

**Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session continues for 18th day.
Union Ministers make clarifications, proposal on condolence made,
two bills discussed and approved**

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March—The 18th day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here at 10.15 am today, attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 545 MPs.

At today's session, Union Ministers' clarifications were made, the proposal on condolence made and two bills discussed and approved.

Ten Union Ministers made their clarifications of the principles and basic discussions of Hluttaw representatives regarding the national planning bill of the 2012- 2013 fiscal year that was discussed at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw sessions from 7 February to 1 March.

In his clarification, Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay said U Khin Maung Win of Mingaladon Constituency discussed the need for thorough assessment in drawing and implementing plans for progress of border areas and national races and for making reassessment as they might be cost differences in road construction due to different regions. The costs for constructing border region development roads are calculated according to regional prices. Construction is undertaken by region/state governments and the State provides K 0.9 million for one mile of earth road, K 3 million for one mile of gravel road and K 6 million for one mile of tarred road. Concerning the discussion of road maintenance or maintenance of old roads, it is regrettable that due to typing errors, repairing and maintenance of new roads implied that new roads were built now and damaged then. Actually, the subject is about maintenance and repairing of old roads in border regions. As the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and regional authorities are carrying out greening tasks, regarding the discussion of naming the exact title for the law entitled others, it means that greening tasks are being carried out in the campus of University for Progress of National Races in the Union (Sagaing).

Dr Banya Aung Moe of Mon State Constituency-7 discussed that all heavy industrial projects in the 2011-2012 fiscal and the ones that will start in the 2012-2013 fiscal should be halted for State-owned capital. In this regard, industrial development projects are being undertaken with special loan from the People's Republic of China. Loan agreements were signed in 2010. By halting the projects, it is impossible to use those loans for other purposes. And there cannot be extra money to be spent in terms of budget. Those projects can bring about industrial, technological and human resource development as well as more job prospects.

Moreover, those projects can not be the State-own businesses for ever and they are the ones that can be implemented on a joint-venture or publicowned basis or with foreign investment. This is why it is necessary for people's representatives to consider that those industrial projects are being undertaken with the national goal of building an industrialized nation.

In his clarification, Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan said U Aye Mauk of Mahlaing Constituency discussed cooperation with private sector in order for the Information Ministry to reduce cost for media investment and machinery purchases and media development.

Regarding this, for over the past 7 or 8 years, the ministry has been cooperating with the private sector in effectively carrying out media tasks and saving State funds after laying down new policies. Channel-4 and its related programmes are being broadcast in cooperation with Forever Media Group. Similarly, in collaboration with Sky Net Media, Sky Net programmes including Myanmar International are being broadcast. In radio broadcasting, six FM radio stations namely Mandalay FM, Padamyia FM, Shwe FM,

Pyinsawady FM, Cherry FM and Bagan FM are airing their programmes. As a result, expenditure from State funds could be reduced and media coverage has been expanded than ever. In addition, some programmes that are not in conformity with the Myanmar culture could have been prevented to a certain degree and more national income has been generated.

Depending on the needs of media sector, cooperation will be made not only with domestic private media but also with foreign media. Plans are underway to make a TV play in collaboration with the Yunnan TV of China.

Arrangements are also being made to produce movies in cooperation with the Yunnan TV.

In doing so, TV broadcasting permit has been granted for domestic media. When it comes to the cooperation with foreign media, movies are being made on joint-venture basis, movies are shown mutually in two countries and profits are shared based on the amount of investment. So, the Ministry of Information is working together with private media and that cooperation will continue for media development, said Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan.

He continued that regarding the discussion made by U Khat Htein Nan of Kachin State Constituency-1 that programmes of national races are to be included in the MRTV programmes as a separate programme, the ministry is carrying out its tasks with the aims to inform, educate and entertain all the national races. Continued encouragement is being given to extend national race programmes.

As the old radio transistors have been replaced with new ones, the number of national race languages has increased from 8 to 14 and broadcasting time has increased from 4 hours to 12 hours daily.

If a separate channel of national races is to be launched, it is necessary to purchase some broadcasting machine parts and carry out some modifications to broadcast through the current band width system. Moreover, it is required to take time to extend organizational set-up and employ more skilled workers.

The ministry will try to complete those work plans in the coming financial year and national race programmes will be aired separately when everything is ready.

U Khat Htein Nan also discussed the inclusion of the performing arts of other national races in the Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts competitions at various levels. Regarding this, Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan said it would be very difficult to initiate a contest with all-inclusiveness of more than 100 national races in the performing arts competitions held annually. Songs and dances of all national races are differently unique and impressive cultural heritages of Myanmar.

Therefore, scoring and deciding loss or win in such a competition are impossible as well as inappropriate.

So, continued measures will be taken in consultation with regional cultural troupes and traditional cultural experts in order for only the performing arts of respective national races included in own states to represent the Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts competitions. Continued arrangements will be made to hold the competitions that all can accept by taking the matter of national races into consideration. Those artists who have achieved success in the state level will be invited as special guests and presented with separate honorary awards when the central level performing competitions are held so as to maintain and promote the cultures of all national races.

U Khat Htein Nan discussed the teaching of the performing arts of national races in the University of Culture. In this regard, the subject about musical instruments of national races has been taught in the two universities of national culture and fine arts under the Ministry of Culture since their opening.

Besides, famous performing arts of national races are being taught as a basic subject.

Regarding the discussion about inclusion of national races and their culture, in the cultural troupes when they performed in foreign countries, he said that the cultural troupes were formed with artistes from national races and included traditional dances and songs of national races.

Arrangements would be made to select outstanding artistes from states and regions to participate in performances in foreign countries, he said.

Ministry of Information and Ministry of Culture would speed up their tasks taking heed of the discussion of the representatives related to the National Planning Bill for the 2012-2013 fiscal year and would make plans to implement reasonable tasks in the future, he said.

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing said that dams, reservoirs and irrigation systems that were going to be completed and upon completion, they would help conserve the environment and prevent flood, supply drinking and irrigation water, paving the way for creating job opportunities for local people. Besides, banks of dams, reservoirs and canals would serve as roads linking between towns and villages for the local people.

To support the self-sufficiency in agricultural produce production for the increasing population of the country, emphasis should be placed on completion of agricultural infrastructures, he said.

He pledged that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation would encourage the efficient use of the budget allocation of the ministry in the interests of the State, the people and the peasants and would spend it in accordance with the financial rules and regulations.

Therefore, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was obliged to objectively review and made decision over the national planning and budget allocation for the agricultural sector for the 2012-2013 fiscal year of the Union Government in the short-term and long-term interests of the peasants and the people, he said.

Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein said on completion of Diesel Engine Factory project (Thagara), the factory would produce locomotive engines for the Ministry of Rail Transportation, medium water crafts and engines for power plants, construction of roads and bridges and mining and spare parts. Upon completion of Automobile Mould & Die, Jigs & Fixture project, the factory would produce some machinery parts and auto machinery to fulfill the market demand for the new models.

On completion of the Automobile Axle project, the factory would make the best use of modern technology to produce axles, and upon completion of the 90 HP Engine project, the factory would produce 90 HP engines for Myanmar Double Cab & Myanmar Single Cab and would gain the technology to produce the engines, he said.

On completion of Kyaukse Mirror Factory project, people could buy varieties of mirror at a reasonable price, and the paper factory project (Thabaung) would produce news print, halting the import of the paper, he said.

The State was running the factories to a certain period as the private sector was experiencing difficulties currently to invest in the factories as joint ventures due to the heavy investment. As the closure of uneconomic factories were expected likely to impact the socio-economy, the union ministry made decision prudently to close factories only when it was necessary. In the upcoming 2013-2014 fiscal year, the budget allocation for the ministry would decrease. The union ministry would carry out the tasks of the ministry as part of efforts for the industrial development and was drawing the Public Private Partnership policy. In conclusion, the Union Minister urged Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to review the financial issues of the Ministry of Industry in the National Planning Bill for the 2012- 2013 fiscal year and to be prudent to make decision.

Regarding the discussion of U Khin Maung Latt of Rakhine State constituency No. 6 over road transportation issues in Yathedaung and its environs in Rakine State, Union Minister for Construction U

Khin Maung Myint said the ministry had constructed the earth road which was 22 miles and 6 furlong long on the Ponnagyun- Yathedaung Road and upgraded to the gravel road which was 3 miles and 4 furlong long. The ministry had been upgrading the Myebom-Minbya Road to be an all-weather one and would seek the funds and maintenance costs for the road in the 2012- 2013 fiscal year to carry out the upgrading work and to construct wooden bridges on the road.

Regarding the discussion of U Sai Thant Zin of Shan State constituency No. 4, the Union minister said that Mantung-Namhsan Road could not be changed to Mantung- Namhsan-Momeik Road and it could be called as Mantung-Namhsan-Mongngaw- Momeik Road. The ministry would inject K150 million to upgrading of the 15-mile section of Mantung-Namhsan Road in the 2012-2013 fiscal year. The ministry had approved the design for the Momeik Myitson Bridge on Mabeim-Momeik Road to be constructed by Ministry of Electric Power No. 1, he said.

Regarding the discussion of U Aung Thein Lin of South Okkalapa constituency over upgrading roads to concrete ones, the union minister said that it was necessary to tarmack roads and when the State's budget was sufficient, some roads would be upgraded to concrete ones as the country had to import cements due to insufficiency at home to carry out constructions in the country.

Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min said that the ministry would cut K5500 millions from the ministry's fund and expenditure set aside for Kyangin-Pakokku- Pyawbwe-Natmauk-Magway, Pathein- Yangon, Hinthada-Nyaungdon railroads, the approach rail road of the Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) and the approach rail road of Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) and would spend the money on other projects.

To get the huge amount of money, Natmauk- Magway Railroad section of the Pyawbwe- Natmauk-Magway Railroad would be postponed to the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

He continued to say that K4500 million would be cut from the ministry's capital allocation of 2012-2013 fiscal year which was set aside for the project of manufacturing new locomotive engines and construction of coaches loaned by the Peoples' Republic of China. The capital allocation of the project would be postponed to the 2013-2014 fiscal year. However, the money is not suitable to spend on other projects as it was the loan from the PRC and only K5500 million could be spent on other sectors.

Regarding the discussion by U Aye Mauk of Mahlaing constituency over buying vehicles by the Central Equipment Statistics and Inspection Department and investment in Dawei Special Economic Zone, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein said the Union Government did not give priority to buy vehicles and had made decisions to buy vehicles when absolutely necessary. To supervise the investors of the Dawei Special Economic Zone, administration committee office, police stations and outposts would be completed in April. Therefore, investment in construction of the building and making a plan to import 172 vehicles were absolutely necessary for the country and were related to the dignity of the State. The Union Minister urged Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to review the discussion and to make decision prudently over the discussion as the work should be carried out in the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Union Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi said: Regarding the suggestion of U Nyan Win of Hlaingthaya Constituency to draw overtime pay law, existing laws will be enforced and new laws will not be drafted as a labourer gets double rate of ordinary payment for extra hours they have to work under Section 73 (1) of 1951 Workshops Act.

Regarding the suggestion of Dr Tin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency (6) Dr Tin Shwe to finish drafting least pay law, the bill has been sent to the Attorney-General Office of the Union on 17 January for comments and will be submitted to the Hluttaw.

Regarding the suggestion of Dr Banya Aung Moe of Mon State Constituency (7) to issue temporary passports in Phayathonesu in addition to three border stations for enabling certificate-less labour arriving in Thailand to officially take job, citizenship scrutiny cards were issued to Myanmar workers in Thailand and temporary Myanmar passports to workers registered in Thailand in three border stations in Myanmar and six others in Thailand as of 29 February. For opening of border station in Phayathonesu, both sides will be coordinated at any convenient in the future.

Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin said: Regarding the discussion of Dr Mya Oo of Bago Region Constituency (9) to open a rural health centre if the village has population of 20000, objectives have been set in National Health Plan (2011-2012) and funds have been requested for deploying human resources and providing medicines in rural health centres.

Regarding discussion of Dr Aung Than of Shwebo Constituency on anti-venom drug, the drugs necessary for the victims are being procured from the Ministry of Industry and distributed to the hospitals depending on their needs. As local production does not meet demand, drugs have to be imported from Thailand. Thai anti-venom medicines are less effective and leading to increasing dosage. Anti-venom medicine production research acquired the drug from blood of sheep and egg. For prevention, education and shoes/gloves minimizing the risk of snake are introduced. For treatment, first aid and Peritoneal Dialysis and Haemodialysis for patients with kidney failure have been prepared.

Union Minister at the President Office and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Thein Nyunt said: Regarding suggestions of U Win Oo of Yephyu Constituency and U Aye Mauk of Mahlaing Constituency on Nay Pyi Taw Special Development Project, the special development project group was established as the project will be scattered and hard to supervise if each ministry undertakes their own works although the construction of Nay Pyi Taw was first supposed to assigned to respective ministries.

There is no new construction of the project in the time of the government in office and construction works of uncompleted buildings continued. Some construction works have been suspended since July 2011.

Unfinished construction works of the previous government necessary for XXVII SEA Games to be hosted in December 2013 and 2014 ASEAN Summit are being carried out. Hluttaw representatives are requested to consider the fact that we need to keep abreast of other ASEAN members in respect of the essential undertakings.

U Khaing Maung Yi of Ahlon Constituency submitted the proposal for condolences for U Aung Sein Tha, 75, from Minbya Constituency who died of heart failure on 1 March under Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Rule (64). The Hluttaw gave the approval and observed two-minute prayer.

Hluttaw representatives discussed differences between Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw and amendments of Joint Bill Committee regarding Pyithu Hluttaw Bill, Region or State Hluttaw Bill and the Hluttaw sought approval for the bills paragraphwise.

The Hluttaw approved the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill as in the amendments of the Joint Bill Committee as there is no against vote for Chapter (1) Paragraph (2) (j, k, l), Chapter (4) Paragraph (9) (f, g), Paragraph (10) (h, I, j), Paragraph (11) (f), Paragraph (13), Paragraph (14), Chapter (6) Paragraph (20), Chapter (7) Paragraph (24) (b), Chapter (9), Paragraph (39), Paragraph (51) (e), Chapter (13) Paragraph (63), Paragraph (65), Paragraph (66), Paragraph (68) of Pyithu Hluttaw Bill.

The Hluttaw approved Chapter (1) Paragraph (2) (k), Chapter (4) Paragraph (9) (f, g), Paragraph (13), Paragraph (14), Chapter (6) Paragraph (23) (a, c, d), Chapter (8) Paragraph (32) (b), Chapter (15) Paragraph (81), Paragraph (83) of the Region or State Hluttaw Bill as in the amendments of the Joint Bill Committee and Chapter (6) Paragraph (23) (b) as proposed amendment of U Aung Thein of Ywangan Constituency.

Secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw Rights Committee Dr Soe Yin submitted the proposal to approve the whole Pyithu Hluttaw Bill and the whole Region or State Hluttaw Bill, the Hluttaw agreed and approved the bills.

Today's session concluded at 3.25 pm and the 19th day session is held at 10 am on 6 March.

Source: NLM 2012-03-06 <http://www.myanmar.com/newspaper/nlm/index.html>