

Thura NewsViews

Politics

■ USDP MP against constitutional amendment committee

An MP of the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) has criticized a committee formed to assess if the 2008 Constitution can be amended. According to a report in The Irrawaddy, during a debate in parliament on the issue, U Thaug Aye said that the commission is a violation of the law. "We all agree that the Constitution should be amended, but what sets us apart is whether it should be amended in accordance with the law or against the law," he was quoted as saying. The 45-member committee was formed following a proposal from the National League for Democracy (NLD). It includes representatives from all parties represented in parliament, as well as military appointees. Amending the controversial charter was a key component of the NLD's platform ahead of the 2015 general election. Until now the party has made little progress on the issue.

■ Tanintharyi Chief Minister charged for corruption

Daw Lei Lei Maw, the Tanintharyi Region Chief Minister, has been arrested on alleged corruption and bribery charges. According to a report in The Irrawaddy, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) spokesperson U Kyaw Soe said the arrest came after a month-long investigation conducted in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Dawei, the capital of Tanintharyi Region. Another three people, all

Thura Swiss Ltd.
Economic Research
Shwe Hinthar B 307
6 1/2 Miles Pyay Road
11 Qtr. Hlaing Tsp.
Yangon, Myanmar

Phone +95 (0)1 654 730
Fax +95 (0)1 654 733
info@thuraswiss.com
www.thuraswiss.com

March Highlights

Myanmar has released its official strategy for developing its digital economy over the next six years, according to the MOPF.

Oil company Puma Energy is officially prohibiting the use of its trademark, name and logo in Myanmar after a local petrol station began branding itself as Puma Power.

Shenzhen-listed SF Holding will acquire 25 percent of Kospa, a local logistics firm, for US\$ 4 million to help fund the expansion of the fleet and warehouse capacity.

We are online and post our articles throughout the week. Visit us on:

newsviews.thuraswiss.com




Thura NewsViews
Myanmar's most widely read newsletter on the country's politics, economy and businesses brought to you by Thura Swiss

[Visit Thura Swiss Homepage](#)

Companies & Investments
Economy
Politics
Legal Box

We send Thura NewsViews as free weekly newsletter * indicates required

Email Address *

[Subscribe](#)

[Download latest PDF Newsletter](#)




Search ... 

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 ...

businessmen, have also been arrested under the anti-corruption law, the article said. The commission said that Lei Lei Maw had misused her position as chief minister several times since becoming chief minister. The charges are related to awarding contracts for the construction of a pavilion for a New Year event in 2016. Additionally, an overpriced contract for the removal of bushes close to Dawei University and Dawei Airport were awarded. She is also accused of selling her house at multiple times the market value to a private company in exchange for awarding contracts for an electricity distribution project. The case against Lei Lei Maw was filed under Article 55 of the Anti-Corruption Law. It carries a maximum penalty of 15 years' imprisonment and a fine, if found guilty.

■ **Attack in Sittwe kills Nine police**

Nine policemen were killed in the latest attack to hit Rakhine State, according to several media reports. The attacks took place on the evening of March 9 at Yoetayoke village, about an hour north of Sittwe. A Reuters report said the attacks were launched by the Arakan Army. AA has been involved in conflict with the Myanmar Army, called Tatmadaw, in Rakhine and Chin states in recent months. One of the attacks took place on Myanmar's Independence Day. The report said that about 60 fighters from the AA attacked the village. A local resident is reported as saying that fighting lasted about 20 minutes. The military said in a separate statement that troops clashed with about 200 fighters from the AA on March 10. The said clash is in a different part of Rakhine State, close to the border with Bangladesh. Analysts say that the emergence of the AA threatens to bring further instability to the already troubled region.

Economy

■ **Myanmar and China to sign MOU on rice exports**

Myanmar and China are soon to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on the export of rice into China, according to a report in the Myanmar Times. China is a major export market for Myanmar, particularly for agricultural products. Until now no formal agreement has been signed and much of the trade of the product remains informal. "We plan to sign the MoU for the export of rice and broken rice to China by this month or next," U Aung Htoo, deputy minister for commerce was quoted as saying. He also added that negotiations are ongoing. Currently, Myanmar exports its rice to China based on a quota system. The move is part of plans to increase the level being sold over the border. Aung Htoo said that Myanmar must also improve the quality of its rice mills to ensure they meet international standards, in order to increase the level of exports.

Companies and Investments

■ **International School Yangon to open Nay Pyi Taw campus**

International School Yangon is to open a new campus in the capital Nay Pyi Taw, with classes starting this September according to a Myanmar Times article. An official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was quoted as saying the move was being made because more than a dozen embassies are planning to move to the capital soon. The first class is to include 24 students from preschool to Grade 8

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/\$ = 1,529K/1\$ (14/03/19)

**For advertising with
Thura Swiss please
contact us by email**

info@thuraswiss.com

or by phone

+95 (0)1-654 730

**Please note that our advertise-
ment contracts are based on a
subscription of a minimum of 4
weeks.**

who will learn according to the American curriculum, the article said, adding that the school is on a 5.5-acre compound that will include classrooms, faculty housing and outdoor play areas. ISY's Yangon campus was first opened in 1952, and is a member of the East Asian Regional Council of Schools.

■ **Yangon call center stake acquired by EME Myanmar**

Investment firm EME Myanmar has acquired an undisclosed stake in Yangon-based call center provider Lan Thit Masterpiece Limited. Lan Thit Masterpiece was established in May 2018, as a joint-venture between Japan's Masterpiece Group Ltd, and local company Lan Thit Innovation. "The time is right for a new call center in Myanmar," Hitoshi Ikeya, investment director of EME was quoted as saying in a report in Dealstreet Asia. "Companies are spending more on customer support as competition heats up, and consumers want better service". Lan Thit offers outsourcing services, as well as market research, customer surveys, marketing and social media management. The funds will be used to scale up operations. EME has already invested in Myanmar startups including Mote Poh, online marketplace CarsDB and the digital animation platform Joosk.

Legal Box by Duane Morris & Selvam LLP**Myanmar Patent Law passed**

Continuing the dictum of revamping the intellectual property regulations in Myanmar, on 11 March 2019, the Patent Law was passed by the Myanmar Parliament (Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No.7/2019). This announcement comes in almost about one and half month after the promulgation of the Trademark Law and Industrial Design Law passed.

The Patent Law is yet to come into effect, and the same shall be effective once the notification is made by the President. The practice in relation to getting the law into effect is same as was followed for the Registration Law and the Myanmar Companies Law.

Further rules and regulations are purported to be jointly formulated by the Ministry of Commerce and the relevant Ministry of Information, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Education, Union General Attorney Office, Agency and the relevant departments.

The recent development towards building a strong intellectual property regime, shall certainly be helpful in escalating investments, considering the steady protection to the intellectual property rights in Myanmar.

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), Mr. Priyank Srivastava (psrivastava@duanemorrisselvam.com), or Mr CN Beilo (CBL@selvamandpartners.com) or visit www.duanemorrisselvam.com. Duane Morris & Selvam is recognized 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
Seedspace Yangon Open House and Networking Event	Venue: Seedspace Yangon, Yangon Date: 22 Mar 2019	Seedstars World	yangon@seedstars.com +95-9957 543530
LPG Myanmar Summit	Venue: LOTTE Hotels & Serviced Apartments, Yangon Date: 03 Apr-04 Apr 2019	East Africa Institute	eai@aku.edu +25-4203 661200
Myanmar Coffee Teas & Sweets Festival	Venue: Myanmar Convention Center, Yangon Date: 01-04 May 2019	ALT Exhibitions SDN BHD	support@altexpo.my +60-1233 45696
International Food & Drink Carnival	Venue: Fortune Plaza Information Centre and Sale Gallery, Yangon Date: 09-12 May 2019	ALT Exhibitions SDN BHD	support@altexpo.my +60-1233 45696
BuildTech Yangon	Venue: Myanmar Expo Hall Date: 17-18 May 2019	Sphere Exhibitions Pte Ltd	sphere@sph.com.sg +65-6319 4020
Mandalay International Livestock and Agriculture Show	Venue: Mandalay Convention Centre Date: 28-30 May 2019	Silver Sea Media	info@mmlfin.com +95-9431 25185
Food & Hotel Myanmar	Venue: Yangon Convention Centre (YCC), Yangon Date: 05-07 June 2019	UBM Myanmar	info-hk@ubm.com +95-1-378 975
Beauty Connect Expo Myanmar	Venue: Rose Garden Hotel Date: 06-08 June 2019	Minh Vi Exhibition & Advertisement Services Co., Ltd (Veas Co., Ltd)	info@veas.com.vn +95-9420 025684
Complast Myanmar	Venue: Tatmadaw Hall Date: 14-16 June 2019	Smart Expos & Fairs (India) Pvt. Ltd	office@smartexpos.in +91-44-2250 1986/ 87
Myanmar International Job Fair	Venue: Fortune Plaza Information Centre and Sale Gallery Date: 15-16 June 2019	ALT Exhibitions SDN BHD	support@altexpo.my +60-1233 45696

Tenders

■ Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation: Open Tender

1. The Survey Department under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation invites open tender for the procurement of the following respective items in MMK (D.D.P) (Nay Pyi Taw).

Sr No.	Description	Quantity
(a)	Desktop Computer (Processor: i7, Hard Disk: 1 TB or Higher, Memory: 4GB or Higher, Monitor: 20" or Higher, Keyboard: 1 No., Mouse: 1 No.)	5 Sets
(b)	UPS (Capacity: 1.25w)	5 Nos.
(c)	Laptop Computer	10 Nos.
(d)	Laser Printer A4	10 Nos.
(e)	Office Cupboard (Steel) (3'x6'x1.5')	3 Nos.
(f)	Table (5'x3'x2.5') and Chairs (1.5'x1.5'x1.5')	5 Sets
(g)	Table (5'x3'x2.5') and Chairs (1.5'x2'x1.5')	3 Sets
(h)	U Shape Table (Curve) (8'x2.5'x2.5')	1 No.
(i)	Table (6'x2.5'x2.5')	3 Nos.
(j)	Chair (2'x1.5'x1.5')	1 No.
(k)	Chair (2'x1.5'x1.5')	5 Nos.
(l)	Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (Survey Grade) (Basic Receiver: 1 Unit, Rovers Receiver: 2 Units, External Radio System UHF 35 W: 1 Set, Tripod: 3	4 Sets
(m)	Total Station (Survey Grade) (Total Station: 1 Unit, Circular prism and holder: 2 Sets, Telescopic Carbon Fibre & Aluminum Pole: 2 Nos., Mini Prism Pole: 1 No., Tripod: 3 Nos.)	3 Sets
(n)	Digital Level (Survey Grade)	6 Sets
(o)	Handheld GPS (Global Positioning System) (Channel: At Least 12 Channels, Waypoints: At Least 2000 pts., Route: At Least 200 rts.)	13 Nos.
(p)	Portable pump with Diesel engine (with accessories) (Power: Minimum 13 HP with Electric Starter, Fire Hose 20 M: 1 Pc., Jet Nozzle: 1 Pc., Suction Pipe with	1 No.

2. The open tenders must be delivered not later than **12:00 p.m. on 12th April, 2019**. Tender opening date and time is at **02:00 p.m. on 12th April, 2019**.
3. The tender forms including description of materials/ Qty with detailed specifications are available at the Survey Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, V4 Circular Road, Ottara Thiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw under the phone number: +95-67-413433 and +95-67-413073.

■ **Ministry of Information: Open Tender**

1. The Printing and Publishing Department under the Ministry of Information invites open tender for the procurement and installation of elevator for the Sar Pay Bate Mann Office (Yangon) in MMK as follows.
 - (a) Model: Atlas Basic
 - (b) Capacity: 450 Kg-6 Persons
 - (c) Speed: 1.0 mps, 4 stop & 1 openings
 - (d) ARD-Automatic Rescue Device Include
2. The **open tender forms** are available with MMK 2,000 **from 7th March, 2019 to 21st March, 2019** between **09:30 a.m. and 04:00 p.m.** at the following addresses. The copy of Company Registration Certificate must be submitted for the purchase.
3. **Specification & Catalogue with no quotation** can be delivered to the Ministry of Information, the Printing and Publishing Department, Sub-division of Administration, Building No.(7), Nay Pyi Taw within office hours **from 22nd March, 2019 to 29th March, 2019**. Late tenders will be rejected.
4. The open tender forms and detailed information can be obtained under the phone numbers: +95-67-412203 and +95-67-412205 within office hours.
5. Address **to take out** tender forms is
Printing and Publishing Department, Ministry of Information
Office: Building No.(7), Sub-division of Administration, Nay Pyi Taw
Phone number: +95-67-412203, +95-67-412205
6. Address **to submit** tender forms is
Procurement Committee, Ministry of Informtaion
Office: Building No.(7), Nay Pyi Taw
Phone number: +95-67-412390