



State and Region Parliaments

News Bulletin

Kachin State Chief Auditor’s Report Points out Certain Departments Not Acting According to Laws (Part - 1)



March 3, 2020

On the second day of the first Kachin State Hluttaw session in 2020, Kachin State chief auditor submitted findings on expenses in fiscal year 2018-2019.

According to the chief auditor’s report, certain government departments did not act in accordance with laws and proper procedures and cases included going beyond what the laws prescribe, budget allotment, and late submission of funds to the union government.

The report urged the state government to seriously manage on matters such as following existing

laws, refunding due to mistakes, budget allotment for previously completed projects, disbursement without proper checking, carrying out projects at substandard, timely and appropriate measures to be taken by authorities on grounds for corruptions and charges of corruption, said Kachin State Chief Auditor U Tin Hlaing.

In addition to the matters like requirements to pay fine for failure to complete projects on time, the hluttaw needs to carry out investigations as soon as possible on the projects that are not from current fiscal year using funds from unfinished projects and the need to cooperate for

investigation on such misconducts, the chief auditor told the hluttaw.

“The lack of transparency on granting tenders worth more than 10 million kyats to supposedly trustworthy companies to complete the work timely and thus flaunting tender rules and regulations gave rise to possibility of laxity in taking responsibility and accountability and grounds for unwanted problems to crop up. Thus, I urged the government to follow existing laws and instructions faithfully,” he said.

(To be continued...)

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

Overpass Built with Budget to Purchase Cars Opened

March 5, 2020

An overpass, built with a budget of 1 billion kyats which was rejected for buying cars by Yangon Regional Hluttaw and equipped with three escalators, was open in Dawbon Township at Thinbawgyin Bus-stop.

The Yangon Region Government's proposal to use 1 billion kyats to purchase 76 cars including 10 Fords was rejected by the hluttaw. The rejected money was used to construct the overpass, explained U Thant Zin, a lawmaker representing Dawbon Township.

“Dawbon really needs an overpass. It was built for people to travel safely,” he said.

The overpass is 107 feet long, 10 feet wide and has a clearance height of 18 feet. It also has three escalators, said U Nyan Thar, assistant chief engineer from Road and Bridge Engineering Department of Yangon City Development Council.

The 1 billion kyats was also used for repairing roads near the overpass that was just built, he added.

Reference: <https://thevoicejournal.com>

Mandalay Municipal and Fuel Scandal

Feb 24, 2020

Mandalay Region chief auditor's report expressly mentioned undertakings by Mandalay City Development Council from April to September 2018.

The report pointed out a fuel scam worth millions of kyats, certain projects not in accordance with rules and procedures and others going beyond mandates.

The regional audit office audited factory and vehicle department for the second half of fiscal year 2016-2017 starting on July 12, 2017.

When fuel and stock in storeroom was checked, it was found that 5044 gallons of diesel was gone missing, and U Kyaw Soe, a fuel and warehouse in-charge and junior engineer-2, was made to adjust the figure overnight, and the auditor report confirmed that the finding on the ground and the balance in the ledger matched, the chief auditor said.

However, Daw Khaing Thida Oo, accountant and vice-supervisor, informed that the balance in the ledger was made up, and an investigation team led by the department head took over the investigation.

The team found that U Kyaw Soe had siphoned off more than 180,000 gallons of fuel (154,828 gallons of diesel and 30,000 gallons of gasoline).

U Kyaw Soe adjusted the figure by himself, and over 180,000 gallons of fuel, worth more than 800 million kyats, did not make into the fuel storage tank of the department, and U Kyaw Soe breached civil servant code of conduct, Dr Ye Lwin said at the hluttaw.

Although U Kyaw Soe was made



Photo: Myat (Ka Lay)

to pay for the missing fuel and was dully dismissed from his position and as he did not do so, he was charged with article 409 of penal law on December 4, 2018.

“It's impossible that he siphoned off that large amount of fuel on his own account. Some higher authorities could be involved,” speculated Ko Kyaw Moe, a resident of Mandalay who is interested in the case.

However, U Kyaw Soe had confessed that no other person was involved, Mandalay governor told the hluttaw.

U Kyaw Soe will further be charged according to civil law, Dr Ye Lwin added.

Nevertheless, U Kyaw Soe has gone hiding as a fugitive from justice.

Reference: <https://thevoicejournal.com>



Photo: Nay Naw

Minister for Shan Ethnic Affairs Needed for Shans in Karen State

February 7, 2020

A minister for ethnic affairs who would speak for the Shans in Karen State is needed and will seek for one in the upcoming 2020 general election, according to U Aik Kyam Kam, chairman of Karen State Shan Literature and Culture Organisation and MP for Myawaddy Township (1).

“According to the survey conducted by Shan Literature and Culture Organisation in November 2019,

69,000 Shans are residing in Karen State. We make up a little over 0.1 percent of the population of Karen State. This number meets the requirement by law to have a minister for ethnic affairs. I have taken up this need to the hluttaw,” said U Aik Kyam Kam.

As there is not a minister of ethnic affairs for Shan people in Karen State, the Shans are facing some disadvantages, according to Sai Kaung Thet San, a member of

Shan National League for Democracy.

“We are at a disadvantage. For instance, we did not get sufficient budget for learning Shan language when the Mons, Karens, and Pa-Os received enough fund. We had to look for funds ourselves or rely on donors. This has made us fare behind other ethnicities. We will collect signatures and bring this up to Union Election Commission,” he said.

Reference: <https://kicnews.org>

MP’s Question about Complaint Letters and Minister’s Answer

March 5, 2020

It has been months since the government has not replied to people who have filed complaints, MP U Ye Myint Swe said at the Thanintharyi Region Hluttaw on February 4.

As article 6 of protection of citizens’ rights law ensures the full right to citizens who lodge complaints and according to article 9, “authorities that receive complaints must inform the complainants on the measures taken on the complaints,” what the government was doing with regards to complaint letters, U Ye Myint Swe raised a question in the hluttaw.

A minister answered the question on behalf of the regional government, but as he did not do so comprehensively that U Yin Myint Swe requested a complete answer, and the minister replied he would do so in writing.

The written answer from the regional government stated that the government was taking actions on complaint letters in a timely manner according to existing

laws and by-laws.

The government said that it was sending out instructions to respective government departments and district general administration departments to work on the complaint letters according to prescribed procedures and to complaint letters scrutinising teams to collaborate on the task.

The written answer read that the government was giving instruction to respective departments to inform complainants and the accused on points to be followed after complaint letters had been dealt with, and that it is seeking instructions on matters that are not under its mandates from union level. To that, U Ye Myint Swe said that he no longer wanted to make any further comments.

It is well known that the regional government has never informed people who have lodged complaints about whether the government received their complaints nor on what actions the government has taken with regards to complaint letters.

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