

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's ninth regular session holds 15th-day meeting

THE 15th-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's ninth regular session was held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning, where Hluttaw put on record the renaming, reforming and abolishing of towns, village tracts, villages and wards in Ayeyawady Region; a union level official responded to the Hluttaw representatives' discussions on Myanmar Investment Commission report and Hluttaw put the report on record; decision of the Hluttaw obtained on a bill; Hluttaw explained about two foreign loans and union level officials explained about a report.

Renaming, reforming and abolishing of towns, village tracts, villages and wards in Ayeyawady Region

At first, Hluttaw announced to put on record the renaming, reforming and abolishing of towns, village tracts, villages and wards in Ayeyawady Region sent by the President Office.

Union level official responds to discussions on Myanmar Investment Commission report

Next, a union level official responded to Hluttaw representatives' discussions and comments on the work report of the Myanmar Investment Commission from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

In his response to the discussions and comments by the Hluttaw representatives, Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) Chairman U Thaung Tun said the reason foreign investment amount declined to US\$ 900 million in fiscal year 2017-2018 was that no new foreign investments entered into the oil & gas sector and construction sector. Although the investment value declined, there were increases in the number of countries making foreign investment in more sectors as well as in the numbers of investments made.

According to figures published by ASEAN secretariat, in 2017, Myanmar's foreign investment to GDP ratio is 7 per cent, taking up the fourth position among the ten ASEAN countries. Myanmar was also presented the Star Reformer Award in 2017 by the World Bank group for amending and reforming the Myanmar Investment Law and investment frames in a short period, explained the MIC



Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's ninth regular session is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Chairman.

Hluttaw then announced putting the report on record.

Forest Bill discussed and decided

Next, Forest Bill disagreed by the two Hluttaws were discussed by U Myo Zaw Oo of Lewe constituency and Dr. Khun Win Thaung of Kachin State constituency 11. Paragraph by paragraph decision of the Hluttaw was then obtained.

Explanation on foreign loans

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw and Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win then explained to the Hluttaw about the matter of obtaining US\$8.984 million loan from International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

In his explanation, Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw said the loan was targeted toward small and medium enterprises related to agriculture, livestock breeding and landless people in southern Chin State's Mindat and Kanpetlet townships and northern Magway Region's Pauk and Myaing townships where poverty is high and development is the least. It is expected that about 0.43 million people from more than 90,000 households in the four townships will benefit from the project. The project will be implemented

for six years starting from the date the agreement is signed. The aim of the project is to increase family income, provide food sufficiency and adequate nourishment, increase work opportunities, respond to climate change and socio-economic development. Townships for the project were selected on high poverty rate and for being geographically connected, explained the Deputy Minister.

An announcement was made for Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the loan to register their names.

Following this, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw and Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win explained to the Hluttaw about US\$61.816 million Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) loan from EXIM Bank of Korea to conduct project works of Ministry of Construction.

Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw explained that the loan is for Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex project on 558 acres of Nyaungnapin training school land in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region that is jointly conducted by the governments of the two countries. Works include construction of water supply pipelines, electrical power line and upgrading of a 9.45 km 4

lane road. Basic infrastructure construction works will be conducted from 2018 to 2021 under a tender system in accordance with international practice. The loan period is 40 years with 15-year grace period and 25-year repayment period and the loan interest is 0.01 per cent, explained the Deputy Minister.

An announcement was also made for Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the loan to enroll their names.

Union level officials respond to discussions on Joint Public Accounts Committee Report

Afterwards, union level officials responded to the discussions of the Hluttaw representatives regarding the Joint Public Accounts Committee Report No. (7/2018) on the Office of the Union Auditor General audit report for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environment U Ohn Win explained about the ministry's actions towards companies that were lagging behind in making pure gold production share payment for gold mining/extraction agreements, plans to collect late payments of mine mouth tax for jade mines, ministry no longer issuing new gem mining lots, preparation made towards amending laws and rules in the Hluttaw to increase pearl production, arrangement made for systematically selling

off state-owned timber mills.

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun explained about DVB-T2 and FM transmission stations in Mawchi, late payment of Forever Group Co., Ltd. to Myanma Radio and Television, amending the joint venture and land lease agreement between Global Direct Link Co., Ltd. and Information Ministry's News and Periodical Enterprise to reflect the reduction in paid-up share from the Global Direct Link Co., Ltd.

Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo explained about waterway improvement and bank erosion preventive works conducted with special funds in fiscal year 2016-2017.

Similarly, union level officials from Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Health and Sports, Union Supreme Court office, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Transport and Communications and Ministry of Electricity and Energy responded to the discussions of the Hluttaw representatives.

The 16th-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is planned to be held on 3 September; it is learnt.—Myo Myint, Han Lin Naing (MNA) ■