



# State and Region Parliaments

## News Bulletin

# Inscriptions on Panglong Monument to Be Changed to Original Inscription

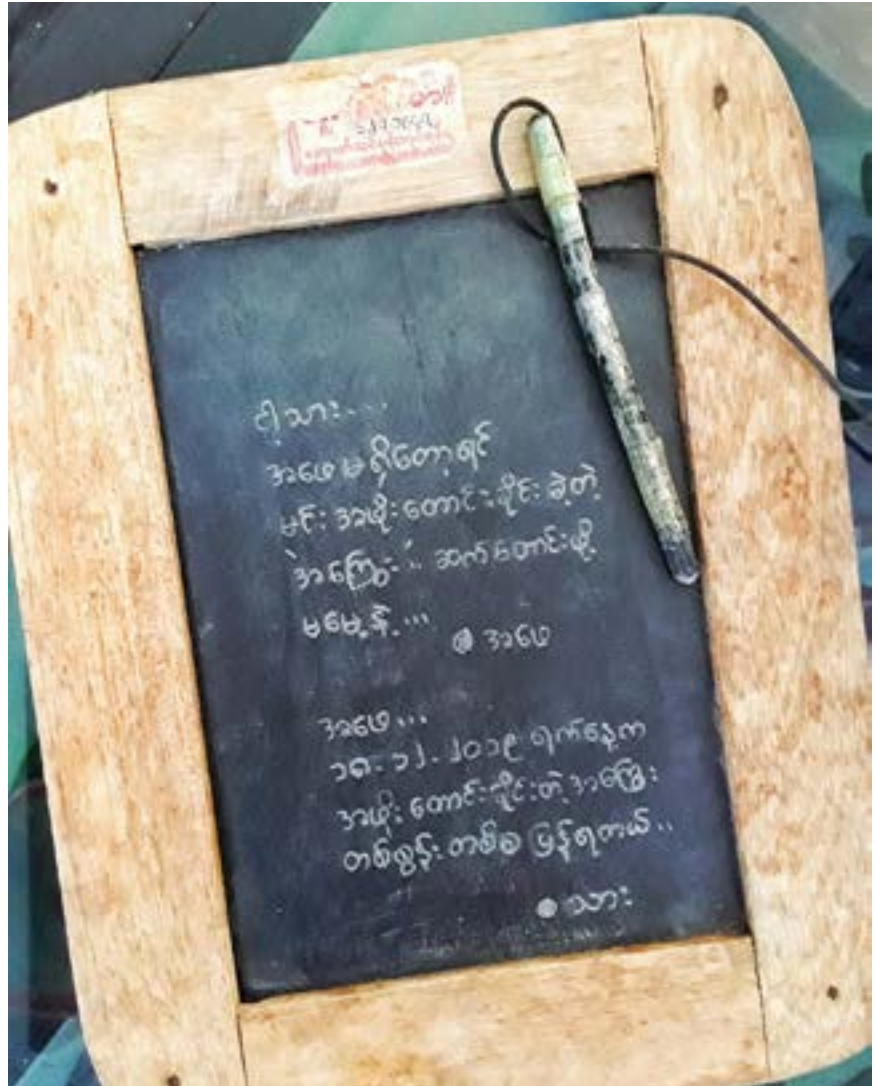
January 6, 2020

Upon MP for Mong Hsu Township Constituency (1) Sai Lynn Myat's question on the inscription on Panglong Monument in the seventeenth regular session of the second Shan State Hluttaw held on December 18, Minister for Development of Shan State Government, Sai Sun Seng, replied that the inscription will be replaced with the original inscription 'Frontier areas - Burma Proper Co-operation Agreement'. The question was asked in the Shan State Hluttaw because the Union Government failed to implement a promise made in Pyithu Hluttaw in response to the question posed by MP U Nay Myo of Nyaung Shwe Township.

Shan State Government meeting held on December 6, 2019 decided that the inscription should be replaced with the original inscription, and Minister Sai Sun Seng had said that it would be changed in time for Union Day. In addition, the vinyl portraits of the 23 leaders who signed the Panglong Agreement would be included, according to the minister.

Portraits of these 23 leaders were painted by Sai Lynn Myat in 2012, and with the invitation of the then President U Thein Sein in 2014, the exhibition of these portraits was held in Union Day dinner party and in Myanmar Peace Center. Currently, Sai Lynn Myat is preparing to print these portraits with high resolution on 6x4 feet vinyls to be put up around the Panglong Monument Park, and remarks from the Union Government have been requested.

It is believed that restoring to the original inscription would promote ethnic unity and reflect the real history.



"A fraction of 'history debt' owed since grandfather's time has been collected" is written on a blackboard slate. (Photo: Sai Lynn Myat Facebook)

Panglong Monument was erected in Panglong Township, Loi Lin District, South Shan State where U Aung San and some ethnic leaders inked the agreement to obtain independence from the British together. Eugenia post was erected as a monument, and the inscription

'Frontier areas - Burma Proper Co-operation Agreement' was made on it. As changes were made by successive governments, it now stands as 'Burma-Ethnic People Co-operation'.

Reference: Sai Lynn Myat, One News Myanmar



## Significant Higher Rate per Mile for Gravel Road Construction Questioned

January 3, 2020

On the first day of the fifteenth regular hluttaw session of Magway Region Hluttaw on January 2, MP for Aung Lan Township Constituency (2), U Aye Kyaw, posed a question on the higher cost per mile in rural gravel road construction in Magway Region in 2019-20 fiscal year by Rural Development Department with union fund compared to the rate using regional fund.

In response to the question, the Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, U Win Maw Htay, said that the cost per mile in gravel road construction in the fiscal year 2019-2020 is 24 million kyats. He said further that constructing a 18-foot gravel road includes works such as levelling the ground, filling in soil where necessary, laying gravel up to 6 inches and digging ditches; in 2019-20 fiscal year, to compact gravel and earth for one

inch in thickness cost 14.912 million kyats per mile; adding 9 more inches cost 14.48 million kyats. In addition to that, 25 foot space has to be cleared to construct the road. Rural Development Department constructed roads in farmlands, and to make sub grade with CBR values of 20%, a layer of gravel as thick as one foot has to be poured to make sub base. In short, since the process of road construction is different, the cost also varies. The roads constructed by Rural Development Department entail more processes given that they are constructed on farmland, and that if all the cost for each process is put into consideration, the rate is not that high, the minister explained. He added that follow-up questions on the quality of the road would be examined.

*Reference: Magway Region Hluttaw Facebook*

# The President Will Be Informed in Writing, if Yangon Chief Auditor Report Is Not Distributed in Hluttaw: Daw Nyo Nyo Thin



Daw Nyo Nyo Thin, the founder of Yangon Watch (Photo: Khin Moh Moh Lwin/Myanmar Now)

January 6, 2020

If Yangon Chief Auditor Report is not distributed to MPs in the upcoming hluttaw session and to the public, the president will be informed in writing, said Daw Nyo Nyo Thin, the founder of Yangon Watch.

Yangon Region Hluttaw session is scheduled to be held in January 8 and if the report is not made public in two weeks, she would write to the president and legal teams, she said.

Chief Auditor Report gives an account of programs by Yangon Region Government and whether public finance was spent according to financial rules and regulations.

In previous years, Chief Auditor report was submitted in the hluttaw and MPs and media had access to

it. However, 2017-18 report was given only to the chief minister and the speaker, not to members of the hluttaw.

To such situation, Daw Nyo Nyo Thin held a press conference today, entitled "Where is Chief Auditor Report?"

According to article 3 (A) (1) of anti-corruption law, withholding informing which the public has the right to know to benefit a certain group of people or attempt to protect the wrongdoings of a certain group of people amounts to corruption, Daw Nyo Nyo Thin said in the press conference, quoting the anti-corruption law.

MP for Thingangyun Township, U Nay Phone Latt said the law prescribes that he had the right to have

access to the report as a lawmaker.

"It is written that once the report is submitted to the chief minister, it should be presented to the hluttaw as well. That is to say the report should be submitted to the hluttaw, meaning it includes all the members of the hluttaw, not just the speaker of the hluttaw. This is how I understand the words written in the law," U Nay Phone Latt said.

The Chief Auditor report of the first fiscal year (2016-2017) of Yangon Region Government included issues such as land lease that were below the going rate and loss in billion kyats by companies founded by the government, and the anti-corruption commission was requested to probe into corruption.

Reference: <https://myanmar-now.org/mm>