

## **Second day regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw held. Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee formed**

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

It was attended by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and Pyithu Hluttaw representatives. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann announced the validity and start of the second-day session as 430 or 99.08 % of the 434 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives were present.

The speaker made clarification regarding formation of the Bill Committee; and the deputy speaker, duties, powers and rights 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 or regional 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 relevant law,
  - (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 Pyithu 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 Pyithu Hluttaw,
- (4) The committee shall assess bills as the same ways in Pyithu 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 Pyithu 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 Pyithu Hluttaw Bylaws.
- (2) With regard to bills, the committee-
  - (a) has the right to submit proposals for the interests of the nation and the peoples to Pyithu Hluttaw,
  - (b) has the right to submit judicial suggestions, and comments made by the peoples and experts to Pyithu Hluttaw after having analyzed,
  - (c) has the right to propose amendments to Pyithu Hluttaw,
  - (d) has the right to amend writing and usages that are out of date, from judicial 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 Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker,
  - (c) the committee secretary shall submit the bill to the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker if the chairman is absent and a committee member who presides over the meeting shall submit the bill if both are absent,
  - (d) if there is no special instruction of the Pyithu 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 stated and enclosed in the report with signature,
  - (f) the committee chairman or person who is assigned by the committee chairman shall read out and explain the report.
- (5) Committee members-
  - (a) have access to freedom of speech and right to cast vote if not violate constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Pyithu Hluttaw Rules,
  - (b) have the right to join two Hluttaw Committees of Pyithu Hluttaw at the most,
  - (c) have the right to hand in his resignation from the committee to the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker with valid reasons.

Privileges and rights of a committee member

- (1) Committee members, being Pyithu 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 Pyithu 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 Pyithu 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 Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, until a verdict is delivered against him.

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

Persons designated as members of Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee are:

- (1) Daw Nan Wah Nu Kunhing Constituency
- (2) U Thaung Mawlaik Constituency
- (3) U Ba Shein Kyaukpyu Constituency
- (4) U Ngon Maung Haka Constituency
- (5) Daw Dwe Bu M' Jangyang Constituency
- (6) U Nanda Kyaw Swar Dagon Constituency
- (7) U Ti Khun Myat Kutkai Constituency
- (8) U Saw Hla Tun ChaungU Constituency
- (9) U Khin Maung Myint Zeegon Constituency
- (10) U Khin Maung Nyo Pauk Constituency
- (11) U Khin Maung Shwe Tamu Constituency
- (12) U Soe Yal Dimawhso Constituency
- (13) U Stefan Kengtung Constituency
- (14) U Thein Tun Oo Amarapura Constituency
- (15) Dr Soe Moe Aung Bilin Constituency

U Nanda Kyaw Swar of Dagon Constituency will be assigned as Committee Chairman and U Ti Khun Myat of Kutkai Constituency as Secretary.

The Pyithu 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 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives and then announced the approval.

In his clarification, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker said that the Hluttaw has already prescribed the formation, duties, powers and rights of Hluttaw committees. All Hluttaw representatives, counting himself, were not wellexperienced enough to deal with procedures in Hluttaw, he explained.

They are, though, arranged in accord with the Constitution and Pyithu Hluttaw Laws and Rules in addition to the interior and exterior knowledge. He highlighted the cooperation of Hluttaw representatives so that the Hluttaw procedures went well.

He continued to say that basic qualifications considered in assigning members of Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee and three other committees were education, experience, constituency (Region or State), parties in Hluttaw and gender. In a discussion with the designated representatives at interval, they would do their duties with cooperation; would work in the interest of the State, the Union and the citizens with no attachments of party, belief, region, ethnic and religion; took pride of designation and would make their all-out efforts. The Speaker revealed his pleasure of having the same voice among them and called for continued cooperation.

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

The meeting concluded at 1.25 pm.

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