

Finance Commission meets in Nay Pyi Taw

A meeting of the Finance Commission meeting was held yesterday morning at the Presidential Palace.

The meeting was attended by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Finance Commission Vice-Chairman Vice-President U Henry Van Thio, secretary Union Minister U Kyaw Win, members Union Attorney General, Union Auditor General, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, states and regions Chief Ministers.

“The present 1/2018 meeting of the Finance Commission is to discuss and adopt the Budget Estimate for 2018 April to September of the Union and Bill on 2018 Budget of the Union”, the President said.

Section 221 of 2008 Constitution requires that the Union Government draft a Union Budget Bill based on the annual Union budget, after coordinating with the Financial Commission, and submit it for approval to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. As per this section, the Financial Commission is to support the Budget Estimate for 2018 April to September of the Union submitted by the Government to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The fiscal year in Myanmar was originally designated to be from 1 April to 31 March, but for fiscal year 2018-2019, it will be changed to 1 October to 30 September. That is why the budget estimate of departments and organisations for the six-month transition period of 1 April to 30 September 2018 is now being drawn up separately.

Spending frameworks according to the Medium-Term Fiscal Framework for union-level



President U Htin Kyaw delivers the speech at the meeting of the Finance Commission 1/2018 at the Presidential Palace. **PHOTO: MNA**

departments and organisations were not set as the budget for 1 April to 30 September 2018 is for a six-month period only. Respective departments and organisations were instead asked to draw up a six-month estimate of income and expenditures, and these departments and organisations had submitted budgets accordingly. Assessment in stages of the budget was based on the corrected budget of the first six months of fiscal year 2017-2018 budget.

In the ordinary expenditure of appointing new staff, the request for expenditure should be only for the actual number of new staff that will be appointed in the coming year's first six months. Maintenance expenditure requested for machineries, vehicles and buildings should also be for the maintenance works that can be completed in the six months period.

In the capital expenditure portion, ongoing construction works and works that can be completed during the six months period is to be requested. It is to be noted that in the six-month budget period only the first two months are in the summertime while the remaining four months will be in the rainy season. It is not possible to complete new works in this period and thus there shouldn't be requests for new works during this period. Expenditure requests to purchase machinery during this six-month period should be for those that can be purchased within this period. Machinery purchases should be in local currency and use of foreign currency should be reduced as much as possible.

The Union Government will not use macroeconomic indicators and indexes to fulfil the deficits of states and regions and

will set 50 per cent of the deficit amount of fiscal year 2017-2018. States/Regions governments should use these funds for the benefit of the people and must follow the instructions and tender rules in a transparent manner in conducting construction and purchasing works.

Implementation period for the six-month budget is short and expenditures should be spent based on income. Expenditures are to be spent efficiently during the six months period to prevent waste. Only then will the expenditure GDP ratio be maintained. While the private sector is being supported for the country's economic development, the government sector needs to lay down financial policies that will support economic development with full collection of tax and income from state economic organisations. Expenditures should be spent as a priority on

increasing and supporting manufacturing and services.

Acquired foreign aid and loans should be spent effectively for the people. If foreign aid and loans are allocated without having sufficient time to spend it during the six-month period, there'll be unspent expenditures that will have to be refunded.

The Budget Estimate for 2018 April to September of the Union and Bill on the 2018 Budget of the Union are urged to be discussed and adopted said the President.

Finance Commission Vice-Chairman Vice-President U Henry Van Thio said the Union fulfillment is Ks853.79 billion and the budget submitted by states and regions had a total income of Ks376.74 billion and a total expenditure of Ks1.23 trillion, making for a deficit of Ks853.79 billion.

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National Planning bill for six-month transition period before new FY discussed

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“In the National Planning for the six-month period, it is found that the country's GDP is expected to see 7.2 per cent growth in the six month period from April to September in 2018 since transportation, hotels and tourism and financial services are expected to see progress,” he said.

Though the country's economy has not accelerated, the economic growth of the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year is expected to reach 6.8 per cent due to favourable weather in the time of harvest,

flow of foreign investment, increasing production of SMEs, better transportation and tourism services, communications, financial services and other services.

“The aims of planning for the six-month period should focus on the projects which are urgently needed to be implemented for the people and for the projects which are considered essential for the National Planning of the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year,” said the President.

Speaking at the meeting, State Counsellor Daw Aung

San Suu Kyi called for stronger linkages between the Union Government and regional/ state governments for making the projects a success.

“Just more than 6 per cent to 7 per cent growth for our country is not enough for Myanmar, which is just on track for development,” said the State Counsellor.

She also highlighted the lack of progress in the agriculture sector, putting the blame on problems related with land rights.

“Without seeing satisfactory solutions to the land rights

issues in the agriculture sector on which 70 per cent of the country's population are relying, we cannot say that the development of the country is adequate,” she added.

She also called for innovation for the market-oriented economic system in terms of penetrating foreign markets and establishing a market for local products in attempts to overcome the challenges for trade deficit.

She also called on regional and state governments for taking political and economic

approaches to their projects in order to make the projects a success.

The State Counsellor also called for stepping up efforts for disaster preparedness as the country was suffering the impacts of climate change.

“Before implementation, all projects should be viewed on whether they would benefit the emergence of a Democratic Federal Republic, because we are marching towards a Democratic Federal Republic,” said the State Counsellor. — Myanmar News Agency

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw joint committee discusses accounting bill

A Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee met yesterday morning to discuss an accounting bill sent by the President with a note.

The meeting, held in the second-floor meeting room, D Block, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, was attended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw deputy speaker, Joint Bill Committee and Public Accounts Joint Committee Chairman U Aye

Tha Aung; deputy chairmen, secretaries and members of the Joint Bill Committee and Public Accounts Joint Committee; Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission members; and officials from the Ministry of Planning and Finance, Union Attorney General office, Union Auditor General office and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw office. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission releases statement on Terrorist Attacks

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission released a Statement regarding the ARSA terrorist attacks in Maungdaw yesterday. Following is the full text of the statement.

Statement by the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission No. (1/2018)

1. It is learned from the news that the ARSA terrorists attacked the vehicle carrying members of the security force with explosive device and small arms from the hillock of North West of Kyein Chaung village in Maungdaw Township, Rakhine State around 10:00 am

on 5 January 2018 and a driver and two members of security force were wounded.

2. Such attack may not only affect the process of stability, security, prevalence of law and order and development in Rakhine State but also seriously hinder the arrangements for the repatriation of returnees, who left homes due to terrorist attacks in August,

to the places they had resided. In addition, it may also affect the regional development undertaken by the Government and the UEHRD process.

3. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission strongly condemns such attack by the ARSA terrorists.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Central committee, work committees hold coordinating meeting to discuss second Hluttaw seventh regular session

THE central committee and work committees held a coordinating meeting yesterday afternoon for the successful organisation of the second Hluttaw seventh regular session.

At the meeting, held at the Hluttaw Building Zabuthiri Hall, Mahn Win Khaing Than, a patron of the 2018 Hluttaw meetings organising central committee; the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker; and the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced the second Hluttaw seventh regular session will be held on 15 January.

At the next Hluttaw meeting, the adoption of the budget estimate for the Union from April to September 2018, the bill on the 2018 Budget of the Union



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint discusses for second Hluttaw seventh regular session at the coordinating meeting. PHOTO: MNA

and Union Tax Bill, as well as other priority Hluttaw works will be discussed. Regular sessions were successfully held in the past with the cooperation of the responsible officials and

organisations. The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker expected that security and other important issues would be organised as efficiently as in past Hluttaw meetings.

Next, the Hluttaw meetings organising central committee patron and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint thanked all the ministries that had cooperated with the Hluttaw to hold the previous Hluttaw regular sessions. He also recognised the Hluttaw security arrangements made by the relevant ministerial departments and organisations. He then thanked the (union) ministers, as well as the deputy ministers and officials of the attending departments and organisations, and noted that the mutual understanding with Hluttaw was a good tradition.

Later, the attending Union ministers, Nay Pyi Taw council chairman, deputy ministers

and officials explained the arrangements being made by the related committees, while the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker coordinated and commented on the discussion, and then delivered a concluding speech.

The meeting was attended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speakers, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat, union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw council chairman, deputy ministers, related committee secretaries and officials from each of the Hluttaw offices. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hosts dinner in honour of Chief of Defence Force of Singapore Armed Forces

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing, Tatmadaw commander-in-chief, hosted a dinner in honour of Lt-Gen Perry Lim, chief of the Defence Force of the Singapore Armed Forces, at Nay Pyi Taw Park Royal Hotel yesterday evening. At the dinner, the Tatmadaw commander-in-chief delivered a welcome speech, while the chief of the Defence Force of the Singapore Armed Forces gave a speech of thanks. They then had dinner together with the other attendees. The Myawady Music Band, under the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare, entertained the dinner guests with songs and dances. —MNA ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers an opening speech at the dinner in honour of Chief of Defence Force of Singapore Armed Forces. PHOTO: MNA

Chair of Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee meets members of Connect to Everyone Association

CHAIR of the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee U Tun Aung, alias U Tun Tun Hein, received members of the Connect to Everyone Association in the hall of the Hluttaw Building

(I-2), Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday afternoon. During the meeting, they discussed matters related to farmland rules, the contracts act and other registration processes.—MNA ■

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Finance Commission meets in Nay Pyi Taw

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Assessments were made on the expenditures for the six months and a total of Ks34.713 billion was reduced from the states and regions expenditures. After this reduction, the states and regions had a total income of Ks376.743 billion and a total expenditure of 1,195.82 billion, making for a deficit of Ks819.077 billion, said the Vice President.

Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win, Secretary of the Finance Commission, explained the Budget Estimate for 2018 April to September of the Union and Bill on 2018 Budget of the Union. Finance Commission members Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, states and regions chief ministers then explained about the tax collection, income, expenditure and deficits of the respective

states and regions.

In his concluding speech, Chairman of Finance Commission President U Htin Kyaw said the benefits gained from re-designating the financial year is far beyond the expenses incurred and is believed to enable the economic development of the country.

Union-level departments and organisations need to coordinate with states and regions governments so that there are no duplications in the expenditures requested at the union level and states and regions level.

In making investments for basic infrastructure development of the country, union-level departments and organisations and states and regions governments need to draw up and implement projects that are in line with the 12 economic policies laid out by the union

and the United Nations' 17 sustainable development goals.

The government needs to make expenditures for the benefit of the people, and at the same time, try to increase income. There is a need to increase income through production and services as well as in collecting tax and other incomes. All the while, expenses on education, health and other expenses like electricity, road and telecommunication, agriculture, livestock breeding and basic infrastructure need to be spent for the benefit of the people.

Works in finance should be conducted according to prescribed rules and regulations as well as financial management regulations and must be transparent and ready for auditing at any time, said the President. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Muse border trade up by \$198 million this FY

Trade through the Muse border gate, which is the largest trading gateway among Myanmar's border gates, reached more than US\$4.1 billion in the first nine months of the current fiscal year (FY), according to the Commerce Ministry.

Between April 1 and December 29 this FY, the Sino-Myanmar border trade at the Muse, Lwe-jel, Chinshwehaw, Kankiketee and Kengtung gates reached \$4.76 billion, which is \$167 million more than its value during the same period last FY.

Of the five checkpoints between Myanmar and China, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung have shown a slight decrease in trade.

As of October this FY, bilateral trade value with Myanmar's main partner China via the sea route



Trucks are seen near the 105-Mile Muse Border Trade Zone in northern Shan State. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

and border gates reached \$6.3 billion, including an estimated \$2.83 billion in exports and \$3.5 billion in imports.

China's trade with Myanmar is second to only its regional trade. Myanmar's border trade with China performed better than its trade via sea.

Further, Myanmar's exports to the most pop-

ulous country, China, surpassed its imports. Rice, various kinds of peas, sesame seeds, corn, vegetables and fruits, dried tea leaves, fishery products, rubber, minerals and animal products are exported to China, whereas machinery, plastic raw materials, consumer products and electronic tools flow into Myanmar.—Mon Mon



Speaker U Win Myint (Right) and Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than (Left) chair the meeting of Myanmar Parliamentary Union (MPU). **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar Parliamentary Union meeting (1/2018) held in Nay Pyi Taw

A meeting organised by the Myanmar Parliamentary Union (MPU) was held at the Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, during which the effectiveness of the hluttaws and the relationship between federal and regional parliaments was discussed.

"There are many issues which can be addressed between the union-level Hluttaws and Regions/States level Hluttaws.

That's why we are holding the meeting in line with the regulations of Myanmar Parliamentary Union (MPU).

Myanmar Parliamen-

tary Union (MPU) has been formed for two years, and we also need suggestions made by the respective persons and advice which can be made for the progress of the matters within the short period. Moreover, It is important for the officials concerned to abide by the rules and regulation prescribed by the Hluttaws", said Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than in his opening speech.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint added that "This meeting is being held for the first time in 2018, and it is advisable to review the weaknesses and strengths of the hluttaws by using the required standards and

norms. Hluttaws should be balanced to serve as a check and the role of the judicial sector is of great important in the process of democratisation."

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung then clarified the decisions made in the Hluttaw meetings, and the procedures of the amending rules.

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Ti Khun Myat discussed the Hluttaw issues which are most often encountered in the process, and Director General of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office, U Kyaw Soe explained the formation and situations of the related sectors. —Myanmar News Agency

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT OF BRIDGE Invitation for Bids

Date: 12th January, 2018

Loan Agreement No.: MY-P15

IFP No: MYA/MOC/EWEC/PACKAGE1/PQ

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency toward the cost of the East-West Economic Corridor Improvement Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract resulting from the bidding for which this prequalification is conducted.
2. The Department of Bridge, Ministry of Construction, Myanmar intends to prequalify contractors and/or firms for Package-1, Construction of Gyaing Kawkareik Bridge.
3. It is expected that Invitation for Bids will be made in the beginning of April 2018.
4. Prequalification will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Applicants from eligible source countries (All countries and areas), as defined in the Loan Agreement.
5. Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the Prequalification Documents at the office of Director General, Department of Bridge, Ministry of Construction from 10:00 hrs. to 14:00 hrs. on working days till 13th February, 2018.
6. A complete set of the Prequalification Documents may be purchased by interested Applicant(s) on the submission of a written Application to the address above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of 500 USD.
7. Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address above by 26th February 2018, and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for East West Economic Corridor Improvement Project (EWEC) for Package-1, Construction of Gyaing Kawkareik Bridge.

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