



State and Region Parliaments

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Auditor General States Yangon Region Government Ordered Not to Circulate Report in Hluttaw

October 18, 2019

Auditor General, Daw Khin Than Hla stated that the Yangon Region Government directed her to deliver this year's Auditor General's report only to the Chief Minister and the Speaker of Hluttaw but not to circulate among the rest.

The report describes the findings in regard to the activities of the regional government by the Auditor General's Office. These activities also mark the second one-year long activities of the Yangon Region Government led by Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

"A letter that mentions just to circulate one report book each to the Chief Minister and to the Speaker of Hluttaw: just as how it is practised in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. About 150 books have been printed and signed. I wondered too whether I should disagree with them or not. Eventually, I decided to obey the order as it was from the Regional Hluttaw and in nature, we have to follow what it says." said the Auditor General.

The letter includes the signature of the secretary of Yangon Region Government.

Although the report had been sent to Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun since 1st July, the Public Accounts Committee confirmed on receiving the report only during the first week of September, according to the committee.

No comments were made by Hluttaw Speaker, U Tin Maung Tun when contacted by the Irrawaddy News with regard to the aforementioned case.

At the moment, the Auditor General's report has been under review solely by the Regional Public



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein (Photo:Yangon Region Government)

Accounts Committee. U Tint Lwin, Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee said that the report is expected to be submitted in November. Daw Khin Than Hla explained that the comment of U Tint Lwin to 7 Days News Journal, which quotes as, "The Auditor General will not directly submit the report. Instead, it will be submitted through the committee." It is incorrect if the comment implies that the Auditor General would not submit the report to Hluttaw.

She said, "Every year, I (Auditor General), myself present the report at a Hluttaw Session. The reports are circulated beforehand. Also, for this year, I am going to send a letter to the Speaker to notify that I would present the report by myself."

There has been criticism on this restriction by the MPs and they also stated that such reports shall be circulated among them according

to the Auditor General of the Union law.

"Submitting the report to the Hluttaw does not mean submitting it only to the Speaker. Each and everyone of us is part of the Hluttaw. It's the Speaker's responsibility if he receives the report but chooses not to share it with us. We don't know for sure on who is refusing to give the report to the Hluttaw. We want this to be carried out in accordance with the law. We need to do our jobs." said U Nay Phone Latt, an MP of Thingangyun Township.

Although comments were made on both the strengths and weaknesses of the government departments for the first year of U Phyo Min Thein led Yangon Region Government in accordance with Auditor General's report on Yangon Region Government for 2016-2017 Fiscal Year, no explanations on this matter were given to the government officials, stated the MPs.

(Reference-<https://burma.irrawaddy.com>)

Regional Hluttaw to Inspect Quality of Buildings Affiliated with Magwe Government

October 8, 2019

It has been reported that U Tar, Speaker of Magwe Region Hluttaw, has sent notice to all the regional MPs to inspect the buildings, such as hospitals and schools, that were built using the Magwe government's budget. The inherent reason is the poor quality of these buildings built by tender-winning companies.

The comment on this notice by the MPs of Kamma, Mindon and Taungdwingyi townships is that they are discontented with the companies' way of conducting these projects. In addition, these companies have been facing difficulties in continuing their constructions as the weather has not been in their favour. Hence, the quality assurance of these buildings has become one of the concerns for them.

MPs are requested to rate the performance of the companies responsible for educational buildings, health care related buildings and staff quarters into three levels: Good, Fair and Bad. These ratings are to be submitted to the Hluttaw latest by November 1.

As "Bad" rated companies would be distasteful of their own ratings, all the ratings would be submitted to the Speaker in a secret system.

In regards to the determination of the ratings for

each company, U Zaw Win, an MP from Kamma Township commented as follows: "It would be very difficult for a company to get "Good" as its rating. The reason is that in our town, the percentage of progress in terms of implementation of the projects is low. If a company can work in line with its timeline and if the Quality Control (QC) endorses for its results, we can say we rate that kind of company as "Good". If the QC states that there are shortcomings in the work done and that the percentage regarding the progress of implementation is low, we rate this type of company as "Fair" or "Bad".

On the other hand, MPs not having professional knowledge in engineering would serve as a barrier for them in trying to get a complete picture of the situation. There could also be situations where the business owners (companies) are dissatisfied as their performances are rated by non-professional personnel.

U Zaw Thein Aung, owner of Magwe-based construction company added that precise criterion of the project should be stated by the government ever since they called for tenders.

This kind of inspection was undertaken once by the Magwe Region Hluttaw during its 2017-2018 fiscal year.

(Reference - <https://www.rfa.org/Burmese/>)

MP's Ethical Code of Conduct to Be Drafted by Military MPs After Meeting with Public

October 17, 2019

The Hluttaw Rights Committee of Pyithu Hluttaw would report to the Hluttaw on exhibiting a separate ethical code of conduct for all MPs to prevent elected MPs and military MPs from showing disrespectful behaviours towards each other.

This initiation was carried out after the military MPs met with the public last couple of days ago. These meetings were arranged for the order from Senior General Min Aung Hlaing; he directed the military MPs to visit their respective regions and meet with the citizens there.

Dr. Hla Moe, Secretary of Hluttaw Rights Committee, states that this draft is drawn up by his committee and expected to be submitted for approval at the 14th regular Pyithu Hluttaw Session of the second Hluttaw term.

Although the laws and bylaws of the Hluttaw contain descriptions that states the ethical conduct and rules and regulations to be followed by MPs, the plan to submit this



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Session in September. (Photo- Nyan Hlaing Lin, Myanmar Now)

draft which separately states such subject matters were arranged in order to gain more trust from the public, to have more concrete democratic practices and to strengthen Hluttaws.

The aforementioned draft contains a statement that allows elected MPs to meet with their respective constituents.

(Reference - <https://www.myanmar-now.org/>)

Minister and MP Debated during Mon State Parliament Session

October 7, 2019

A MP retorted the comment of the Minister -“The MP should personally bring the concerned person to the Ministry of Immigration and have a check.”- with “It hasn’t been a while since you become a minister. Please show respect to the Hluttaw even if you do not want to respect the MP.”

This argument occurred during the 14th regular session of the Mon State Hluttaw (7th Day) of the 2nd Hluttaw term.

Daw Khaing Khaing Leh, a Regional Hluttaw MP from Constituency 1 of Thaton Township, asked a question in regards to the absence of registering a person’s national identity in accordance with one’s parents’ in either the national ID or household registration process.

The MP added that an amendment is necessary if the national identity of a child is contrary to that of either of the parents’.

U Tun Min Aung, Minister of Labour, Immigration and Population, states that this case is not related to the Mon State Government but to the Union-level Government. “If you want to clearly know who did it wrong, whether it is the government department or not, please just bring those related personnel to the immigration office. If you want to make things sure, please go check it personally,” the Minister said during the Hluttaw Session.

Daw Khaing Khaing Leh replied to his answer as, “It hasn’t been a while that you have been positioned as a minister. You were a member of the parliament for four years. It’s okay if you do not want to show respect to Daw Khaing Khaing Leh, the member of the parliament. Please do show respect to the Hluttaw. Respecting Hluttaw means respecting the citizens. Please reply with respect.”

Speaker of Mon State Hluttaw Daw Tin Ei ruled out the argument between the minister and the MP in regards to this question. She said, “This is not a debate. This is a Hluttaw session. Minister, I would like you to



Mon State Hluttaw Member Daw Khaing Khaing Leh (Photo - MNA)

show us respect. The questions being asked in Hluttaw are questions of the citizens. Only answering the questions with respect would suggest that you respect the citizens as well.” The Speaker also added that the minister, being not only able to give a precise answer for the question but also asking the MP to personally undertake an inspection is an unfit response.

The Speaker ruled on this question by making the ministry concerned in this case to give a thorough answer via official letter.

Daw Khaing Khaing Leh stated that as this question is pertinent not only to Thaton township but also to the whole state, it should be answered with profound consideration.

(Reference - www.monnews.org)

Building Constructed by Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) on Land Owned by the Ministry of Cooperatives to Be Reported to Union Election Commission (UEC)

September 28, 2019

Member of the Mandalay Region Government Dr. Soe Than said that the case of a land owned by the Ministry of Cooperatives of Mattaya Township being used by the USDP shall be reported to the UEC.

A question regarding this case in which a land owned by the Ministry of Cooperatives is being used by the USDP for their office building was asked by the Regional Parliament Member U Min Min from the Constituency 2 of Mattaya Township on 26th September during Regional Hluttaw session.

The Minister said that this land of 47 acres was transferred to the Ministry of Cooperatives by the People’s Council for the purpose of building staff quarters, residences for guests, poultry farms and fish ponds in 1987.

(Reference - <https://7daydaily.com>)