

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Pyithu Hluttaw's 8th regular session holds 10<sup>th</sup>-day meeting

By Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

THE 10-day meeting of the second Pyithu Hluttaw's eighth regular session was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, where the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Bill was approved by the Hluttaw.

### Question-and-answer session

At the meeting, six asterisk-marked questions were answered by Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Tun and Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung.

U Pe Than of Myebon constituency asked if there were plans to designate holidays for special days such as the state day, ethnic national day and other unique days of the states and ethnic nationals. Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin replied that the union government's office announced public

holidays yearly, and according to that announcement, there is an average of 26 public holidays, including the Myanmar New Year holidays, every year. As Saturdays and Sundays are also designated as holidays, there is an average of some 130 holidays every year. There are seven states in the country, and if the state day is added to the list, there will be seven additional holidays. The country has more than 100 ethnic nationals, and if the special days of these are added, there will be too many holidays. The law protecting the ethnic rights, enacted in 24 February 2015, has given the full right to all ethnic nationals to celebrate their special days, according to their traditions and designating a holiday for an ethnic national or a state is a matter for the respective state Hluttaw to debate and decide. Therefore, the union government has no plan to designate holidays for special days such as the state day, ethnic national day and other unique days, said the union minister.



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

Replying to a question raised by U Nyunt Aung of Monywa constituency on the plan to construct wastewater drains in Monywa, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Tun explained that detailed calculations to ensure proper water flow is being done, and the drains will be constructed after the funds are allocated.

Next, U Oo Hla Saw of Mrauk U constituency asked a question in three parts: the allocation of US\$25 million as-

sistance from the government of India, which will be used in Rakhine State, and the norm for selecting the location of the assistance. Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung replied that the government of India and the government of Myanmar had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to provide assistance of \$25 million for the socio-economic development of ethnic nationals in Rakhine State on 20 December 2017. The

MoU was signed by the deputy minister for social welfare, relief and resettlement and the Indian foreign affairs secretary.

U Soe Aung said kyat equivalent to \$5 million per year was put in the capital revenue account of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Disaster Management Department, in the Union Budget, and kyat equivalent to \$5 million per year was put in the capital expenditure account of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Disaster Management Department, in the Union Budget. The allocation is for five years, starting from the 2018-2019 fiscal year to the 2022-2023 fiscal year, said the deputy minister.

Regarding the second and third part of the question, on the assistance being used in Rakhine State and the norm for selecting the location, he said the project works were selected and submitted by the relevant union ministries and the Rakhine State government in April 2018.

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Amyotha Hluttaw's 8th regular session holds 10<sup>th</sup>-day meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin

THE second Amyotha Hluttaw's eighth regular session held its tenth-day meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning, where asterisk-marked questions were answered, two reports read and a bill approved.

### Question and answer session

U Naing Ko Ko of Kachin State constituency (12) first asked if there is a plan to widen to 18 ft. and upgrade to asphalt the 30 mile, 4 furlong road in Htigyaing, Katha and Mabein townships of the Mandalay-Tagaung-Bhamo-Myitkyina Union Road. Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw said Htigyaing, Katha and Mabein townships road section on the Mandalay-Tagaung-Bhamo-Myitkyina Union Road is from mile post 60/3 to 119/0. It is 58 miles, 5 furlong long and is a road managed by the union government. As of 31 March 2018, the road is 18 ft. wide and 29 miles, 3.35 furlongs is asphalt surfaced and 29 miles 1.65 furlong is gravel surfaced.

The 35-mile, 18 feet-wide sec-

tion of Mandalay-Tagaung-Bhamo-Myitkyina Road from mile post 85/0 to 120/0 will be upgraded to concrete and, according to the International Project Management programme, data design review, preparation of bidding document, conducting of technical evaluation and price bid opening will be conducted with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) ODA Loan programme starting from fiscal year 2018-2019, said the Union Minister.

Daw Nang Moe Moe Htwe of Kayin State constituency (4) asked if there are plans to prevent and reduce illegal settling and encroaching onto the roads connecting districts, townships and villages in Kayin State by informing and explaining the public regularly about notices, instructions and setting up posts along the road.

The Union Minister replied that regional instructions and notifications on road areas were sent to district general Administration departments of Hpa-an, Kawkaik, Papun and Myawady districts, which in turn informed the public to prevent and reduce illegal settling and encroachment onto the roads. In addition



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

to this, road area marker posts, notice boards with information about the road and warnings against illegal settling and encroachment onto the roads were displayed. The Department of Roads and district general administration departments of the four districts will also explain to the public in July 2018 about not constructing any buildings or structures in the road area, said the Union Minister.

Similarly, questions posed by U Kyaw Than of Kayah State constituency (8), U Tet Tun Aung of Rakhine State constituency (2), U Shar Aww of Chin State constituency (2) and U Whey Tin of Chin State constituency

(11) were explained by the Union Minister.

### Invitation to debate bill to amend the Myanmar Red Cross Society Law

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than informed the Hluttaw about Pyithu Hluttaw sending a bill to amend the Myanmar Red Cross Society Law. The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker said Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the bill should enroll their names.

### Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee reports read

Following this, Amyotha

Hluttaw Bill Committee member Daw Kyein Ngai Mahn read and explained the committee report on the bill to amend the television and video law approved and sent with amendments by Pyithu Hluttaw, after which Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker said Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the bill should enroll their names.

Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Dr. Myo Aung read and explained the committee report on the second amendment bill to the Settlement of Labor Dispute Law.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker then took the decision of the Hluttaw on the bill by section. This was followed by U Kyaw Htwe of Yangon Region Constituency (8) (local and international workers affairs committee chairman) tabling a motion for the Hluttaw to approve the bill, which was supported by U Okka Min of the Taninthayi Region constituency (8).

The bill was announced to be approved after the Hluttaw decided to approve the bill. The eleventh day meeting of the second Amyotha Hluttaw's eighth regular session will be held on 4 June, it is learnt.





Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and other officials pose for a documentary photo at the signing ceremony of a cooperation agreement in Israel. **PHOTO:MNA**

## Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi returns from Israel trip

Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi attended the signing ceremony of a cooperation agreement in the field of education between the Israel and Myanmar governments, signed by Myanmar Ambassador to Israel U Maung Maung Lin and Israel Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Ms. Tzipi Hotovely at the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 28 May.

As per the agreement, teachers and students from the two countries will participate in exchange programmes, study tours and cooperate in education.

Later in the evening, the union minister attended the in-

ternational ministerial-level science and technology gala dinner held at Station Hall, Jerusalem, together with ministers from 25 other countries, where Israel Minister of Science, Technology and Space Mr. Ofir Akunis delivered a message of greeting and Israel Prime Minister Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu gave an opening remark.

The union minister attended the international ministerial-level science and technology congress held under the title "Thinking out of the Box" at Orient Hotel, Jerusalem, from 28 to 30 May.

At the congress, interna-

tional experiences on science and technology, and innovative systems that can respond to the international problems faced were discussed and views exchanged.

The union minister, together with other international representatives, visited the Knesset (Israel Parliament) on 29 May afternoon and Hebrew University of Jerusalem on 30 May. On the evening of 30 May, the union minister and his delegation returned to Myanmar and were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Israel Ambassador to Myanmar and officials from the Ministry of Education. — Myanmar News Agency ■

## CBM governor discusses investment permits in financial sector for Japanese companies

Central Bank of Myanmar Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung received a delegation led by Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama at the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to the development of the information and communication

technology (ICT) system in the Central Bank of Myanmar, the status of payment and account clearance system, conducted with the support of the government of Japan, permitting investments in the financial sector for Japanese companies, and the ease of payment and clearing accounts in Japanese yen. — Myanmar News Agency ■

## Deputy Information Minister U Aung Hla Tun interviewed by VOA Yangon Bureau Chief

U Aung Hla Tun, Deputy Minister of Information, gave an exclusive interview to Daw Khin Soe Win, Yangon Bureau Chief of the Voice of America (VOA), at the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw

at 10 am yesterday.

The Deputy Minister answered VOA's questions concerning current Myanmar media landscape at the interview.—Myanmar News Agency



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun gives the exclusive interview to Yangon Bureau Chief of VOA, Daw Khin Soe Win in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

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The projects were selected based on the project selection and implementation method set in the MoU. Five union ministries submitted 18 projects at an estimated cost of \$26.5 million, while the Rakhine State government submitted 10 projects at an estimated cost of \$24.5 million. The costs were for five years, and the projects and cost are just proposals and will be approved only after further coordination, said the deputy minister.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement will lead the discussion and

coordination with the relevant ministries, Ministry of Planning and Finance, the Rakhine State government and the Amyotha and Pyithu Hluttaw representatives on the selection of projects, and the projects will be implemented and managed in the most effective way, explained the deputy minister.

Questions raised by U Win Min of Hlinethaya constituency, U Lar Mar Lay of Hsawlaw constituency and U Min Thein of Taungdwingyi constituency were answered by Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Tun and Deputy Minister U Soe Aung.

### Motion on enacting effective law to prevent rape of minors

Next, Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathedaung constituency tabled a motion urging the union government to enact an effective special law to prevent the rape of minors, as such cases had reached an alarming level. She added that the death penalty be included in the law.

The Hluttaw decided to accept the motion, and the Hluttaw speaker announced the acceptance of the motion by the Hluttaw for discussion.

The Hluttaw speaker also called for the Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the motion to enrol their names.

### Information, discussion and decision on bills

Later, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat informed the Hluttaw about receiving the Myanmar Historical Commission Bill, sent without amendments by the Amyotha Hluttaw, and announced to proceed with it.

The bill committee then submitted an amendment motion on the International Ther-

avada Buddhist Missionary University Bill, submitted by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, and the motion was discussed by U Aung Hlaing Win of Mingaladon constituency and Dr. Than Aung Soe of Minhla constituency.

After the decision of the Hluttaw was obtained to approve the bill, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced the approval and requested to proceed with it.

The 11<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of the second Pyithu Hluttaw's eighth regular session will be held on 4 June.