

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses age limit for civil servants, pollution

THE 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw's 7th regular session sixth-day meeting was held yesterday morning in the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall, Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, Union Civil Service Board (UCSB) Chairman Dr. Win Thein replied to a question raised by Daw Ni Shwe Hlyan of Thantlang constituency on reducing the age limit criteria in appointing government servants for remote and far-off places.

The UCSB Chairman said the board does not set the age limit criteria in appointing public servants and has no plans to do so. Instead, it selects and appoints public servants according to criteria set by the relevant ministries. These criteria are also dependent on the nature and scope of the work of the relevant ministries. It is more appropriate for the ministries to set the criteria according to their requirements rather than have the UCSB set them. Next, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win responded to a question raised by Dr. U Aung Khin of Pyin Oo Lwin constituency on plans to enact an air-pollution control



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

law to reduce the ill effects of air pollution in Myanmar. The union minister said there are currently no plans to enact such a law, but national air-quality standards were being set and announced, adherence to the standard was being monitored and assessed by the relevant ministries, and the standard was being amended and corrected based on advances in science and technology as well as for the benefit of the people. These efforts will continue to control air pollution, the union minister noted.

Similarly, questions raised by Daw Nan Kham Aye of Nam-

tu constituency, U Toe Thaung of Mongmit constituency and U Nay Htat Win of Sinbaungwe constituency were also answered by Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win.

Afterwards, a bill on explosive materials was submitted to the Hluttaw by Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win and the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee report on the bill was read by committee member U Zaw Win of Htantabin constituency. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint requested Hluttaw repre-

sentatives who wished to discuss the bill to enroll their names.

A motion tabled by Dr. U Aye Min of Kayan constituency, urging the government to award outstanding government servants with honours, titles, rest, recreation and study tours and foreign (scholarship-based) training to raise the morale and performance of these public servants, was then discussed and supported by U Ne Lin Aung of Mindat constituency, Dr. U Tin Aung of Kyaukse constituency, U Tun Tun Naing of Kani constituency, Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency, U Myint Lwin of Twante constituency, U Tin Htway of Waw constituency, U Myint Wei of Gwa constituency, U Tin Ko Ko Oo of Bilin constituency, U Saw Victor Clyde of Thandaunggyi constituency, Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative Lt-Col Kyaw Thiha and Major Min Zarni Htway, Dr. Daw Thet Thet Khaing of Dagon constituency, U Kyaw Swe Win of Kawhmu constituency, U Win Win of Minbu constituency, Daw Ni Shwe Hlyan of Thantlang constituency and U Maung Maung of Htigyaing constituency.

Responding to the discussion

by the Hluttaw representatives, UCSB Chairman Dr. Win Thein said outstanding public servants were being promoted according to the public servant rule, and the Myanmar Civil Service Reform Strategic Action Plan (2017-2020) is being implemented by establishing four objectives for the new public servant management system, a practice and system that is merit-based and performance-driven, raising the leadership quality and performance to create people-centric public servants and improving the transparency and accountability of public servants.

The UCSB chairman added that outstanding public servants were being awarded through promotions, advance increments, certificates of honour, awards, titles, foreign (scholarship-based) training, meetings, workshops, seminars, study tours and other means. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then took the consensus of the Hluttaw and announced the confirmation of the motion.

The 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw's 7th regular session seventh-day meeting will continue on 26 January. — Thura Zaw ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Lawmakers discusses upgrading Yangon-Mandalay Highway

AT the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 7th regular session sixth-day meeting, held yesterday, Ministry of Construction Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin explained the plan to obtain international loans and special funds under a new programme in addition to the use of union funds to upgrade the Yangon-Mandalay expressway.

Plans are underway to roll out this strategy under a Public Private Partnership programme.

The deputy minister was responding to a question raised by U Lal Min Htan of Chin State constituency (10) on the plan to lay a final layer of asphalt on the Yangon-Mandalay expressway as a priority task before the end of fiscal year 2020-2021.

The deputy minister explained that the Yangon-Mandalay expressway stretches for 366 miles and 3 furlongs; when considering it both ways, it has a total length of 732 miles and 6 furlongs. As of fiscal year 2016-2017, a 25-foot-wide asphalt-concrete section of the road was completed, for a total length of 149 miles

and 5 furlongs. A further 25-foot-wide section of 13 miles and 7 furlongs will be completed in fiscal year 2017-2018. By the end of fiscal year 2017-2018, 569 miles of asphalt-concrete road work will still be pending. Approval from the union government's economic committee has been obtained to complete the addition of a final layer of asphalt, 2.5-meter asphalt-concrete road shoulders on both sides of the road, and an interchange in Bawnetkyi, as well as for the completion of road safety work during the 2018-2020 fiscal year on the Yangon-Mandalay expressway, in the 8 miles to 36 miles section (Yangon-Bawnetkyi section), with loans from Asia Development Bank and the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund. Both of these loans were submitted at the union government meeting. Once the Cabinet approval is obtained, it will be submitted to the Hluttaw, explained the Deputy Minister.

In response to a question by Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency (11) on the plan to upgrade the strategic Yan-

bye-Kyauknimaw (25 miles and 5 furlongs) section to a concrete road, using the union fund in fiscal year 2018-2019, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin said the Yanbye-Kyauknimaw road is owned by the ministry of construction's road department and managed by the (Rakhine) state government. It is a smooth gravel-surfaced road. In fiscal year 2017-2018, a total of Ks 967.779 million in state government funds was used to lay an 18-foot-wide road section stretching 4 furlongs in Yanbye, provide gravel surfacing for a road stretching 11 miles and 2 furlongs, construct the 180-foot-long reinforced concrete Thitpote Chaung bridge, complete earth work for the bridge's approach road, lay asphalt on the bridge and construct two wooden bridges.

As the Yanbye-Kyauknimaw road is managed by the state government, no work has been earmarked for completion with the union fund. In 2018, from 1 April to 30 September, an 18-foot-wide and 1-mile-long concrete road

in Yanbye, a 14-foot-wide 2-mile-long gravel road, a 10-foot-long rock-lined approach road and two reinforced concrete bridges are planned for construction using state government capital funds of Ks563.4 million. In addition, in fiscal year 2018-2019, the construction of a 12-foot-wide 3-mile-long road and reconstruction of the 30-foot-long Myebon and 40-foot-long Khamamaung wooden bridges into reinforced concrete bridges are being planned, for which Ks660 million has been requested from the state government fund. The road department has no plans to upgrade the Yanbye-Kyauknimaw road with union government funds; instead, it is requesting the state government fund to upgrade it, explained the deputy minister. An additional question by U Kyaw Kyaw of Rakhine State constituency (4) on the plan to construct a new reinforced two-lane concrete bridge in place of Myaungbwe bridge in Mrauk U Township was also answered by Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin.

Next, the decision of the Hluttaw on a bill to repeal the municipal law, returned without amendment by Pyithu Hluttaw, was obtained, and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced the approval of the Hluttaw. The 2017 bill to amend the vacant, fallow and virgin lands management law was then discussed by Daw Myat Thida Tun of Mon State constituency (5), Naw Chris Tun @ Dr. Arr Kar Moe of Kayin State constituency (7), U Thet Naing Soe of Taninthayi Region constituency (2), U Ba Myo Thein of Yangon Region constituency (5), Dr. Win Myint Chit of Bago Region constituency (8), U Soe Thein @ U Maung Soe of Taninthayi Region constituency (10), U Hla San of Magway Region constituency (1), Dr. Win Myint of Bago Region constituency (11) and U Win Zaw of Kachin State constituency (7).

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