

## **Amyotha Hluttaw 26 January, 2015**

### **Amyotha Hluttaw divided on religious conversion bill**

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 Jan— Amyotha Hluttaw representatives were divided on the religious conversion bill on its sixth day session on Monday, with Representative U Khin Maung Latt of Rakhine State Constituency (6) saying enacting the bill will contribute to reduction of conflicts, stability and national interests while Representative U Aung Kyi Nyunt of Magway Region Constituency (4) was of the view that special care and enough time should be taken for enactment of an unbiased and meaningful law as the bill will force people to convert religion as its side effects and stoke the worry of national races instead of protecting the freedom of worship.

However, Representative Dr Banya Aung Moe of Mon State Constituency (7) said that the bill will not affect the freedom of worship and will encourage people of different religions to live in unity.

Similarly, Defence Services Personnel Representative Lt-Col Thein Lwin believed that the bill is in accordance with the state constitution and meets the international legal standards without preventing freedom of religious conversion. He said the bill systematize the conversion of religion.

Representatives U Nyan Lin of Ayeyawady Region Constituency (3) and U Phone Myint Aung of Yangon Region Constituency (3) proposed redrafting the bill while Representatives U Zonhle Htan of Chin State Constituency (2) and U J Yaw Wu of Kachin State Constituency (12) objected to it. Debate on the bill will continue on the seventh day session of the Amyotha Hluttaw. — MNA

**Source: *The Global New Light of Myanmar*, 2015-01-27**