

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses plans to ensure health of students

The Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe answered numerous health-related questions in yesterday's meeting of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union Minister said that his ministry will look into whether the ministry owns any plot of land for a sports stadium and a Red Cross to be built in Namhsan Township, Shan State, in response to U Htay Lwin from Namhsan Constituency. The Union Minister replied to U Lu Htae Hon of Laukkai Constituency that they are working to quickly send a child specialist, a midwife and a physician to Laukkai in northern Shan State by the second week of March. The Union Minister then answered to U Aung Sein of Dawei Constituency in Taninthayi Region that currently the ministry cannot send additional medical staff to Dawei General Hospital for upgrading it to a 500-bed hospital.

The Bill Committee and MPs then put forward a motion to amend the Myanmar



Dr. Myint Htwe. PHOTO: MNA

Dental Council Bill. Speaker U Win Myint then announced that the bill will be put on record for interested MPs to discuss. Next, the bill committee put forward a motion to discuss the bill for the Myanmar Historian Association Bill, which will be put on record for further discussions.

This was followed by 15 MPs discussing a motion by Dr. Aye Zin Latt of Shwe Bo Constituency urging the Union Government to create a long term strategic plan with the Ministry



U Lu Htae Han. PHOTO: MNA

of Health and Sports and other respective ministries to draft a national policy to include sports activities in school curriculums and to allot a suitable amount of the national budget annually for the initiative.

Daw Aye Mya Mya Myo of Kyauktan Constituency said that to ensure school canteens sell only healthy foods, it requires preventing unhealthy foods from entering the marketplace. She said that authorities need to consider the number of



Dr. Aye Zin Latt. PHOTO: MNA

students when constructing a school building so that it can accommodate an adequate number of restrooms, washrooms and a big enough water supply. She also said schools need to give education on harmful side effects of drugs and alcohol and to ensure that they are not easily accessible by students within the school's perimeters.

Tatmadaw representative Major Htin Lin Oo said the Union Government should adopt the Focusing Resources on Ef-

fective School Health (FRESH) framework developed by WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO and the World Bank and launched at the Dakar Education Forum in 2000.

Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe said there are three priorities set that support this motion, namely raising public health awareness, school health awareness and obstetrical or maternity health awareness. He said that in the year 2016-2017 his ministry has conducted health inspections for 44,000 schools out of 45,000, completed construction of 88 per cent of restrooms for the schools, completed 67 per cent of nutritional development goals, and given 30 per cent of the school health education programs. The Union Minister said he will approve the motion so that a suitable budget can be allotted to the ministry after the Hluttaw's approval.

The Pyithu Hluttaw then approved of the motion and the Speaker announced the next meeting will be held on 9 March. —Aye Aye Thant, (MNA) ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw enacts amended peaceful assembly law

THE 25th-day meeting of the seventh session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The MPs continued to debate the bill to amend the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law, tabled by Bill Committee Secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe of the Yangon Region constituency (3), from yesterday's meeting.

U Tin Aung Htun from the Magway Region constituencies said that the new Article 18, which will be added to Chapter 7 on sanctions, allows authorities to fine protesters an unlimited amount of money and should not be added.

Tatmadaw Hluttaw Representative Major Aung Ko Min said the amendment to Article 4(d) is unnecessary as it adds that citizens or organisations applying for permission for peaceful protests have to provide information on their budgets and their source of funds, which would have no discerni-



Dr. Myat Nyana Soe.

ble effect on the protesters. He also added that the inclusion of Article 18 can appear to be a pre-emptive measure, as it can allow authorities to sentence or fine individuals or organisations funding the peaceful assembly.

The issue was then discussed by U Kyi Win of the Ayeyawady Region constituency (12), Dr. Kun Win Taung of Kachin State constituency (11), U Sai Than Naing of Kayin State



U Tin Aung Htun. PHOTO: MNA

constituency (5), U Ye Htut of the Sagaing Region constituency (5), Tatmadaw Representative Lieutenant Colonel Tin Lin Oo, and U Soe Thein of Kayah State constituency (9).

Bill committee member Daw Nwe Nwe Aung said the bill committee had reviewed the bill to see if it was in accordance with Article 354 of the Constitution, which grants liberty of free expression. She said the majority of the bill committee



Major Aung Ko Min. PHOTO: MNA

members had concluded the amendments would target only individuals or organisations who disrupt the rule of law and national security through peaceful assembly, and have therefore agreed to request the Amyotha Hluttaw to pass the bill. Bill committee members U Kyaw Kyaw, Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye and Brigadier General Tint Lwin then said they did not support the motion.

This was followed by a dis-

cussion among MPs U Khin Maung Latt, U Kyaw Kyaw Win, U Soe Thein and bill committee members U Kyaw Kyaw, Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye and Brig-Gen Tint Lwin on why the bill should not be passed, while the other MPs and bill committee members involved in the previous discussions discussed why the bill should be passed.

Bill Committee Secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe of the Yangon Region constituency (3) then motioned for the Amyotha Hluttaw to pass the bill and Daw Kyin Ngai Mahn backed the decision.

This was followed by the Amyotha Hluttaw voting on passing the bill for amending the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law, and the speaker then announced that the Amyotha Hluttaw had voted for the enactment of the amended law.

The next meeting of the Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 9 March. —Aung Ye Thwin ■