

**First regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw continues for third day.
15-member Public Accounts Committee formed**



NAY PYI TAW, 3 March - The first regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw continued for the third day at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 10 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 third-day session as 432 or 99.54% of the 434 entitled Pyithu Hluttaw representatives were present.

Regarding formation of the Public Accounts Committee, the Speaker said that the Public Accounts Committee will be formed with not more than 15 Hluttaw representatives in accord with Sub-section (a) of Section 115 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Pyithu Hluttaw Law Section 21 and 22 and Rules 33 and 47, and that suitable numbers of members, a list of nominees, the chairman and secretary shall be submitted and sought for approval.

He said that, according to the Pyithu Hluttaw Rule 49, although the term of the Public Accounts Committee is the same as that of the hluttaw but review will be carried out to make membership replacements as necessary one year after its formation.

After formation of the Public Accounts Committee with Hluttaw representatives, duties, powers and rights of the committee will be designated. The deputy Pyithu Hluttaw speaker will make clarification to follow-up works to be approved by the hluttaw representatives as duties, powers, and rights of the committee shall be designated by the hluttaw in accord with the Pyithu Hluttaw Rule 34.

The deputy Pyithu Hluttaw speaker clarified duties, powers and 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 idaungsu 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 Pyithu 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 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 the committee shall examine, the committee:

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

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

(c) shall scrutinize as necessary matters assigned by Pyithu Hluttaw having decided to do so according to the report by a Pyithu Hluttaw member, and submit its findings and remarks to Pyithu 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 Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, shall serve as members of the combined Public Accounts Committee formed with the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker.

(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 shall be held in accord with the provisions of Rule (50) of Pyithu 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 Pyithu Hluttaw.

(b) In the process, committee members shall put their signatures on the report to show their approval. 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 Pyithu 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) Pyithu 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 Pyithu Hluttaw for approval.

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

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

Privileges and rights of a committee member

(1) Committee members, being Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, have the right to enjoy relevant privileges described in law on allowance and expense as well as privileges granted by the Government of the Union of Myanmar 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 Pyithu 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 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, names of persons to be included in Public Accounts Committee were announced and the session was adjourned for discussion with Pyithu Hluttaw representatives who are joining the committee.

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

The committee will be formed with 15 members who are-

(1) U Sai Thiha Kyaw Mongyai Constituency

(2) U Mahn Maung Pantanaw
Maung Nyan Constituency

(3) Daw Tin Nwe Oo North Dagon Constituency

(4) U Khun Maung Thaung Pinlaung Constituency

(5) U Khun Lane Falam Constituency

- (6) U Thurein Zaw Kawkareik Constituency
- (7) U Maung Toe Minhla Constituency
- (8) U Soe Myint Nyaunglebin Constituency
- (9) U Kyi Tha Gwa Constituency
- (10) U Aung Mya Than Nyaungdon Constituency
- (11) U Hauk Khant Man Taunzan Constituency
- (12) U Aung Lin Hlaing Bokpyin Constituency
- (13) Dr Win Myint Hline Constituency
- (14) Daw Mi Yin Chan Kyaikmaraw Constituency
- (15) U Moe Zaw Hein Katha Constituency

U Thurein Zaw of Kawkareik Constituency will be appointed as the committee chairman and U Maung Toe of Minhla Constituency as the secretary.

Next, the Pyithu 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 Pyithu Hluttaw and then announced the approval.

Afterwards, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the third day regular session of First Pyithu 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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