

First regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw in its second day.
Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee formed

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March-The second-day regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw was held at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 11 am today.

It was attended by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint announced the validity and start of the second-day session as 223 or 99.55 % of the 224 entitled Amyotha Hluttaw representatives were present.

The speaker made clarification to formation of the Bill Committee; and the deputy speaker, to duties, powers and privileges of the committee.

The duties of the committee are:

- (1) The committee shall vet the bills based on the following points.
 - (a) Whether or not bills conform with the State policies and objectives,
 - (b) Whether or not bills conform with provisions of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and existing laws,
 - (c) Whether or not bills are designed to safeguard the interests of the nation and the people,
 - (d) Whether or not bills carry points that can harm State perpetuation and security,
 - (e) Whether or not bills conform with objective conditions of the State,
 - (f) Whether or not bills harm security of the public and their property,
 - (g) Whether or not bills carry words and terms that can harm national unity,
 - (h) Whether or not powers between a ministry and another, and between a governmental department and enterprise and another are mingled,
 - (i) If a bill is drawn according to responsibilities enumerated in international, regional or multilateral agreements and MoUs, or international or regional agreements between regions, whether or not the bill conforms with the points agreed by Myanmar in the agreements and MoUs, and whether or not the bill harms the State sovereignty,
 - (j) Whether or not the bills carry all related points on policy,
 - (k) Whether or not provisions of the bills are practicable or not,
 - (l) Whether or not the bills carry all provisions to implement their purposes,
- (2) Committee members, when assigned duties by the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, shall serve as members of the joint bill committee to be formed with the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker,
- (3) The committee shall carry out duties occasionally assigned by Amyotha Hluttaw.
- (4) The committee shall assess bills in the same ways in Amyotha Hluttaw. However,
 - (a) There is no need to ascertain support regarding tabling motions and submitting suggestions,
 - (b) Committee members have the right to hold discussions more than one time in a matter.
 - (c) Regarding bills, experienced officials may be invited in coordination with the departments and organizations concerned for advice,

(5) What a committee member says or does and discussions at a committee meeting shall not be leaked out. All the discussions held in committee meetings shall be recorded and approved by the committee.

Meeting minutes shall not be handed out. A copy of the report to Amyotha Hluttaw shall be dispatched to Hluttaw Office in order that the case can be kept in the case file together with meeting minutes.

Powers of the committee are-

(1) Committee meetings are to be held in accord with Article 43 of Amyotha Hluttaw Bylaws.

(2) With regard to bills, the committee-

- (a) has the right to submit proposals for the interests of the nation and the people to Amyotha Hluttaw,
- (b) has the right to submit legal advices, and comments made by the peoples and experts to Amyotha Hluttaw after having analyzed,
- (c) has the right to propose amendments to Amyotha Hluttaw,
- (d) has the right to amend writing and usages that are out of date, from legal point of view.

(3) According to Paragraph 2, proposals and suggestions of the committee must be ones related with matters described in the bill. In addition, those proposals and suggestions must be within the scope of the bill.

(4) When the committee has finished drafting the bill,

- (a) the committee chairman shall draft report and submit it at the committee meeting,
- (b) if the committee agrees the bill, the committee chairman shall sign the bill and submit it to the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker,
- (c) a committee member who presides over the meeting shall submit the bill if the committee chairman is absent,
- (d) if there is no special instruction of the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, the committee is to submit its report to him within seven days (exclusive of holidays) commencing the day on which the bill is handed over to the committee,
- (e) in doing so, committee members are to sign that he or she agrees the report. If there is any exception or disagreement, it shall be written down and enclosed in the report with signature,
- (f) the committee chairman or person who is assigned by the committee chairman is to read out and explain the report.

(5) Committee members-

- (a) have access to freedom of speech and right to cast vote if not violate from constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Amyotha Hluttaw Rules,
- (b) have the right to join two Hluttaw Committees of Amyotha Hluttaw at the most.
- (c) have the right to hand in his resignation from the committee to the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker with valid reasons.

Privileges and rights of a committee member

(1) Committee members, being Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, have right to enjoy relevant privileges described in law on allowance and expense as well as privileges granted by the Government of the Union while they are at the committee head office or on a duty trip to carry out duties of the committee or to attend committee meeting.

(2) Committee members-

(a) shall not be taken action against other laws except under Amyotha Hluttaw Law regarding discussions held at committee meetings,

(b) shall not be arrested while the committee is in session without the prior approval of the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker through the head of the organization concerned,

(c) shall, if he is arrested under a crime, have the right to attend committee meetings with the approval of the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, until a verdict is delivered against him.

Afterwards, the session was adjourned for discussion with Amyotha Hluttaw representatives who are joining the bill committee. The session was resumed at 1.05 pm and the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker submitted nomination of number of members of the bill committee, committee members, committee chairman and committee secretary to Amyotha Hluttaw in accord with Amyotha Hluttaw Law 21, Bylaw 33 and 40.

Persons designated as members of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee are:

- (1) U Mya Nyein Yangon Region Constituency (7)
- (2) U Khat Htain Nan Kachin State Constituency (1)
- (3) Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye Kayin State Constituency (6)
- (4) U Mann Aung Tin Myint Kayin State Constituency (12)
- (5) U Sun Dot Kyint Chin State Constituency (6)
- (6) Dr Hla Thein Mon State Constituency (6)
- (7) U Than Myint Taninthayi Region Constituency (10)
- (8) U Myint Tun Bago Region Constituency (10)
- (9) U Soe Myint Magway Region Constituency (6)
- (10) U Zaw Myint Pe Mandalay Region Constituency (5)
- (11) Dr Myat Nyanna Soe Yangon Region Constituency (4)
- (12) U Tin Yu Yangon Region Constituency (11)
- (13) U Kyaw Tun Aung Rakhine State Constituency (5)
- (14) U San Tun Kachin State Constituency (11)
- (15) U Sai Paung Nut Shan State Constituency (12)

U Mya Nyein of Yangon Region Constituency (7) will be assigned as Committee Chairman and U San Tun of Kachin State Constituency (11) as Secretary.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker sought approval for numbers of committee member, names of the members, names of the committee chairman and the secretary and duties, powers and rights of the committee from the Amyotha Hluttaw representatives and then announced the approval.

The Speaker announced the end of second-day meeting of the First Amyotha Hluttaw Session and the third-day meeting will be held at 10 am on 3 March (Thursday).

The meeting concluded at 1.15 pm.

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