

2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw begins regular session

By Thuya Zaw,
Mi Mi Phyo

A first day meeting of the 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 7th regular session 1st day meeting was held yesterday afternoon in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall.

At the meeting, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win

Khaing Than said Hluttaw representatives had returned to their respective constituencies and had heard the voices of the constituents while the Hluttaw was in recess. Based on this, it is believed that the duty of legislative sector could be served to support and benefit the people and the country.

Government had amended the budget year from 1 April-31 March to 1 October -30 September and at the 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 7th regular session the National Planning Bill, Union Budget Bill and Union Tax Bill for the six-month interim period of the budget year from 2018 April to September will

be discussed and approved.

In addition to this, two bills sent with remark by the President, a matter of an international loan as well as to confirm and enact ongoing bills under consideration by the each Hluttaw are to be conducted. In addition to issuing 2017-2018 development fund re-

lated to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and work orders for 325 townships, 99 townships are included in other projects and due to weather and ground situation, permission was granted to conduct the works up to 31 December 2017 as requested.

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Pyithu Hluttaw to discuss 26 bills, 9 proposals, 172 questions in 7th session

Kyaw Thu Htet,
Hmway Kyu Zin (MNA)

The Second Pyithu Hluttaw began its seventh meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, putting the foreign visits of delegations of MPs, answering six questions and approving a bill on the first day of the meeting yesterday.

The seventh session of Pyithu Hluttaw will discuss 26 bills, nine proposals and 172 questions.

In his address, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint stressed the important role of legislation sector in achieving success peace and national reconciliation process being implemented by the government.

"Hluttaw which reflects the voices of the people should be a legislative pillar which is reliable for the people," said U Win Myint, "representatives of the Hluttaw



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint. **PHOTO: MNA**

are to work for strengthening democratic practices of the people". He also urged the MPs to take their duties and responsibilities vested by the people without bias.

During the meeting, U Nay Myo Htet of Kyauktada Township Constituency asked the Ministry of Electricity and Energy how it

has planned to supply power to the people sufficiently in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 as the power consumption has upward up to 15 per cent to 20 per cent yearly.

In his reply to the question, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr Tun Naing said power plant projects which are under construction are targeted

to be completed in coming four years. The four projects which are targeted to complete in 2018-2019 FY are 4 MW-Yazagyo Hydro Power Project, 40-MW Minbu Solar Power Plant, 118.9 MW-Thaton natural gas-fired power plant, 106 MW Thaketa natural gas-fired power plant and 225MW- Myingyan (Sembcorp) natural gas-fired power plant.

The projects which are targeted to complete in the 2019-2020 Fiscal year and in the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year are 51-MW Ahtet Kyaingtaung hydro power project, 280 MW-Ahtet Yeywa hydro power plant, 135 MW-Kyaukpyu natural gas-fired power plant, 356 MW-Ahlon natural gas-fired power plant, 615 MW natural gas-fired power plant in Kanpauk, 150-MW Ywama natural gas-fired power plant, 12 MW Puhtolon natural gas-fired

power plant, 20-MW Myanaung natural gas-fired power plant, 108 MW Thilawa power plant project and 1,390 MW natural gas-fired power plant project at Milaunggyaik in Ayeyawady Region. U Lin Lin Oo from Tanai Constituency urged the Union Government to supply power around the clock to Tanai in Kachin State through the national grid in the 2019-2020 Fiscal year. In his reply to the question, Deputy Minister Dr. Tun Naing said to supply the power to Tanai through the national grid, the ministry needs to install cables linking Karmai and Tanai and to establish a sub-power station in Tanai. The deputy minister said the cost for the infrastructure is estimated more than K12.3 billion, pledging to implement the project asking budget allowance from the government. ■

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw resumes regular session

Aye Aye Thant
(Myanmar News Agency)

THE seventh regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw held its first day meeting yesterday morning at Amyotha Hluttaw's meeting hall where Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than delivered a message of greeting.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than said the Hluttaw representatives now know their requirements and they are to raise questions, table motions, discuss and approve bills together with respective committee to fulfill these requirements and for the of the country and the people. In doing these, it is to be noted that they are to follow the law, rules, regulation and procedures.

Next, U Myint Naing of Rakhine State constituency 5 raised a question on plan to construct new 200x30x25 ft. two-storey reinforced concreted school

buildings in Kyauktaw Township in middle school level and 178



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than. **PHOTO: MNA**

ship Wegyidaunt Village and Shwepyi Village basic education high schools during fiscal year 2018-2019. Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi replied that Ks 1,881.3 million was allocated for school building constructions in 17 schools of Kyauktaw Township in fiscal year 2017-2018. Wegyidaunt Village basic education high school had a total of 4 buildings for 834 students, 160 students in primary level, 496 students

students in high school level. Shwepyi Village basic education high school had a total of 3 buildings for 1,296 students of which 305 students are in primary level, 610 students in the middle school level and 381 students in the high school level. Fund allocation for fiscal year 2018-2019 to construct 180x30 ft. reinforced concrete single-storey buildings in Kyauktaw Township Wegyidaunt Village basic education high school and Shwepyi Village

basic education high school were already included in the township priority list answered the Union Minister.

In response to a question raised by U Sai San Aung of Shan State constituency (12) on plan to raise the rural area education sector in Hopong Township of Wa Self-Administered Division, Shan State, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said Ministry of Education had upgraded a total of 412 basic education schools that had reached the set numbers of students during academic year 2017-2018. 4,687 schools that did not reach the set numbers of students but were beyond the set distances were also upgraded bringing the total number of schools upgraded to 5,099. But the upgrades do not include Hopong Township.

However, Monghom (Wa) village sub basic education primary school and Monkom (Shan) village sub basic education primary school are accord-

ing to set criteria and upgrade as priority township will be made after assessment during fiscal year 2018-2019. There is a need for Hinna Village self-help primary school to be upgraded to a school level and only when this is done can the construction of new school building can be conducted for it. There are no schools under Ministry of Education or government-recognized school and thus new school building couldn't be constructed yet explained the Union Minister.

Hluttaw's decision was then taken on the matter of bill to amend the drugs and psychotropic substances law approved and sent by Amyotha Hluttaw which was sent back by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments. Hluttaw decided to approve the amendment of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced the approval. Second Amyotha Hluttaw 7th regular session 2nd day meeting will be held on 17 January it is learnt. ■

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Htin Kyaw

The following are messages of felicitations from Foreign Heads of State / Government sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Htin Kyaw, on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

**From Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev,
President of the Republic of Uzbekistan,
Excellency,**

Please kindly accept my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the national holiday of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar – Independence Day.

I have the honour to express my confidence that by our joint efforts friendly relations between Uzbekistan and Myanmar will continue to develop.

Let me avail this opportunity to wish You good health and great success, and for the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar – well-being and prosperity.

**From Mr. Raimonds Vejonis
President of the Republic of Latvia
Your Excellency,**

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the

Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I am pleased to convey my sincerest congratulations and best wishes for further prosperity, peace, and well-being of your country and its people.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my confidence that the relations between Latvia, and Myanmar will continue to develop and strengthen for the mutual benefit of our people.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Foreign Head of State send felicitations to State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

The following is message of felicitations from Foreign Head of State / Government sent to State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

**From Mr. Edgars Rinkevics
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia
Excellency,**

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, allow me to offer you my most sincere and cordial con-

gratulations along with the wishes for peace and prosperity to the people of Myanmar.

It is my firm conviction that the established cooperation between our countries will grow increasingly stronger, thus enhancing mutual understanding and friendship.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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Hluttaw representatives are advised to coordinate and work together in order to avoid unnecessary disagreement by basing on the experience of the works conducted during the two-year period of the second Hluttaw term.

Moreover, all are urged to work together and manage by stages for the success of the works benefiting the people, complete the work in time, avoid audit objection and return the excess fund for works that could not be done

Hluttaw representatives will face more works during this Hluttaw session and all need to value and systematically use the time with good effort, work and will.

As people's representative using the power granted by the people for the country, it is important to follow related laws, rules, regulations and procedures.

Next, the matter of loan from Austria's Unicredit Bank sent by the President was explained by Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin. The Deputy Minister said the Euro 5.0 million soft loan from Austria's Unicredit Bank when obtained will be used for Kinchaung Bridge construction project on the Zinchaung-Kinmyauk-Laytaung

road in Rakhine State, Kyaukphyu District, Yanbye Township.

The 1,256 ft. long Kinchaung Bridge is close to the sea and by constructing it under the European technology, the quality will be better while it can better withstand the weather and natural surrounding (seawater effect). Myanmar engineer will also be able to study the modern bridge building technology. Once the bridge is completed, it will shorten the travel time between Kyaukpyu and Yanbye towns. Due to better road communication, there'll be additional benefits of increasing the local and foreign investments that will develop the social-economic situation of the people in the region. As the construction of Kinchaung Bridge will benefit the country's social, economy, education, health, transport and all other sectors, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is requested to permit the no-interest Euro 5.0 million soft loan from Austria government.

Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win explained further about the loan and said the grace period is 8 years and repayment period is 17 years, making a total loan period of 25 years. It is an interest-free loan with a management fee of 0.65 per cent of the loan amounting to Euro 32,500,



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

advance insurance premium Euro 37,125, bank charges of Euro 1,440 adding up to a total one-time payment of Euro 71,065. Remaining insurance fee of 0.9 per cent of the loan are to be paid yearly and if the loan is forfeited, a yearly forfeiture fee of 0.65 per cent of the loan need to be paid for the year it is forfeited. Under the assistance program of the Austria government, 15 per cent of the loan (Euro 0.75 million) is not required to be repaid and only the remaining 85 per cent (Euro 4.25 million) need to be paid back.

Whether an international loan is a concessional loan or non-concessional loan is determined by the grant element. According to World Bank, if the grant element is above 35 per cent, it is a concessional loan and if it is below 35 per cent, it

is a non-concessional loan. The loan from Austria to buy the steel frames for Kinchaung Bridge has a grant element of 43.93 per cent and thus it is a concessional loan explained the Union Minister U Kyaw Win.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker then announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the matter to enroll their names.

The Union Minister stated that the National Planning Bill for the six month period of 2018 April to September was drawn up in accordance with the economic policy of the union, policies of the union ministries, state/region governments and United Nations sustainable development goals.

Proposals for projects were based on implementation of past year projects, priority sector, re-

gion and subjects, immediate requirements and availability of fund. Feasibility, benefit to the people and the economy, support toward regional development and environmental impact were also assessed.

The bill was drawn up in coordination for effectiveness and to benefit sector wise and region wise during the transition six month period.

The aims of planning for the six-month period will 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.

In the annex of 2018 April to September six month national planning bill, the expectation of the union, aim and processes to implement each of the 12 policies, union ministries' policy, aim, implementation process and priority works according to each union ministry were included.

In the 2018 April to September six month national planning bill, a total investment of more than Ks 2,988 billion investment is earmarked in the state-owned sector including states/regions, said U Kyaw Win.

2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 7th regular session 2nd day meeting will be held today. ■