

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Pyithu Hluttaw's 8<sup>th</sup> regular session holds fifth-day meeting

By Aye Aye Thant  
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

THE 2<sup>nd</sup> Pyithu Hluttaw's eighth regular session's fifth-day meeting was held yesterday morning.

A motion tabled by U Tin Htwe of Waw constituency urging the relevant union-level organisations to draw up and enforce the related rules in a timely manner for the enacted laws was approved by the Hluttaw.

In addition to discussing and approving the above mentioned motion, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat informed the Hluttaw about extending the term of the Pyithu Hluttaw's Judicial and Legal Affairs Committee for another year and six asterisk-marked questions were answered.

In the question-and-answer



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

session, U Thaung Aye of Pyawbwe constituency first asked if there was any plan to amend the Pyawbwe Township election commission member list, as the list sent back by the Union Election Commission included the names of two persons who were not in the list submitted by the township. Union Election

Commission member U Aung Myint replied that the members for the various levels of the election commission were chosen according to the Constitution and its related laws by the Union Election Commission, and it is not mentioned in the Constitution and the laws that the members should be as submitted by



Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut. PHOTO: MNA

the township. As such, there is no plan to amend this list, said U Aung Myint.

Responding to a question posed by U Aung Kyaw Oo of Mongton constituency on the plan to repair and upgrade the badly damaged road section between Tachilek District and Monghsat District, Deputy Min-

ister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut said the matter was raised at a meeting between the peace representative group and ethnic national leaders of Wa Special Region-2, held at Pangkham (Panghsan) Town on 11 November 2017. At the meeting, the Shan State government requested the urgent repair of the damaged road section, and in case of difficulties, to transfer the road to the government.

Wa Special Region-2 told of its intention to transfer the road to the government and discussions were held with the Ministry of Construction to repair this road. A discussion about the repairs was also included in the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre meeting, explained the deputy minister.

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By Aung Ye Thwin

THE second Amyotha Hluttaw's eighth regular session held its fifth-day meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning. Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced the decision of the Hluttaw to submit to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw the Science, Technology and Innovation Bill, over which the two Hluttaws were in disagreement.

In addition to this, six asterisk-marked questions asked by the Hluttaw representatives were answered by deputy ministers U Aung Hla Tun and U Kyaw Myo, a report read and a motion tabled.

First, U Tun Tun Oo of the Mandalay Region constituency (2) asked if there was any plan to control and manage businesses that use various media to advertise their products with exaggerated, fabricated, deceptive and fake claims. Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun said advertisements received for advertising in the state media were first assessed by the Myanma Radio and Television censor board. It is assessed if the advertisement is according to the set policy, such as not including the national flag, emblem, and head of state, among others. Further, the company has to submit its trademark, product registration, company registration, FDA permission, recommendation of the relevant ministry



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

and other necessary documents. Advertisements must not include anything that would affect the sovereignty of the nation, national territory, political statements and announcements (except those made by the Union Election Commission). It must also not affect the culture, religion, belief of any ethnic nationals or promote sex, crime, terrorism, gambling, drug use and human trafficking, among others. It must also not insult or demean people with any disability.

Even though it may be the nature of an advertisement to exaggerate a product, the ministry is following all the policies and procedures laid down for advertisement in the state media, and it is also ensuring that audio and video advertisements made by joint venture entities are doing the same. The ministry is also ready to cooperate and work with other ministries, non-gov-



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun. PHOTO: MNA

ernment local and international entities to prevent and control exaggerated, fabricated, deceptive and fake advertisements made in social media and other media that are not under the control of the ministry, said the deputy minister.

Replying to a question raised by U Win Maung of the Magway Region constituency (6) on the plans of the Ministry of Transport and Communications to prevent river bank erosion of villages along Ayeyawady River, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo said the ministry was using two methods — direct and indirect prevention — against river bank erosion. Direct prevention is conducted in places where river bank erosion occurs and measures such as building the retaining walls can be conducted. Indirect prevention is conducted in places where river bank erosion occurs but retaining walls cannot be built due to the water depth and other

adverse situations. In this case, measures such as reducing the water flow rate and diverting the flow direction, among others, are adopted. As a long-term project, maintaining and modifying the lower portion of Ayeyawady and Chindwin rivers are being conducted, based on the master plan of Royal Haskoning Engineering Co. Ltd. of the Netherlands, along with the assistance of the World Bank in 1988, depending upon the availability of funding. In the forthcoming three fiscal years from 2018-2019 to 2020-2021, some Ks47.77 billion has been earmarked for the project, said the deputy minister.

On the question raised by U Soe Thein of Kayah State constituency (9) about the plan to maintain the Baluchaung (Balu Creek) flowing through Kayah State capital Loikaw, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo said the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (DWIR) was prioritising the improvement of the main rivers such as Ayeyawady and Chindwin, and its work programmes, drawn for the six-month period of April to September 2018 and fiscal year 2018-2019, do not include any funding for Baluchaung maintenance. If Kayah State government requested funding for Baluchaung maintenance in the 2018-2019 fiscal year state fund or from the emergency fund, DWIR will provide expertise and tech-

nical support, said the deputy minister.

Following this, questions raised by U Pe Chit of the Yangon Region constituency (9), U Lal Min Htan of Chin State constituency (10) and Dr. Sai Hsai Kyauk Sam of Shan State constituency (6) were answered by Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo.

Bill committee member Sai Tun Aung then read and explained the committee report on the Science, Technology and Innovation Bill. The decision of the Hluttaw was then taken by the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker to confirm the Science, Technology and Innovation Bill, as amended by the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee.

Later, U Kyaw Naing of the Yangon Region constituency 12 tabled a motion to submit to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw the decision on the bill disagreed by the Amyotha Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw. The Amyotha Hluttaw speaker then announced the decision to submit the bill to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The announcement of the Hluttaw approving the Myanmar Historical Commission Bill, approved and sent by the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments, was made after it was approved by the Hluttaw.

The sixth-day meeting of the second Amyotha Hluttaw's eighth regular session is scheduled to be held on 23 May. ■





Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat shakes hands with CPPCC Vice Chairman Mr Wang Zhengwei in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat receives CPPCC delegation led by Vice Chairman

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Mr. Wang Zhengwei and party in the guest hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed and exchanged views on promoting bilateral relations and cooperation from Pauk-phaw relations to all-round strategic partnership relations, increasing co-operation in internal peace and

national reconciliation matters, increasing investments for mutual benefit, and legislative matters.

Present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein; Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Chairmen U Khin Maung Win, U Aung Min, Dr. Daw May Win Myint, U Zaw Thein, U Khin Maung Thaung, Daw Khin San Hlaing, U Khin Aye, U Win Thein Zaw; and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw office.—Myanmar News Agency

## Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives CPPCC Vice Chairman

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Mr. Wang Zhengwei and party at the Amyotha Hluttaw building Meeting Room in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. At the meeting, they discussed matters relating to the Myanmar Hluttaw work processes; promoting bilateral relations between the peoples, the governments and parliaments; sharing experiences in agriculture, industry and investment sectors for development; organization setup of CPPCC and its participation in politics, administration and social



sectors. Present at the meeting were Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung; Chairmen of Amyotha Hluttaw affairs committees such as International Relations, Inter-parliamentary Friendship and Cooperating, the

Ethnic Affairs, the health, sports and culture, the construction, industry, electricity and energy; Myanmar-China parliaments friendship group; and officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw office. — Myanmar News Agency ■

## Union Election Commission chairman receives Carter Centre CEO

U Hla Thein, chairman of the Union Election Commission, received Ambassador (ret.) Mary Ann Peters, the chief executive officer of the Carter Centre, and her delegation at the guest hall of the Union Election Commission's office in Nay Pyi Taw at 2 p.m. yesterday. They openly discussed preparations for the by-election



on 3 November 2018, the Carter Centre's election observation training and civic education for watchdog groups, the Carter Centre's election observation

programmes for the upcoming by-election and the 2020 general elections, and its continued support in the election process. — Myanmar News Agency ■

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Next, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut replied to a question raised by U Zon Taint of Chipwe constituency on the plan to develop townships and regions with the highest poverty level through a special fund for regions where peace is being established. The deputy minister said the Ministry of Border Affairs would reply to the matter; and the replies from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre would be included in his response to the question. The Ministry of Home Affairs has conducted regional development works in the townships of Kachin State under its rural area development and poverty reduction programme by using Ks1 billion

annually from 2011-2012 to 2013-2014 fiscal years, Ks1.5 billion in the 2014-2015 fiscal year and Ks5 billion in the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Similarly, township-wise development works were conducted in the townships of Kachin State using the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw regional development fund. Ks100 million per township was used from the 2013-2014 to 2016-2017 fiscal years.

The Kachin State General Administration Department conducted the fiscal year-wise regional development works using Ks20 million from the rural development fund. Six rural development works were thus fully implemented.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has provided nearly Ks36 billion for rural development from its ordinary expenditure (union-supported fund) and rural development and poverty reduction fund (un-

ion-supported) in the 2016-2017 fiscal year and from its capital expenditure from the 2013-2014 to the 2016-2017 fiscal years.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is conducting mitigation works for the development works affected by natural disasters and is providing support to the affected people through livelihood and redevelopment works. The National Reconciliation and Peace Centre is supporting the livelihoods of the people in the conflict areas with the union-government fund, especially with funds from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, National Reconciliation and Peace Centre fund and donations from local and foreign donors.

Although the union government is conducting relevant development projects with the ministerial departments concerned for regions to develop in tandem,

owing to various circumstances, some regions still require development projects. However, as the union government will continue to conduct development projects, no special fund has been allotted for this, said the deputy minister.

Questions raised by U Yan Kyin Kan of Kunlong constituency, U Wom Hla of Nanyun constituency and U Sai Kyaw Moe of Mongpan constituency were also answered by Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut.

Later, a motion tabled by U Tin Htwe of Waw constituency urging the relevant union-level organisations to draw up and enforce the related rules in a timely manner for the enacted laws was discussed by Daw Mar Mar Khine of Thaton constituency, Daw Khin Hnin Thit of Padaung constituency, U Mya Sein of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) constituency, Daw Thandar of Einme constituency,

U Aung Htoo Myint of Aunglan constituency, Dr. U Myint Thein of Nyaunglebin constituency, U Khin Maung Latt of Myanaung constituency and Dr U Aung Khin of Pyin Oo Lwin constituency.

Deputy Attorney General U Win Myint supported the motion but explained there were some delays due to the requirement for coordination with related departments, entities, international organisations and consultations with foreign experts, but still the ministries and departments were striving towards the timely enacting of the rules.

Following the discussion and after the decision of the Hluttaw was obtained, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced the motion as approved by the Hluttaw. The sixth-day meeting of the second Pyithu Hluttaw's eighth regular session is scheduled to be held on 23 May. ■