

## NATIONAL

NDMC Vice Chairman attends Mon State natural disaster management committee coord meeting

PAGE-3

## NATIONAL

Kayah State Gov't organizes budget literacy and planning workshop

PAGE-3

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Pyithu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

## Pyithu Hluttaw holds 16<sup>th</sup>-day meeting

Motion on death penalty for rape of minors voted down, kept on record

By Aye Aye Thant

THE second Pyithu Hluttaw's eighth regular session held its 16<sup>th</sup>-day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

### Motion on death penalty for rape of minors voted down, kept on record

At the meeting, a motion tabled by Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathedaung constituency urging the union government to enact an effective special law to prevent the rape of minors and to include the death penalty in the law was then discussed by

lawmakers.

Daw Myint Myint Soe @ Daw May Soe of Botahtaung constituency said that Myanmar is a member country of the United Nations and had pledged to uphold human rights and basic freedom.

It also had unconditionally accepted the fact that no crime should have the death penalty, as agreed by many member countries of the UN. Furthermore, there is no evidence to show that the death penalty deters or reduces crimes.

The biggest weakness of the death penalty is that there

There is a death penalty in law in Myanmar, but it is no longer imposed.

U Soe Aung, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

is absolutely no chance for the person accused of the crime to take a legal recourse.

**Death penalty is contrary to**

### a democratic system

Research conducted also shows that crime rates in countries with the death penalty are higher than countries where there is (no death penalty and) prison sentence for life without amnesty, at the most. Death penalty is contrary to a democratic system, establishment of peace and the rule of law, which our country is undertaking as preliminary steps. Among the countries where there are death penalties, most are extremist countries, where human rights are violated or where there is no peace. **SEE PAGE-2**

## Amyotha Hluttaw debates Farmers' Rights Protection and Benefit Enhancement Bill

By Aung Ye Thwin

AT the 16<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of the eighth regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday, the assembly held a question session, after which the MPs discussed a bill and read three reports.

### Mon State factory workers receive compensation after downsizing

U Hla Myint, alias U Hla Myint Than, of Mon State constituency (11) asked if there were plans to help find employment for the 476 workers who were laid off with three months' pay. The workers were laid off when Shwe Thanlwin Highway Co. Ltd handed over its factory and land in Kyaikto Township, Mon State, to the Mon State government.

Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho replied that the workers were given five months' pay in accordance with the 3 June 2015 notification from the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, and 174 of the workers have collected their compensation, as of April 2018. He said, however, that there are no plans regarding employment for the laid off workers, but the Mon State government is discussing future employment and social security for the workers with representatives of companies interested in establishing factories in the area. **SEE PAGE-2**

### INSIDE TODAY

#### NATIONAL

Department of Cooperative, Agriterra of Netherlands sign MoU  
**PAGE-6**



#### LOCAL NEWS

Aquaculture production survey slated to end in April 2019  
**PAGE-4**



#### BUSINESS

Mung beans, pigeon peas trading increases  
**PAGE-5**





# Pyithu Hluttaw holds 16<sup>th</sup>-day meeting

## FROM PAGE-1

The motion was also discussed by Daw Khin Hnin Thit of Padaung constituency, U Kyaw Swe Win of Kawhmu constituency and Dr. Daw Khin Nyo of Dedaye constituency.

The motion was also discussed by union-level officials. In his discussion, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung said child rape is unacceptable at any cost in our society.

The Hluttaw representatives also had discussed that taking a life (death penalty) is not related directly to reducing or eliminating this crime. Other methods must be adopted so that people in our society live according to ethics.

"There is a death penalty in law in Myanmar, but it is no longer imposed. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission has requested to consider widely and in depth enacting a special law with the death penalty to prevent the rape of minors," said the deputy minister.

The motion tabled by the Hluttaw representative was timely. It is also in line with what the government is doing. The government is drawing up a bill for a special law on children's rights. On the rape of minors,

enacting a law with penalties that could be an effective deterrent should be discussed and debated by all. A bill for a law on preventing violence against women is being drawn up and submitted for consideration. These two bills are what the motion is proposing, and if the Hluttaw representatives work on these two bills, together with the people, appropriate action would have been taken. As such, the motion should be kept on record, explained the deputy minister.

The motion was also discussed by Supreme Court Judge U Myo Tint, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu and Deputy Attorney General U Win Myint.

Later, the opinion of the Hluttaw representative who tabled the motion was obtained where she tendered the motion to be approved.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat then took the decision of the Hluttaw on the motion through a vote. As there were 141 for, 227 against and four who abstained, the motion was announced to be kept on record.

## Starred questions

Replying to the first question posed by Daw Nan Moe of Mongton constituency on the plan to construct houses for



Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi. PHOTO: MNA

teachers in Mongton Township's Mansap Village middle school, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said the school had one principal, six middle school teachers, four primary school teachers and three office staff. Of those 11 assigned from afar, seven were staying in the school, while four were living in the village. The ministry should do something about the living conditions and toilet facilities that are found lacking, but there is not enough funding for this in the 2018-2019 fiscal year. As the teachers and staff are facing some difficulties, the ministry will review whether some repair works through maintenance cost, allocated for the 2018-2019 fiscal year, can be utilised for this matter. The ministry will include



Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung. PHOTO: MNA

this matter in its construction work for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, according to the rules and regulations, said the union minister.

U Paik Ko of Pakokku constituency next asked if there was a plan to open a day course in the Law Department of Pakokku University. Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi replied that there weren't enough qualified teachers to conduct such a course in Pakokku University, and this will be considered only when there are sufficient qualified teachers, as per the comment of the National Education Policy Commission.

On the question by U Ye Lwin of Ahlon constituency on the plan to combine some high schools in Ahlone Township because there were not enough

students, Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi explained that arrangements are being made to close some schools, according to rules and regulations, reassign the students to the nearest schools and reassign the teaching and non-teaching staff to schools in Ahlone Township or nearby townships.

Questions raised by U Maung Myint of Mingin constituency, U Tin Nu @ U Tin Nu Aung of Manaung constituency and U Sai Sai Mai of Mongkai constituency were also answered by Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi.

## Government's guarantees, Pledges and undertaking's Vetting Committee report

After the question-and-answer session, the report of the government's guarantees, pledges and undertaking vetting committee was read by committee member Brig-Gen Kyaw San Lin.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat requested the Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the report to enrol their names.

Next, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the receipt and follow-up of a bill amending the television and broadcasting law, sent back by the Amyotha Hluttaw without amendments. ■

# Amyotha Hluttaw: Farmers' Rights Protection and Benefit Enhancement Bill

## FROM PAGE-1

## New laws will register all private educational institutions

U Tun Tun Oo of Mandalay-Region constituency (2) asked if there were plans to collect tax from private non-formal and informal educational institutions, such as accountancy, IT, business, or leadership training centres, which are exempt from the Private School Registration Law and the National Education Law.

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win replied that once the Technology and Vocational Education and Training Law and the Private School Law are in place, then all educational institutions will be legally registered and will pay their due taxes. He added the Ministry of Education has no formal administration regarding these institutions.

Next, Speaker Mahn Win

Khaing Than announced that the Pyithu Hluttaw has sent back with amendments the 2017 Bill to amend the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law, sent with approval by the Amyotha Hluttaw. He called for MPs wishing to discuss the bill to register their names.

## MPs discuss bill amending Protection of the Farmers' Rights and Enhancement of their Benefits Law

U Hla San of Magway Region constituency (1) suggested changing the word "former worker" to "currently working" with regard to farmers conducting agricultural or livestock breeding businesses mentioned in the bill. He suggested adding a section that allows reforming as necessary the head organisation, formed by the union government according to Article 4- (A), (B), and (C). He also suggested amending a section to read as



Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win. PHOTO: MNA

"allowing farmers" agricultural and livestock breeding businesses to freely produce, package, and transport their products throughout their respective states and regions, Nay Pyi Taw council and to foreign markets.

U Aung Myo of Sagaing Region constituency (2) said that the law is weakly implemented

and part of this is due to shortcomings in Section 3 of the Law concerning the formation of the Head Organisation for Protection of the Farmers' Rights and Enhancement of their Benefits. In particular, he suggested changing the number of times an organisation meets from once a year to once every four months.

He also suggested forming necessary working committees and sub-agencies for township, district, state, and regional administration for farmers. The bill was further discussed by five MPs.

## Assembly reads three reports

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Daw Ohn Kyi and Dr. Myat Nyanna Soe read the committee's report on the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Bill, sent by the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments, and the

committee's reports on the 2017 Land Confiscation Bill, respectively. The speaker called on interested MPs to enrol their names for discussion.

Next, U Aung Win, member of the Committee for Guarantees, Pledges and Undertaking Vetting Government, read the committee's report on the motions and questions submitted during the seventh regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw.

The report states that one motion was put as a promise by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, 61 of the 106 asterisk-marked questions were given assurances, and 112 of the 184 non-asterisk-marked questions were given assurances.

The speaker then called for interested MPs to enrol their names for discussions.

The Amyotha Hluttaw continues today. ■