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The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw convenes today in Nay Pyi Taw as it prepares to elect a new president within seven days. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meets today on electing presidential candidate

Presidency vacancy shall be filled within seven days

A MEETING on electing a candidate for the presidency, which was vacated on Wednesday by U Htin Kyaw, will be held today at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting yesterday, Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than urged members to submit their names by 23 March to become members of the Presidential

Electoral College, which will scrutinise the vice-president selected by representatives of the Pyithu Hluttaw. The president will then be elected from among the vice presidents.

U Htin Kyaw, who resigned from his post in order to take a rest from his duties, was elected by the group of Pyithu Hluttaw representatives about two years ago. **SEE PAGE-2**

Rakhine villages to convert to solar power

AS part of the National Electrification Plan (NEP), 219 villages in Rakhine State will be connected to solar power electricity in the 2018-2019 financial year, said the Rakhine State Rural Development Department.

U Nay Htet Shein, Director of the Rakhine State Rural Development Department, said the NEP will be carried out in 16 townships and 219 villages in Rakhine State and will be outfitted with 11,333 units of solar electricity within the 2018-2019 financial year.

"The NEP's plan is to provide electricity to areas that are too far from the main power grid, or above 10 miles away from an 11KV power line, or have been unable to connect with the Electricity Department in 10 years' time," said U Nay Htet Shein.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meets today on electing presidential candidate

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Before the announcement, Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than also announced that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw documented a message from Acting President U Myint Swe informing the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to fill the vacant seat of

the President in accordance with Sub-section (b), Section (73) of the Constitution as President U Htin Kyaw has resigned from his post on 21 March 2018.

Sub-section (b), Section (73) of the Constitution says that when a vacancy for the presidency hap-

pens during the session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the vacancy shall be filled within seven days.

At the beginning of the meeting of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than read out the letter of resignation of President U Htin Kyaw in

which U Htin Kyaw said he has resigned from his post of his own volition as he wants to take a rest from his current duties with effect from 21 March 2018. The President or any of the Vice-Presidents shall be allowed to resign from office of his own volition before

the expiry of the term of office, according to the Section (72) of the Constitution and Section (131) of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Rule.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw also documented the resignation of President U Htin Kyaw.—Thura Zaw, Mi Mi Phyto/MNA ■

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw elects speaker, deputy speaker

THE 31st-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw was held at the meeting hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives first elected U Khin Maung Win of Lanmadaw constituency as the chairman, who then signed the oath document.

Next, the chairman delivered a speech thanking the Hluttaw for electing him and said he was honoured to serve the Hluttaw. The chairman then mentioned how the second Pyithu Hluttaw meetings were held successfully and gave credit to the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker for achieving this. He concluded by noting the agenda of the day's meeting was to elect a speaker for the Pyithu Hluttaw, in accordance with its law and rules.

The meeting then continued after the chairman announced its successful commencement.

Later, Hluttaw representatives voted to elect the Pyithu Hluttaw speaker. Of the candidates in the fray for the Pyithu Hluttaw speaker, U T Khun Myat of Kutkai constituency secured 280 votes, while U Thauang Aye of Pyawbwe constituency got 141 votes. The chairman announced the election of U T Khun Myat as the Pyithu Hluttaw speaker.

This was followed by Hluttaw representatives voting to elect the Pyithu Hluttaw deputy speaker, where the candidates were U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein of Nawngkhio constituency and Dr. Maung Thin of Meiktila constituency. The chairman announced the election of U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein as the Pyithu Hluttaw deputy speaker after he received 270 votes against Dr.



U T Khun Myat is elected as the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker in yesterday's meeting. PHOTO: MNA

Maung Thin's 143 votes.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat and Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein then took the oath of office in the presence of the chairman and signed the oath document.

Following this, the Pyithu Hluttaw chairman transferred the duty to the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker. In his speech to the Hluttaw, U T Khun Myat thanked all the Hluttaw representatives for electing him. "As people's representatives, our thoughts and actions should set an example for the people who want to experience democratic practices and enjoy human rights," said the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker.

"The Hluttaw representatives need to serve the country and the people by being magnanimous and tolerant, maintaining mutual respect and by displaying the qualities of being forgiving, understanding and cooperative. All are urged to cooperate and work hand-in-hand to form a federal democratic union, establish and create a democracy and raise the human rights in the country. All need to work for the coun-

try instead of themselves, and through the successful conduct of our respective duties, we should raise our self-esteem," said the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker.

"As persons who are writing a new historical chapter for the country, all need to raise the honour and nobility of the Hluttaw. Among the country's legislative, administrative and judicial authorities, the Hluttaw performs the duty of drawing up and enacting legislations. In addition to this, it also has the duty of assessing if the existing laws, rules, notices and announcements are according to democratic practices, as well as of amending, adding, repealing and drawing up new ones accordingly," he said.

In conclusion, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker pledged to perform his duties according to the Hluttaw law, rules, procedure and process without bias to achieve democratic opportunities and basic human rights.

The 32nd-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw is yet to be announced.—Aye Aye Thant/ Myanmar News Agency ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw holds 31st-day meeting

THE seventh regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 31st-day meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, asterisk-marked questions were raised and answered by Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun.

Responding to the first question by U Sai San Aung of Shan Constituency (12) on raising the level of education for ethnic nationals in Wa Self-administered Division, the Deputy Minister said a total of 13 school buildings and four staff houses for teaching personnel were earmarked to be constructed in the 2018-2019 fiscal year (FY).

The Saku basic education primary school in Namphan Township, Kaunglan basic education primary school, Yaunglan basic education primary school and Lakaing basic education primary school in Panwaing Township are located on lands that do not belong to the Ministry of Education, and so, the lands must be registered in the ministry's name first. Only then can the ministry upgrade the schools and construct more buildings for them, said the Deputy Minister.

A school building on a 60x30 square feet plot for the Kaunglan basic education primary school (different school with same name) in Metmung Township was, however, built in the 2014-2015 FY, added the Deputy Minister.

On the second question by U Myint Naing of Rakhine constituency (5) on the plan to release five acres of land belonging to the Ministry of Education in Kyauktaw Township, Naguma



U Win Maw Tun. PHOTO: MNA



U Sai San Aung. PHOTO: MNA

village tract, to the Ministry of Health and Sports for the construction of a station hospital, the Deputy Minister explained that this was proposed to the Rakhine State government by the Naguma village tract station hospital construction organising committee. The ministry is working in coordination with the Rakhine State government to transfer the land to the Ministry of Health and Sports, so that a station hospital can be constructed on the land, as desired by the Hluttaw representative and the people of the area.

After the question and answer session, the Hluttaw representatives discussed the report on the work of the Amyotha Hluttaw farmer affairs committee.

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Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye poses for the documentary photo together with attendees in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MAY OO MOE**

Campaign launched to end physical violence against children

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye officially launched a campaign to end physical violence against children in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. In his address, Dr. Win Myat Aye expressed hope that the programme would help end physical and sexual violence in Myanmar.

Violence against children is a challenge for every country, and Myanmar is also facing the same challenge over its eradication, said the Union Minister.

After assuming office, the new government has made efforts to improve the livelihood

of people, so they can enjoy basic human rights and live with integrity.

Myanmar has been working with local and foreign organisations to end sexual abuse against children and rehabilitate them, he added.

As the Child Law enforced in 1993 was ineffective, the law was rewritten by the new government, and the new law is expected to be enacted soon, said Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye.

A campaign is being carried out by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the World Vision for five years to end physical

and sexual violence against children.

As part of the campaign, World Vision Myanmar will work together with its partner and civil organisations to raise awareness about violence against children, according to Suresh Bartlett, resident representative of World Vision Myanmar.

World Vision Myanmar will form committees to carry out educational activities targeting some 500,000 parents, teachers and children, as part of the efforts to prevent crime in Myanmar and fulfil the rights of children.—Khin Yadana ■

Amyotha Hluttaw holds 31st-day meeting

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Daw Myat Thida Tun of Mon State constituency (5) suggested setting up meetings with Hluttaw representatives of states and regions to discuss problems arising from the confiscation of lands. Based on these discussions, suggestions and coordination should be provided to the states and regional governments or the central land assessment committee through the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, and if required, a motion must be tabled in the Hluttaw. Only then can the Hluttaw help resolve the issue to a certain extent, the Hluttaw representative said.

Naw Hla Hla Soe of Yangon Region constituency (10), on her part, commended the committee for participating in amending the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands Management

Law. "Now, is the period when ceasefires are being made, and the country is headed towards a federal democracy union through the establishment of peace. Some ethnic organisations have their own land policies. The land sector issue is very important in the peace process, and the committee is urged to coordinate and combine the land policies and compile a report to the Hluttaw representatives for information," she said.

U Shayrel Shu Maung of Kayah State constituency (2) and U Tin Aung Tun of Magway Region constituency (5) also joined the discussion on the report.

Amyotha Hluttaw Farmer Affairs Committee member U Lin Tin Htay then tabled a motion in the Hluttaw to approve and accept the committee report.

Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee report on questions asked and motions tabled during the second Amyotha Hluttaw's sixth regular session were then read, after which Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than requested the Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the report to enrol their names.

Similarly, the Amyotha Hluttaw's Health, Sports and Culture Committee's report on its works was read by committee member Daw Lwee Zar, and the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker called on the Hluttaw representatives to register and discuss the report.

The 32nd-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw is scheduled to be held on 23 March.—Aung Ye Thwin ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Notification 41/2018

6th Waxing of Tagu, 1379 ME
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Permission to register as a political party

National United Democratic Party (N.U.D) headquartered at No. 2319, at the corner of Chindwin Street and Khatta Street, Shwe Kyar Pin Ward, Zabuthiri Township, in Nay Pyi Taw, has been permitted to register as a political party in accordance with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 22 March 2018.

The registration number of National United Democratic Party is 109.

Hla Thein
Chairman
Union Election Commission



The 4th Judiciary meeting held at the Union-Attorney General's Office yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union-Attorney General attends 4th Judiciary Meeting

THE 4th coordination meeting between the Union-Attorney General and Region and State Advocate Generals, and Region and State Magistrates, and District Magistrates was held at the Union-Attorney General's Office yesterday.

The Union-Attorney General delivered the opening speech, in which he said the judiciary sector must do its utmost to uphold rule of law, legal fairness, responsibility and accountability in accord with the national policy.

"Everyone in the judiciary system must follow the law to deliver an equal justice system. If everyone in the judiciary system treats each case with fairness and equality, and completely abstains from bribery, then the public will grow

to trust the justice system", he said.

The meeting will include discussions on the obstacles and progress made by judiciary officials in their respective Regions and States. The Union-Attorney General said a guidebook on drafting new laws will soon be published to help coordination in legal reviews.

The meeting will be continued today. Attending the meeting are 136 participants including the Deputy Attorney General, Region and State Advocate Generals, Permanent Secretary, Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General, Directors, Region and State Magistrates, and District Magistrates.—Myanmar News Agency ■