

**First regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw goes on for third day.
15-member Public Accounts Committee formed**



NAY PYI TAW, 3 March-The first regular session of the Amyotha Hluttaw continued for the third day at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 10 am today.

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

Regarding the formation of the Public Accounts Committee, the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker said that according to Amyotha Hluttaw Rules (33) and (47), a public accounts committee shall be formed with not more than 15 hluttaw representatives; that suitable number of members, and a list of suitable nominees, the chairman and the secretary shall be submitted to the hluttaw for approval.

He said that according to Amyotha Hluttaw Law (27) and Rule (34), the number of committee members, and their duties, powers, rights and terms shall be designated by the hluttaw; that so the Amyotha Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee is scheduled to be formed with 15 members; that after one year the members' assumption of duties, reviews will be carried out, old members will be replaced with new ones as necessary; and that the deputy speaker will make clarification to the committee's duties, powers, privileges and rights to be designated by the hluttaw.

The deputy Amyotha Hluttaw speaker clarified duties, powers, rights of the Public Accounts Committee.

Duties of Public Accounts Committee are as follows:-

(1) the committee:

(a) shall, in scrutinizing the budget of the Union Government and report of the Union Auditor-General, find out whether or not the budget approved by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is spent for the case concerned, in line with the rules and regulations and in an efficient way.

(b) may inquire at the departments and enterprises to find out whether or not the budget is spent efficiently.

(c) is responsible for submitting reports to Amyotha Hluttaw regarding the following matters:

(1) spending a budget approved by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in response to the report from the Union Government for a case under another heading,

(2) spending an approved budget under another heading which is not consistent with the rules promulgated by the Ministry of Finance and Revenue,

(3) discovering defects in the way of spending budgets which should be disseminated to the department and enterprise concerned,

(4) budgets asked by the Ministry of Finance and Revenue to submit to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw,

(d) shall scrutinize accounts to be carried out in compliance with the order of the Union President regarding economic enterprises of the Union Government as well as the Union Auditor- General's report on the accounts.

(e) shall scrutinize the Union Auditor-General's reports on an account examined under the order of the Union President, stocks of stored goods, and the Union Auditor-General's reports on examination of the goods.

(2) Regarding matters to be vetted by the committee, the committee:

(a) shall scrutinize as necessary matters assigned by the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker according to the information from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and submit its findings and remarks to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw through Amyotha Hluttaw,

(b) shall scrutinize as necessary matters assigned by the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker according to the resolution passed by Amyotha Hluttaw, and submit its findings and remarks to Amyotha Hluttaw session,

(c) shall scrutinize as necessary matters assigned by Amyotha Hluttaw having decided to do so according to the report by an Amyotha Hluttaw representative, and submit its findings and remarks to Amyotha Hluttaw session,

(d) may invite experienced officials in coordination with the departments and organizations concerned for advice.

(3) In general, in scrutinizing matters under the responsibilities mentioned in para (a) and para (b), the committee:

(a) does not 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.

(4) Committee members, when assigned duties by the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, shall serve as members of the combined Public Accounts Committee formed with the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

(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 shall be held in line with the provisions of Rule (50) of Amyotha Hluttaw Rules.

(2) Regarding the committee's submission of a report:

(a) The committee chairman or the secretary (when the chairman is away), or a member (when the chairman and the secretary are away) shall submit the committee's report to Amyotha Hluttaw.

(b) In the process, committee members shall put their signatures on the report to show their approval. However, if there is an exception or difference, they may attach exceptions and differences to the report with their signatures.

(c) After submission of the report, on the day that is not four days earlier and not 10 days later than the day designated by the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, the committee chairman or the secretary (when the chairman is away), or a member (when the chairman and the secretary are away) shall submit the report for discussion.

(d) Amyotha Hluttaw representatives have no power to amend the report.

(e) After discussing the report, the committee chairman or the secretary (when the chairman is away), or a member (when the chairman and the secretary are away) shall submit the report to Amyotha Hluttaw for approval.

(3) If the matters to be undertaken by the committee and Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee are similar to each other, the committee shall submit the matters to Amyotha Hluttaw for hluttaw speakers to hold discussions.

(4) Committee members:

(a) have the freedom of speech and the right to vote subject to the provisions of the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Amyotha Hluttaw Laws.

- (b) have the rights to be members of in maximum two hluttaw committees of Amyotha Hluttaw.
- (c) have the right to submit resignation letters to the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker with sound reasons.

Privileges and rights of a committee member

(1) Committee members, being Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, have the right to enjoy relevant privileges described in law on allowance and expense as well as privileges granted by the Union Government while they are at the committee head office or on a duty trip to carry out functions 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 discussion 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, names of persons to be included in Public Accounts Committee were announced and the session was adjourned for discussion with Amyotha Hluttaw representatives who are joining the committee.

When the session was resumed, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker submitted nomination of suitable numbers of members of committee, committee members, chairman and secretary for formation of Public Accounts Committee to Amyotha Hluttaw in accord with Section 21 of Amyotha Hluttaw Law and Rules 33 and 47 of Amyotha Hluttaw Rule.

The committee will be formed with 15 members who are-

(1) U Bran Shaung Kachin State

Constituency (3)

(2) U Sa Ye Kayah State

Constituency (6)

(3) U Saw Tun Mya Aung Kayin State

Constituency (5)

(4) U Zon Hle Htan Chin State
Constituency (2)

(5) U Steven Tharbeik Chin State
Constituency (4)

(6) Daw Yi Yi Myint Mon State
Constituency (1)

(7) U Khin Maung Aye Sagaing Region
Constituency (7)

(8) U Thein Win Sagaing Region
Constituency (9)

(9) U Moe Myint Taninthayi Region
Constituency (7)

(10) Daw Cho Nwe Oo Bago Region
Constituency (7)

(11) U Aung Tun Magway Region
Constituency (11)

(12) Daw Khin Waing Kyi Yangon Region
Constituency (1)

(13) U Khin Maung Yi Ayeyawady Region
Constituency (6)

(14) U Khin Maung Rakhine State
Constituency (3)

(15) U Shu Maung Shan State Constituency (8)

U Aung Tun of Magway Region Constituency (11) will be assigned as the committee chairman and U Khin Maung Aye of Sagaing Region Constituency (7) as the secretary.

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

Afterwards, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced the third-day regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw ended and the fourth-day regular session of the Hluttaw would be held at 10 am tomorrow.

The session came to an end at 11.10 am.

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