

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses compensation for farmlands

By Kyaw Thu Htet and
Hmwe Kyu Zin

SIX questions were raised and a bill was tabled during the fifth-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw meeting held yesterday morning.

U Mya Sein of Dagon Myo-thit (Seikkan) constituency asked about the plan to transfer the non-judge personnel of the court such as the bailiff, clerks and peons who are posted at a duty station for a long period. Union Supreme Court Judge U Myint Aung replied that most of the courts do not have staff houses, except for the Yangon and Mandalay regions, so it would be difficult to transfer the court staff. As such, there is no plan to transfer the non-judge personnel of the court, said the Union Supreme Court judge.

Responding to a question raised by U Win Win of Minbu constituency on the plan to pay compensation to owners of farm-



Union Supreme Court Judge U Myint Aung. **PHOTO: MNA**

lands through which the Pakko-ku-Kyangin railroad passed and the planned Minbu-An railroad section, where the earthworks have been conducted, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo said a compensation award of some Ks3.24025 billion for 2,292.16 acres of farmlands in Minbu (Saku) Township had already been paid, and 15 village tracts in Minbu (Saku) Township still have to be compensated.

The assessment and meas-



Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo. **PHOTO: MNA**

urement of the farmlands affected by the Minbu-An railroad section in Minbu (Saku) Township were made, and based on the confirmation by the Magway Region farmland management group, a compensation award of Ks72.933 million for 31.66 acres in the Kanyay village tract, Minbu Township, was made in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The assessment and measurement of the remaining farmlands in the four affected village tracts are being made, and once the

Magway Region farmland management group has confirmed the amount, the ministry will request the compensation money in the nearest fiscal year. Once it is received, the compensation will be paid, explained the deputy minister.

In reply to a question raised by U Khun Than Htoo of Hsihseng constituency on the plan to erect MPT communication towers for mobile phone connections in the eastern part of Hsihseng Township and the western part of Maukmai Township, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo said there is no plan to erect communication towers in the Pa-O Self-administered Zone in the eastern part of Hsihseng Township and the western part of Maukmai Township, but once the fund to fulfil the telecommunications requirement is set up with financial input from the telecommunications operators, such towers will be erected according to the country-wide pri-

ority requirement.

U Kyaw Myo also replied to mobile phone communication questions raised by U Sai Kyaw Moe of Mongpan constituency and U Se Ki Kaw of Mongkat constituency and a question on the plan to open a new district road transport administration office in Myaungmya by Dr. Soe Moe Thu of Myaungmya constituency.

Next, Union Supreme Court Judge U Myint Aung tabled a bill amending the Caste Disabilities Removal Act to the Hluttaw, and the Hluttaw Bill Committee read and explained the committee's report on the bill.

Judge U Myint Aung said the Caste Disabilities Removal Act was enacted in 1850 and is still in use, and there is a need to amend it to bring it in line with the current situation.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then requested Hluttaw representatives who wanted to submit an amendment to the bill to enrol their names. ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses bill on wildlife, natural resources

By Aye Aye Thant,
Myo Thu Hein

Asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, two bills were discussed, a bill was tabled and a motion was made during the fifth-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw meeting held yesterday morning in the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall.

During the meeting, a question by U Myint Naing of Rakhaing State constituency (5) on the plan to distribute piped water to five wards in the town of Kyauktaw Township was answered by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw. The piped water that is being distributed to five wards in the town is supplied from Shaukchaung Dam, and according to a test conducted by the irrigation department, the water contains iron, manganese, aluminium and slurry. The water from Shaukchaung Dam flows directly to a water collection tank and two settling tanks. More slurry entered the water when the water from the dam was directly distributed



Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

to the town.

In the past, the settling tanks were cleaned and chlorinated once every three months but will now be cleaned every month to enable the distribution of clean water. Water will be collected in the collection tanks during the night, and it will be allowed to settle for six hours before being distributed in the daytime. Extension works will be conducted in the 2018-2019 fiscal year with funds from the state government, replied the deputy minister, together with a reply from the Ra-



Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung. **PHOTO: MNA**

khine State government.

Next, a bill on the protection of wildlife and the conservation of natural areas was discussed by the Hluttaw representatives.

U Pu Gin Kam Lian of Chin State constituency (5) discussed amending the sentence "not more than seven years imprisonment or a fine of a minimum of Ks0.5 million to a maximum of Ks1.5 million" in chapter 11, clause 38, of the bill.

The prison term is vague, as it can be (as little as) one year. Those who committed the crime

negotiate with people in power for a prison term of only one year, instead of seven years. The fine of Ks0.5 million to Ks1.5 million is low compared to the income obtained from the sale of wildlife and natural products, which can amount to tens of millions of kyat, and thus, the fine should be totally removed. The amendment to clause 38 should be a prison term of three to five years, said the Hluttaw representative. Seven more Hluttaw representatives also took part in the discussion.

The 2017 bill to amend the vacant, fallow and virgin lands management law was then discussed by the Hluttaw representatives.

Next, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung submitted a Myanmar travel bill to the Hluttaw, and Hluttaw Bill Committee member Daw Nwe Nwe Aung read the report on the bill to the Hluttaw.

Later, U Pe Chit of Yangon Region constituency (9) tabled a motion urging the government to prevent the destruction and losses of natural resources in Myanmar as a national duty.

MP U Pe Chit said within a 20-year period from 1994 to 2014, millions of tonnes of hardwood in the country were lost through illegal logging, as well as rare wildlife such as elephants, bears, tigers, leopards, peacocks and snakes, all of which fell prey to poaching.

Gems from Mogoke and other mines were lost through illegal mining and the Ministry of Mines did not know the exact amount of losses incurred. According to the audit by the union auditor general in 2014, some 98 mining businesses are in arrears of providing 6.4 tonnes of gold according to the agreement. Ignoring the law cannot be handled by enacting new laws and restrictions. There is a need to protect the valuable natural resources of the country, said MP U Pe Chit.

Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received the decision of the Hluttaw on accepting the motion, and the motion was accepted.

The sixth-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw will be continued on 25 January. ■