



State and Region Parliaments

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Motion to Impeach Yangon Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein Fails

June 19, 2020

A motion to impeach Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein was rejected in a secret ballot cast in an emergency session of Yangon Region Hluttaw on June 18. The vote which failed to reach a certain required number was cast after an investigation committee presented its findings on the impeachment put forward by 32 legislators including regional lawmaker U Tin Win of Cocokyun Township constituency (1).

The impeachment letter against the chief minister included several accusations: implementation of a controversial New Yangon City project without the parliament's knowledge, New Yangon Development Council established with 10 billion kyats from 64 billion kyats to invest in City Bank, school bus purchase, money lent from private banks, and violation of the government's ban on mass gathering amid the covid-19 outbreak in Hlaing Thayar and Botahtaung Townships.

In his defence, the chief minister mentioned that the ongoing project of New Yangon City with the hluttaw's approval, the mistakes of chief auditors, no wasting of public funds, and the lack of necessity to obtain approval from the hluttaw for public company as the government owns the shares.

With regards to the accusation on the violation of mass gathering, the chief minister said that he followed the covid-19 containment rules, but as the people gathered around his team it looked as though he had violated the mass ban. The investigation committee presented to the hluttaw that the accusations were invalid. The lawmakers' vote



Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein seen in a hluttaw meeting. (Photo: Yangon Hluttaw)

was then called on the motion.

In a secret ballot, out of 117 lawmakers who attended the emergency session, 102 cast their vote resulting in a vote of 77-25. As the vote did not reach the approval of at least two-thirds of the regional parliament, the Speaker ruled that the motion was not valid. Of the 32 lawmakers who signed the impeachment letter, only 25 voted for it. Two military appointees were on leave on that day and 5 lawmakers abstained from voting.

77 lawmakers from the NLD voted against the accusations while

10 did not. U Kyaw Zay Ya, a signatory of the impeachment of the regional chief minister, said that although nothing special could be said about the failed impeachment, the composition of the investigation committee with only NLD members was questionable.

The hluttaw speaker did not allow the request to question the accusers instead of the accused only, said U Tin Win from the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), one of the persons who filed the impeachment.

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

Regional Government and Lawmakers Not Informed about Gold and Mineral Explorations on more than 180,000 Acres of Land in Sagaing Region

June 5, 2020

Sagaing Regional Government and lawmakers have not been informed about gold and other mineral exploration right given to Australia-based Chinese company PanAust on more than 180,00 acres of land in Wuntho, Pinlebu and Banmauk Townships in Sagaing Region, according to regional legislators.

The union government granted the exploration license to PanAust in the so-called Wuntho (3) region for minerals on May 27, 2020 in Naypyitaw.

Prior to giving the permit, the union government requested the regional government its comments, and the regional government conducted a site inspection with relevant authorities and replied with a 'no objection'. The decisions for large scale exploration rights are made at the union level, and [lawmakers] have never seen the staff from the firm, according to Chin Ethnic Affairs Minister U Lal Thawng Thang .

The regional government receives only rental fee, about 50,000 kyats per acre, he continued.

While the name of the firm whom the union government

has granted license is PanAust, the company currently carrying out work in Wuntho Township is Wuntho Resources. The regional lawmakers know neither how the two firms are related nor how the nature of the work looks like, according to U Zaw Lin Oo, a representative of Wuntho Township constituency (1).

"The union government granted the exploration license to PanAust. But the Wuntho Resources is doing the work here in Wuntho Township. Currently, local people are not included in the company; only foreign nationals are doing exploration work," said U Zaw Lin Oo.

The regional lawmakers and local people should be informed clearly of the nature of the project and the work, and the regional government should effectively manage it, he continued.

"We were not informed about this exploration at all. The regional government needs to take on this effectively. What we want is that regional lawmakers and governments are informed in detail about any project permitted by the union government, MP U Zaw Lin Oo said.

Reference: <https://news-eleven.com>



Hman-kin Mountain seen in the border of Pinlebu Township and Wuntho township which make up a part of in Wuntho (3) region.

Ayeyarwady Region Hluttaw Fails to Check and Balance the Government: Wakema MP

June 21, 2020

Ayeyarwady Region Hluttaw fails to check and balance the regional government, and the answering of questions in the hluttaw by the government does not really answer the questions, MP Daw Myint Myint San (Wakema-2) has criticised.

The criticism came after the Hluttaw Speaker forbade the request by Daw Myint Myint San, on the eight day of the twenty-third regular session of the second Ayeyarwady Region Hluttaw, that the government answers the questions with evidence. The criticism included the failure of the hluttaw to check and balance the government, the weakness of the hluttaw to urge the government to implement what it has pledged to do, the government's dodging the questions in the hluttaw, and the censoring and rejecting of lawmakers' questions by the hluttaw.

"When the government comes to answer the questions in the hluttaw, they aren't really answering the questions. They just read what has been written by their subordinate

stuff. They just read the laws. Shouldn't they give their evaluations on what's happening on the ground and what actions to be taken? It's OK that the wording of questions and motions is edited. Shouldn't the hluttaw give the government remarks on what shouldn't be the case? Shouldn't the hluttaw remind the government that there are behind what they pledge to implement and urge them to speed up? These are the reasons I'm saying that the hluttaw is failing to check and balance the government. The hluttaw should listen to what (we) lawmakers present to the hluttaw. The hluttaw should at least let us [legislators] finish in bringing up the issues we have promised our constituents we would in the the hluttaw. Only after that, the Speaker should decide what to do with them. Shouldn't the hluttaw hear us out? I daresay that this Hluttaw Speaker is not worthy of the position of speakership. We have to observe whether this government should continue to be in position, she said.

Reference: <https://news-eleven.com>

Mon State Government Should Take Responsibility for Four People Drowned at Mount Mane Bala: Deputy Speaker

June 19, 2020

Mon State Government should deal with the case of three girls and a woman who drowned in a pit dug up by a company in search of treasure troves at Mount Mane Bala, once a Japanese military camp during World War II, in Wae kawar Village Track, Thanbyuzayat Township in Mon State.

Although Mon State Minister for Construction and Development Affairs U Min Kyaw had said in the fifteenth regular session of the second Mon State Hluttaw held in February that the government had informed the company to restore the site into its original state and to plant trees for environment destruction due to the excavation, in reality, the site was left as it was dug up that it has become such a dangerous site as four people drowned in it.

"Actually, what the government had said in the hluttaw to restore the site to its original state didn't happen. The pits were there as they were left. Certain sites were in danger of landslide. We believe the government is responsible. If the government had filled the pits and



Photo:SMN

holes as they said they would, the four people wouldn't have drowned. But now, it's tragic. The government should take the responsibility to deal with it," said Deputy Speaker of Mon State Hluttaw Dr. Aung Naing Oo.

The site was inspected on June 18, and findings, assumptions and recommendations had been sent

to the Hluttaw Speaker Daw Tin Ei, he said.

The police report mentioned that four people were found dead in a deserted well, which totally differed from what had actually happened, pointed out Dr. Aung Naing Oo.

Reference: *Southern Myanmar News*