

## Pyithu Hluttaw

Ninth regular session of Second Pyithu Hluttaw holds 13<sup>th</sup>- day meeting

DURING the 13<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, two reports were read and one motion discussed and tabled.

#### Appointing additional committee members

Firstly, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced that the Pyithu Hluttaw has approved the appointing of Dr. U Soe Moe Thu of Myaungmya constituency in the International Natural Relations Committee, U Kyaw Swe Win (a) U Arlu of Kawhmu constituency in the Natural Resources and Environment Conservation Committee, and U Nyunt Aung of Monywa constituency in the Investment and Industrial Development Committee as additional members in the respective committees.

#### Constituencies divided according to regional population

U Khin Maung Yi of Hinthada constituency raised a ques-



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

tion as to whether the upcoming 2020 General Elections will also be held in three Amyotha Hluttaw constituencies in Hinthada District as they had been in the 2010 elections.

Union Election Commission member U Than Htay replied that the Amyotha Hluttaw constituencies are divided and demarcated in accord with Section 4 of the Amyotha Hluttaw

Election Law, which states that a maximum of twelve constituencies are permitted in a single state or region, with the markers for division determined by the population in the area, as stated in Section 4-C of the same law. Established constituencies remain fixed for the duration of a Hluttaw term, and the Union Election Commission has to set the constituencies for the next

Hluttaw term at least 60 days before the term ends, said U Than Htay. Therefore, constituencies in Hinthada District will be designated again in accord with the area's population as the 2020 General Elections approaches.

#### No differentiation in technological university degrees

Dr. U Than Aung Soe of Minhla constituency raised a question asking for an explanation on the difference between job opportunities for engineering graduates from centre of excellence institutions and other technological university degrees.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied that time is still needed to conduct a survey on whether there is a difference in the levels of employability with graduates from Yangon, Mandalay or other technological universities. He said there were no differentiations between universities in accepting applicants for job vacancies in government departments by the Union Civil Service Board, as of January 2018. The focus was

on the actual degree earned, he added.

#### Teaching knowledge training short courses

U Oo Tun Win of Kyauktaw constituency raised a question on whether the Ministry of Education will open short courses for private subject teachers, in accord with the Private School Law, throughout the states and regions.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied that they issue private school teaching licenses for teachers who meet set standards and qualifications or have at least 5 years of experience in their related field. The Ministry of Education released an announcement on 30 April 2012 that calls for director-general of education in an area to submit to the Ministry of Education the list of teaching knowledge training applicants, and the ministry continues to do so with collaboration between the Department of Basic Education and the Department of Higher Education, said the deputy minister.

SEE PAGE-11

## Amyotha Hluttaw

Ninth regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw holds 13<sup>th</sup>-day meeting

THE 13<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw was held in the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. Asterisk marked questions were asked and answered, two reports were read and the Hluttaw's decision was requested for one motion discussed.

#### All loose ends tied with confiscated land in Rakhine State

U Myint Naing of Rakhine State constituency 5 raised a question on whether farmland in area 784-A and 787 of Lanmadaw Village-tract, Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State confiscated by No 9 Operations Control Command and land confiscated by the military in area 786-A and B of Peinechaung Village, Nyaungpinhla, Lanmadaw, area 787 of Kyauktawtaung and No 375 Light Infantry Regiment area will have excess land returned, whether land not affiliated with the military will be returned, or compensations be provided in



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

case of nonreturnable land.

Deputy Minister for Defence Rear-Admiral Myint Nwe replied that No 9 Operations Control Command has received the proper documents to the farmlands from the Ministry of Home Affairs and compensation has been provided to all concerned. He said that the lands cannot be relinquished as they will be used for future expansion projects and

are also strategically important strategy-wise. He added there are no remaining compensations to be provided.

#### Drinking water for Chin village requires feasibility

U Bwe Khein of Chin State constituency 3 raised a question on whether funds for acquiring drinking water in Loneleh Village, Thantland Township,

Chin State, will be allotted in either fiscal year 2018-2019 or 2019-2020.

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj.Gen Than Htut replied that Loneleh Village will need to link to springs 4/4 miles away to get a supply of drinking water. A feasibility survey needs to be conducted to gauge the success of the project and the best time to do that is in the months of March, April and May of 2019. If the study shows favorable results then the Chin State government will include the project as high-priority event in their FY 2019-2020 border development fund, as permitted.

#### Juvenile protection programs fully implemented

Naw Hla Hla Soe of Yangon Region constituency 10 raised a question on whether the protection programs for juvenile offenders and juvenile witnesses stated in the Myanmar Child Law will be reviewed and practically implemented.

Justice U Tha Htay of the Supreme Court of the Union re-

plied that procedures for juvenile cases are handled in accordance with existing child laws in separate courts and locations specifically for juvenile cases. Juvenile offenders, child victims and witnesses are in contact with their parents or guardian, concerned staff, police officers and other concerned individuals only, with emphasis on individual security. He said the protection programs do not require revision as they are being fully implemented by the juvenile courts in the respective townships and the Supreme Court is supervising the cases as well.

#### Bill Committee reads two reports

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye read a report by the committee on the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Bill, sent back from the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments. The Speaker called for the Hluttaw's resolution on the report and approved it.

SEE PAGE-11



## Ninth regular session of Second Pyithu Hluttaw holds 13<sup>th</sup>- day meeting

FROM PAGE-2

Union Election Commission member U Than Htay and Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun also replied to questions raised by Dr. U Maung Thin of Meiktila constituency, U Myo Zaw Aung of Kawlin constituency and U Aung Thaung Shwe of Buthidaung constituency.

### Committee, bill reports read

Next, U Khin Maung Than, secretary of the Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee, read a report from the committee. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat called for MPs interested in discussing the report to enlist their names.

The Speaker then notified the assembly that the Bill to amend the Myanmar Accountancy Council Law, sent back with remarks and approved by the Amyotha Hluttaw, has been received and Bill Committee member U Htay Ngway read the report on the bill. The Speaker then called for MPs interested in submitting a proposal to amend the bill to enlist their names.

The Speaker also notified the assembly of receiving with amendments from the Amyotha Hluttaw the Bill amending the Law of Protection of the Farmer Rights and Enhancement of their Benefits a Second Time and the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Bill, and called for MPs interested in submitting proposals of amendments to enlist their names.

### MPs discuss motion to perform education research, supply funds

MPs then discussed a motion tabled by Dr. U Hla Moe of Aungmyaythazan constituency urging the Union Government to supply adequate research funds to experts in developing Myanmar's higher education sector, and accordingly the entire education sector.

U Kyaw Aung Lwin of Sedoktara constituency remarked that basic education subjects are not taught in the mother tongue but in English, which poses subject learning and theoretical studies difficulties in students. Consequently, this leads to the rise of

rote memorization and tuition dependency, seriously limiting a student's time for physical activities and acquiring extrinsic knowledge as well as pursuing artistic interests and socializing with the outside world, he said, adding that the future for this looks grim if continued. He said he supports the motion and advises following the examples of other developed countries to provide subject teaching in the mother language and to promote English language learning separately.

Tatmadaw representative Maj. Win Min Tun said there are two departments under the Ministry of Education that performs research, namely the Department of Educational Research, Planning and Training and the Department of Research and Innovation. He said comparisons to the two departments' research expenditures in previous fiscal years have revealed a deficit and although monetary support of US\$ 404.15 million have been received from international organizations, there is still a need for beneficial and noteworthy research projects. He said the

Department of Educational Research, Planning and Training has proposed a budget of Ks 16.5 billion and the Department of Research and Innovation has proposed a budget of Ks 5.2 billion for the upcoming fiscal year. He advised for the budgets to be effectively used for research projects at 136 colleges and universities.

There are obstacles in the path of research projects such as people conducting only one research project as a means to acquire a degree or a promotion, a limited amount of earnest researchers, low participation from government, universities and donors, lack of proper research equipment and documents, inability or lack of conditions to apply the research data effectively, lack of expert guidelines, inability to penetrate onto the global stage, research papers not meeting standard quality, and the incapacity to maintain or sustain research projects. He said as the country could develop only by good researches, he seriously supports this motion.

The motion was further dis-

cussed by U Soe Myint (a) U Aung Zaw Myint of Amarapura constituency, U Myint Lwin of Twantay constituency, Dr. Salai Riyanbel of Falam constituency, U Yan Lin of Kyaiklet constituency, U Myint Tun of Taze constituency, Dr. Daw Khin Sithu of Loikaw constituency, Dr. U San Shwe Win of Yekyi constituency and Daw Wint Wah Tun of Shataw constituency. Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun then said the Ministry of Education supports the motion since it will allow for publication of research papers, holding research seminars, forums, exhibitions and competitions in universities, reading papers in international research seminars, allow universities to perform research to benefit SMEs in states and regions, and conduct learning in practical fields.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then asked for the Hluttaw's decision, acquired it, and then announced that the Hluttaw has approved the motion. The 14<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw will be held on 31 August. —Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■

## Ninth regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw holds 13<sup>th</sup>-day meeting

FROM PAGE-2

Additionally, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Daw Nwe Nwe Aung read a report on the Bill amending the Penal Code a second time. The Speaker called for MPs interested in discussing the bill to enlist their names.

### MPs discuss motion to clear corruption, manage land loss

MPs then discussed a motion by U Myo Win of Mon State constituency 8 urging the Union Government to quickly address the issue of unlawful forming and selling of gardens which contribute to the rapid decrease in agricultural lands and the potential loss of useable land left behind in

urban and rural areas as a result of corrupted practices in the relevant administration committee, municipal committee and farmland management committee.

U Zaw Min Latt (a) U Ko Latt of Shan State constituency 1 said he agrees with the motion in amending laws relating to land, as well as uncovering the corruption of the three aforementioned types of committees. He said there are 135 ethnicities in Myanmar who have different uses of lands, and this is something that should be considered when reviewing and amending land laws so that the focus is not just on rice production but rather on regional crops as well.

Tatmadaw representative

Lt-Col Aung Kyaw Zaw said there needs to be improved and effective methods to scrutinize the conversion of farmland into other land in a systematic and transparent way; otherwise it will result in the reduction of farmland and hinder urban and rural development that will likely contribute to the emergence of houses alongside roads. He said proper taxes should be levied from farmland converted into land for other uses or if these lands are sold by the original recipient to another entity, and that he supported U Myo Win's motion.

The motion was further discussed by Dr. U Kweye Kweye of Mandalay Region constituency

6, U Hla San of Magway Region constituency 1, and Dr. Kun Win Thaung of Kachin State constituency 11.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied to the motion saying that there are departments and agencies that do not follow the enacted laws, have organizational weaknesses and look out for their personal benefits, thus contributing to the corruption. He said there needs to be increased cooperation between his ministry, the Ministry of Home Affairs, relevant municipal committees and other organizations.

The deputy minister said there will be submissions at the meeting of the Central Farmland

Management Committee to successfully implement strategies to ensure effective administration in all relevant organizations. He said he approved of the MP's motion, as it encourages the emergence of standards and procedures to combat corruption and ensure farmland and other lands are not exploited.

The Speaker then called for a ballot via electronic voting from the Hluttaw, resulting in a majority 177 votes, no votes, and two abstentions. The Speaker announced the motion has been approved.

The 14<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 31 August.—Aung Ye Thwin ■

## MM-Bangladesh continue coordinated patrol

A 20-member troop led by Sub-inspector Myint Maung of No. 51 Guard Outpost under the No. 5 Border Guards Sub-division in Aungtapyay Area, Region-1 of Maungtaw Township and a 15-member troop led by Officer Naib Subedar Md. Ekramul Haque of No. 11 Border Guard

Police Bangladesh of Panchari Outpost conducted a coordinated patrol along the border on 28 August.

They conducted the patrol from Mile Post No. 51 to 51/5 according to the Information Department of the Myanmar Police Force.—Myanmar Police Force



PHOTO: MYANMAR POLICE FORCE