National entrepreneurs would be given priority and trawlers would be equipped with sophisticated tools to play catch-up

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Oct—The first Amyotha Hluttaw fifth regular session took place at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, this afternoon, attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and 197 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

Regarding the proposal urging the Union government to supervise and prohibit fishing of offshore trawlers in the onshore fishing area in Myanmar costal region submitted by U Ohn Tin of Rakhine State Constituency No (10) on the 37th day of the previous session, U San Pyae of Kachin State Constituency (7) seconded the motion that local fishermen who are licensed to deal with onshore fishery were facing hardship as their fishing equipment are damaged by that of offshore trawlers that are not allowed to deal with fishery in onshore fishing area and changes in ecology of marine resources and their food. As it is impossible to arrest and keep a watchful eye on these trawlers in the large sea by Tatmadaw (Navy), offshore trawlers installed with vessel monitoring system (VMS) should be licensed to do fishing and serious actions should be taken against trawlers that violate rules and regulations.

Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye replied that respective combined forces of Fisheries Department could [?] their functions.

Offshore trawlers were under close supervision of the Ministry of Defence.

The deputy minister said trawlers are being convinced to employ Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), whose installation would become a disciplinary action against local fishing boats that breach the rules. Severe actions are being taken against offshore fishing boats that enter into onshore fishing areas, spoiling its marine resources, he said.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker said seafood is a strategic alternative for feeding the rising population facing food insufficiency.

The Speaker pointed out that it is another area to be conserved. The current plan, if inadequate, must be revised, he said. The Speaker underscored the need of advanced tools. The weakness in strength and technology must be overcome with the participation of the people, he suggested. If workers of fishing boats are equipped with tools such as satellite system, camera and GPS, they will be in more favourable position to provide tip-off, contributing to capture in time. The Speaker said the national entrepreneurs would be given priority and trawlers would be equipped with sophisticated tools to play catch-up. He called for review of line ministries.

The proposal was approved by the parliament with majority vote.

Member of People's Complaint and Petition Committee U Nyan Lin submitted the proposal calling for real-time reply to dossiers sent by the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker. U Aung Chit Lwin of Sagaing Region Constituency (11) seconded the proposal. The Speaker urged the representatives willing to discuss the proposal to register before the meeting came to an end at 1.55 pm. *MNA*

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