

Thura NewsViews

Politics

■ **By-election majority seats secured by ruling party NLD**

A by-election was held on November 3rd for four vacant seats for the Lower House of parliament, one seat for the Upper House and eight seats for regional parliaments. The NLD won in the constituencies in Tamwe, Minbu, Ottwin, Mandalay Region Shan Ethnicity Minister, Thabeikkyin, Myingyan and Kanpetlet. The opposition Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) secured three vacant seats in Kachin State Upper House, Seikkan (Yangon) and Tamu. The Chin League for Democracy (CLD) won Matupi. The Shan National League for Democracy (SNLD) secured a Lower House parliamentary seat in Lechar Township. Independent candidate U Tin Maung Win, son of Dr. Aye Maung, won Yathaedaung Township-2. President U Win Myint and wife cast their ballots in Tamwe Township Constituency where he secured a lower house parliamentary seat in the 2015 Election. The ruling NLD formed the government after winning a landslide victory in the 2015 Election. The NLD secured 9 (47 per cent) of 19 vacant seats in the by-election in 2017. The voter turnout rate, however, was significantly lower in comparison to last year.

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November Highlights

Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population has upgraded the Wan Pong check point in Tachilek, Shan State, making it an international border entry point for Myanmar and Laos.

AGD Bank is now accepting EMV-based UnionPay chip card transactions in all its ATMs, becoming the first bank in Myanmar to offer the service.

Myanmar's Supervisory Committee for Vehicle Imports announced that only left-hand drive vehicles can be imported into Myanmar next year.

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Companies & Investments

Hot news regarding investments in Myanmar




Yangon to receive much needed new bus stops

Jul 12, 2018
U Maung Aung, secretary of the Yangon Region Transport Authority, stated this week that FMIDecaux ha

Hello Communications to build train station along Yangon Circular Railway

Jul 12, 2018
Through a joint venture with a local firm, Hello Communications will commence its work at Thamine st

Upcoming Events

Myanmar Blockchain Forum 2018
July 14, 2018

Myanmar Supply Chain Summit
August 29, 2018

Health & Humanitarian Supply Chain Forum
August 30, 2018

Myanmar Global Investment Forum
September 11, 2018 - September 12, 2018

Myanmar Connect 2018
September 18, 2018 - September 19, 2018

[More Events](#) [Submit Event](#)

Highlights

Trade with the Netherlands exceeds USD 61 million
July 12, 2018
Bilateral trade with the Netherlands reached USD 61.98 million in two months according to the ...

■ Myanmar traders warned against crackdown on illegal diesel re-export

The Ministry of Commerce warned Myanmar traders and wholesale centers about the crackdown by the Chinese government on illegal diesel export. The illegal diesel export market is bigger in Yunnan Province since 2018. The office of the Myanmar Consul in Kunming, informed about the crackdown expected until the end of this year. The ministry instructed to avoid unnecessary disputes between Myanmar and China related with the crackdown, according to traders. Although Myanmar allowed the re-export of diesel to China officially, China assumed it as illegal import. Myanmar allowed re-exports starting from 2015-16 FY to increase export volume. Sugar and diesel exports have been among the highest in volume. With the rapid depreciation of the Myanmar Kyat from starting in June, Myanmar suspended the re-export of sugar and fuel oil starting from third week of August. However, traders still actively continued to export diesel with their re-export licenses valid until October.

Myanmar in Figures

GDP (PPP): \$330.88bn (2017)

GDP (official ex.rate): \$59.5bn (Jan 2018)

GDP growth rate: 7.23% (2017)

Population: 52.92 mn people (Oct 2017)

Inflation: 6.5% (2017)

Foreign trade: \$29.2bn (2016-2017)

FDI: \$75bn (31/12/2017)

International reserves: \$5.2bn (Jan 2018)

CBM rate Kyat/\$ = 1,562K/1\$ (08/11/18)

Economy

■ Garment sector faces struggle if EU withdraws tax exemptions

The garment sector in Myanmar will struggle if the European Union (EU) revokes its GSP/ EBA privileges on Myanmar, say experts. According to EU EBA Monitoring Mission, the EU listed Myanmar as one of top ten countries in clothing imports. GSP/ EBA are a special privilege for member countries in which taxes are exempted for products that are exported to EU countries. The EU granted the GSP/ EBA privilege to Myanmar in June 2013. Tax exemption ranges from 8-15 percent depending on clothing types. An EU mission recently started its three-day visit to Myanmar to monitor human rights issues in the country and meet with ILO, labour unions, factory owners and civic organizations. Based on the findings, the mission will recommend whether the EU should withdraw the GSP/ EBA or not. Garment exports to the EU have seen growth since 2013 and the share of the EU in 2018 reached 55 percent of Myanmar's total garment exports.

■ UK to assist renewable energy projects in Myanmar

The United Kingdom will assist Myanmar in implementing renewable energy projects, said Douglas Barnes, director of the UK's Department for International Trade. He said the governments of the UK and Myanmar will be in discussion to draft policies and regulations. Required technologies, workshops and training will be provided to implement renewable energy projects, once the policies are in place. The UK has established a £ 15 million fund that will be used until 2020. The projects for carbon reduction, renewable energy and energy utilization projects will be funded in six ASEAN member states. Feasibility studies of wind and solar energy projects in Myanmar will be provided from the fund. He said "Myanmar can meet its carbon reduction targets, but everyone needs to cooperate for this project to be successful". The Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MOEE) is drafting a renewable energy law to develop the sector, aiming to generate 8 percent of the country's electricity through renewable sources of energy by 2021.

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Companies and Investments

■ Auntie Anne's to be brought to Myanmar by Yoma

Singapore-listed Yoma Strategic Holdings signed a franchise deal with US Focus Brands to bring Auntie Anne's soft pretzels brand to Myanmar. In the coming months, the first outlet in Yangon will be opened. Myanmar will be the latest addition for the American soft pretzel franchise. Auntie Anne's has 1,800 outlets across 30 countries and has established a strong presence in the ASEAN region. While Myanmar's economy has seen a slowdown and a drop of investor confidence, some international brands still continued to expand their presence in Myanmar to tap into the growing consumer market. Yoma stated that its food and beverage business is targeting the shifting consumption patterns and the rising disposable income of the country's growing middle class. The group's F&B subsidiary stated to reach a USD 10 million turnover by 2022, according to reports. Auntie Anne's will be joining KFC and Little Sheep Hotpot in Yoma's food and beverage franchise portfolio. The first franchise of Little Sheep is planned to be opened by end of this year.

■ Rent 2 Own Myanmar raises USD 6mn funding

Rent 2 Own (Myanmar) Ltd, a motorcycle rental service, has raised USD 6 million in fresh funding from Germany's development finance institution Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH (DEG), and agRIF, an impact-focused fund managed by global impact asset manager Incofin Investment Management. Daiwa PI Partners is also acquiring a stake in Rent 2 Own by buying out an existing shareholder. Launched in January 2016, Rent 2 Own charges users a monthly rental fee, which covers maintenance and insurance. Users have choice whether to upgrade from an old motorcycle and/or buy the bike during the duration of the contract. They have reportedly partnered with over 400 motorcycle dealers in Myanmar. The company claims to have served about 70,000 clients through 34 branches across Myanmar, with coverage from Ayeyarwaddy Region to Shan State. More than 150 new branches are planned to be opened to achieve its five-year target.

Events

Name	Details	Organizer/Ministries	Contact Information
Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) 2018	Venue: 45 events throughout Myanmar Date: 12-18 Jan 2019	Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association (MYEA)	eo@myea.org.mm +95 1 230 1867, 230 1573
The 2nd Myanmar Textile Summit 2018	Venue: Sedona Hotel, Yangon Date: 12-13 Nov 2018	Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association & ECV International	dennisz@ecvinternational.com +86 21 8026 0707-818
5 th Myanmar Power Summit	Venue: Melia Hotel, Yangon Date: 15-16 Nov 2018	Centre for Management Technology	grace@cmtsp.com.sg +65 634 69147
Asia IoT Business Platform	Venue: Sedona Hotel, Yangon Date: 15-16 Nov 2018	Asia IoT Business Platform	http://iotbusiness-platform.com/register/
Myanmar Clinical Conference	Venue: Mercure Mandalay Hill Resort, Mandalay Date: 16-18 Nov 2018	Medical Tours Australia	https://www.medicaltoursaustralia.com.au/myanmar-2018/myanmar-clinical-conference-1618-november/
Greater Mekong Forum on Water, Food, and Energy	Venue: Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon Date: 4-6 Dec 2018	CGIAR Consortium	contact@cgiar.org +33 4 67 04 75 75
Myanmar Offshore Summit, Conference and Exhibition	Venue: tbc Date: 13-14 Dec 2018	Organizing Committee of MOSCE, Supported by EuroCham	http://www.myanmaroffshore.org/en/Event_Agenda.aspx
6th International Exhibition & Conference on Pharmaceutical & Medical Industry	Venue: Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon Date: 14-16 Dec 2018	Minh Vi Exhibition & Advertisement Services Co., Ltd (VEAS)	info@veas.com.vn +84 28 3848 8561~63
Invest Myanmar Summit 2019	Venue: MICC-II, Nay Pyi Taw Date: 08-09 Jan 2019	Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI)	umfcci@mptmail.net.mm +95(0)1 231 4344 ~ 49
Mobile Money & Agent Banking Summit	Venue: Yangon Date: 19-20 Feb 2019	Magenta Global Pte Ltd	enquiry@magenta-global.com.sg +65 6846 2360

Tenders

■ Ministry of Electricity and Energy: Open Tender

1. Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy invites an open tender for the supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Description	Remark
(a)	IFB-034(18-19)	Three Phase Separator for Production 1,000 PSI (1) Set	USD
(b)	DMP/L-132(18-19)	Spares of N-815 Swivel Main Bearing (1) Set	MMK
(c)	DMP/L-133(18-19)	Skid Mounted Water Transfer Pump with Motor (700 igpm × 700 ft head), 185 KW (2) Sets	MMK
(d)	DMP/L-134(18-19)	Skid Mounted Water Transfer Pump with Engine (200 igpm × 300 psi), (73 -97) KW (1) Set	MMK
(e)	DMP/L-135(18-19)	Skid Mounted Crude Transfer Pump with Engine (100 igpm × 300 psi), 75 KW (3) Sets	MMK
(f)	DMP/L-136(18-19)	900 Series Well Head Equipment (2) Sets	MMK
(g)	DMP/L-137(18-19)	600 Series Well Head Equipment (4) Sets	MMK

2. The open tender forms including descriptions of materials / Qty with detailed specifications and tender terms and conditions are available free download at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy website www.moe.gov.mm as from **1st November, 2018**. Tender forms will not be sold.
3. The interested bidders should submit the technical specifications with original bid bond and commercial quotation in each separate sealed envelopes on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **2:00 p.m. on 26th November, 2018**.
4. Tender closing date and time is **26th November, 2018 at 02:00 p.m.**
5. Further information can be obtained under telephone number: +95-67-411206 within office hours.

■ Ministry of Electricity and Energy: Invitation for Prequalification

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a loan from the Japan International Cooperation Agency toward the cost of the Hydropower Plant Rehabilitation Project.

The project intends to reduce the unplanned power outage and improve the remaining life of the power plants by rehabilitating the equipment of Baluchaung No. 1 Hydropower Plant in Kayah State and Sedawgyi Hydropower Plant in Mandalay Region.

The work in contract packages 3 intends to rehabilitate and to improve the performance of substation facilities in both plants.

It is intended part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract resulting from the bidding for which this prequalification is conducted.

2. The Electric Power Generation Enterprise intends to prequalify contractors and/or firms for Rehabilitation of Relevant Substation and Transmission Line Facilities in Hydropower Plants Rehabilitation Project.

The subjected Substations are two stations in the two hydropower plants. For convenience, the facilities and functions as substation in these power plants are defined as substations as follows:

Power Plant Name	Definition of Plants in this Document
Baluchaung No.1 Hydropower Plant	Baluchaung No.1 Substation
Sedawgyi Hydropower Plant	Sedawgyi Substation

The project comprises Package 3 and other two packages as follows:

Package 1	Baluchaung No.1 Hydropower Plant Generation facilities rehabilitation
Package 2	Sedawgyi Hydropower Plant Generation facilities rehabilitation

- It is expected that invitation for bids will be made in January, 2019.
- Prequalification will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all applicants from eligible source countries.
- Interested eligible applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the prequalification documents during the office hour at:

Address: Project Director of Hydropower Plants Rehabilitation Project
Renewable Energy and Hydropower Plant Department,
Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE),
Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MOEE)
Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Phone: +95-67-8104269, +95-67-8104270

Fax: +95-67-8104273

Email: renewablebranch@gmail.com

- A complete set of the prequalification documents may be purchased by interested applicant (s) on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of MMK 300,000.

Address: Procurement Department,
Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE),
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Phone: +95-67-8104279

Time: from **10:00 a.m. to 03:30 p.m. on 6th ~ 19th November, 2018**

- Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the following address before **03:00 p.m. on 18th December, 2018** and be clearly marked "**Application to Prequalify for Hydropower Plants Rehabilitation Project Package - 3**"

Address: Yadanar Hall
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Phone: +95-9424685463, +95-9797137280