



State and Region Parliaments

News Bulletin



Bago Region Joint-Venture Agriculture Draft Bill Presented to People

August 12, 2019

Events have been scheduled across 28 townships in Bago Region where MPs, in two groups, are to present Bago Region joint-venture agriculture draft bill to the people and obtain inputs from them.

Led by the Department of Agriculture and Irrigation of Bago Region Government, the joint-venture agriculture draft bill was drawn up in June 2017 and suggestions from the people will be collected from the people from August 12 to 29.

“We are working on gathering the views of local people on the draft bill in order for the bill to be passed and to let people participate in the law making process. The intention is to get advice from stakeholders on the ground. The information obtained will be presented to the

13th regional hluttaw session for approval,” explained U Myo Khaing, Chairman for Bago Hluttaw Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Committee.

The bill was drafted with an aim to provide guidelines and regulations in promoting agricultural sector for joint-venture between foreign investors, private enterprises and local firms that want to invest in agriculture.

“Local investors and farmers are working together on the basis of a certain common understanding. If a problem occurs in contract farming, the farmers are at stake since there isn’t any legal provision on this. That’s why contract farming laws are really necessary. In drafting this bill, although respective government department took the lead, discussion with civil society groups also played a part. Bago Region is the first to formulate such a bill,” said U Aung

Zaw Naing, Minister of Bago Region Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

The presentation of the draft bill and obtaining opinions from people will be conducted in 28 townships. MPs will lead two groups, one in the east and another in the west of Bago Region and collaborate with the Department of General Administration, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Agriculture Land Management and Statistics.

There are currently 2,700,000 acres of monsoon paddy and over 250,000 acres of summer paddy in the 28 townships of Bago Region – 1,170,000 acres of monsoon paddy in Bago District, over 380,000 acres in Pyay District, 520,000 acres in Taungoo District, and 670,000 acres in Thayarwady District.

Reference: Myitmakha News Agency

Yangon Region Government Issues Land Lease Contracts for 2,000 Kyats per Square Foot for Yangon Petrol



YP Filling Station in Tharkayta Township. (Photo-Hsan Htoo Aung)

August 15, 2019

Land lease contracts for 2,000 to 4,000 kyats per square foot, depending on different regions, have been issued to open Yangon Petrol (YP) petrol stations, U Yan Shin, an MP for Mayangone Township of Yangon Region told The Voice Journal.

Last July, U Yan Shin asked a starred-question in a Yangon Hluttaw session about the government's plans for YP on the rate for land lease, regulations of land lease, and how the government would control petrol price.

However, the question was not answered during the hluttaw session, but a written reply was sent by U Han Tun, Minister of Yangon Region Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Energy when the hluttaw session had finished.

According to U Han Tun's letter, YP company was set up with the supervision of the regional government and it was tasked with looking for land to open petrol stations.

"2,000 to 4,000 kyats per square foot," U Shan Shin said.

In addition, the government intends to use 20 percent of the returns from YP petrol stations for security, health and education in the region and for corporate social responsibilities (CSR) fund, said U Kyaw Zay Ya, Secretary of Yangon Region Finance, Planning and Enterprise Committee, quoting U Han Tun's reply.

If profit from YP is marginal, the government would use CSR funds, he continued.

"20 percent of the net profit must be given to Yangon Region Government. If it made losses, it would be supported with some other works of the government," said U Kyaw Zay Ya.

Up until May 5, YP has been granted 8 pieces of land which falls under the jurisdiction of the Yangon Region Government and land for 12 petrol stations in the land belonged to Yangon City Development Council, according to U Han Tun's reply.

Reference: The Voice Journal

Compensation to Be Paid to Those Affected by Shweli Embankment Construction in Katha Township

August 17, 2019

Due to the construction of Shweli embankment in Katha Township, farmers will be paid compensation for the damage incurred to their lands and crops, according U Nyi Nyi Tun, MP for Katha Township.

Shweli embankment was constructed by the Department of Irrigation between Wattu village and Kyungone village in Katha Township in 2016-17 fiscal year. The construction covered 7.54 acres of land that belong to nine farmers. The occasion for payment

will take place on August 17 at the vice-directorate office of the Department of Irrigation and Water Management.

"It was built on the land of nine farmers. They hold form-7 (certificate of entitlement to work on the land). After two years of requesting for compensation beginning in 2017 according to the farmland laws and by-laws at the regional hluttaw, now it's been granted," recounted U Nyi Nyi Tun.

The construction of the embankment was built on the land of the farmers and cost 1.5 million kyats.

Compensation worth 4,100, 000 kyats will be paid to the farmers, added U Nyi Nyi Tun.

Shweli embankment caused damage to the farmland, and since paddy, beans and other crops could not be planted, farmers faced financial difficulties in education, health care and daily subsistence. Compensations for the farmers had been requested from Katha Township Hluttaw offices numerous times, reported U Nyi Nyi Tun to Sagaing Region Hluttaw on July 26, 2017.

Reference: <http://www.7daydaily.com>

Rakhine State Hluttaw Approves Colonel Min Than as Minister of Security and Border Affairs



August 17, 2019

The Rakhine State Hluttaw has approved the appointment of Colonel Min Than as Minister for Rakhine State Security and Border Affairs.

State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu proposed Colonel Min Than in place of the former Minister Colonel Phone Tint on August 14, and the state hluttaw approved him unanimously.

He would carry out his responsibilities in accordance with the laws in the

constitution, vowed the new Minister of Border and Security Affairs.

"The constitution stipulates laws that concern the military. I'll carry out my duties according to those laws. Articles from 381 to 390 must be followed. All citizens should follow them and I'll try until peaceful and stable conditions are restored," continued Colonel Min Than.

The state lawmakers said they hoped Colonel would work well on the issues in the state.

"We have one hope. We have internal problems as well as Bengali issues. We hope the new minister would manage these issues smoothly," said U Aung Win, MP for Myaybon Township.

It has been over 8 months since the military and the Arakan Army have been clashing. Over 60,000 people have been fleeing from the conflicts. There has also been civilian casualties, injuries and arrests.

Reference: *Development Media Group*