

## **Home Affairs Minister answers question on gambling like ‘Our days’**

NAY PYI TAW, 22 March –At Today’s Pyithu Hluttaw session, U Saw Thein Aung of Hlaingbwe Constituency raised a question about illegal gambling. He said gambling like ‘Our days’ that can harm the public morality and property is rampant in some regions of the nation as if it were legalized. So, he said he would like to ask whether there is any action taken against it.

In response to the query, Minister for Home Affairs U Maung Oo said that the State enacted the gambling law on 20 October 1986 in accord with the 1986 Pyithu Hluttaw Law No (6). According to gambling law section 2 (a), gambling means playing of games of chance or profession for money or materials no matter whether toll is collected or not. According to Section 2 (d), gambling equipment means playing cards, token, coin, table, chart, box, list, and things, animal/vehicle used in gambling.

With Order No.1/87 dated 23-6-1987, the ministry issued gambling procedures. They include the meaning of those involved in gambling, arrest procedures and formation of arrest teams.

Today, funfairs, drama, pagoda festivals and state or regional level anniversary celebrations are only approved by regional authorities in accord with the following rules and regulations.

- (a) To ensure a clean and healthy environment in the area of a festivity
- (b) To take security measures according to the plan
- (c) To hold a festivity within designated days
- (d) To stop the festivity immediately if informed that it is not appropriate to keep holding it for reasons of security, epidemic or other emergency cases
- (e) To ensure any form of gambling does not take place

In some regions, some games such as throwing balls and archery that infringe the gambling law are played in regional festivities and colloquially called ‘Our days’.

The points clarified above will make it clear that the State shall not approve any form of gambling that violates the law. In connection with gambling cases, security and administrative officials take measures such as reporting in advance, taking action in line with the directives and laws and taking action against not only involvers but also those responsible for such cases.

According to facts and figures, nationwide, 1950 gambling cases were exposed, 3300 offenders arrested and K 241.9 million confiscated in 2010. Although more cases could be exposed year after year, more efforts are still needed to eliminate them.

Regarding the question about illegal gambling, administrative and security bodies are taking measures such as banning, exposing cases by themselves or tip-off and taking action. So, there is no way the State shall not take action against such cases in accord with law. However, to achieve the success, public cooperation is necessary, the minister noted.

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