

Pyithu Hluttaw

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session holds 16th-day meeting

THE 16th-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday where questions on SME loan, taxation and construction sector were answered, a report submitted, receipt of a bill informed, a bill tabled and a motion discussed.

Question and answer session

In the question and answer session, Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency first asked if there is a plan to reduce limitations on SME loans for SMEs to obtain loans easily. Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win answered by first explaining details about SME loans up to July 2018, and then said that there were found to be delays in obtaining necessary documentation prescribed for SME loans. As such, banks were instructed to accept application for loans and process it with recommendations from state/region industrial supervi-



Daw Cho Cho.

sion and inspection department. The department was also being coordinated to permit loans up to Ks 20 million under the Credit Guarantee Insurance (CGI) system to SMEs when they can submit SMEs member card, said the Deputy Minister.

Next, U Myo Zaw Aung of Kawlin constituency asked when digital technology based businesses can be registered and collected tax, and how actions will be taken against those who do not abide by the set regulations.



U Maung Maung Win.

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win said local and foreign telecommunication operators are providing internet service only to digital technology based businesses and Directorate of Telecommunications assess the telecommunication operators as well as digital technology based businesses to issue special, normal licenses, collect tax fully and submit to the State.

Ministry of Planning and Finance and Ministry of Trans-



U Myo Zaw Aung.

port and Communications will be coordinated for registration and taxation of digital technology based businesses and legal action will be taken against businesses that fail to abide by prescribed laws and rules, replied the Deputy Minister.

Following this, U Tin Ko Ko Oo (a) U Atut of Bilin constituency asked if there is a plan to publish organizational setup of government departments and (private) companies conducting construction works and status

of tender winning companies, according to fiscal year. Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin replied that relevant state/region tender committees are instructed to announce the profiles of tender winning companies and tender winning prices in a transparent manner, and details can be obtained from relevant state/region governments.

At the Union level, Ministry of Construction only issue tenders for foreign currency purchase of construction materials and the issuing of construction work tenders are being transferred to the relevant state/region governments, who in turn are issuing construction work tenders, said the Deputy Minister.

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration is no longer black listing companies since 2013 but action are taken whenever companies violate terms of the contracts/agreements explained the Deputy Minister.

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Amyotha Hluttaw

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw's 9th regular session conducts 16th-day meeting

16th-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw was held at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. At the meeting, asterisk marked questions were raised and answered, bill committee read a report on land confiscation bill and Hluttaw's decision was obtained and a bill discussed.

Asterisk marked questions

The first question was raised by U Sai San Aung of Shan State Constituency 12 who asked if there is a plan to construct a 16-bed hospital in Wa Self-Administered Division Minemaw Township. Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe replied that a 1.2 acre land was allocated for the hospital and the authorities from Wa Self-Administered Division were presented with a plan while coordinating with it to get the permission to construct it. Once the coordination is completed it will be included in the long term project said the Union Minister.

U Myo Win of Mon State constituency 8 then posed a ques-



U Sai San Aung.

tion on plan to upgrade the track and field ground and the football ground in Ye town to an all-weather sports ground. Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe replied that Mon State government had allocated Ks 110 million in fiscal year 2018-2019 for the upgrade of Ye Township sports ground approved by Ye Township project planning and implementation committee. However, a synthetic track will cost Ks 745 million and this will not be included said the Union Minister.

Replying to a question raised by U Maung Kyaw Zan of Rakhine State constituency 9 on a plan to



U Myo Win.

upgrade the Sataw village rural health sub-clinic in Kywe Yine Khat village tract, Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State to rural health clinic, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe said national health project will be coordinated, comments and remarks from project and organisation setup assessment group and Ministry of Planning and Finance (Budget Department) will be pursued and once obtained, the matter will be submitted to the Union government meeting for fiscal year 2019-2020.

Similarly, questions raised by U Zon Hle Htan of Chin State



Dr. Myint Htwe.

constituency 4 and U Myo Htat @ Salai Myo Htike of Chin State constituency 12 were answered by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe.

Hluttaw approves Land Confiscation Bill

Next, Amyotha Hlutta Bill Committee member U Thein Lwin read and explained the committee report on the Land Confiscation Bill. After this Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than obtained the decision of the Hluttaw on the bill paragraph by paragraph.

Farmers Affairs Committee

Chairman U Ba Myo Thein of Yangon Region constituency 5 then tabled a motion to approve the bill which was supported by U Aung Myo of Sagaing Region constituency 2. Afterwards, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced the bill being approved by the Hluttaw after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw.

Hluttaw discusses the second amendment of the Penal Code

Later the second amendment of the Penal Code tabled by U Aung Thein of Bago Region constituency 12 was discussed by Tatmadaw representative Lt-Col Aung Tun Lin, U Htay Oo of Yangon Region constituency 2, U Hsan Myint of Ayeyawady Region constituency 3, Naw Hla Hla Soe of Yangon Region constituency 10, U Hla Oo of Sagaing Region constituency 4 and U Soe Thein @ U Maung Soe of Taninthayi Region constituency 10. The 17th-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw is scheduled for 12 September it is learnt.—Aung Ye Thwin (MNA) ■

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session ...

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Replying to a question raised by Dr. U Sein Mya Aye of Dala constituency on the reason for the delay in implementing the Korea-Myanmar Friendship Yangon-Dala bridge project, and when and how construction will start, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin said that the loan agreement to construct the bridge came into effect since 2016 but increasing the main span of the bridge causes an additional loan requirement of US\$20 million. A meeting between Ministry of Planning and Finance and Korea Exim Bank was held on 7 August to obtain the additional loan and discussions made were forwarded to Republic of Korea (ROK) Ministry of Strategy and Finance through the ROK Embassy.

At the moment, ROK Ministry of Strategy and Finance is discussing with Korea Exim Bank for the additional loan of US\$20 million, and once agreement is reached, the matter will be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, said the Deputy Minister.

In order not to delay the

project while discussion is ongoing for the additional US\$20 million, construction work will be started where possible, answered the Deputy Minister.

Similarly, questions raised by Daw Myint Myint Soe (a) Daw May Soe of Botahtaung constituency and U Win Win of Minbu constituency were answered by Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin.

Submission of Bill on Children's Rights and report on the bill read

Following the question and answer session, a bill on children's rights was submitted to the Hluttaw by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung.

After Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Sai Tun Aye read the bill committee report on the bill, announcement was made for Hluttaw representatives who wanted to table an amendment motion to register their names.

Discussion on motion to set up appropriate reform policies to reform state-owned enterprises

A motion table by Dr. Daw

Thet Thet Khaing of Dagon constituency urging the government to set up appropriate reform policies to reform state-owned enterprises (SOEs) was then discussed by Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Lt-Col Myo Win Hlaing, U Sai Ngaung Hsai Hein of Maukmai constituency, U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo of Hline constituency, U Myo Zaw Aung of Kawlin constituency, U Bo Gyi of Chauk constituency, U Sai Thiha Kyaw of Mongyai constituency, Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency and U Thauang Aye of Pyawbwe constituency.

In discussing the motion, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win said SOEs are playing a big role and reforms should be conducted stage by stage. The Deputy Minister explained that the motion is acceptable in principal and the State is conducting the matter accordingly.

Hluttaw then decided to approve the motion.

The 17th-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw is scheduled to be held on 12 September, it is learnt.

—Myo Myint (MNA) ■

Int'l Tourism Expo to boost tourism service sector

TO develop the international tourism service sector and local tourism sector, International Tourism Expo Myanmar (ITEM) 2018 supported by Myanmar Tourism Federation (MTF) and Myanmar China Friendship Association (MCFA) will be held in Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall, Yangon from 2 to 4 November according to a press conference on International Tourism Expo conducted in Tawwin Garden Hotel, Yangon yesterday morning.

"We have arranged the event with the aim of promoting the development of the local travel and business, giving information about travel and tourism industry in detail to the public," said direc-

tor U Nway Moe Aung of Travel Support Co. Ltd. The expo will feature airlines, banks, insurance businesses, hotels, cruise (ship) companies, local and foreign travel services, companies producing and selling travel related products, car transport services and telecommunication companies.

According to statements made at the press conference, holding the expo will develop Myanmar tourism sector, increase income from abroad, increase job opportunities and develop local business sectors related to travel sector and bring international recognition to Myanmar's culture, history and natural beauty. —Min Thit (MNA) ■



A beach in Myanmar crowded with tourists and local people.
PHOTO: MIN THIT (MNA)

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rank are some of the hurdles in spreading the correct information about the cooperative movement and in educating the people about its true character and vital role in the society, it is learnt.

Various studies also show that restricted coverage is one of the causes of slow progress in Indian cooperative movement. The cooperative movement has also suffered on account of two important limitations on its working. One is that the size of these cooperative societies has been very small; most of these cooperative societies are confined to a few members and their operations extended to only one or two villages; as a result, their resources remain limited, which make it impossible for them to expand their means and extend their area of operations. Two, most of the cooperative societies have been single purpose societies; for this reason, these societies are unable to take a total view of the persons seeking help, nor can they analyze and solve problems from different angles; the help these coopera-

tive societies render thus cannot be adequate. By assessing the persons and the problems only from one angle, these cooperative societies neither properly help the person nor make an optimal use of their resources. Under these circumstances it has not been possible for these cooperative societies to make much progress, it is learnt.

It is found that functional weakness is also one of the causes of slow progress. The cooperative movement has suffered from inadequacy of trained personnel right from its inception. Lack of trained personnel has been caused by two major factors. In the first place, there has been a lack of institutions for this purpose of training personnel; secondly, because of the unsatisfactory working of cooperative institutions, efficient personnel did not feel attracted or motivated towards them. The functioning of the cooperative societies, too, suffer from several weaknesses; some of these are, taking no care of the need of credit seekers or their repaying capacity at the time of granting loans, making no adequate provision for the return of loans, unsatisfactory

keeping of accounts, factional politics in its management, lack of coordination among various divisions of the cooperative structure, too much dependence on outside sources of finance, lack of adequate auditing. Such weakness have prevented them from progressing on healthy lines, it is learnt.

National policy on co-operative enterprises which is likely to uphold the values and principles of co-operation, recognizing its autonomous characters and attaching priority to professionalism, human resource development and to act as preferred instrument for execution of public policy in rural areas and in sectors where they provide the most effective delivery system; to strengthen their competitive edge in the market, total quality control initiatives, management initiatives and cost reduction initiatives will also be taken up. It is now increasingly recognized that the co-operative system in India has the capacity and potentiality to neutralize the adverse effects emerging from the process of globalization and liberalization, and continue to play an important role in employment pro-

motion and poverty alleviation, both as production enterprises – mainly of the self-employed – and as providers of services to members. Although cooperatives are not instruments of employment promotion, they do effectively create and maintain employment in both urban and rural areas and thus provide income to both members and employees in the form of shares of surplus, wages and salaries or surpluses (profits) depending of the type of cooperatives, it is learnt.

Government interference is another weakness to slow progress in the Indian cooperative movement. The cooperative movement in India was initiated in 1904 under the auspices of British government; right from the beginning the government has adopted an attitude of patronizing the movement; cooperative enterprises were treated as if these were part and parcel of the administrative set up of the government. The government interference thus became an essential element in the working of these enterprises; as a result, people's enthusiasm for the cooperative movement did not grow. The movement's inde-

pendence and self-reliance existed only on paper and files. After attainment of independence, in particular after beginning of the planning, some healthy changes in the attitude of the government did take place; it was not given proper importance that it deserves in any plan. But even the cooperative movement has not become full-fledged people movement. Even today, quite often, cooperative societies are imposed upon the people. This does bring about an increase in the membership of the cooperative societies; but the spirit of cooperation cannot flower fully in these circumstances; neither its growth took place according to any plan nor did it become a people's movement. It just grew very slowly and that too, haphazardly; it was a state driven institution, it is learnt. May Co-operative Movement in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar be free from all dangers, and be healthy, happy and prosperous in the months to come!!!

Reference: *Cooperative Movement in India: Problems and Prospects from the web-site, July 2017*

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