



State and Region Parliaments

News Bulletin

Aung Thabyay-Hnit Kayin Road Built with State Counselor’s Verbal Direction: Chief Minister



May 4, 2019

The reason Aung Thabyay-Hnit Kayin Road, connecting the two villages, was commissioned to a company to build it at the cost of about 1 billion kyats without open tendering was because the state counselor had given verbal direction to do so, said Mon State Chief Minister Dr Aye Zan at hluttaw meeting on May 3.

When MP Dr Aung Naing Oo (Chaung Sone Constituency- 1) questioned whether the construction of Aung Thabyay-Hnit Kayin Road was in accordance with the procedures, the Minister of Development and Construction U Min Kyaw Lwin responded that the state cabinet permitted the request for the extension period of the project since it was rainy reason during

which work was difficult.

Upon the further question of the MP on whether the cabinet’s decision was in accordance with procedures of tender process of article 6 of 1/2017, Chief Minister Dr Aye Zan said, “It was carried out with the direction of the state counselor. Mini-budgets can be exempted from going through tender process.”

MP Dr Aung Naing Oo retorted, “Please tell me when and in which directives with what number Daw Aung San Suu Kyi gave you the permit that mini-budget could be exempted from tender process.”

In his replies, the chief minister said that when he brought up the issue to the state counselor that it was a mini-budget and the work was challenging, she instructed him to continue it without inviting tenders and that the department could

carry out it without tender bidding. He added that the department was undertaking it amid many challenges.

Dr Aung Naing Oo lamented that the answers were not satisfactory because while the minister of development and construction responded to the question with reference to article 6 of tender process 1/2017, the chief minister, on further questioning, mentioned the permission and direction of the state counselor, in effect giving two different answers.

The sections of the 4-mile-3-furlong long soil embankment and concrete pavement of 1-mile-4-furlong long – they are extensions of Aung Thabyay-Hnit Kayin Road – are being built by Southern Myanmar Development (SMD), a company that generates and distributes electricity.

Reference: Mon State Parliament, Thanlwin Times

Sagaing Region's Increased Land Tax Intended Not to Burden Farmers



April 30, 2019

Sagaing Region land tax draft law was submitted to the second Sagaing Hluttaw's 18th regular session by the Chairman of the Committee for Economy, Commerce and Development and MP U Than Hlaing of Pinlebu Township constituency (2).

"Since independence, Myanmar has increased tax rate in all categories but land tax. The current tax scheme is the rate that was levied 70 to 100 years ago under British colonial administration and it is no longer relevant to the present-day. The adjusted tax rate was intended not to burden taxpayers. It's the

amount that every tax payer can afford," said U Than Hlaing.

On the speaker obtaining the hluttaw's decision whether the Sagaing Region land tax draft law should be discussed further, all the lawmakers agreed to carry on the discussion.

Reference: Chindwin Voice

Government and Armed Groups Urged to Collaborate in the Fight against Drugs

May 2, 2019

Mon State Hluttaw Deputy Speaker has urged armed groups that have signed peace agreement and the government to collaborate in the fight against drugs.

Today, in the 13th regular session of Mon State Hluttaw, the deputy speaker raised a question on how the armed groups and the state government were collaborating on drug eradication campaigns.

"As of now, neither NRPC nor UPDJC has instructed at the union level on how to collaborate," said Deputy Speaker Dr Aung Naing Oo.

In subsection A of section 25 of

Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) contract, it is stated that ethnic armed groups that signed NCA are to work together with the state government in the anti-drug campaigns.

"The ethnic armed groups must do so in accordance with existing laws. They cannot take actions as they please," continued he.

On collaboration between armed groups and the government in fighting against drugs, he would answer only after getting confirmation from NRPC, said the Minister of Security and Border Affairs, Colonel Nay Htut Oo.

Dr Aung Naing Oo said that

negotiations were necessary on the ground before the detailed policy instructions of the government on the role of armed groups were available.

On the New Mon State Party arresting eight people in Mudon in possession of 400 yaba and 4 viss of opium (about 14.4 pounds) on behalf of Mon State Government on May 20, the minister of security and border affairs sent a letter of protest.

Because of the letter of protest, the New Mon State Party transferred the arrested eight people to respective police forces on April 25.

Reference: Thanwin Times



To Inspect Mangrove Clearing for Prawn Farming Only Now Would Be Too Late

April 30, 2019

If inspections on mangrove clearing in Kyunsu which was done without permit was to be carried out only now, it would be too late, said MP Dr Htoo Nay Aung in Thanintharyi Region Hluttaw on April 8.

Dr Htoo Nay Aung questioned whether the regional government had any plans to effectively take actions on Pyae Phyo Tun company and Khine Zin Yaw company that were clearing mangroves without official permit from respective

departments.

The minister of agriculture and irrigation said in response that respective departments would be dispatched to do site inspections and would deal with the matter in accordance with the law.

Dr Htoo Nay Aung replied that effective actions would be taken against the two companies only if the chief minister himself carried out the inspection and was served with fried prawns at the site.

When pressed further on whether there were any plans to revoke prior

permit given to the companies without the formal approval of respective departments, which was clearly against the law, the chief minister replied that the ongoing clearing would be stopped until official permit was obtained and as to the time to stop the current clearing of the two companies, he would reply in writing.

Officials from Pyae Phyo Tun and Khine Zin Yaw have denied the accusation of clearing thousands of acres of mangroves.

Reference: Dawei Watch

Agriculture Land Tax Rate Prepared for Update

April 30, 2019

On the question of MP U Kyaw Min at the regional hluttaw session on April 10 whether the regional government had any plans to change land tax law given that the current tax rate collected by land administration department was no longer relevant to the current time, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, U Myint San replied that Tanintharyi land tax draft law was being drawn up.

The minister stated that land tax draft law committee started preparing the draft law beginning in the early 2018. Currently, the first, second, and third draft had been reviewed and the draft was to be submitted to

Advocate General's Office for review and changes as necessary.

However, the minister did not mention the rate per acre determined in the new draft law. MP U Kyaw Min of Pulaw Township suggested that the adjusted tax rate should be in accordance with the current time and that it should levy a rate that is not burdensome to the people.

The department of land administration and statistics is levying 1.5 - 5.20 kyats per acre of farmland, 1.5 - 4.75 kyats per acre of orchard, and 4 kyats per thatch land according to 1876 land act, said U Kyaw Min.

Reference: Dawei Watch