

Pyithu Hluttaw

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session holds 14th-day meeting

THE 14th-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning. At the meeting, questions on communications, compensation for land, auctioning of seized items before being damaged, upgrading of a bank branch and regional allowance for pensioners were asked and answered, two motions tabled and a report submitted.

Q&A Session

In the question and answer session, U Min Thein of Taungdwingyi constituency asked whether inspection plans and arrangements were made to inspect the maintenance and sturdiness of telecommunication towers. Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Tha Oo replied that Ministry of Transport and Communications, Directorate of Telecommunications has set guidelines for communication towers constructed on the ground and on the buildings to ensure that telecommunication operators and tower construction companies follow guidelines when applications are made to construct telecommunication towers. The telecommunication operations and telecom tower companies are to inspect for maintenance and sturdiness of the towers once



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

every six months and after an occurrence of a natural disaster. Instructions were also issued to inspect other parts of the telecom towers on a regular schedule. Recommendation of engineers with licenses from Myanmar Engineering Council and city development committees are required to check the strength of the materials used in the construction work and arrangements are made for steel components used in the telecom towers to have lab test certificates of internationally-recognized ISO certified third party companies, explained the Deputy Minister. Regarding the question posed by U Tun Tun of Pwintbyu constituency on plans to auction or dispose seized items (vehicles and wood products) before being damaged, Deputy Minister for

Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win replied that whenever information of transferring unlicensed vehicles seized from illegal trades is obtained and court decision was made to detain it as government property, vehicles that can be repaired and used are distributed to departments that are in need of vehicles. If the vehicles are beyond repair, arrangements are made to scrap it according to rules and regulations, said the Deputy Minister.

As for wood and other seized products, once court decision was made, the products are inspected and auctioned off by state/region governments, according to auction plan drawn up. If the seized items are of use for government departments, they are used by paying appropriate tax.

Arrangements will be made to speed up the processes so that the seized items are not wasted through being damaged, said the Deputy Minister. U Tin Nu @ U Tin Nu Aung of Manaung constituency on the other hand asked if there is a plan to provide regional allowance to pensioners living in designated socially-difficult townships in the country. Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win replied that the national budget is running at a deficit and thus there is no plan to provide regional allowance to pensioners living in remote townships in the same manner as hardship allowance provided to public servants serving in remote townships. Similarly, questions raised by Dr. U Saw Naing from South Okkalapa constituency of plan to increase a bus line in South Okkalapa Township and U Oo Tun Maung of Ponnagyun constituency on land compensation for 28 farmers whose farm lands were confiscated when the Sit-tway-Minbu railway line passed over their farm lands, were replied by Deputy Minister U Tha Oo, while a question by U Kyin Wan of Hopan constituency on plans to upgrade banks in Hopan Township was answered by Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win. **Hluttaw decides to approve My-**

anmar Gemstone Bill

After the question and answer session, Hluttaw decided to approve the Myanmar Gemstone Bill, approved and sent with amendments by Amyotha Hluttaw.

Two motions tabled

Next, Dr. Daw Thet Thet Khaing of Dagon constituency tabled a motion urging the government to set up appropriate reform policies to reform state-owned enterprises, while U Myo Zaw Aung of Kawlin constituency tabled another motion urging the government to set up and implement a strategy to reduce and eliminate illegal trade.

Hluttaw decided to discuss the two motions and announced for Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the motions to register their names.

Submission of Pyithu Hluttaw Rights Committee report

Afterwards, Pyithu Hluttaw's Hluttaw Rights Committee report was submitted to the Hluttaw by committee secretary Dr. Hla Moe. Announcement was also made for Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the report to enroll their names. The 15th-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw is scheduled for 5 September.—Myo Myint (MNA) ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Second Amyotha Hluttaw's ninth regular session holds 14th-day meeting

THE 14th-day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's ninth regular session was held yesterday morning at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall where asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, discussions on Major Bridge bill and Myanmar Mining Rules were held.

Q&A session

In the asterisk-marked questions raised, U Hla Myint @ U Hla Myint Than of Mon State constituency 11 asked why permission to demolish an old wooden school building in a pagoda compound in Zizawa (North) Road, Kyaikto Town, Mon State was not given despite a new two-storey reinforced concrete school building was built over two years ago. Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko replied that the ministry will obtain the agreement of the Kyaikto Town, Kaw San Naing Ward religious organisation and local populace to demolish the old building and will coordinate with Mon



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

State government to demolish the building, according to rules and regulation. U Ko Ko Naing of Sagaing Region constituency 8 then said in small towns, only a small amount of municipal tax is collected and the towns were lagging behind in development. He asked if there is any plan to support the civic development work in such towns with support from state/region government fund or union government special fund. Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Tun replied that not only city development

committee fund but state/region government funds were provided to small towns that were lagging behind in development to develop. Since the state/region government funds and city development committee funds are supporting the development of small towns and there is no development affairs (municipal) ministry in the Union Government, the Union Government could not provide special funds towards the development of small towns. In replying to a question raised by U Htay Oo of Yangon Region constituency

2 on plans to resolve the water supply problem faced by people living in Shantegyi ward, Dagon Myothit (South), who are using water from a small creek, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Tun replied that Yangon City Development Committee is implementing Lagunpyin water distribution project to distribute water to Dagon Myothit (East), Dagon Myothit (South), Dagon Myothit (North), Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) townships and Thilawa Special Economic Zone. Once this project is completed, it will distribute a total of 40 million gallons of water; 10 million gallons to Thilawa Special Economic Zone and 30 million gallons to the four townships. Of the project works, a water treatment factory is 98 per cent complete and the construction of water distribution works, pipelines, pumping stations were being conducted with loan from the government of Japan and are now 15 per cent complete. The works are estimated to be

completed by 2021, and water can be distributed by then. Shantegyi ward will also be included in the water distribution network and water will be distributed once the Lagunpyin project is completed, said the Nay Pyi Taw Council member. Similarly, questions posed by U Aung Myo of Sagaing Region constituency 2, U Ngun Hay of Chin State constituency 1, U Min Swe Naing of Kachin State constituency 6 and U Whey Tin of Chin State constituency 11 were answered by Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun.

Discussion on Major Bridge Bill and Myanmar Mining Rules

Next U Ko Ko Naing of Sagaing Region constituency 8 discussed the Major Bridge Bill and U Saw Moe Myint @ Samuel of Kayin State constituency 1 discussed the Myanmar Mining Rules. The 15th-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw is scheduled for 5 September.—Aung Ye Thwin (MNA) ■