

## **No one is above the law, punitive action must be taken against those who break the law: Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker**

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Oct—Pyithu Hluttaw convened its fifth regular session at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here, today, attended by Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 388 MPs.

First, 15 Defence Services personnel Hluttaw representatives took affirmation, followed by inaugural speech of the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker who reiterated the vital role of parliament and congress in democratization and democracy promotion, stressing the magnitude of the importance of goodwill and capacity of Hluttaws constituted with people's representatives. He called for deserving and effective use of the rights of Hluttaw and people's representatives to fulfill the voices, wishes and aspirations of the citizens.

The Speaker noted the interdependence of peace, stability and the rule of law, describing peace and stability as a prerequisite for democracy promotion as well as the rule of law. He called on MPs to instill themselves with a sense of duty to ensure that no one is above the law and those who break the existing laws receive the appropriate punishment before the law. In this process, MPs are to mobilize public participation and try hard for success of democratization in the country, urged the Speaker.

The Speaker in conclusion summarized the overall duty of MPs as serving the interests of the nation, national people and Union without party attachment, dogmatism, regionalism, racism and sectarianism, taking bold steps as necessary.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker's goodwill visits to Australia and Singapore and the Pyithu Hluttaw parliamentary delegation's visits to Indonesia, China, US, Germany and India were put on record.

U Hla Tun of Khamti Constituency asked about how questions are asked at Hluttaw session. Secretary of Hluttaw Rights Committee Dr Soe Yin replied that a MP can ask at most ten questions in a Hluttaw session.

U Soe Soe of Htigyaing Constituency asked if there is any plan to construct Htigyaing - Myataung Ayeyawady river-crossing bridge and Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint replied that though the Public Works have conducted survey for choosing of alignment for bridge construction, there is no plan for the time being to build such one according to present planning of the State.

U Tin Maung of Chanmyathazi Constituency asked if agricultural loans can be increased for coffee growers, internationally recognized coffee association can be formed in the country and the State can help coffee producers to fetch the existing market price in global coffee market.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than replied that currently there is no plan to increase loans for coffee growers as priority is given to paddy, the staple crop of the nation at present. Regarding the second question of forming of internationally recognized coffee association, it is to be formed as sister association of UMFCCI under the arrangement of the Ministry of Commerce. The to-be formed association can join the International Coffee Organization to be globally recognized.

With respect to third question, Ministry of Commerce and Myanmar Coffee Grower and Exporters Association will link with ICO after Myanmar joins ICO.

Regarding the question of U Htan Lein of Mindat Constituency on **“if there is any plan to build ancient artifacts museum in Mindat of Chin State”**, Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin replied that priority is being given to construction of artifacts museum in some regions where there is no museum on a yearly basis. And there is no any plan to build a museum in Mindat as Haka, Capital city of Chin State has one museum already.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Police Major-General Kyaw Kyaw Tun replied to the questions of two representatives on **“eradication of poppy growing and traffic rules”**.

With regard to the question of U Shi Thee of Leshi Constituency on **“if there is a plan to accelerate eradication programme of poppy growing in Naga (Lahe and Nanyun) townships,”** he replied that small groups comprising local battalion, Myanmar Police Force and departments concerned and social organizations, are making efforts for it. Plans are under way to expedite it across the country in coming 2012-2013.

Regarding the question of Dr Than Win of North Okkapala Constituency on **“how respective ministries will deal with more car accidents due to the violation of traffic rules and a ban on horn blowing”**, he said that coordination will be made with Yangon Region Government to allow to honk the horn at necessary places at a time when there are decrease in car accidents in Yangon and road users follow the traffic rules.

At the proposal submitting session, Hluttaw decided to record the proposal submitted by U Win Myint of Patheingyi Constituency on **“urging the Hluttaws to hold regular sessions of Hluttaws till the time that is no more than six months during one year in order that Hluttaw representatives may not stay away from their constituencies for a long time and help the regional development tasks”**

As Amyotha Hluttaw sent back the bill amending Union Auditor-General Law as per Pyithu Hluttaw’s approval, it will be proceeded in line with Pyithu Hluttaw rule 161.

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw explained the bill revoking the Myanmar Five Star Shipping Cooperation Law (1964), the bill revoking the law protecting the peaceful and systematic handing over of State’s Responsibility and the successful Performance of the functions of National Convention against disturbance and oppositions and the bill revoking the Public Service protection Act and the bill revoking the Land Acquisition (Mines) Act. Then, Hluttaw decided to approve it as per Amyotha Hluttaw’s conformation as Pyithu Hluttaw representatives including Bill Committee did not submit the amended proposal.

The meeting came to an end at 12.40 pm, and the second day session will go on at 10 am tomorrow.  
*MNA*