

17th-day meeting of 8th regular session of 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw held

By Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

THE 17th-day meeting of the eighth regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw was held yesterday afternoon at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall, Nay Pyi Taw, where starred questions were answered by Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw, a motion tabled and a report read and submitted. A message of congratulations, sent to Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker on 16 May 2018 by President of the National Assembly of Bulgaria Mrs. Tsveta Karayancheva, was put on record by the Hluttaw.

Starred questions answered

Dr. U Khin Maung Maung of Dagon Myothit (North) constituency first asked whether or not the 76th-mile mini rest camp on Yangon-Mandalay expressway is within the road area, if the road would be expanded from the current four lanes to six or eight lanes. Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw replied that the rest camp was constructed according to the regulations. If the road is expanded in the future, the rest camp is still at a



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

sufficient distance from the road and will not hinder the road expansion, said the union minister. U Wom Hla of Nanyun constituency then asked if there was a plan to upgrade the road section between Nanyun Town and Pansaung Town in the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Union Minister U Han Zaw replied that Ks189 million was allocated from the Sagaing Region fund for construction in the 2018 (April to September) fiscal year and Ks.749.175 million was allocated from the Sagaing Region fund for maintenance in the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Depending on the funds requested and allocated, other works will be conducted, said the union

minister. Replying to a question posed by Daw Yin Min Hlaing of Gangaw constituency on a plan to build the Thalin-Myintha Myitha river crossing suspension bridge in Gangaw Township, which was swept away during the 2016 rainy season, Union Minister U Han Zaw replied that the subject bridge was on a village-connecting road under the management of the Rural Development Department.

The road is classified as a Class B road and is a priority level 2 road. Funds will be allocated from the Magway Region government fund in the 2018-2019 fiscal year and depending on the availability of funds, the

suspension bridge will be built, said the union minister.

Questions raised by Daw Aye Aye Mu @ Daw Sharmie of Kalay constituency, U Saw Thalay Saw of Shwegyin constituency, U Aung Thaung Shwe of Buthidaung constituency and Dr. Daw Kyi Moh Moh Lwin of Singaing constituency were also answered and explained by Union Minister U Han Zaw.

Motion on conserving natural swiftlet bird nest habitats

Next, Daw Tin Tin Yi of Kyunsu constituency tabled a motion urging the government to conserve and protect mountain cliffs on islands that are a natural habitat for the swiftlet bird nest. Daw Tin Tin Yi explained that there are some 130 man-made swiftlet bird nest houses in Myeik and Kawthaung districts. As more swiftlet birds nested in these man-made nest houses, there is a decline in swiftlet birds nesting in their usual natural habitats causing concern to environmentalists, conservationists and the local populace. Therefore, there is an urgent and real requirement for sustainable

harvesting of bird nests and to protect and conserve the natural habitat, said Daw Tin Tin Yi in her explanation about her motion.

Hluttaw Speaker announced the decision of the Hluttaw to discuss the motion after the agreement of the Hluttaw was obtained. The Hluttaw speaker also announced for the Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the motion to enrol their names.

Bill committee reads, submits report on 2017 Myanmar Gemstone bill

Later, a report by the bill committee on the 2017 Myanmar Gemstone bill, sent back with amendments by the Amyotha Hluttaw, was read and submitted by bill committee secretary U Kyaw Soe Lin.

An announcement was then made for the Hluttaw representatives who wanted to table an amendment motion to the bill to enrol their names. The 18th-day meeting of the eighth regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw will be held on 20 June. ■

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw's 8th regular session holds 17th-day meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin

THE second Amyotha Hluttaw's eighth regular session held its 17th-day meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday afternoon, where starred questions were answered, two reports read and a bill approved.

Q&A session

In the first question during the question-and-answer (Q&A) session, Dr. Zaw Lin Htut of Mon State constituency (9) asked if there was a plan to conduct major repairs to Thaton Prison, which was not in accordance with the set standards and area requirements. He further asked if there was a plan to relocate and construct a new prison at the Correction Department, which owned 25.17 acres in Zaymathwe Village, Thaton Township, and if there are sufficient funds. Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu said Thaton Prison is a grade B level prison that is specified to house 500 prisoners. Currently, it has 539 prisoners. As the number of prisoners exceeded the specification, a small 13x40



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

ft. building was constructed and a mezzanine or an intermediate floor was also added to the five-cell building to provide space for additional prisoners.

As temporary solutions have been taken for the additional prisoners, and there is no place to house the prisoners temporarily while a major repair is conducted, there is no plan yet to conduct a major repair at the prison, said the deputy minister.

The subject land in Zaymathwe Village, Thaton Township, is found to be suitable for a prison, and arrangements are being made to register the land under the Correction Department. A funding request total-

ling Ks1,951.761 million for the construction of new prison was also made for the 2018-2019 fiscal year, said the deputy minister. For the time being, Thaton prison will remain as it is, explained the deputy minister. U Bwe Khane of Chin State constituency (3) then asked if there was a plan to upgrade the Chin State, Thantlang Township, Thau sub-rural health centre. Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe said although Thau is on the border trade road, the Thau sub-rural health centre is 36 miles from Thantlang, 68 miles from Haka Hospital and 34 miles from Salen rural health centre, and thus very remote and far off. It doesn't meet

two of the five main criteria for the rural health centre, but from a social standpoint, it is found to be in a very remote area, and the case to upgrade it had been submitted to the assessment board. If the board supports the upgrade, the matter will be submitted to the union government meeting and it will be upgraded in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, said the union minister.

In response to a question posed by U Kyaw Than of Rakhine State constituency (10) on the plan to prevent salt (sea) water from entering and inundating Mawphyia Village, Kyauk Kyi Pyin Village-tract, Kyaukpyu Township, Rakhine State, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw said the subject village is located on the junction of Ngankyun river and Hnamahtway river, where the river flows into the sea. An embankment that is some 6,500 ft. long is required to prevent salt water from entering the village.

This embankment is the continuation of the 11,500 ft. long Bawmakandaunt embankment,

and the total embankment will be 18,000 ft. long. This work has been included in the projects to be conducted with the Rakhine State government fund for the 2018-2019 fiscal year (October to September) and a total of Ks400 million funding for the Bawmakandaunt embankment is already requested. The union minister replied that the whole work will be implemented depending upon the availability of funds in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Similarly, questions raised by U Sai Than Naing of Kayin State constituency (5), U Khin Win of Magway Region constituency (2) and U Kyaw Toke of Mandalay Region constituency (7) were answered by Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe and Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw.

Bill committee read two reports

Amyotha Hluttaw bill committee reports on Myanmar dental, oral medical council bill and Myanmar traditional medicine council bill, sent back with amendments by the Pyithu Hluttaw. ■