

Pyithu Hluttaw

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw's 9th regular session holds 2nd day meeting

THE second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session held its second-day meeting at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday, where asterisk-marked questions were answered by Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun and a motion was debated over by the Hluttaw representatives.

Q&A session

The first question at the session was raised by U Sai Sam of Mongyan constituency. He asked if there was a plan to fill up vacant posts of high school teachers in Mongyan Township Basic Education High School. The deputy minister replied that in the forthcoming education year, a selection would be made from among teachers who had applied for transfers and they would fill up the vacant positions, according to the duration of their service and subjects taught.

Next, Dr. Daw Kyi Moh Moh Lwin of Singaing constituency raised questions on a plan to construct a new teaching hall in Basic Education High School Branch Monpin and to appoint teachers. The deputy minister answered that three primary school teachers were appointed on 21 June 2018 but there were still some positions lying vacant. Construction of a 140x30 ft. single storey teaching hall in the school will be completed only when funds are allocated in the fiscal year 2019-2020, said the deputy minister.

Similarly, questions raised

by U Nyan Hein of Thanbyuzayat constituency, U Khun Than Htoo of Hsihseng constituency, Daw Ni Shwe Hlyan of Thantlang constituency and Dr. U Sein Mya Aye of Dala constituency were answered by Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun.

Debating and deciding over travel motion

Afterwards, Hluttaw representatives debated over a motion tabled by U Myint Oo of Thanatpin constituency, urging



U Myint Oo. PHOTO: MNA

the government to expand and upgrade travel businesses including community-based tourism (CBT), nature-based tourism and travel destinations, establishing travel fairs and designating special travel years to rightly develop Myanmar's travel sector.

Daw Khin Sandi of Launglon constituency suggested that obtaining permission directly from



Pyithu Hluttaw representatives at the 2nd day meeting of second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

the state/region government for the convenience of foreign travellers would save time and speed up the work, rather than seeking permission from the union government.

In addition to this, tour destinations should be advertised through local media and international media; local products should be upgraded, creating more job opportunities for the locals; food and handicraft schools should be opened; and emphasis should be placed on developing small and medium enterprises. She supported the motion as it could increase the economic development of the country through the travel business. Tatmadaw Representative Maj. Thein Tun said that for Myanmar's travel sector development, the Myanmar travel sector human resources development strategy and work plan 2017-2020 was established and implemented and ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2016-2025 was also implemented.

Myanmar Tourism Law (draft) was also seen to be prepared. But Myanmar's travel sector hasn't developed as much as it should. This is due to weaknesses in the prevailing policies and laws, challenges in politics, economics and security, weakness in cooperation among related ministries, weakness in management and all these are hindering the development of the travel sector. The low number of visitors is due to markets being small, an insufficient number of airlines, low attraction of the travel destinations, high cost of travel, insufficient travel services and lack of news and information. These weaknesses and requirements are suggested to be reviewed. In addition to this, a law supporting the development of the travel business needs to be enacted as soon as possible.

Myanmar's travel sector can achieve growth and sustainability. It is a time when cooperation is required among the

government, private businesses, investors, and local people of civil society organisations. He said that while the Myanmar travel sector is facing many challenges for development, it will develop only through the creation of jobs through sustainable tourism and pro-poor tourism, and thus develop related works and increase the country's income.

Similarly, U Aung Naing @ U Naing Ngan Kyaw of Mogok constituency, U Soe Paing Htay of Myeik constituency, U Kyaw Aung Lwin of Sedoktara constituency, U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo of Hline constituency, U Yan Lin of Kyaukse constituency, Daw Nan Than Lwin of Hpa-an constituency, Daw Khin Hnin Thit of Padaung constituency, Daw Mya Khwa Nyo Oo of Shwedaung constituency, U Khun Maung Thaung of Pinlaung constituency and U Saw Thalay Saw of Shwegyin constituency debated over the motion.

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Amyotha Hluttaw

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw's 9th regular session holds 2nd day meeting

THE ninth regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw held its second-day meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning, where asterisk-marked questions were answered, a report read and a bill approved.

Asterisk-marked questions

At the meeting, Daw Khin Swe Lwin of Chin State constituency 9 posed a question on plans to help export elephant foot yam from Chin State, as

it is in high demand in Japan and China. Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo said dried elephant foot yam was exported to Japan, South Korea and Singapore by sea, elephant foot yam in powder form to Japan, Malaysia and the UAE, and elephant foot yam in powder form, natural and dried forms to the People's Republic of China through border trade.

The deputy minister said 100 businesspersons were pro-

vided with technical support on drying and producing elephant foot yam in Chin State, Haka town. At the trade fairs in China, as well as at local trade fairs, it was displayed and promoted as a product of Chin State.

The Ministry of Commerce is contacting and negotiating with China through diplomatic channels to allow it as a legally permitted export item from Myanmar. At the same time, contacts with machinery makers to process elephant foot

yam and potential buyers were made and linked with local businesses, and elephant foot yam is expected to become a quality export product, said the deputy minister.

Replying to a question raised by U Mahn Law Moun of Chin State constituency 8 on whether the Ministry of Construction, Department of Urban & Housing Development, had any plans to urbanise M'kuiimnu town in Mindat Township, Chin State, Deputy Minister

for Construction U Kyaw Lin said that of the 17 towns in Chin State, urban development plans were drawn for Haka, Matupi, Mindat, Falam and Paletwa, and plans for 12 towns, including M'kuiimnu, remained to be drawn. As M'kuiimnu covered an area of 17,211 acres and had a population of only 1,182, it is a priority (e) level town and there is no plan to draw up an urban development plan for it, said the deputy minister.

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U Tha Aung Nyun presents Credentials to President of the Marshall Islands

U THA AUNG NYUN, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, presented his Credentials to Her Excellency Dr. Hilda C. Heine, Ed.D., President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, on 17 July, 2018 in Majuro.—Myanmar News Agency ■



President U Win Myint meets with Ambassador of Switzerland Mr. Paul Rene Seger in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday (Story on page-1). **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin holds talks with LPDR's Foreign Minister



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin and LPDR's Foreign Minister Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith hold bilateral talks in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic H.E. Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith held bilateral talk at the Chindwin Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

At the bilateral talks, both sides cordially discussed a wide range of issues on promotion of bilateral relations and multi-faceted cooperation, including the implementation of bilateral MoUs and Agreements which were signed between the two countries that includes Electric Power Cooperation and Myanmar-Laos Friendship Bridge, promotion of trade and investment and tourism. Both sides

also cordially exchanged views on regional and international matters of mutual interests.

Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Construction and the members of Laos delegation were present at the bilateral talks. Then, the Union Minister for International Cooperation hosted a luncheon in honour of the Laos delegation led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Hilton Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw in the afternoon.—Myanmar News Agency ■

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw . . .

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In his discussion, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung said the ministry is promoting the natural beauty of Myanmar, cultural traditions and handicrafts to develop the socio-economic situation of the people and create job opportunities through CBT since the start of the ministry's first 100 days work programme.

More CBT sites were being developed and nine villages in Shan State, Mandalay, Sagaing and Taninthayi regions were being set up to be developed into six CBT sites. More CBT sites that directly benefit the local people will be developed, said the union minister.

Due to the various stages of reform, the development and momentum of the travel sector

is growing. However, if the travel year is to be promoted, regional peace and funds, arrangements for better services and easing of restrictions are required. Systematic arrangements are to be made and more cooperation and coordination with state and region governments need to be done. As the ministry is doing this, Hluttaw representatives are requested to put the motion on record, explained the union minister.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then announced that the Hluttaw had put the motion on record and to keep it under observation, after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw.

The third day meeting of the second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session is scheduled to be held on 30 July, it is learnt.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■

Laos Foreign Affairs Minister tours Nay Pyi Taw

MR. Saleumxay Kommasith, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao People's Democratic Republic, and his delegation visited the National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

First, the Laos Foreign Affairs Minister and his delegation listened to a presentation about the museum and its exhibits by curator, Daw Aye Aye Thin. They then toured the primate and stone age exhibit, prehistoric exhibit, the Myanmar fine arts exhibit, and other historical exhibits.

Next, the Laos Minister and his delegation arrived at Up-patasanti Pagoda and presented



Laos Foreign Minister Mr Saleumxay Kommasith and his delegation visit the National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

offerings to the Buddha image enshrined inside. They then viewed the religious artworks and visited the white elephants residing in the pagoda's compound.

The Laos Minister and his delegation left Myanmar from Nay Pyi Taw's International

Airport at night. They were seen off by U Thant Sin, Director General of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Director General U Aung Kyaw Oo, Laos Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Lying Sayaxang and other officials.—Thura Zaw ■

Authorities, public donate Waso robes to Sangha members

THE Border Area and National Races Development Implementation Central Committee held its 21st Waso Robes Offering ceremony at the 31 Abodes Monastery in Hopang in Shan State (North) on Monday.

At the ceremony, officials of the committee, the Shan State Government and the North East Command donated robes to 1,066 members of the Sangha and 5,003 novices in Tangyan, Panghsan, Weinkaung, Narphant, Manphant, Manmanhsai, Narwi, Matman, Mongmao, Nangtit areas in eastern region of the Thanlwin River.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Director-General U Aung Kyaw of the central committee, member of the Executive Committee of the Wa Self-Administered Division Leading Committee U Yan Kyaw, Chairman of Kokant Self-Administered Zone



Waso robes offering ceremony held in Hopang, Shan State (North).
PHOTO: MNA

U Kyauk Htae Chan, Col Ye Yint Aung of Kunlong area, employees of the Ministry of Border Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and local people.

Buddhist devotees offer

robes to Buddhist monks and nuns ahead of the Vassa, the three-month annual rains retreat of the Theravada Buddhist tradition. The period starts on the Full Moon of Waso, which falls in July or August of rainy season in Myanmar.

—Myanmar News Agency ■

Youth development festival to be held in Mandalay

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint attended a meeting in the Mandalay Region government's meeting hall yesterday to conduct an all-round youth development festival in Mandalay.

Present at the meeting with the Union Minister were Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung and other region ministers and officials.

In his opening speech, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint said this second meeting was held to successfully convene an all-round youth development festival in Mandalay. The all-round youth development festival (Mandalay) will be unique because of a roundtable talk between the State Counsellor and Mandalay-based university students. Attendees of yesterday's meeting were urged to suggest and discuss the subjects or topics o exhibits could be shown at the festival.

In his remark made to the meeting, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung said the all-round youth development festival (Mandalay) will be held with

an aim to produce youths with five strengths and full cooperation and participation will be provided as a host. A historical image will be retained for the all-round youth development festival (Mandalay) to be held at Mandalay University.

Next, Information and Public Relations Department Director General U Ye Naing explained the work processes to hold the all-round youth development festival.

Inclusion of literature, sports, arts and IT activities, entertainment and education programmes and a job fair in the all-round youth development festival (Mandalay) was also discussed in the meeting.

Afterwards the Union Minister and officials inspected the Mandalay University compound, where the all-round youth development festival (Yangon) was held at Yangon University from 1 to 3 December 2017. The all-round youth development festival (Mandalay) will be held at Mandalay University from 11 to 13 August 2018.—Mandalay Sub-Printing House ■



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint inspects Mandalay University compound to hold all-round youth development festival. **PHOTO: MNA**



Journalists arrive at Sittway Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: TIN TUN/ IPRD**

Media delegation visits Maungtaw

A MEDIA delegation arrived in Sittway by air yesterday to report on the stability, security, development and repatriation there.

The 17-member media delegation comprised journalists from Fuji TV, Sky News TV, New York Times, Myanmar News Agency, MRTV and MITV.—Tin Tun/IPRD ■

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FROM PAGE-2

U Sai San Aung of Shan State Constituency 12 asked if there were plans to upgrade two roads in Shan State, Wa Self-Administered Division, Hopong Township. Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin answered that the mentioned roads were not included in the list of roads under the Department of Rural Road Development. The Shan State government had submitted to the Union Government office to transfer the two roads onto the list of roads under the Department of Rural Road Develop-

ment, according to procedures. Once they are included in this list, necessary upgrades will be conducted, said the deputy minister.

Similarly, questions raised by U Aung Myo of Sagaing Region constituency 2 and U Khin Win of Magway Region constituency 2 were answered by Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin.

Bill Committee report read

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Lal Min Htan read the committee's

report on the 2nd Bill amending the Myanmar Pearl Law approved and sent with amendments by the Pyithu Hluttaw, after which Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced that Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the bill should enroll their names.

Hluttaw decides on bill to amend the Myanmar Accountancy Council Law

Later, the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker took the decision and approval of the Hluttaw over the bill to amend the Myanmar

Accountancy Council Law, paragraph by paragraph.

A motion to approve the bill was tabled by Union Auditor General U Maw Than and the motion was supported by U Kyaw Toke of Mandalay Region constituency 7.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker then announced that the bill was approved after obtaining the Hluttaw's decision to approve it.

The third day meeting of the ninth regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 30 July, it is learnt.—Aung Ye Thwin ■



U Sai San Aung, Shan State Constituency 12. **PHOTO: MNA**