

**First Pyithu Hluttaw Regular Session continues for fourth day.
15-member Hluttaw Rights Committee formed.
Hluttaw Rights Committee formed to scrutinize cases concerning breach of duties,
powers and rights of Hluttaw, Hluttaw Committee or Hluttaw representative**

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March - The first regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw continued for the fourth 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 fourth day session as 431 or 99.54 % of 433 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives were present.

Regarding formation of the Hluttaw Rights Committee, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker said that formation of Hluttaw Rights Committee, one of four Hluttaw Committees, would be carried out today; that according to Pyithu Hluttaw Law Section 21 and 22 and Rules 33 and 54, the Hluttaw Rights Committee shall be formed with not more than 15 hluttaw representatives; that the deputy Pyithu Hluttaw speaker would discharge as the chairman of the committee according to the position; 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 subject to provisions of the law relating to the Pyithu Hluttaw, a Hluttaw representative with the permission of the Hluttaw speaker may submit a case concerning a breach of rights of the Hluttaw or a Hluttaw Committee or a Hluttaw representative to the Hluttaw as prescribed in Pyithu Hluttaw Rule 58 (a); that concerning such provisions, there are duties, powers and rights for an individual Hluttaw representative, a single Hluttaw committee or the whole Hluttaw; that the privileges of the Hluttaw, a Hluttaw committee or a Hluttaw representative as prescribed in Rule 58 (a) are all concerned with those duties, powers and rights; that the Hluttaw Rights Committee is therefore formed so as to scrutinize cases concerning the breach of duties, powers and rights of the Hluttaw, a Hluttaw Committee or a Hluttaw representative.

The speaker continued to say that although it is prescribed in line with Pyithu Hluttaw Rule 56 that the tenure of the Hluttaw Rights Committee is the same as that of the Hluttaw, reviews will be made to make membership replacements as necessary one year after its formation.

Just after the formation of the Hluttaw Rights Committee with the deputy speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw as chairman, the Hluttaw will have to designate duties, powers and rights of the committee in accord with Pyithu Hluttaw Rule 34. So, the deputy speaker will continue to explain the said matters to the representatives for approval, added the speaker.

The deputy Pyithu Hluttaw speaker clarified duties, powers, privileges and rights of the Pyithu Hluttaw Rights Committee.

Duties of Pyithu Hluttaw Rights Committee are as follows: -

(1) the committee:

(a) shall scrutinize the matters transferred to it, as follows:-

(1) making a decision based on facts about the matters transferred to it whether the matters violate the rights of Pyithu Hluttaw,

(2) making a decision what violates the rights and how,

(3) reporting to Pyithu Hluttaw to suggest what action Pyithu Hluttaw should take regarding the case,

(b) subject to the provisions in para (a), the committee in its report shall suggest how Pyithu Hluttaw should do to accomplish the suggestion,

(c) it has the right to submit a report to Pyithu Hluttaw if so may require in order that Pyithu Hluttaw can deal with regional or international hluttaws.

(2) in general, in scrutinizing matters according to abovementioned responsibilities, 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.

(3) 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 convened in accordance with the provisions of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule 61.

(2) Regarding the committee's 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) The committee shall convene meetings occasionally to assess a rights matter transferred to it, and shall submit the reports to Pyithu Hluttaw on the designated day.

Provided that Pyithu Hluttaw does not designate a date to submit the report, the committee shall submit the case to Pyithu Hluttaw within one month from the day Pyithu Hluttaw hands over a rights matter to it.

(c) 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.

(d) Provided that the committee is unable to submit a final report on schedule, it shall submit an interim report.

(3) In discharging duties, the committee:--

(a) has the right to summon related persons for questioning. It also has the right to summon related persons to evidence necessary documents and records. If occasion arises to decide whether or not the statement or documents and evidences of a person are related to functions of the committee, the committee chairman has the right to submit the case to Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker for decision. The decision made by the Pyithu Hluttaw speaker shall be final. The Union Government has the right to deny a document or record in case of harm to State security and interest.

(b) shall issue a written summon for a related person to provide a statement or submit documents or evidences before the committee.

The committee has the right to decide whether or not the statement or documents and evidences should be kept secret.

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

(4) If occasion arises, the committee shall invite the Union Attorney-General to the committee meetings for legal advice.

(5) Regarding the committee's report:-

(a) After the committee's report has been submitted to Pyithu Hluttaw, the committee chairman or the secretary (when the chairman is away), or a member (when the chairman and the secretary are away) shall submit a case for the Pyithu Hluttaw speaker to assess the report on the designated day.

(b) After Pyithu Hluttaw has assessed the case submitted according to para (a), the initiator shall submit the case to Pyithu Hluttaw for approval.

(6) 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 rights 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.

(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 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 them.

Afterwards, names of the designated persons to be included in Hluttaw Rights 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 Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker submitted nomination of suitable numbers of members of committee, committee members, chairman and secretary for formation of Hluttaw Rights Committee with not more than 15 representatives to Pyithu Hluttaw in accord with Section 21 of Pyithu Hluttaw Law and Rules 33 and 54 of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule.

Members nominated to the post of committee members are-

- (1) U Nanda Kyawswar Dagon Constituency
- (2) U Nelson (a) U Saung Si Kyaukme Constituency
- (3) Daw Mi Myint Than Ye Constituency
- (4) Dr Than Win North Okkalapa
- (5) U Saw Thein Aung Hlaingbwe Constituency
- (6) U Aye Pe Coco Island Constituency
- (7) Dr Soe Yin Kamayut Constituency
- (8) U Hla Myint Oo Pyinmana Constituency
- (9) U Min Swe DaikU Constituency
- (10) U Thein Lwin Chauk Constituency
- (11) Dr San Hlaing Taungup Constituency
- (12) U Peik Htwe Kama Constituency
- (13) U Tin Maung Oo Shwepyitha Constituency
- (14) U Myint Soe Pyawbwe Constituency
- (15) Daw Nan Nun Shadaw Constituency

Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyawswar will be assigned as the committee chairman and U Hla Myint Oo of Pyinmana 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 fourth-day of the first regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw ended and the fifth-day regular session would be held at 10 am on 7th March.

The session came to an end at 11.15 am.

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