

**Directives given to local companies to take leading roles in Dawei Special Economic Zone.
Myanmar citizens except experts, skilled workers and supervisors must be employed
[Pyithu Hluttaw, 24th day]**



NAY PYI TAW, 10 Aug-The fourth regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw continued for 24th day at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here this morning, attended by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and 404 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin answered five questions regarding Dawei Deep Sea Port Project raised by U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency.

Regarding the question No (1) on which working group of any ministry or commission take parts and how much stake it holds in Dawei Deep Sea Port Project for which agreement was signed between Thailand-based Italian-Thai Development Company and Myanmar Port Authority of Ministry of Transport of Myanmar, the deputy minister answered that central committee of Myanmar Special Economic Zone, central working committee and management committees will supervise Dawei region projects under Myanmar Special Economic Zone Law and Dawei Special Economic Zone Law. Dawei SEZ Management Committee was formed to enforce the laws in development of Dawei SEZ and meeting satisfaction of the local people with himself as the chairman.

The State will receive land premium of US\$ 30.675 million in five installments for 204.5 square kilometers of Dawei SEZ at the rate of US\$ 0.15 million per one square kilometer. Apart from the land premium which is only for operation there, the State will also get any percent of the profit from the project in each year.

Regarding the question No (2) on which Myanmar national company has how much stake and investment in the project, the deputy minister answered that Max Myanmar Group of Companies owned by a Myanmar national has 25 percent share in the project. The profit will be distributed, depending on the share. Max Myanmar is currently planning to withdraw its investment. Dawei Development Company Limited has been formed with companies that will invest in the project and investments from abroad were invited. About US\$ 8600 million will have to be invested in its infrastructures.

Regarding the question No (3) on progress of the project since the signing of agreement between MPA and Italian-Thai Development Company, the deputy minister answered that as Italian-Thai Development company is implementing the project, alignment of the road linking Thailand has been constructed. Detailed survey and feasibility test for making finishing touches on alignment design is being carried out. Design of the deep sea port has been completed by 80 percent. Feasibility test is being conducted to build breakwater. The construction of 400 MW coal-fired power plant with Clean Coal Technology that has no impact on the environment and the local people is being taken into consideration. Field surveys are being made for supply sufficient water to the special economic zone.

Relevant ministry is in negotiation with Dawei Development Co Ltd to sign sectoral agreement.

Regarding the question No (4) on measures for prevention of risks to natural environment, the deputy minister answered that Environmental Management Plan would be drafted according to reports of Social Impact Assessment (SIA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Payment for Environmental Services (PES) would be included. Rules, orders, directives, rules and regulations would be issued for waste management abiding by environmental conservation law.

Regarding the question No (5) on job opportunities for Myanmar citizens in Dawei Deep Sea Port Project, the deputy minister answered that the investor is required to operate with at least 25 percent of citizen workers at the end of first five years, with at least 50 percent at the end of second five years and with at least 75 percent at the end of third five years. Myanmar Special Economic Zone Law prescribes that the investor must hire national entrepreneurs or company or organizations for the tasks that need no specific skills. It is directed to give local companies the leading roles in Dawei Special Economic Zone and Myanmar citizens must be employed in the posts, except that of scholars, skilled workers and supervisors. Up to 14-6-2012, six local contractors are operating in the zone with 1039 Myanmar workers.

U Thein Nyunt asked how the fund for environmental conservation in Dawei Deep Sea Port is managed. The deputy minister answered that the Italian-Thai Company is required to establish environmental conservation fund and to fund Payment for Environmental Services.

Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann asked whether the withdrawal of Max Myanmar Company could impact on the interest of the country and the people and whether any Myanmar company will replace it. The deputy minister answered that Max Myanmar has yet to withdraw all of its investments. It is planning to replace it with local companies. As the Taninthayi Region government demanded some land to establish industrial zone for local people, the Italian-Thai Company agreed to return 50 square kilometers from 204.5 square kilometers after negotiations in Thailand. Italian-Thai Company has been invited to continue discussing it.

There is plan to amend Framework Agreement for more profit of Myanmar side.

The involvement of local companies is currently suspended. It would be resumed after Italian-Thai agreed the signing of new Framework Agreement.

The Speaker said the Dawei Deep Sea Port is an important project. He tasked the Economic and Investment Committee to take necessary measures in cooperation with respective commission upon explanation of the deputy minister.

Daw Le Le Win Swe of Tamu Constituency asked social protection for women as Myanmar has signed UN Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (UNCEDAW) and Dr Daw Aye Myint of Shwedaung Constituency on measures for minor care.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe answered that, regarding the first question, Myanmar signed UNCEDAW on 22-7- 1997. Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs was formed for women empowerment, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation for wider women empowerment measures, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association for care of mothers and children and Women's Entrepreneurs Association for boosting economic capacity of women.

In accordance with the UN's Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, programs on promoting equal rights for men and women have conducted in states and region for four times.

To prevent trafficking in person, the Anti-trafficking in Persons Law was enacted on 13, September, 2005.

Besides, national-level guides for reunification of trafficked persons and their families have been drawn and plans have been made to distribute the guide books to the people.

Regarding the second question, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement signed the The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on 16, July, 1991 and has been implementing the provisions included in the convention. In accordance with the provisions of the convention, the national committee, the work committee on rights of children and region/state/district/township CRC committees have been established. Besides, in 1993, the Child Law was enacted and the Rules and Regulations related to the Child Law was adopted in 2000. The Child Law is being re-drawn to meet international standards. As from June, 2012, the departments, INGOs and experts are working to rewrite the law which includes the education, health and nutrition of the under-8 children and socio-economy, environmental conservation and povert alleviation.

At the discussion session, U Aung Thein Lin of South Okkalapa constituency, U Pike Htwe of Kanma Constituency and U Win Than of Thabaung constituency discussed the proposal submitted by U Htay Oo of Hinthada constituency during the 18- day session on adoption of the migration policy for the life security of Myanmar migrant workers in foreign countries.

Their discussion called on the authorities concerned for adopting the migration policy to be able to give guarantee of social security to the migrant workers.

While the country is going to be a member of the ASEAN Community, priority should be placed on the issue of migrant workers in the ASEAN region. They also called for adoption of migrant workers issue as a regional issue when Myanmar has to consider the ASEAN migrant workers issue during the time of the country's 2014 ASEAN chairmanship. They also urged the Hluttaw to adopt the Migration Policy as soon as possible due to the current situation.

Regarding the proposal, Deputy Minister for Labour U Myint Thein said the Union Government has set up the Foreign Employment Supervisory Committee and the management work committee, the work committee ensuring workers' benefits and the work committee for protecting rights of labours were also established under the supervisory committee. The supervisory committee is drawing the Overseas Employment Policy. It is difficult for Myanmar to implement currently the Labour Migration Policy in conformity with international standards. However, in an attempt to adopt the firm and definite migration policy, the ministry would work for adoption of the policy in accordance with the discussion of representatives, ILO's conventions and international standards.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has to work for the safe and security of Myanmar migrant workers during the time of successive governments. However, there happended some hindrances due to some reasons. There is no Myanmar embassy in some countries where Myanmar migrant workers are working. The ministry has ordered Myanmar embassies to work for the safe and security of Myanmar migrant workers.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein said that Ministry of Finance and Revenue is working together with private banks to help Myanmar migrant workers to safely transfer their money to the homeland.

Afterwards, Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo said the the Union Attorney-General's Office is implementing the conventions and treaties.

U Htay Oo who proposed the proposal said migrant workers issues depend on the conditions of a country which sends the workers and a country which accepts the workers.

Myanmar is currently a country which sends workers. What Myanmar migrant workers are demanding is the rights they considered what they deserve and the expectation of their families. Therefore, it is

suitable that the issue should be discussed at the Hluttaw where representatives of the people are gathered than outside the Hluttaw. He believed that his discussion would be helpful for drawing the Labour Migration Policy which is necessary for Myanmar which has migrant workers in foreign countries.

The Hluttaw put the proposal on record and decided to proceed the work in coordination with ministries concerned.

At the proposal submitting session, U Thein Swe of An constituency said submitted a proposal calling on respective Unionlevel bodies which are organized in accordance with the State Constitution to adopt laws which had been enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw within 90 days after the President signed and declared them on the duration set by the Hluttaw.

U Ye Tun of Thandwe constituency seconded the proposal.

Pyithu Hluttaw decided to discuss the proposal and urged representatives who want to discuss the proposal to enlist not later 1 pm, 13 August.

At report submitting session, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Judiciary and Legal Affairs Committee Thura U Aung Ko presented the report of the committee.

The Hluttaw asked the representatives who want to discuss the report as the report would be approved at the 26th day session of the Hluttaw.

At the informing the Hluttaw session, the Hluttaw informed the representatives that it received the Bill Revoking the State Crops Marketing Board Act from Amyotha Hluttaw on 7 August and distributed the copies of the bill to the representatives.

The Hluttaw informed the representatives that it received the Bill Revoking Public Welfare Services Protection Act on 8 August and the Anti-corruption Bill on 3 August from Amyotha Hluttaw and distributed the copies of the bills to the representatives.

During today meeting, three questions were raised, one proposal discussed and one proposal and one report informed the representatives that it received three bills.

The meeting ended at 1 pm and the 25th day meeting will be held at 10 am, on 13 August.

Source: NLM 2012-08-11