Foreword

The Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) on Hluttaw Development is very pleased to publish the first edition of the illustrated brochure of the Hluttaw of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Playing a role of fundamental importance for Myanmar’s democratization process, the Hluttaw is still young. It is now in the second year of its second term following the first five-year-term. The publication of the brochure is timely as it is essential for the people to familiarize with the Hluttaw which is formed of their representatives.

This brochure will help the public who visit the Hluttaw to understand its functions. It can provide information both to the public and to the students yet to visit the Hluttaw.

The Hluttaw will be stronger and more effective if the people are actively engaged in its functions of Legislation, Oversight and Representation. Only when the people strongly trust the Hluttaw, can they fully enjoy the benefit of democracy.

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U T Khun Myat
Chairman
Joint Coordination Committee on Hluttaw Development
1. The Composition of the Hluttaw (Parliament)

1.1 The Term of the Hluttaw

One term of a Hluttaw is five years from the day of the first session of Pyithu Hluttaw (House of Representatives).

1.2 Composition of the Hluttaw

- **Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament):**
  - 440 representatives

- **Pyithu Hluttaw (House of Representatives):**
  - 110 representatives are the Defence Services personnel nominated by the Commander-in-Chief in accordance with the law
  - Not more than 330 representatives are elected on the basis of township/population

- **Amyotha Hluttaw (House of Nationalities):**
  - 224 representatives
  - 168 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives are elected in an equal number of 12 from each of the 14 States and Regions
  - 56 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives are the Defence Services personnel nominated by the Commander-in-Chief in accordance with the law

'REPRESENTATIVES

HLUTTAW REPRESENTATIVES

YEARS
1.3 Head of Hluttaw

The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw will serve as the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in the first thirty months of the parliament term.

For the remaining thirty months of the term of the parliament, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw become the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

NAME | U Win Myint  
CONSTITUENCY | Tamwe  
POLITICAL PARTY | National League for Democracy  
• Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw

NAME | Mahn Winn Khaing Thann  
CONSTITUENCY | Constituency Number (8), Kayin State  
POLITICAL PARTY | National League for Democracy  
• Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw

NAME | U Aye Tha Aung  
CONSTITUENCY | Constituency Number (6), Rakhine State  
POLITICAL PARTY | Arakan National Party  
• Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw

NAME | U T Khun Myat  
CONSTITUENCY | Kut Khai  
POLITICAL PARTY | Independent  
• Deputy Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw
The system for electing representatives to the Hluttaw in Myanmar is the First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) system. Members of the Hluttaw represent a different size of population as the States and Regions differ in area and population.

Not more than 330 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, one each from the 330 townships, are elected on the basis of townships or population. For the Amyotha Hluttaw, representatives are elected in an equal number of 12 each from the 14 States and Regions.

The elections for both the Union level Hluttaws and the State and Region Hluttaws are held simultaneously every five years.
3. Hluttaw Representatives

MEMBERS OF THE PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW

435 MEMBERS
PYITHU HLUTTAW

224 MEMBERS
AMYOTH A HLUTTAW

493 MEMBERS
ELECTED MEMBERS

166 MEMBERS
DEFENCE PERSONNEL

3.1 Composition of the Hluttaw Representatives

STATE/REGION
(330 Constituencies)

- KACHIN
- KAYAH
- KAYIN
- CHIN
- SAGAING
- TANINTHARYI
- BAGO
- MAGWAY
- MANDALAY
- MON
- RAKHINE
- YANGON
- SHAN
- AYEYARWADY
- DEFENCE PERSONNEL

PYITHU HLUTTAW REPRESENTATIVES
AS OF 18 MAY 2017

255
National League for Democracy

30
Union Solidarity and Development Party

14
Shan National League for Democracy

13
Arakan National Party

3
Pa-O National Organization

3
Ta’ang National Party

2
Lisu National Development Party

2
Zomi Congress for Democracy

1
Kachin State Democracy Party

1
Kokant Democracy and Unity Party

1
Wa Democratic Party

1
Independent

110
Defence Service Personnel

Total 435

224 MEMBERS
AMYOTH A HLUTTAW

389 MEN
46 WOMEN

PARTY COMPOSITION OF PYITHU HLUTTAW REPRESENTATIVES

435 CURRENT NUMBER OF MEMBERS

440 SEATS IN TOTAL

435 MEMBERS
PYITHU HLUTTAW

166 MEMBERS
DEFENCE PERSONNEL

10
11
3.2 Functions of Representatives in Hluttaw

- Submitting, scrutinising, discussing and approving bills in accordance with the Constitution;
- Putting forward motions and raising questions;
- Coordination with the relevant organs of State and authorities for the development of the State and Constituencies (which does not conflict with the Constitution);
- Relevant Hluttaw committees coordinate with Union level institutions and State/Regional level institutions through Hluttaw offices for the greatest benefit of citizens;
- Inviting constituents to the Hluttaw to observe its functions.
3.3 Representing the Constituents

"Informing and presenting to constituents about the members’ actions in the Hluttaw."

3.4 A Typical Day of a Representative

- Representing constituents for their greatest benefit;
- Participating in Hluttaw Sessions;
- Implementing committee work after the Hluttaw Session;
- Attending trainings and workshops;
- Engaging in discussions on current affairs with experts from Government, Ministries and Civil Societies.

Functions of the Hluttaw
4. Functions of the Hluttaw

Functions of the respective Hluttaws include:

- Electing Speakers and Deputy Speakers;
- Electing President and Vice-Presidents;
- Representing people;
- Law making;
- Checking and balancing the executive and judiciary.

4.1 Electing the Speakers and Deputy Speakers of Hluttaw; Electing the President and Vice-Presidents

Firstly, the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw select one chairperson each. The list of candidates is submitted to the Chairperson. Each of them have to agree to serve if elected. If there are more candidates than one, the Speaker position is decided by secret ballot.

4.2 Representing the People

Hluttaw is an entity that most effectively represents the people. Hluttaw is striving to abide by its motto: "People’s Voice, Hluttaw’s Voice, People’s Will, Hluttaw’s Will, People’s Expectation, Hluttaw’s Implementation.”
4.3 Law Making

Bills submitted by the President, Union level institutions, Hluttaw committees, the Union Government and the Hluttaw Representatives are discussed, scrutinized and approved. The laws that are no longer relevant to the current situation are also reviewed, amended, repealed or replaced through the discussions in the Hluttaw. The Hluttaw discusses and enacts laws to ensure the safety and development of the people.

4.4 Checking and Balancing the Executive and Judiciary

Hluttaw representatives check and balance the executive and judiciary by raising questions, putting motions forward and by submitting reports of the committees. The needs and information requests of the people can be submitted to the Union Government and the Supreme Court of the Union through the Hluttaw offices.

Moreover, the Hluttaw also oversees the activities of the Union ministries in accordance with rules.

4.5 Organising Hluttaw Sessions

The regular session of the Hluttaw is to be held at least once a year. The longest period between two consecutive regular sessions should not exceed 12 months. The first day of the Hluttaw session is official if more than half of the eligible representatives attend. The date of the Hluttaw session may be postponed if the attendance is lower. If one-third of the eligible representatives attend, the adjourned session is official.

The Hluttaw session is held from 10am to 4pm on working days. The Hluttaw may also permit an extension of time limit if necessary.
5. Functions of the Hluttaw Sessions

5.1 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Sessions

The following issues shall be discussed exclusively in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The following functions are carried out at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw sessions:

(a) Recording the address delivered by the President;

(b) Reading and recording the message sent by the President and other messages permitted by the Speaker;

(c) Submitting, discussing and approving a Bill;

(d) Discussing and resolving on the remarks of the President concerning a Bill approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw;

(e) Discussing and resolving on matters to be undertaken by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in accord with the provisions of the Constitution;

(f) Discussing, resolving and recording the reports submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw;

(g) Submitting, discussing and resolving proposals,

(h) Raising questions and replying;

(i) Undertaking matters approved by the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

5.2 Pyithu Hluttaw Sessions and Amyotha Hluttaw Sessions

The following functions are carried out at the Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaw sessions:

(a) Recording the address delivered by the President;

(b) Reading and recording the message sent by the President and other messages permitted by the Speaker;

(c) Submitting, discussing and resolving on a Bill;

(d) Discussing and resolving on the matters to be undertaken by the respective Hluttaws in accord with the provisions of the Constitution;

(e) Discussing, resolving and recording the reports submitted to the respective Hluttaws;

(f) Submitting proposals, discussing and resolving;

(g) Raising questions and replying;

(h) Performing matters approved by the Speaker of the respective Hluttaw.
5.3 The Legislative Process

A bill, submitted in accordance with law, will be first introduced to either the Pyithu Hluttaw or the Amyotha Hluttaw. After approval or amendment by that Hluttaw it will be sent to the other Hluttaw and will undergo the same process. If there is no disagreement on the bill between the two Hluttaws, it shall be regarded approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. In case of disagreement between the two houses, the bill will be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for consideration and approval.

The approved bill can be signed by the President within 14 days of receipt from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The President can also send the bill back to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw with amendments for suggested changes. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw may agree to amend the bill accordingly or may not agree to amend. In both cases, the bill will be sent back to the President. It will become law within seven days with or without the President’s signature.
5.4. Questions and Proposals

Hluttaw representatives may submit proposals for the interest of the State and its citizens, on matters relating to governmental institutions or on other matters permitted by Speaker. The aim of submitting proposals is to urge the responsible departments to undertake actions appropriately for the benefit of the people.

Types of Questions

There are two types of questions used by the Hluttaw Representatives to ask the Ministries about information of public interest, the status of work done for constituents and the effectiveness of the projects of the relevant departments.

- Starred questions (The ministry has to respond verbally in person.)
- Unstarred questions (The ministry may respond in writing.)

The representatives may, via the Hluttaw, raise questions to the Union Government on matters related to the actions of the government and matters addressing the needs of constituents.

5.5 Scrutiny and Approval of the Union Budget

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw scrutinizes the Union Budget submitted by the Union Government by approving, rejecting or reducing the proposed budget with the consent of the majority of the Hluttaw representatives.

5.6 Public Participation

The Hluttaws are actively engaged in activities to increase public participation. These activities include forming committees to receive public complaints about grievances or losses, organising workshops to elicit suggestions from civil society and collecting feedback from the public on bills, etc.
6. Hluttaw Committees

6.1 The Role of Hluttaw Committees

The Hluttaw plenary sessions will never have enough time to discuss thoroughly on the impacts of laws on the lives of the people. Committees are thus formed to closely study the laws for recommendations, to analyze impacts on people and on different issues, and to spare time for discussions with public, experts, civil societies, and academia. The functions of the plenary are carried out in such detail by committees. For that reason, the committees are called 'small parliaments' within the parliament.

Committees from respective Hluttaws are now striving to ensure oversight on the work of the ministries, to check and balance and to protect the rights of the citizens.

The reports of the committees with analytical information on respective issues are submitted to the Hluttaw for discussions.

6.2 Forming Committees

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

There are three joint committees in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw: the Joint Bill Committee; the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Representative Scrutiny Committee; and the Public Accounts Joint Committee. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall also form other joint committees necessary to scrutinise and provide recommendations on legislation, governance, ethnic nationality issues, economics, finances, social issues, foreign affairs and other matters, with Hluttaw representatives for a specified duration. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw may form commissions and other bodies with the Hluttaw representatives or by including suitable citizens for a specified duration as well to study remaining matters other than those studied by committees.

Currently the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has formed the Commission for the Assessment of Legal Affairs and Special Issues.

Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw both have standing committees (as per the list on the next page) and shall form ad-hoc committees to examine matters relating to legislation, governance, ethnic nationality issues, economics, finances, social issues, foreign affairs and others for a limited time.
### PYITHU HLUTTAW

**4 STANDING COMMITTEES**
- Bill Committee
- Public Accounts Committee
- Hluttaw Rights Committee
- Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee

**15 AD-HOC COMMITTEES**
1. Justice and Legal Affairs Committee
2. Citizen’s Fundamental Rights Committee
3. Public Management Committee
4. Peasantry and Labour Committee
5. International Relations Committee
6. Ethnic Affairs and Internal Peace Making Committee
7. Banks and Monetary Affairs Development Committee
8. Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Rural Development Committee
9. Education Promotion Committee
10. Health and Sports Promotion Committee
11. Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee
12. Transport, Communication and Construction Committee
13. Investment and Industrial Development Committee
14. Electricity and Energy Development Committee
15. Economic and Financial Development Committee

### AMYOTHA HLUTTAW

**4 STANDING COMMITTEES**
- Bill Committee
- Public Accounts Committee
- Hluttaw Rights Committee
- Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee

**12 AD-HOC COMMITTEES**
1. International Relations and Interparliamentary Cooperation and Relations Committee
2. Local and International Non-Governmental Organizations Committee
3. Health, Sport, and Culture Committee
4. Ethnic Affairs Committee
5. Peasant Affairs Committee
6. Women and Children Affairs Committee
7. Education Promotion Committee
8. Local and Overseas Labour Affairs Committee
9. Citizens’ Fundamental Rights, the Democracy and Human Rights Committee
10. Mineral, Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee
11. Public Complaints Committee
12. Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Rural Development Committee

### 7. Hluttaw Visits

Hluttaw representatives are the elected voices of the people. People should visit the Hluttaw in person to witness their representatives undertaking their parliamentary functions.
7.1 Requirements for Hluttaw Visits

A. Members of the public wishing to visit must send a letter addressed to the Director Generals of the respective Hluttaws (Pyidaungsu, Pyithu or Amyotha) at least three days in advance.

B. The letter should contain following information and shall be sent via postal mail, e-mail or fax.

1. Date and time of visit
2. List of visitor names and their respective National Registration Card numbers
3. Passport numbers for foreign visitors
4. Contact phone number
5. Vehicle license plate number, name and N.R.C number of the driver - Relevant Hluttaw Representative may be contacted for assistance should there be any difficulty.

C. Hluttaw visitors must always observe the rules of the Hluttaw.

7.2 Services Offered by Respective Hluttaws

Depending on request and available time, the following services can be arranged by Hluttaw staff;

1. Observing Hluttaw session;
2. Visiting Hluttaw libraries and Archive;
3. Visiting Hluttaw buildings;
4. Meeting with Hluttaw representatives;
5. Observation of Hluttaw’s landmarks.

7.3 Contact

PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW OFFICE
Fax, Phone: 067 591414, 067 591309
Website: www.pyidaungsu.hluttaw.mm
Email: visitorservices.pds@gmail.com

PYITHU HLUTTAW OFFICE
Fax, Phone: 067 591283
Website: www.pyithuhluttaw.gov.mm
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