

Pyithu Hluttaw

Yangon-Mandalay Road to be upgraded to international standard with ADB assistance

THE first 40-mile section of the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, on which hundreds of traffic accidents occur every year, will be upgraded to international standards with the assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), said Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin.

He made the comment at the Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday in his answer to the question of whether the government has a plan to upgrade the road to a modern four-lane road in order to decrease road accidents, to install modern monitoring and safety equipment and to enforce traffic rules along the road.

"The cabinet has allowed us to get a loan from ADB to upgrade the section from 0 mile to 40 miles starting from Yangon, and we will submit our plan to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw soon," said Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin.

The condition of the road does not meet international standards in three ways – speed, comfort and safety, he said.



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

Though the road was targeted to be constructed meeting the expressway standard, use of the road was allowed before the road met the international standard, said U Kyaw Lin.

In attempts to reduce traffic accidents, road signs, rumble strips, road lines, road lane and

solar lamp posts are installed at 22 places where road accidents mostly happened.

The major cause of traffic accidents is speeding, and it has been discovered that the number of traffic accidents has decreased dramatically as speed limits have been imposed and

pointed out that it is necessary to set up sign boards for road safety along the expressway.

Actions have been taken against more than 22,600 vehicles from 2016 to 2018 for breaking traffic rules.— Kyaw Thu Htet, Mi Mi Phyto/Myanmar News Agency ■

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw bill meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw

A Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting to discuss the plan for April through September 2018, the National Planning Bill and the 2018 Union Budget Bill was held at the second-floor meeting hall of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy speaker; Joint Bill Committee and Public Account Joint Committee Chairman U Aye Tha Aung; the joint bill committee and public account joint committee deputy chairmen; secretaries, joint secretaries and committee members; Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission members; and officials from the Ministry of Planning and Finance, Union Attorney General's office and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw office.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Motion to conserve natural resources as national duty passed

THE MPs of Amyotha Hluttaw debated the depleting environmental resources in Myanmar at the Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday, and urged the union government to provide protection to the country's natural resources.

The debate focused on the preservation of the country's natural resources as a national duty, submitted by MP U Pe Chit of the Yangon region constituency (9) to the Hluttaw. In his discussion, U Khin Myo Win of the Taninthayi Region constituency (12) pointed out that five factories in Myeik, Taninthayi Region, are using some 300 tonnes of fingerlings a day to produce chicken and duck feed, and they were also using some 20,000 tonnes of firewood every year to run the factories.

"Short-term and long-term plans are required to save millions of fingerlings that are being used to produce feed," said U Khin Myo Win. Six MPs also participated in the discussion. Union Minister for Natural Resources



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and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win explained the measures adopted by the ministry, pledging that the extraction of natural resources would be conducted with accountability and responsibility towards sustainable development.

In response to the motion,

the union minister also acknowledged that the natural resources of the country need to be conserved. To implement the tasks prescribed in the Environmental Conservation Law, the union government formed a national-level body for environmental conservation, headed by

Vice President U Myint Swe, as well as work committees and region/state supervisory committees for environmental conservation that were formed on 2 June 2016, he said. The union minister also called for cooperation from all sectors, including government, non-government

organisations, region/state governments and local people, to ensure environmental conservation is a success, and urged the Hluttaw to put the motion on record. The motion was passed by 92 votes to 82, with four abstentions.—Aye Aye Thant (Myanmar News Agency) ■