



State and Region Parliaments

News Bulletin

Yangon Region Hluttaw Draws Up Draft-Bill to Reduce Waste to Public Funds

February 16, 2020

The Yangon Region Hluttaw is drafting a bill to reduce waste to public finance due to a lack of transparency and mismanagement of Yangon Region Government, Daw Sandar Min, the Chairwoman of Yangon Region Finance, Planning and Economic Committee, told Irrawaddy.

The draft-bill entitled Yangon Region Funds and Investment Law has been drafted and it is being discussed in the chief justice office and Yangon Region Hluttaw Draft-Bill Committee. After that the Yangon Region Finance, Planning and Economic Committee is to meet with business people to obtain their feedbacks on the bill.

The bill is written in order to regulate the expense of Yangon Region Government to reduce waste, to establish good management, to curb corruption in leasing and selling government-owned assets, and to oversee that business deals are not given to a particular person or organisation, explained Daw Sandar Min.

The bill includes clauses to ensure that government activities carried out with investments from the people must truly provide services to benefit the people and government companies established by public fund must be audited by regional auditor general and the activities must be reported to the hluttaw.

The committee is trying to submit the draft-bill to the regional hluttaw meeting in June.

The 2008 constitution prescribes clauses for state and regional governments to follow in using public funds, and Yangon Region Government's



actions amount to breaching those regulations, Daw Sandar Min added.

The auditor-general's report on the 2016-17 and 2017-18 audit of Yangon Region Government described Yangon Region Government flaunting financial rules and regulations, loss to public funds due to mismanagement, going beyond its mandate and instances of giving special privileges to a particular organisation or to a person.

The failure to implement its original intention to build homes for informal

settlers by Yangon Metropolitan Development (YMD) which was established with public funds and spending the money against financial rules and regulations of YMD were among the issues mentioned in the auditor-general's report.

If Yangon Region Funds and Investment Law comes into effect, the Yangon government after the 2020 election will have to follow the financial rules and regulations promulgated by that law.

Reference: <https://burma.irrawaddy.com>

Lands Not Worked on in Mon State to Be Scrutinised



February 20, 2020

Virgin, vacant and fallow lands in Mon State that were obtained by investors from the government throughout successive governments but not actually worked on will be scrutinised, according to U Tun Htay, Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Transport of Mon State Government.

“The Virgin, Vacant and Fallow Land Administration Committee has collected the data on the lands that are not farmed. In fact, the government took over those lands. So, I’ll collaborate in any kinds of program that would scrutinise the lands that were obtained but not actually worked on,” said U Tun Htay.

He made that statement in response to a follow-up question posed by state MP Dr Aung Naing Oo (Chaung Sone Constituency- 1) in the second Mon State Hluttaw fifteenth regular session on February 19 on what the government was doing with regards to virgin, vacant and fallow lands in Mon State.

Tensions arose between local people who are actually working on the land but do not know that they have to apply for the right to use the land and authorities who grant permissions to certain investors who understand such procedures, said Dr Aung Naing Oo.

To that the minister replied, “Mon State government has not given

any special privileges to any particular person or organisation in granting rights to using lands. Instead, the decision solely was based on who would bring in local development and employment and sustainable investment in the community.”

In addition, some areas annually suffer from flood that investors with sufficient capital and investors with technological expertise are encouraged to apply for virgin, vacant and fallow lands,” added U Tun Htay.

A total of 24,000 acres of virgin, vacant and fallow lands is leased in Mon State, out of which 3,900 acres that is not actually farmed was seized by the government in 2018.

Reference: <https://www.mizzimaburmese.com>

Deputy-Director General of Sagaing Region Hluttaw Temporarily Suspended from Duty

February 22, 2020

Union Hluttaw Office, on February 21, released an order that U Kyaw Thura, Deputy-Director General of Sagaing Region Hluttaw, has been temporarily suspended from duty.

The order was released as Union Court Office Order No.19/2020 according to article 172 of Union Civil Service by-law.

“It’s true that the order was released. But we don’t

know the reason why,” said a source-person from the hluttaw.

U Kyaw Thura has been in Sagaing Region Hluttaw for over three years.

There were complaints sent to Anti-Corruption Committee by some MPs and staff from the hluttaw office in March 2019.

It was reported that Anti-corruption Committee carried out investigation on U Kyaw Thura in January 2020.

Reference: <https://burmese.dvb.no>

Ten Percent of Complaint Letters Taken Actions: NLD

February 18, 2020

Ten percent of complaint letters on members of the National League for Democracy (NLD) including parliamentarians has been taken actions, according to Dr Myo Nyunt, Chairman of NLD Complaint Letter and Appeal Review and Assessment Committee.

“We have looked at 450 of 500 complaint letters, out of which 10 percent has been dealt with,” said Dr Myo Nyunt.

The great majority of complaints make up those by the party members, and the complaints include over matters of developmental work carried out by MPs and the lack of collaboration by MPs in field visits with members of the party at ward levels. Constituents sent in complaints about MPs for not granting local development funds, and there have also been charges of corruptions.

If one is filed a complaint against, not only the parliamentarian but also his/her associates are probed for corruption, he said.

Taking actions against complaints include measures such as verbal warnings, written pledges, a six-month suspension from party duties, total suspension from party duties and dismissal, Dr Myo Nyunt claimed. There have also been complaint



Photo:Mizzima

letters that were removed from charges as they were not in accordance with regulations, he added.

Among the complaint letters against parliamentarians, the majority were MPs from states and regions, and the complaints against Phythu Hluttaw representatives came as second.

Most complaints were filed in

Yangon Region, with others in Bago Region, Ayeyawaddy Region, Mon State, Sagaing Region, Magway Region and Mandalay Region.

Since setting up the Complaint Letter and Appeal Letter Review and Assessment Committee in 2017, it has received more than 1,000 letters, out of with only 500 are in accordance with regulations.

Reference: <https://www.mizzimaburmese.com>

Farmer Threatens MP for Not Handling the Case of His Seized Farmland

February 24, 2020

A farmer in Dala Township has repeatedly threatened over the phone to kill an MP for not resolving the case of his land that was seized, said MP U Tun Yin of Dala Township.

“He repeatedly said that he was going to kill me. I know the person. I also know his farmland that was taken over. The government has responsibility on MPs being threatened his life,” said U Tun Yin.

Although Yangon Region Government has negotiated compensation with farmers in Dala whose lands were confiscated, actual disbursement has not been made.

As a result, criticisms by the farmers on MPs are increasing, and now it has reached a point of threatening to kill them, continued U Tun Yin.

The case of lands seized in Dala Township has been submitted to Central Committee for Scrutinising Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands, led by Vice-President Henry Van Thio, but there has been no reply yet from the Central Committee.

“He said that the case should be brought up to the hluttaw as a starred question. But I have explained to him that that would not be sufficient. But he wouldn’t accept it. He said that he would kill the MP first and then he would justify he had killed him/her because the land case had not been resolved properly,” U Tun Yin explained about the threat.

7Day News Daily talked to the phone number that had allegedly threatened MP U Tun Yin, and Ko Saw Htoo, who answered the phone, said that the threat was indeed made.

Although Yangon Government decided to pay compensation on 20 percent of the areas of land confiscated to farmers whose lands were confiscated by the government, in reality no compensation has been paid, and Ko Saw Htoo has urged the MP to raise a question in the hluttaw.

He would not file a complaint but would wait to see, said U Tun Yin.

Reference: <https://7day.news/>