

# Thura NewsViews

## Politics

### GAD to be brought under civilian control by Government

The government has said that it plans to move the powerful General Administration Department (GAD) from military to civilian rule, according to an article in Frontier. This is one of the most significant reforms to take place under the current government. The department would be moved from the military-controlled Ministry of Home Affairs to the Ministry of Union Government Office. The ministry was established in November 2017. "The policy has been already laid down. We are working according to the procedure to implementing it," government spokesperson U Zaw Htay mentioned. He added that the move would strengthen the administrative structure and make it more effective. The GAD has a presence in all of Myanmar's 330 townships, and its role is to oversee things such as local administration, land management and tax collection.

### Landmine clearing still not a priority in Myanmar

Landmine clearing is still not a priority in Myanmar, with thousands being injured by the devices every year. The International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) said that international donors spent US\$ 6.2 million on landmine-related activities. However, none of that went towards mine-clearing. Instead, they were spent on surveys, risk education and victim assis-

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### December Highlights

Abba Aluminium Co., Ltd opened its factory in Thilawa SEZ on 24 Dec. Initial investment amounted to USD 13 million and 300-500 local employees will be hired.

The Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University was selected among participants from 182 countries as this year's winner of the Energy Globe Award in Japan.

Local digital payments provider Ongo and mobile data operator Ananda yesterday announced a partnership to expand the reach of their services in Myanmar.

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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

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**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 ...

tance, said Yeshua Moser-Puangsuwan, ICBL research coordinator. “Myanmar is not part of conventions prohibiting the use of mines and cluster munitions, so international donors cannot conduct mine-clearing legally in the country,” he said. Most part of the country are contaminated by landmines as a result of Myanmar’s long history of ethnic conflicts.

#### ■ **Lawyers for jailed Reuters pair outline appeal**

An appeal hearing for two Reuters journalists sentenced to seven years imprisonment was held at the Yangon Region High Court. Lawyers acting on behalf of the journalists have laid out their reasons for why the pair should be acquitted. According to an article in Frontier, one of the lawyers for the pair, U L Khun Ring Pan, said that the district court was wrong to convict the pair. Whether the accusations against them amounted to a breach of the Official Secrets Act or not was not considered. The testimony of a prosecution witness who said the pair was deliberately entrapped was not considered. U Than Zaw Aung, another lawyer representing the pair, said he expected to have to wait two weeks for the court to reach a verdict.

### Economy

#### ■ **IFC Report recommends alternative to Myitsone Dam**

A new study by IFC has recommended not re-starting the controversial Myitsone hydropower dam in Kachin State. Alternative measures to develop hydropower in the country are also put forward. The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) proposes multiple dams on specific rivers, with other waterways left untouched. It says that dams on major riverways risk destroying their rich ecosystems, placing a burden on the communities that rely on the rivers for their livelihoods. The Ayeyarwady – where the Myitsone is located – and the Thanlwin, also known as the Salween are examples. The report says that Myitsone should be avoided because of the negative downstream impacts. The development of new hydropower should be prioritized on rivers with lower environmental risks, according to the report. Development of the dam at Myitsone is “not considered to be consistent with sustainable hydropower principles”, the report said. The Myitsone was one of seven hydropower projects planned in the upper parts of the Ayeyarwady River. It was postponed by then-president U Thein Sein in 2011 for the duration of his term. The ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) has not made a decision as to whether on it will re-start. Communities in Kachin State are particularly against the project, due to the environmental risks. It is located in an area where it is considered an important part of the Kachin people’s heritage.

### Companies and Investments

#### ■ **Myanmar Strategic Holdings takes control of MS English**

Myanmar Strategic Holdings (MSH) has taken full control of MS English Pte Ltd. MSH previously held 92 percent in the company, according to Dealstreet Asia. The buying over of the remaining eight percent from a former employee has given it full control of the company. MS English operates the Wall Street English franchise. MSH has made increased investments in Myanmar’s educa-

#### 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/\$ = 1,558K/1\$ (27/12/18)

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tion sector in recent months. Investments include the Yangon American International School, due to open next year, as well as Auston College Myanmar. “While pursuing further growth opportunities, MSH’s management remains focused on controlling costs and generating synergies across the group’s divisions, to further enhance the group’s prospects going forward,” Enrico Cesenni, MSH CEO was quoted as saying.

■ **Yoma Land launches housing unit at Star City**

Yoma Land, a part of the Serge Pun and Associates group (SPA), has launched new housing units called City Loft. The project that caters to the middle-income market is located at Star City, Thanlyin. According to a report in Myanmar Business Today, City Loft aims to combine “a competitive price point with mortgage repayment terms of up to 25 years”. It enables middle-income earners to buy their own homes. This has for long been a challenge in Myanmar’s challenging housing market. “[A] lack of financing and the relatively high cost of housing, new home ownership has traditionally been out of reach for most people,” Serge Pun was quoted as saying in the article. “Yoma Land’s favorable mortgage and deposit arrangements will change this, allowing young working professionals to get on the property ladder and secure their financial futures”. City Loft is to be built in phases, with the first phase to be completed in the first quarter of 2020.

## Legal Box by Duane Morris & Selvam LLP

### Corporates to adapt international auditing standards

The Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (“**DICA**”) made an announcement on 05 December, 2018 (the “**Announcement**”) in connection with adherence of international accounting standards by public accountants by the corporates.

The Announcement refers to the notification No. 20/2018 (“**Notification**”) issued by the Myanmar Accountancy Council (“**MAC**”) in connection with the above stated objective.

The Announcement read with the Notification is directed towards encouraging all companies and body corporates within the Union of Myanmar to comply with international auditing standards, as set out below:-

- (a) International Standard on Auditing (ISA);
- (b) International Standards on Quality Control (ISQCs);
- (c) International Standards on Review Engagements (ISREs);
- (d) International Standards on Assurance Engagements (ISAEs); and
- (e) International Standards on Related Services (ISRSs).

Under Paragraph 3 of the Notification, the standards mentioned above shall be applied on the reports for the financial years starting from 2022-2023. The Announcement highlights the regulator’s intent to promote uniformity amongst corporates and to have international auditing standards.

**Through our office in Yangon, Duane Morris & Selvam advises corporations on investment, business and regulatory processes in Myanmar. For further information, please contact Mr Krishna Ramachandra (kramachandra@duanemorrisselvam.com), Ms Babita Ambekar (bambekar@duanemorrisselvam.com), Mr Priyank Srivastava (psrivastava@duanemorrisselvam.com), or Mr CN Beilo (CBLo@selvamandpartners.com) or visit [www.duanemorrisselvam.com](http://www.duanemorrisselvam.com). Duane Morris & Selvam is recognised as a leading law firm for Myanmar related Corporate, M&A and Projects (including Energy) work – The Legal 500 (2017 & 2018).**

## Events

Name	Details	Organizer/Ministries	Contact Information
Invest Myanmar Summit 2019	<b>Venue:</b> MICC-II, Nay Pyi Taw <b>Date:</b> 08-09 Jan 2019	Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI)	umfcci@mptmail.net.mm +95-1-231 4344 ~ 49
Electric Power Exhibition & Conference	<b>Venue:</b> MICC-II, Nay Pyi Taw <b>Date:</b> 17-18 Jan 2019	BUIM Group	info@buimgroup.org +0086-21-3650 9276
Myanmar Offshore Summit, Conference and Exhibition	<b>Venue:</b> TBC <b>Date:</b> 24-25 Jan 2019	Organizing Committee of MOSCE	<a href="http://www.myanmaroffshore.org/en/Event_Agenda.aspx">http://www.myanmaroffshore.org/en/Event_Agenda.aspx</a>
Mobile Money & Financial Inclusion Summit	<b>Venue:</b> Park Royal, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 26-27 Feb 2019	Magenta Global Pte Ltd	enquiry@magenta-global.com.sg +65-6846 2360
Emerging Asia E-Commerce Summit	<b>Venue:</b> Park Royal, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 26-27 Feb 2019	Magenta Global Pte Ltd	enquiry@magenta-global.com.sg +65-6846 2360
International Conference on Future Computer & Communication	<b>Venue:</b> Yangon <b>Date:</b> 27 Feb - 1 Mar 2019	Science and Engineering Institute (SCIEI)	info@sciei.org
International Conference on Computer Applications	<b>Venue:</b> Novotel Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 27 Feb - 1 Mar 2019	University of Computer Studies	ucsy.admin@ucsy.edu.mm +95-1-610 889
AVPN Myanmar Social Investment Forum	<b>Venue:</b> Pan Pacific Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 28 Feb 2019	Asian Venture Philanthropy Network Limited	marketing@avpn.asia +65-6536 1824
LPG Myanmar Summit	<b>Venue:</b> LOTTE Hotels & Serviced Apartments, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 3 Apr - 4 Apr 2019	East Africa Institute	eai@aku.edu +25-4203 661200
Myanmar Coffee Teas & Sweets Festival	<b>Venue:</b> Myanmar Convention Center, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 1-4 May 2019	ALT Exhibitions SDN BHD	support@altexpo.my +60-1233 45696

## Tenders

### ■ Ministry of Electricity and Energy: Invitation for Bids

1. The government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received ODA Loan from Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The bid is invited by the Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC) for Package 1: Design, Supply and Installation for 500kV Substation as follows;

Sr. No	Invitation for Bid	Descriptions	Issuing Date	Submission Deadline Date and Time	Non-refundable Document Fee
1	MY-P14, JICA, ODA Loan	Package 1: Design, Supply and Installation for 500kV Phayargyi and Hlaingthayar Substation	17/12/2018	<b>15/03/2019 (01:00 p.m.)</b>	Purchase order with MMK which is equivalent to 1,000 USD

2. The eligible nationality of the bidder shall be Japan in the case of single contractor. In case of a joint venture, such joint venture will be eligible provided that the nationality of lead partner is Japan, that the nationality of the other partner is Japan and/or the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and total share of work of Japanese partners in the joint venture is more than 50% of the contract amount. This scheme is based on applicable guidelines of Japanese ODA loan.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the website - [www.moee.gov.mm](http://www.moee.gov.mm) or the documents from the Material Planning Department, Department of Power Transmission and System Control, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, office No.27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
4. Bid documents must be delivered to Office No. 27, Department of Power Transmission and System Control, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on or before the deadline date and time (**15th December, 2019 at 01:00 p.m.**).
5. The bid must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than four hundred million Japanese Yen (JPY 400,000,000).
6. Technical bid will be opened on 15th December, 2019 at 01:00 p.m. at the Department of Power Transmission and System Control, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, office No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar in the presence of the representatives from bidders.
7. Any request for the extension of bid submission deadline shall not be allowed.
8. Further information can be obtained at its office under the phone number: +95-67-3410282 and +95-67-3410209.

### ■ Myanmar Investors Development Association: Invitation for Collaboration

1. The Myanmar Investors Development Association (MIDA) member's public companies are implementing under-mentioned projects in different parts of the country which provide opportunities for Survey work, Earth work, Road Pavement Concrete work, Box culvert, Drain work, Building Construction work, M&E works (Water Supply & Sanitation work, Electrical work), Design work, Interior Decoration, and Landscaping work.
2. Local and foreign companies, and contractors who are interested in taking part in those activities are invited to contact along with company profile, the Tender Invitation Unit, 2nd Floor, Cooperative Business Centre, Corner of Saya San Road and New University Avenue, Bahan Township, Yangon (within office hours **09:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 01:00 p.m. - 03:00 p.m.**) until **5th January, 2019**.

No.	Location	Name of Projects
1	Bago Region, Intakaw Township	Bago Industrial Park Project (Cotchail)

2	Bago Region, Bago Township	Hantharwaddy High-End Housing Project, Bago
3	Bago Region, Intakaw Township	Hantharwaddy High-End Housing Project, Bago, Shwe Pyi (3)
4	Bago Region, Taungoo Township	Taungoo Kaytumadi Industrial City Project (I), near (152)
5	Bago Region, Taungoo Township	Taungoo Kaytumadi Industrial City Project (II), near (148)
6	Shan State, Taungyi Township	Pan Cherry Housing Estate Project
7	Yangon Region, East of Dagon Township	New City Light Industrial Park Project (Malitt)
8	Yangon Region, Hlegu Township	Industrial Park Project (Zayetkwin)
9	Mandalay Region, Amarapura Township	Taungthaman Resort Project

■ **Ministry of Construction: Procurement of Works**

1. The government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the Flooding and Landslide Emergency Recovery Project (FLERP). The Department of Highways (DOH) under the Ministry of Construction, in its role as Implementing Agency of Component 1 of the FLERP, intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the procurement of Road Works and DOH now invites sealed bid from eligible bidders for the following road work along the Thandwe-Gwa Road in the Rakhine State: **C1-MOC-W01-LOT5: Supply and Installation of Safety Steel Guard Rails.**
2. The works are scheduled to start on 1st February, 2019 with an estimated maximum duration of 150 days.
3. Bids will be evaluated, taking into account discounts offered. The contract will be awarded to the lowest evaluated bidder meeting the required qualification criteria for lot. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Procurement Guidelines and is open to all eligible bidders.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information within office hour and a complete set of electronic bidding documents in English language may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders by simply email request to the address below, starting from 21st December, 2018. Alternatively, a complete set of printed bidding documents in English language may be obtained by interested eligible bidders upon submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of 30,000,000 MMK. The method of payment will be cash payment or cashier's check directly at the address mentioned below where the set of bidding documents can be collected. No printed documents will be sent.
5. Interested bidders that obtained the bidding documents will be invited to attend a Pre-Bid Conference on 8th January, 2019 at address mentioned below. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **12:00 p.m. on 18th January, 2019.** Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bid will be rejected. Bid will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below on 18th January, 2019 at 01:00 p.m.
6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security or a cash deposit with a reputable bank in Myanmar, licensed by and under the supervision of the Central Bank of Myanmar for this activity.
7. Address (es) referred to above is (are):

Department of Highways

Attention: U Khin Zaw, Project Director, FLERP; Daw Ei Ei Myo, Procurement Director, FLERP

Office No. 11, Nay Pyi Taw, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

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