scale exploitation. "The main reason for the amendment was to avoid centralization and to create employment opportunities for the nation's people. That's why I would like to propose annulling the newly-added Clause ten of Chapter five" he said.

Speaking about the Bill, U Khin Maung Win of Sagaing Region's Constituency 7 said, "Myanmar is marching towards a market-oriented system to invite foreign investments, while promoting the role of local businessmen in all sectors. Thus, efforts should be made to boost the mining sector in the country. That's why approval of Clauses four and five should be made in accordance with the approval of Amyotha Hluttaw."

U Khin Maung Myint of Kachin State's Constituency 9 also took part in the discussion on the Bill.

The fourth meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's tenth regular session will continue on 16 November. ■ Aung Ye Thwin/MNA (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

ASEAN-COCI begins 53rd meeting in Nay Pyi Taw

THE opening ceremony for the 53rd Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (ASEAN-COCI) was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting opened with the ASEAN commemorative song. Next, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, Thura U Aung Ko, delivered a speech.

In his speech, the minister recognized the efforts made by senior officers of the COCI towards implementing the ASEAN Strategic Plan for Culture and Arts and the blueprint for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC).

He said the ASEAN-COCI was established on 4 October 1978 and the first ASEAN-COCI meeting was held from 4 to 6 October in 1978 in Manila, the Philippines. The ASEAN Culture Fund (ACF) was established on 2 December 1978. In 1985, COCI was operated through four working groups, Literary and ASEAN Studies, Visual and Performing Arts, Radio/TV, and Films/Video Print and Interpersonal Media.

The Union Minister said in 1999, the ASEAN-COCI changed its mode of operation. It now op-



Participants pose for the commemorative photo at the opening ceremony of 53rd meeting of ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

erates through two subcommittees: the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Culture and the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Information.

The sub-committees plan, implement and monitor projects which are approved and funded by the ASEAN-COCI and the ACF. Similarly, the ASEAN National COCIs in the ASEAN Member States oversee the co-ordination and implementation of ASEAN-COCI projects and activities. The ASEAN National COCIs comprise representatives from the ministries of

Culture, Information, State-run Radio and Television Networks, Heritage Boards, Museums, Archives, and Libraries of ASEAN member states.

The minister said the ASEAN Vision 2020 is also providing COCI with an aim for ASEAN: "A community conscious of its ties of history, aware of its cultural heritage, and bound by a common regional identity".

The COCI is cooperating with dialogue partner countries and partner organisations in accordance with ASEAN rules

and regulations. The cooperation which has seen prominent results, based on the unique regional signatures and the reality of ASEAN during the 50 years of ASEAN's formation.

He said the COCI will support cultivating people's awareness of ASEAN, exchanges, and cooperation of culture and art, upgrading of the culture and art industry, the conservation and preservation of cultural heritage, and human resource development in the culture sector to reach ASEAN Community

Vision 2025.

He expressed his appreciation of the culture and arts exchange, and cooperation between ASEAN countries and thanked officials from the ASEAN Secretary-General's Office for ensuring smooth operations. He said he believes the meeting will help improve the culture and art sector and expressed hopes of speeding up cooperation between ASEAN countries.

Afterwards, local and ASEAN traditional dances were performed at the ceremony.

Also present at the ceremony were Union Minister for Information, Dr. Pe Myint, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung, Deputy Ministers U Aung Hla Tun and U Kyi Min, permanent secretaries, departmental officials, officials of ASEAN-COCI from respective ASEAN countries and representatives from the ASEAN Secretary-General's Office. In the evening, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko hosted a dinner for ASEAN-COCI officials at the Royal Nay Pyi Taw Hotel.—MNA ■

(Translated by
Myat Thandar Aung)

Meeting on ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information underway in Nay Pyi Taw

THE 53rd meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (ASEAN-COCI) was held at the Royal Nay Pyi Taw Hotel yesterday.

During the meeting, the Rector of the National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay), Daw Khin Kyi Pyar, said management systems to implement a culture of prevention intended for culture and arts and appropriate technologies are needed to promote cultural habits that are in accord with the ASEAN's Strategic Plan for Culture and Arts 2016-2025.

The meeting will review the outcomes from previous meetings and set processes for the future.

Participants at the meeting then discussed cooperation with dialogue partner countries and analyzed the state of implementation of the previous meeting's decision, strategic plans, and reviews on funding for 2019 finance.



The 53rd ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information in process in Royal Nay Pyi Taw Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

The meeting of ASEAN's Sub-committee on Culture and Information (ASEAN-COCI) was held at the Royal Nay Pyi Taw Hotel on 13 November. Rector Daw Khin Kyi Pyar chaired the meeting of the ASEAN Sub-committee on Culture, while MRTV Director Daw Moe Thuzar Aung chaired the meet-

ing of the ASEAN Sub-committee on Information.

Present at the meeting were departmental officials, officials from COCI from representative ASEAN countries, and representatives from the ASEAN Secretary-General's Office. —MNA ■ (Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

Third meeting of Second ...

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Deputy Minister for Health and Sports, Dr. Mya Lay Sein, replied that the ministry is aiming to complete the construction of the hospital in 2020-2021 Fiscal Year.

MPurges Union government to set rural electrification policy

U Thaug Aye from Pyawbwe constituency submitted a motion urging the Union government to scrutinize and set a rural electrification policy as part of the National Electrification Project-(NEP).

He said it is every government's duty to ensure there is national development, and every citizen's dream to see it come true. He said it is important for every citizen to have access to electrical energy. He pointed out that 70 per cent of Myanmar is made of rural districts that require access to electrical energy to promote their social economy and support national development. He said the rural electrification processes in motion need a unifying element to achieve a

cohesive and peaceful development. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat gathered the deliberation of the assembly regarding the motion and then approved for it to be discussed.

Pyithu, Amyotha Hluttaws differ on Bill

Next, the Speaker announced that the Amyotha Hluttaw has sent back the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Bill with amendments.

Dr. Wai Phyo Aung of the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee tabled a motion to discuss the Bill at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. He said they disagreed with the amendments from the Amyotha Hluttaw and said they will only accept the five-prior approved points from the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee. The Speaker then announced that the Bill will be sent to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw assembly for deliberation.

The fourth meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's tenth regular session will continue tomorrow.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)