

**Third-day regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held.
Approval sought for number of Union Government Ministries and Union ministers
from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.
Names of nominated persons for Union ministers submitted**



NAY PYI TAW, 9 Feb - The third-day regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw took place at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here today at 10 am, with the attendance of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives and Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

Hluttaw Office Director-General U Myint Thein acted as master of ceremonies at the meeting.

After taking position, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint announced the validity and start of third-day regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as 658 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives out of 659 who have rights to attend the meeting were present the meeting, accounting for 99.85 per cent.

According to the agenda, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker invited discussions from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives about designated number of Union Government Ministries proposed by the elected President.

Amyotha Hluttaw representative Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency(4) participated in discussions.

First he extended greetings to Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives. He congratulated U Thein Sein for his election as president of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and Dr Sai Mauk Kham (a) Maung Ohn for their election as Vice-Presidents. He added that his presentation was of positive attitude with regard to the number of ministries of the Union Government. It is learnt that a total of 34 ministries of the Union Government were submitted to the second-day regular session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, he said. In the time of the Myanmar Socialist Programme Party, some ministries were formed jointly and there were only 18 ministries at that time. In the time of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and the State Peace and Development Council after 1988, some ministries were constituted separately with the aim of effectively managing sector-wise resources due to the increasing population of the nation, the growth of State economy and the improvement of technology, he said. The Ministry of Industrial

Development which is valuable for the new nation was included in the designated number of ministries submitted by the President, he added. He noted that the past Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs was renamed as the Ministry of Border Affairs in line with the constitution. He said that ministers for national race affairs will take responsibility in the Region and State governments in line with sub-paragraph (b), Article (248) of Chapter V of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and sub-paragraph (f) of Article (8) of Chapter II and section (2) of sub-paragraph (a) of Article (10) of the Region or State Government Law.

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Thus, he discussed formation of a new ministry namely National Race Affairs Ministry at the Union level for effectively carrying out national race affairs between ministers for national races affairs of respective regions and the Union Government.

Afterwards, he submitted 25 ministries instead of designated 34 ministries.

They were:

- 1) Ministry of Defence
- (2) Ministry of Health and Sports
- (3) Ministry of Commerce
- (4) Ministry of Industry
- (5) Ministry of Energy

(6) Ministry of Construction

- (7) Ministry of National Race Affairs
- (8) Ministry of Border Affairs and Immigration
- (9) Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- (10) Ministry of Education
- (11) Ministry of Transport
- (12) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (13) Ministry of Information
- (14) Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries
- (15) Ministry of Myanmar Industrial Development
- (16) Ministry of Culture and Tourism
- (17) Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
- (18) Ministry of Electric Power
- (19) Ministry of Cooperatives and Labour
- (20) Ministry of Religious Affairs and Social Welfare
- (21) Ministry of Forestry
- (22) Ministry of Mines
- (23) Ministry of President's Office
- (24) Ministry of Science Technology and Communication
- (25) Ministry of National Planning and Finance.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Hsan of Pale Township Constituency of Sagaing Region took part in the discussions.

U Kyaw Hsan wished the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and all Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives physical and mental well-being. He said that designation of 34 ministries of the Union Government proposed by the elected President were in line with three reasons.

The first reason of designated ministries was to successfully serve the interest of the majority of the people, he said. The second reason was in conformity with present situation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

He noted that the last and third reason was also in conformity with tasks of the ministries from international governments in serving their respective interests.

Thus, he said that he supported formation on the number of 34 ministries of the Union Government designated by the elected President. He explained matters related to the first reason on the situation to serve the interests of the majority of the people saying that the people elected Hluttaw representatives to be able to accomplish their desire and serve their interest.

Thus, the representatives are to serve the interest of the people as much as they can. Today, he continued to say that the majority of the people have three major desires.

The first is peace and stability, he noted. The majority of the people want to enjoy peaceful and stable environment.

During the period from 1948 to 1988, they overcame instable environment and had bitter experience, he said.

The second one is that they would like to witness all-round development of the nation and enjoy better socio-economic life, he added. The third one is that they would like to enjoy free livelihood in line with the law. In other words, they would like to practise democracy. He noted that the ministries are to serve the interest of the people in all corners for realizing the three desires of the people.

Therefore, he said that designation of 34 ministries of the Union Government was excellent for realizing the three wishes of the people in all aspects.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation was formed for effectively carrying agricultural task.

Likewise, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and the Ministry of Finance and Revenue were constituted for effectively implementing the monetary policy, fiscal policy and trade investment policy that will realize the Macro-Economy of the State. Similarly, it is necessary to undertake micro-economy for uplifting livelihood of individuals, the family, village and region, he added. To do so, he said that the Ministry of Cooperatives was formed separately. Likewise, he said that the nation must be industrialized to be on a par with other countries.

Therefore, he noted that the Ministry of Industry- 1, the Ministry of Industry- 2 and the Myanma Industrial Development were formed to be able to build an industrialized nation. In addition, the Ministry of Electric Power No. 1 and the Ministry of Electric Power No. 2 were separately constituted for effectively undertake energy sector.

Likewise, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health were formed for carrying out development of respective sectors, he noted.

Therefore, a total of 34 ministries designated by the President are exactly in conformity with the desires of the people. With regard to the second one, Myanmar stood the most developed nation in Southeast Asia around 1948-50, he said. Due to various reasons, Myanmar became the least developed nation in 1988, he noted. Since 1988 when the Tatmadaw government took the responsibilities of the State, concerted efforts have been made for allround development of the nation and improvement of socio-economic life of the people, he said. Indeed, he said that the government has built almost all necessary infrastructures for development of the nation. He continued to say that it is necessary to improve the alreadybuilt sector-wise infrastructures for their longterm development. Formation of 34 ministries submitted by the elected President is suitable to continue to develop the nation based on the current situation. It is seen that the ministries were formed in international community in line with their current situations for development of their nations and people. Studying on formation of ministries in international community, it is seen that not only ministries but also boards and commissions were formed in order to place emphasis on each and every sector. The boards and commissions are of equal status with the ministries and the ranks of the chairmen of the boards and commissions are the same as ministers.

Taking a look at the present examples, 35 ministries and 21 boards were formed in India. So India has 56 service organizations with the status of ministries. There are 42 service organizations with the status of ministries as 22 ministries and 20 boards and commissions were formed in China. There are 35 ministries in Thailand and 37 in Bangladesh. So he supported the formation of 34 Union Government ministries submitted by the elected President no more or no less.

Elected President U Thein Sein discussed matters related to discussions of two Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives.

He said he was glad to hear constructive suggestions regarding the numbers of the Union Government ministries and the Union Ministers submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday.

He continued to say that he would like to present the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and the representatives to make presentation on the suggestions.

He added he would like to say about the presentation of Dr U Myat Nyana Soe, Amyotha Hluttaw representative of Yangon Region Constituency No (4). There are two main points in his presentation.

The first point is the formation of Union-level National Races Affairs Ministry to deal with national races affairs in coordination with regional National Races Affairs Ministers and the second to form only 25 Union Government ministries instead of 34.

Regarding the first point, Self- Administered Zone and Self-Administer Division Leading Bodies were formed in accord with the Constitution in order to deal with national races affairs effectively. Likewise, Security and Border Affairs Ministry will be formed each in Region and State Governments.

Besides, the elected National Races Affairs Ministers for respective Regions and States will be included in Region and State Governments. There will be coordination between the governments to deal with national races affairs. The Union level Border Affairs Ministry will also have direct contact with the governments, if necessary.

The second point was to reduce the numbers of Union Government ministries from 34 to 25. Matters related to extended forming of ministries and ministers and reduction in numbers of ministries and minister will be flexible.

He said that it will depend on the tasks needed for the interest of the nation and small or large amount of tasks will call for numbers of the ministries. For some ministries, a minister can handle duties of a ministry effectively. But a minister can handle duties of two ministries successfully for some ministries. So he made a suggestion to form 34 ministries with 30 ministers with a wish not to cause burden to the nation. He thanked representatives for making suggestions.

Amyotha Hluttaw Representative Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency (4) then discussed again.

He said he understood that they would face many difficulties if present-existing ministries are combined or new ministries are formed. His discussion would be a preparation for forthcoming Cabinets and Hluttaws, he added.

He presented it assuming the system will work more smoothly when a consolidated government is formed, he said.

He said he presented formation of Ministry of National Races Affairs for not knowing the discussion made by the President and assignment of duties not only to ministers for national races affairs from respective States and Regions but also to other ministerial-level officials for national races affairs, in advance.

Myanmar has now transformed into a new system. He thanked for having the rights to discuss in line with democracy practices and for the president's reply, he noted.

He said that he took back his words due to full explanation of the president.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives cast secret votes through the voting machine to take the decision on approving 34 Union Government Ministries as proposed by the elected President.

With 612 in favour, 5 against and 12 abstentions, it was announced that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw agreed the number of Union Government Ministries to be 34 as designated by the elected President.

Then, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker invited discussions from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives about approving the number of Union Ministers to be 30 as proposed by the elected President.

Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Khun Lein of Chin State Falam Township Constituency participated in discussions.

I would like to discuss designation of 34 ministries with 30 ministers. I present it with the hope of smooth operation of nation's tasks if each minister is appointed in each ministry. I would like to suggest that a separate minister should be appointed every separate, he said.

Amyotha Hluttaw Representative Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency (4) participated in discussions.

The proposal was intended for stepping up and consolidation of efforts for building a new modern and developed nation.

Today is the Knowledge Age. Therefore, the proposal was made to form 25 union government ministers instead of 30 ministers so as to make use of human resource effectively. However, he believed that a union government minister can be able to manage more than one ministry as elected President U Thein Sein clarified the matter in his first statement.

He added that to handle the administration machinery skillfully, it was sure that there would be qualified ministers who possessed skills and experiences for the administration in the list of ministers to be nominated by elected President U Thein Sein.

Therefore, the proposal of the elected President that the number of the union government ministers should be 30 was more suitable than his proposal of 25 union government ministers.

The elected President made reply to discussions of the two Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Representatives.

He said he thanked the Hluttaw representatives who made constructive proposals for forming 30 union government ministers for the 34 union government ministries, the proposal submitted to the Union Hluttaw yesterday.

U Khun Lein's discussion mainly focused on appointment of a minister for each ministry as the 34 union government ministries was formed. Regarding the matter, he had clarified that matter in his clarification on the suggestions of Dr. Myat Nyana Soe, he said. There is no limit on reducing and increasing the number of union government ministries, he said. His proposal was submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw after he had calculated whether ministries could effectively perform tasks for the State or not, he added. Some ministries are required to be governed by each minister so as to carry out the tasks of the respective ministry effectively while some ministries could be managed by one minister concurrently, he added.

He continued to say that as his proposal for forming 34 ministries with 30 ministers could find favour with effective and perfect management of government work and would not be burden on the country, he submitted the proposal to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives cast secret ballots through the voting machine to take the decision on approving 30 Union Ministers as proposed by the elected President.

With 615 yeses, 7 noes and 14 abstentions, it was announced that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw agreed the number of Union Ministers to be 30 as submitted by the elected President.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker presented the list of persons who should be assigned as Union Ministers proposed by the elected President to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Those who should be appointed as Union Ministers are:

1. Lt-Gen Ko Ko
2. Maj-Gen Hla Min
3. Maj-Gen Thein Htay
4. U Wunna Maung Lwin
5. U Myint Hlaing
6. U Kyaw Hsan
7. Wunna Kyaw Htin U Win Myint
8. U Tint Hsan
9. U Khin Maung Myint
10. U Thein Tun
11. U Hla Tun
12. U Thein Htaik
13. U Nyan Tun Aung
14. U Tin Naing Thein
15. U Win Tun
16. U Aung Kyi
17. U Ohn Myint
18. U Kyaw Swar Khaing

19. U Soe Thein
20. U Than Htay
21. U Aung Min
22. Dr Mya Aye
23. Dr Pe Thet Khin
24. U Aye Myint
25. Thura U Myint Maung
26. U Khin Yi
27. U Zaw Min
28. U Khin Maung Soe
29. U Thein Nyunt
30. U Soe Maung

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives can raise objections, if any, with clear evidences that one of nominated persons for Union Ministers who should be appointed in accord with Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Rule 27 (b) does not meet qualifications of the Union Minister as prescribed in the Constitution of the Republic of Union of Myanmar Article-232 Sub-article (b) at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting to be held on 11 February 2011.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced that the contact persons of respective parties may take out biographies of those persons to judge their qualifications at the Director-General of Hluttaw Office this evening and the Hluttaw representatives who want to raise objection may submit their names to the Director-General of Hluttaw Office not later than tomorrow noon.

The Speaker announced that the third-day session was ended and fourth-day regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will be continued at 10 am on 11 February (Friday).

The meeting came to an end at 11 am.

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