



# State and Region Parliaments

## News Bulletin



## Hluttaw Hearing Held in Taunggyi to Educate the Public about Land Tax Bill

March 17, 2020

It is reported that a hluttaw hearing was held in the City Hall of the capital of Shan State, Taunggyi, on March 12, in order that the public may know better a Shan State land tax bill.

“We want the public to have the knowledge of the role of hluttaw. With regards to the land tax bill, we asked civil society organizations, the government, department of planning, lawyers and administrative bodies how much land tax should be, given that previously a land tax of 1 kyat was collected for an acre of land, and what their opinions are on raising it to 600 to 700 kyats,” said Deputy Speaker of Shan State Hluttaw and Chairperson for Shan State Hluttaw Legislative Committee, U Sao Aung Myat.

According to the second Shan State Hluttaw Legislative Committee, the hearing had the following aims: to enforce the existing law, to strengthen the implementation of respective departments, to promote collaboration, to know whether existing laws are enforced and whether the public is abiding by them and to draft a good land tax law.

The second Shan State Hluttaw plans to have further public hearings at the former Hluttaw Hall (Kyar Gaung Hall).

“We explained about parliamentary procedures to the people. So far, the meetings have been between MPs and the public. There hasn't been a meeting between Shan State Hluttaw and the public. That is why I am doing this on behalf of the Speaker,” added U Sao Aung Myat.

The second Shan State Hluttaw

has written 4 local planning bills, 8 fiscal bills, 15 public bills; a total of 27 bills have been put forward to the Hluttaw; approved 25 laws and turned 1 bill to notification.

In the four years of the second Shan State Hluttaw, it has called 18 regular sessions, 4 emergency meetings, and 1 special meeting, approved 58 motions and raised 1004 starred questions.

The local people, parliamentary members of Shan State, government departments, civil society organizations and political parties attended the aforementioned hluttaw hearing.

Although the Shan State Hluttaw Office instructed to invite the media to the hluttaw committee hearing, some media were not able to attend it because for various reasons they did not get invitations.

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

# Performance Analysis of State and Region Hluttaws Conducted



**Shan State Hluttaw Office prepares statistics for research data. (Photo: EMReF)**

Enlightened Myanmar Research Foundation (EMReF) is conducting a research on the performance analysis of the second state and region hluttaws (2016-2019). Such research has been carried out on the first state and region hluttaws (2010-2015), and the current research continues the study of the four-year performance of sub-national hluttaws. The research aims to provide recommendations based on the findings to support

the strengthening of state and regional parliaments.

In addition to collecting and analysing performance statistics, the detailed qualitative study on legislation, oversight, public access and communication, institution building and individual capacity building, and the administrative support from hluttaw offices is in the design of the research.

In order to do a review of the

four-year performance of the second state and region hluttaws, EMReF began collecting data beginning in August 2019. To date, all information on hluttaw has been obtained from states and regions hluttaw but from Yangon Region Hluttaw. A series of key informant interviews are ongoing at nine states and regions. The research is set to be completed in June.

*Reference: Enlightened Myanmar Research Foundation*

## Ayeyarwady Region Hluttaw Session Resumes

**April 27, 2020**

On April 27, the Ayeyarwady Region Hluttaw session resumed to approve the budget for 2020-21 fiscal year.

“The session will be called only one day. We need to approve the budget for the following fiscal year,” said Regional Speaker U Aung Kyaw Khaing.

The day on which the hluttaw session is to be held is the second day of twenty-second regular session of

Ayeyarwady Region Hluttaw.

The first day of the session opened on March 27. However, it was suspended due to situation caused by covid-19.

The Speaker explained that the hluttaw session was postponed indefinitely, but now the session will take place only one day and then will be suspended.

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

# Rakhine Government Halts IDP Camp Construction led by Two MPs at Rathedaung

April 30, 2020

A letter signed by the minister of Rakhine State Security and Border Affairs contains only “to stop the camp construction in time as it has not obtained permission,” but the underlying reason is still unknown.

The Rakhine State Government, on April 29, released a directive to stop the construction of a camp for Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) at Rathedaung Township under the leadership of two State MPs.

Addressed to the chairman of Sittwe District Management Committee, the letter signed by the minister of Rakhine State Security and Border Affairs Colonel Min Than instructed to stop the construction that has not been approved.

The construction of the camp was being carried out at the outskirts of Rathedaung Township and was led by MP for Rathedaung Township Daw Khin Saw Wai and State MP U Than Naing, according to Daw Khin Saw Wai.

The camp was being built with donations from the local people for IDPs who are taking shelters in monasteries in Rathedaung Township, and that she was surprised over the government’s ban, she added.

“I am really sad that the government has stopped such work intended to help the people in difficulty,” she said.

There are about 20,000 IDPs fleeing the armed conflicts between the Tatmadaw and the Arakan Army (AA), and the camp was meant for them, said Daw Khin Saw Wai.

According to the data by Rathedaung-based aid-groups, there are about 30,000 IDPs in all over Rathedaung Township, of which about 20,000 are in Rathedaung Township proper taking refuge in 15 separate camps.

With regards to the written prohibition by the State Security and Border Affairs, Minister Colonel Min Than could not be reached for comment.

According to a Rathedaung resident who has earnestly volunteered for IDPs, the ban could be for security reasons both for soldiers from 538th battalion stationing nearby and for IDPs themselves.

Daw Khin Saw Wai said that although security forces have not removed the camp, it remains for camp construction leaders to decide how to proceed.

Villages along the Mayu river banks have been most affected by the armed conflicts and most of the inhabitants have fled to Rathedaung Township.

According to a report published on March 31 by Rakhine Ethnic Congress (REC), there are about 157,291 IDPs in 10 townships throughout Rakhine State.

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



IDP camp under construction out of Rathedaung Township. (Photo : Khin Saw Wai-FaceBook)