

Home Affairs Minister replies to questions on ward/village administration

NAY PYI TAW, 22 March - At today's Pyithu Hluttaw session, U Lwin Oo of Thanlyin Constituency asked how the person who will assume the duty of administering ward and village, revealing that Article 289 of the Constituency states, "Administration of ward or village-tract shall be assigned in accord with the law to a person whose integrity is respected by the community" and this also means that the inclusiveness of will of the residents of ward or village is needed.

He said that misapplication of power and misappropriation may happen as the administrative groups are dealing with public management daily; if this happens, it will cause loss of respect by the community and may affect the rule of law; to avoid such cases, the carrot and stick approach should be used. He asked how those who is assigned administration of ward and village will be awarded and how they will be checked and balanced in accord with the law.

He also stated that there are persons with the experience of administration of ward and village and asked if they will be continued to assign administration duty and how long the term and how many times of their duty will be designed.

U Aung Kyaw Zan of Pauktaw Constituency asked how the appointment of persons to administration of ward of village or if the procedures will be issued.

Minister for Home Affairs U Maung Oo answered regarding the questions that person whose integrity is respected by the community means person who is held in high esteem by the community, with high morality and justic.

Only the community will know the person has this qualifications or not. Only those who meet qualifications will be appointed. Qualifications issued in directive with notifica-tion No 216/2-1/SLORC of State Law and Order Restoration Council dated 13 November, 1988; with telegraph No 1. NaWa 5. Ya by SLORC dated 30 January 1989; and with notification No 023/1-1/SLORC by SLORC dated 7 February, 1989 are as follow:-

- (a) person who is respected by ward/village-tract
- (b) person who doesn't involve in any political organization
- (c) person who is not opportunism in every administration
- (d) person who is not badly behaving for many years under the influence of family and relations
- (e) person who takes advantage of others by appraoching township level organizations
- (f) person who participated in recent protests or who supported the protests in anyway

(g) person who disapproves of the authorities of the State

(h) person who is retiree from civilian or military post, or who is respected by the community, or with high morality

(i) not to assign other staff in action as member except clerk of ward/village-tract

(j) person who has never committed any crimes Appointment system under the directive with notification

No 216/2-1/SLORC issued by SLORC dated 13 November, 1988 is as follow:-

(a) to make field trip by township members and select at plenary tea party with people of ward/villagetract

(b) to obtain biographies of nominated members and to scrutinize whether their attitude on public is right or not

(c) to interview nominated members

(d) to seek approval from Sayadaws of ward/village tract Sangha Nayaka Committee

(e) to select three members and three reserve members and appoint out of them as Chairman by the township Headmen of village were not paid under Myanmar traditions, but they got commission for collection of revenues.

Article 4 of Myanmar District Cesses Act states that the revenue collector is returned 10 per cent of land taxes collected by him. The headmen are privileged to set land tax as he wants under Article 7(1), (f) of Towns Act, Myanmar Act No (3) of 1907. Former headmen had worked only for the dignity. The commissions are provided till now depending on the tax they collected. They needn't pay because they are granted privileges and powers under Ward/Village Act. If they evaluate dignity, the administration system will be stable. As their privileges and duties are assigned under Duties and Powers Section of Article 6 of Village Act, Myanmar Act No (6), of 1907, they will work within the law.

Former ten-house or hundred-house heads will be continued to assign duties in ward administration. If the term of the administrative is long, unwanted administration processes are likely to happen. So the term is three years and action of dismissal is taken against those who is unjust and misappropriative. There are 3042 wards and 13629 villagetracts in the nation. New chairmen are being selected and appointed. Only 0.007 per cent of them were dismissed.

Term and times for repeated appointment is not set. If the complaints are arisen, investigation is being conducted, action taken and the complained person dismissed. Village heads who are not complained are continued to assign the duty.

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