

Pyithu Hluttaw

Motion calls on gov't to ensure transparency in tax collection

U Myint Thein of Wetlet Constituency presented a motion calling for the union government to be transparent and scrutinise carefully the national tax collection during the Pyithu Hluttaw session yesterday. The Hluttaw approved the motion and the speaker put it up for discussion.

U Myint Thein explained that owing to the weak tax administration and law enforcement, numerous and serious cases of tax evasion and illegal trade transactions were taking place. He said that although the state has the capacity to properly administer tax collection, there are cases where the Internal Revenue Department and tax evaders have collaborated on tax evasion.

U Myint Thein said the relevant ministries should inform taxpayers how their money is being used by the state, so as to encourage them to pay taxes. He said the union government could reward regular taxpayers with reduced tax rates and certain exemptions, and increase the yearly honorary certificates, and other commemorations for



U Myint Thein.

dutiful taxpayers. He added that doing so would instil dutiful tax-paying habits among the people and raise awareness about paying taxes.

U Myint Thein said that according to Article 389 of the constitution, it was the duty of every citizen to pay taxes levied according to the law. He said his motion is not to lobby for increased tax rates but to call for authorities to scrutinise the existing tax collecting system for loopholes and tax evaders. As



U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo.

Myanmar is transitioning into a democratic country, there needs to be more transparency and cooperation between the government and the people so that the correct amount of internal revenue flows in and can be used for the development of the nation.

The speaker requested MPs interested in discussing the motion to register their names.

Next, the secretary of the Hluttaw Bill Committee announced the acceptance of the Explosive Material Bill sent by

the Amyotha Hluttaw with remarks. The Speaker announced that since both the Amyotha and Pyithu Hluttaws agreed on the bill, it would be put on record, once the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the bill.

The next session of the Pyithu Hluttaw will be held on 21 May.

Flow meters in breweries discussed at Pyithu Hluttaw meeting

U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo of Hlaing Constituency asked Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win about the progress report on installing flow meters in breweries during the fourth-day meeting of the eighth regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday.

U Maung Maung Win replied that inspections were carried out at 37 active breweries between February and March 2018, and the results showed 33 have flow meters installed according to the set standards, while the remaining four will have flow meters installed in the future.

He added that a plan to in-

stall online monitoring systems in breweries began in April and is ongoing but until then, all inspections will be carried out by the respective township Internal Revenue Department.

Daw Cho Cho from Ottwin Constituency raised a question on the plan to offer farmers long-term loans

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win replied that the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank (MADB) received funds from the Myanmar Economic Bank (MEB) to provide loans to farmers before the planting season. MADB collects the loans during the harvesting season and sends it to MEB. This process is done annually, he said.

He added that MEB had set aside Ks200 billion to provide long-term loans of three to five years for farmers who meet the set standards. Farmers can apply for these loans at their respective MADB.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw's 8th regular session holds 4th-day meeting

THE fourth-day meeting of the second Amyotha Hluttaw's eighth regular session was held at the Amyotha Hluttaw's meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the new Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representatives were sworn-in before Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, and they signed the oath documents. Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin answered five asterisk-marked questions raised by the Hluttaw representatives.

Replying to a question raised by Daw Naw Sa Muhtu of Kayin State constituency (11) on the plan to construct a 10-foot-wide, 300-foot-long and 50-foot-high Win Yaw creek crossing bridge on a road connecting the villages in Kumkathaung Village tract and Tagundaing Village tract in Kya-in Seikkyi Township, Kayin State, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin said the bridge would directly benefit some 36,500 people from 5,216 households in 40 villages when completed. The construction of



U Kyaw Lin.

the bridge is earmarked for the 2018-2019 fiscal year union fund, and it will be implemented depending on the funds available, he said.

In response to a question raised by U Hla Oo of Sagaing Region constituency (4) on building quality roads, the deputy minister said the Penetration Macadam system was used in up to 95 per cent of the road construction work in Myanmar. The system uses the least amount of



Daw Naw Sa Muhtu.

asphalt and has the lowest cost. Myanmar is the only country in the world that is still using the Penetration Macadam system to lay its main roads. The asphalt concrete (AC) system is used for all the main roads of the countries in the world. The reason Myanmar is unable to progress beyond Penetration Macadam is due to the lack of finance and equipment. Asphalt concrete roads require equipment such as an AC plant, paver, roller

and tipper and other related accessories. Myanmar is unable to provide an AC plant and AC pavers countrywide and can deploy just one in each state and region.

Once the 29 sets of AC plants funded by the World Bank arrive, they will be deployed to states and regions, and priority roads will be upgraded to AC roads in big towns. Plans are being drawn to upgrade the technology and at the same time, studies are being conducted to assess the new technologies' appropriateness to the situation in Myanmar.

If the roads are constructed and maintained according to the instruction and guidelines of the road department, the possibility of damages to the roads before the prescribed time is low. If there are damages due to the corrupt practices of the companies and the staff, action will be taken according to the prevailing laws and the companies will be blacklisted, said the deputy minister.

U Naing Thiha of Mon State constituency (7) also asked about

the plan to upgrade two roads connecting villages in Mon State, Ye Township. The deputy minister replied that funds for the two roads had been budgeted in the Mon State government and the union fund for the 2018-2019 fiscal year and will be implemented depending upon the availability of the funds.

Questions raised by U Zaw Hein of Taninthayi Region constituency (7) and U Tet Tun Aung of Rakhine State constituency (2) were also answered and explained by Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin.

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw bill committee member Dr. Myo Aung read and explained the report of the committee on the second amendment bill to the Settlement of Labour Dispute Law. Following this, the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker requested the Hluttaw representatives to enrol their names to discuss the bill.

The fifth-day meeting of the second Amyotha Hluttaw's eighth regular session will be held on 21 May.—Aung Ye Thwin (MNA) ■