



# State and Region Parliaments

## News Bulletin



# Chin State Hluttaw Approves a Motion to inform Hluttaw of Key Terms Signed between Companies and Government Departments

June 22, 2020

Chin State Hluttaw has approved a motion that requires the State Government to inform MPs and administrators at district, township and village tract levels who are partly responsible for overseeing successful completion of such projects about key points signed between government and companies in the state development work contracts.

The motion was put forward by a state lawmaker, U Van Thawng of Thantlang constituency (1), and it was approved on the second day of the special hluttaw session on July 19.

When companies carry out local development works, there are some weaknesses in terms of material quality and quantity, some of which are not just pleasant to the sight. When we, MPs or district, township or village tract administrators point

out about the quality of their work, they usually rebuke that they had done on the letters of the contract. Next, suppose the education department constructs a building. Or schools are built in villages. In these situations, relevant education authorities are not informed about the project. The companies just come by themselves and complete the building. Only after that, inspection team would arrive. They would then reprimand relevant educational authorities for not knowing about the project – ‘Why aren’t you aware of them? You are supposed to know these.’ Companies sign contracts at the state levels. The state should relay information down the line at district, township and village tract levels. Only then we [MPs] would be able to check on the work and give suggestions to companies. For this reason, I propose the motion,”

recounted U Van Thawng.

Local development works such as road construction and other construction works are being carried out by companies who won tenders, and MPs, government departments and administrators at different levels are responsible for checking on the work for quality and completion in time. However, since they are not informed about the terms of the contract between the companies and the state government, site inspection cannot be executed with effectiveness.

Therefore, the motion to disseminate the key terms of contracts down the administration line was subsequently approved, and it is hoped that future oversight of development works will become more effective, said U Van Thawng.

*Reference: Khonumthung*

# Minister's Answer to New Mining Project Question Not Satisfactory

June 28, 2020

A lawmaker complained that the answer of the Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation to a question about the new mining projects in Shan State was unsatisfactory.

On June 25, MP Sai Tun Nyang of Kyaukme Township constituency (2) raised a question in the hluttaw, "Whether or not the government has plans to give remarks to the union government based on the agreement of the state legislators and the local people with regards to the new mining projects in Shan State."

Although such a motion had been proposed to the hluttaw in 2019, the speaker had forbidden it. This year he had to ask as a starred question, Sai Tun Nyang told the Shan Herald.

"Initially, it was put forward as a motion. But the speaker didn't permit it. He requested me to change it into a question. Just to get a sense of the government's perspective, I brought it up as a question, said Sai Tun Nyang.

In response to the question, the Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Dr Nyi Nyi Aung, replied in a hluttaw meeting, "There are not any laws amending Myanmar mining law and by-laws."

Although there was no existing law, respective companies were instructed to discuss in advance with the local people and respective legislators in their application for new mining projects, Dr Nyi Nyi Aung answered.

"The minister didn't give any promise. He didn't say it



like 'We'll discuss with MPs and local people.' He didn't hint at anything like a 'must'. He just said it perfunctorily. It's not satisfactory," Sai Tun Nyang told the Shan Herald.

"When projects are carried out in the state, depending on the situation, reports are sent to higher authorities. What's really happening is that the state government has to agree with whatever the union government decides to do in the state despite whether or not the local people like it, Sai Tun Nyang remarked.

Although Shan people object to mining projects in Shan State, the Shan State Government is backing the union's decision.

Reference: <https://burmese.shannews.org>

# Tanintharyi Region Community-based Resorts Law to Be Passed in Current Hluttaw Term

July 7, 2020

Tanintharyi Region Hluttaw is working on Tanintharyi Region Community-based Resorts Law in order for it to pass in the current hluttaw term, according to Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Maung Aye.

After discussing and negotiating with resort owners, travel agencies and tour guides, the Tanintharyi Region Community-based Resorts Law would

be adopted, U Khin Maung Aye said.

"There are two laws in their final stages in this term. For one, we have a law amending development affairs law. For another, there's resorts law, U Khin Maung Aye added.

The draft has been under formulation since 2018, but it has been delayed due to other laws the regional hluttaw has to tackle, according to Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Kyi Soe.

As of now, lands are being

bought along the coast for the purpose of resorts, and when this law comes out, these lands have to be applied for in accordance with the new law, added U Kyi Soe.

"We really want the law to become a reality after a thorough study on the ground. If it's for the better, we are ready to support it, commented Daw Moe Moe Thu, the Chairwoman of Dawei District Travels Association.

Reference: <http://www.daweiwatch.com>

## The Status of Motions Proposed at Second Magway Hluttaw

July 7, 2020

Up until the fifteenth regular session of the second Magway Hluttaw, there have been a total of 38 motions, of which 30 have been approved and 8 archived. 20 percent of approved motions came from female legislators.

According to the study on the data of Magway Hluttaw, in the second regular session of the second Magway Hluttaw, 10 motions were brought up, but in later sessions the number of proposed motions fell.

Of the proposed motions, the motion put forward in the first day of the third regular hluttaw session by the Minister of Construction and Transports, U Tin Nwe Oo

on behalf of the Ministry of Urban and Housing Department was interesting.

With regards to a starred question asked by State MP Daw Khin Cho Latt of Magway constituency (2) on the implementation of motions, the Minister of Social Welfare, Dr Khin Maung Aye answered that the government is collaborating with MPs in the implementation of the 30 motions, carrying out site inspection and meeting and holding discussion with local people and working hand in hand with government departments for the successful completion of projects.

*Reference: Magway Journal*

## Compensation Should Be Paid or Lands Returned to Locals: Chairperson of Complaint Analysis Committee

June 19, 2020

If lands confiscated from local people are not actually worked on, they should be returned to local people from whom the lands were taken or compensation should be given to them, according to the chairperson of Complaint Analysis Committee.

“They should really return the unused lands to the original and rightful owners. The loss is enormous. If these lands are really in use, then compensation should be given. There are large areas of confiscated lands that are not really in use. These lands should be returned to owners,” said he.

The majority of land complaints mention how those in authorities or in connection with authorities apply for form-7 (the right to use land) for the lands owned and worked on by local farmers. This way, they take the land from farmers and secure the right with form-7. Many local people have lost their lands.

Of all complaints filed at Complaint Analysis Committee, most complaint letters concern land grabbing and confiscation.

There are a total of 484 complaint letters sent to Complaint Analysis Committee from 2017 to May 31, 2020, of which 263 concerns land.

The existing land law ignores the



rights of ethnic people, resulting in the mounting of such land complaints, said Saw Eh Say from Kayah Earthrights Action Network (KEAN).

“What we local people and grass-root people are protesting is that a land management mechanism that is currently in practice is imposed by higher authorities, and they administer as they like and use all the means to obtain what they want.

This mechanism totally ignores the local customary landownership and the local people’s concerns,” continued he.

According to the achievement report the Kayah State Government in 2019, there were 95 complaints in 2019, and the government had resolved 92 cases and 3 under due process.

*Reference: Katarawaddy Times*