

## Pyithu Hluttaw

## Pyithu Hluttaw debates relocation of IDPs to Yangon

THE 28<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw was held yesterday. The MPs discussed asterisk-marked questions, the Myanmar Investment Rule and the resettlement of 55 households from Rakhine camps to Yangon in 2017.

Some 18 MPs debated a motion by U Maung Myint from Mingin Constituency to review the union government's decision to relocate 55 Kaman families from three camps in Yanbye, Kyaukpau and Pauktaw townships in Rakhine State.

Tatmadaw MP Lt-Col Aung Kyaw Moe said the union government had ignored the final report of the Advisory Commission of Rakhine State (recommendation 25), which noted that the government should try to ensure internally displaced persons (IDPs) return to their places of origin. He said relocating them to Yangon would set a poor example for relocation plans after the closure of IDP camps. He called for an affirmation on whether the relocated Kaman families did so of their



The 28<sup>th</sup> day of the second Pyithu Hluttaw being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

own choice, and whether they all had national registration cards (NRCs). He said that terrorists can pose as IDPs to participate in relocation programmes, so he advised a thorough inspection and reviews.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung responded that the 55 families had moved to Yangon

of their own choice, as a previous batch of Kaman families had already moved to Yangon to receive medical treatment after the communal violence in 2012. He said the Kaman families have already undergone NRC inspection, in accordance with the 1982 National Citizenship Law, and are officially recognised as an ethnic nationality in Myanmar.

He said the Kaman were allowed to move to Yangon, as Article 355 of the Constitution states that citizens have the right to settle and reside in any place within the country.

Deputy Minister U Soe Aung said his ministry had also conducted a discussion meeting, led by Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, with members of the

Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State representatives from ethnic communities, and civil organisations to review and fulfil the needs of the IDPs in Rakhine State. The Deputy Minister said the motion should be put on record.

U Maung Myint requested the Pyithu Hluttaw to arrive at a decision via electronic voting, and the results were 136 approval votes, 236 turndowns and eight neutral votes. Therefore, Speaker U Win Myint announced that the proposal would be left as a record.

The Pyithu Hluttaw also decided that three nurseries in Hlinethaya Township will have their duties transferred from the Ministry of Construction to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. Speaker U Win Myint also announced further discussions on the Myanmar Investment Rule, reviewed by the Amyotha Hluttaw with no amendments.

The next meeting of the Pyithu Hluttaw will be held on 16 March.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■

## Amyotha Hluttaw

## Deputy Governor of CBM clarifies loan situation to SMEs, permission for new banks

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has urged small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to transform themselves, so they can procure loans from private banks, said U Soe Thein, Deputy Governor of CBM.

The CBM is encouraging private banks to develop basic banking services of providing loans, he added. He was responding to questions raised by MP U Kyaw Htwe of Yangon Region Constituency (8) at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

MP U Kyaw Htwe asked the CBM how it had laid down policies for establishing private banks, if the incumbent government had a plan to give more private banks permission to operate and about the situation of leasing loans from private banks to SMEs in the country.

According to statistics up to December 2017, private banks granted Ks319.228 billion in loans to the agriculture and livestock



The Amyotha Hluttaw being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

breeding sector, making up 1.73 per cent of the total loans granted to the private sector.

SMEs in the country got loans amounting to Ks868.733 billion from private banks in the same period, comprising 4.71 per cent of the total loan given to the private sector.

Regarding permission given to open more private banks, the Deputy Governor said 24 private banks were operating in the country, and the CBM was scrutinising another five banks that had applied for permission to operate.

The number of private

banks currently operating in the country and those that have applied are enough to operate Myanmar's financial services, he added.

Besides this, mobile banking services are becoming popular in Myanmar, and the banking sector is developing, he noted.

“As mobile banking services are effective and can reach areas where no banks have been established, the CBM has suspended granting of permissions to open more private banks now,” said U Soe Thein.—Myo Thu Hein, Hmwe Kyu Zin (Myanmar News Agency) ■