

**Three Pyithu Hluttaw representatives discuss proposal of U Tun Myint Oo
to take census of the entire nation
Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Oo replies**

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March-At today's Pyithu Hluttaw session, three representatives discussed the proposal to take census of the entire nation submitted by U Tun Myint Oo of Mongpan Constituency. First, U Sai Saw Tin of Mongyawng Constituency said that Myanmar is attempting to establish discipline flourishing democracy system and has announced to the world that she will practice marketoriented economic system that suitable for her new political system.

In practicing marketoriented economic system, it is vital to know the correct and accurate census dividing into sex, age and region so as to calculate such important data as productivity, domestic consumption and export sales.

By taking census, spread of diverse national races across the nation, population density, agricultural productivity and food sufficiency of respective regions will become apparent and health, education, literature, traditional customs and administrative matters of respective national brethren will be managed correctly.

Furthermore, approximate lists of voters can be drawn up for elections. The current census is mere rough estimate one and thus he seconded the proposal of U Tun Myint Oo from Mongpan Constituency, said U Sai Saw Tin.

Daw Nan Wah Nu of Kunhing Constituency said that accurate census is instrumental in establishing a discipline flourishing democratic nation.

Census was taken in Myanmar in 1933, 1953, 1963, 1973 and 1983 and since then it was not taken again.

She said that she found wrong census while going for election campaigns, and thus seconded U Tun Myint Oo's proposal.

U Tin Maung Win of Mingaladon Constituency said that the State needs correct and accurate census for it will contribute a great deal to socioeconomic status of the peoples.

Taking census of the entire nation is massive work and is also a national work plan that calls for participation of the entire nation. It is a work to be done simultaneously across the nation and therefore requires sufficient period of time for it calls for participation of various fields such as finance, manpower, management, security, and administration. It is unlikely that the census will be accurate and correct census if it is done in haste.

And, therefore, sufficient time should be taken to take census of the entire nation for its accuracy. In his response, Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Oo said that census means collecting complete information on a particular person in a particular region in a particular time and thus needs to be infused with four features, namely, individuality, universality, simultaneity and defined periodicity.

The Census Department took censuses in 252 townships in 1953 and 2143 village-tracts in 1954 as the nationwide campaign. In 1973, the census of the entire nation could be taken and lists of voters also made. To take census, 1972 Census Law of the Union of Myanmar was issued on 22 April, 1972. Central Census Commission and different levels of census committees were formed in August, 1972 and about 13 months was taken for preparation works. The census of the entire nation was taken in 1983 and that time two years was used for preparation works.

Since the last census was taken in 1983, no new census could be taken and contributory data in population calculation were collected in cooperation with United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA). In doing so, population change and birth rate data was collected in 1991 and birth rate and reproductive health data in 1997, 2001 and 2006.

Sample surveys were carried out in 36 townships in 2007 and 36 townships in 2008 so as to analyze the accuracy of the census and the rate of population change after 2006. The census of whole population of 26 townships in thirteen regions and states was taken in 2009.

Primary local data were collected from Immigration and National registration Department in order to get correct lists of population constantly.

The previous experiences in taking census in 1973 and 1983 show that it took at least to prepare to take census and it took five days to take census. Making lists took two years and peoples cooperate in taking census as it was done was massive campaign.

So, taking census takes time and calls for participation of the entire nation. Ministry of minister alone can not accomplish it and it is a time-consuming task to be undertaken by the Government at an opportune time, concluded the minister.

Next, the Hluttaw Speaker said that he hoped that every one would understand the situation now as three representatives and the minister had discussed the proposal of U Tun Myint Oo. Taking census of the entire nation should be and is to be done. He continued that he understood that it should be done at an opportune time as the work is massive and time consuming.

The Pyithu Hluttaw accepted the proposal of U Tun Myint Oo of Mongpan Constituency as hluttaw representatives agreed that the proposal should be put into practice taking time.

Source: NLM 2011-03-16