

**First regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw continues for sixth day.
Means approved at Amyotha Hluttaw for raising and replying to queries,
submitting proposals, holding discussions**

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March-The first regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw continued for the sixth day at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building, here, at 10.30 am today, attended by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

After taking position, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint announced the validity and start of the sixth-day session as 222 or 99.55 per cent of 223 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives were present.

Of the questions submitted under Amyotha Hluttaw Rule 116 by Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, permitted ones were raised, and members of respective Union level organizations responded to the questions.

Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Zaw replied to three questions.

Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency- 4 said that as modern communication networks and communication technology are developing in the Union of Myanmar, the international standard communication services are being given to the people across the nation. Although technologies of GSM, CDMA 800 MHz, CDMA 450 MHz and Mc Will are different in wireless telecommunication system, all the telecommunication systems use SIM Cards only. In the international communication service, it is unnecessary to pay initial installation charge, but to buy pre-paid system SIM Cards. The Myanmar Wireless Telegraph Act was promulgated in 1933, and some points should be amended in the Electronic Communications Law (Law No. 5/ 2004). As such, the amendments are to be submitted to Hluttaws.

He raised a question whether pre-paid SIM cards can be sold at reasonable price in kyat or not after cancelling the system of initial installation charge to enable all the people to use wireless telephones for ensuring greater development in the communication sector, and whether the opportunity can be created for private and foreign investors in the communication sector or not.

U San Tun of Kachin State Constituency No. 11 said that the information technology plays an important role in shaping the Union of Myanmar as a modern and developed nation. He raised a question regarding arrangements made for applying information technology on a wider scale in urban and rural areas of Myanmar.

U Paul Thang Thaing of Chin State Constituency No. 3 said that Thantlang Township of Chin State is sharing border with India.

Although the government installed auto-telephones in the township about two years ago, the people have easy access to urban area only, facing difficulties in making trunk calls. He raised a question how the departments concerned will make arrangements for better telecommunication for the township.

With regard to three questions, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Zaw, member of respective Union level organization, replied to the question raised by Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency-4 at first. He said that there are 1,090,323 auto-telephones and 2,101,427

mobile phones, totalling 3,191,750 at present compared with 74,855 telephones in 1988. Telephone density hit 5.4 per cent in the entire nation, 30 per cent in Yangon and 20 per cent in Mandalay.

There remains lesser telephone density in rural areas. Efforts are being made for installation of cellular, CDMA-450, CDMA-800 and GSM mobile phones for the increase of telephone density, better facility of telephone use and wider coverage of telephone in the rural areas. Plans on SIM card and mobile telephone technology are being implemented in Myanmar step by step. With regard to the question of the representative, the Ministry of CPT has set plans to be implemented.

Regarding the competitiveness of private and foreign investments in communications sector, Yatanarpon Teleport Co Ltd was established with the contribution of 40 % of the ministry and 60 % of private entrepreneurs and it can be continued to function in accord with the Constitution and existing laws. Laws relating to communications have been drafted and works are underway for the approval.

In replying the question raised by U San Tun of Kachin State Constituency No (11), he said the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs set up Information and Technology Department on 22 June 2006 for development of Information and Technology in Myanmar and it is moving into high gear.

Regarding the Internet access, the number of the Internet users has increased from only four in 1998 to 78010 in March 2008, 93585 in March 2009 and 351390 in March 2010.

The numbers of Netizens will hit 380000 in March 2011.

Arrangements have been made to transfer and receive data through Enhanced Data Rates for GSM Evolution-EDGE in GSM system and Evolution Data Optimized-EVDO in CDMA-450 MHz and CDMA-800 MHz systems.

McWill (Multi Carrier Wireless Internet Local Loop) Broadband Wireless Access system has been put into service in Yangon and Mandalay plus Khamti, Homalin, Kalewa and Bamauk townships in Sagaing Region and plans are underway to extend the system in urban and rural areas.

Works are being carried out to provide services with the use of ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line) and Triple Play system, FTTH, Fiber to the Home system in Yangon, Mandalay and major towns by Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and Yatanarpon Teleport Co Ltd. Intranet service is being provided by Yatanarpon Teleport and arrangements have been made to have access to Internet through Intranet.

In replying the question raised by U Paul Thang Thaing of Chin State Constituency No (3), KY-1000XM Exchange with a capacity of 330 lines and exchange phone number 60 xxx was put into service in Thantlang on 28 February 2009.

Services with CO Line (8) Lines (013330041 / 3 3 3 0 0 4 2 / 3 3 3 0 0 4 3 / 3 3 3 0 0 4 4 / 3 3 3 7 5 9 0 / 3 3 3 7 5 9 1 / 3 3 3 7 5 9 2 / 3337593) of MPT Satellite Terminal is being provided for trunk calls from Thantlang Exchange to other townships. The eight lines for trunk call can be busy as the number of lines has increased from 80 to 190.

For better trunk call service, the ministry has made arrangements for extension of microwave trunk call connection and CDMA-450 MHz system in Thantlang Township.

Next, the session was adjourned.

Then submitting pro-posals and making decision on whether or not proposals should be discussed were carried out at the meeting.

U Steven Thabeik of Chin State Constituency (4) submitted a proposal “to form a board comprising experts and experienced persons in order to review the present education system.”

U Phone Myint Aung of Yangon Region Constituency No (3) seconded the motion.

Approval was sought for holding discussions on the proposal and the Hluttaw approved it.

The Hluttaw representatives wishing to participate in the discussions may enlist at the deputy director-general of the Hluttaw Office beginning this evening.

U Paul Hlyan Lwin of Chin State Constituency-9 submitted the proposal “to open college in suitable area of Chin State”.

U Paul Thang Thaing of Chin State Constituency- 3 seconded the motion.

Approval was sought for holding the discussion on the proposal and the Hluttaw approved it. The Hluttaw representatives wishing to participate in the discussions may enlist at the deputy director general of the Hluttaw Office beginning this evening.

U Steven Thabeik of Chin State Constituency-4 submitted a proposal “to form a board with the participation of experienced experts for adopting the best system for health care service as it is weak. U Gam Hsaing of Chin State Constituency-2 seconded the motion.

Approval was sought for holding the discussion on the proposal and the Hluttaw approved it. The Hluttaw representatives wishing to participate in the discussions may enlist at the deputy director-general of the Hluttaw Office beginning this evening.

U Paul Hlyan Lwin of Chin State Constituency- 9 submitted the proposal “to issue physician licence to Chin national race doctors who had completed their studies as soon as possible and to assign them to necessary areas of Chin State”.

Dr Banya Aung Moe of Mon State Constituency- 7 seconded the motion.

Approval was sought for holding the discussion on the proposal and the Hluttaw approved it. The Hluttaw representatives wishing to participate in the discussions may enlist at the deputy director-general of the Hluttaw Office beginning this evening.

The Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw announced the first regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw for sixth day ended and the seventhday regular session will be held at 10 am tomorrow.

The session came to an end at 12.05 pm

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