

# Thura NewsViews

## Politics

### Nationalist monks urge to oppose religious non-protection

A Buddhist nationalist group have called on Myanmar’s population to not vote for those who do not protect “the country, race and religion”. This is an announcement read as a criticism of the National League for Democracy (NLD) in next year’s general election, according to an article in The Irrawaddy. An estimated 1,000 members of the Buddha Prahita Foundation (formerly Ma Ba Tha before the government banned use of the name) gathered at its headquarters in Yangon’s Insein Township earlier this week. A statement was later released criticizing recent laws that had been introduced by parliament. One of the highlights was "Child’s Right Law", that could enable the children of “illegal immigrants” to become Myanmar citizens. The decision to take action against ultranationalist monk U Wirathu for comments he made on the State Counselor was also criticized. “We, the Buddha Dhamma Prahita Foundation, which has been safeguarding race and religion, seriously urge fellow monks and people to oppose by all means. This includes refusing to vote for those who are responsible for the above-mentioned actions, which could ruin the country, race and religion,” the statement said.

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### June Highlights

Maha Bawga Finance Co is in the process of changing its status to a public company in preparation for a listing on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX).

The Ministry of Commerce announced it would come up with draft legislation this year to relax the decades-old ban on alcohol imports.

Ongo, a local digital payment service provider, announced a partnership with BRAC Micro-finance to fully digitise the latter’s loan repayments.

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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**

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Myanmar Blockchain Forum 2018  
July 14, 2018

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Myanmar Supply Chain Summit  
August 29, 2018

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Health & Humanitarian Supply Chain Forum  
August 30, 2018

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

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

More Events

Submit Event

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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 ...

#### ■ **Constitution amendment committee completes review**

The Charter Amendment Committee, tasked with reviewing potential changes to Myanmar's 2008 Constitution has completed its study. A report will be submitted to the parliament next month, according to an article in The Irrawaddy. Committee secretary U Myat Nyana Soe, an Upper House MP for the National League for Democracy (NLD), was quoted as saying that the report recommends that many provisions in the charter be "repealed, amended, added to, or retained". In the build-up to the 2015 general election, the NLD made changing the constitution a key part of its campaign messaging. However, until now the administration has made little progress on the issue. Speaking during her visit to the Czech Republic earlier this month, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that the controversial charter "prevents the emergence of a truly functional democratic system".

#### Myanmar in Figures

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

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

GDP growth rate: 7.23% (2017)

Population: 54.22 mn people (Apr 2019)

Inflation: 6.5% (2017)

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

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

International reserves: \$5.2bn (Jan 2018)

CBM rate Kyat/\$ = 1,524K/1\$ (20/06/19)

## Economy

#### ■ **Recycled plastic pellets to be exported**

Myanmar is expected to soon begin exporting recycled plastic pellets to China under a new agreement, according to a Myanmar Times article. U Soe Min, acting chair of the Recycling Subcommittee, part of the Myanmar Plastic Entrepreneurs Association, said that arrangements are being made for the pellets to be exported abroad in the near future. Plastic pellets are raw materials that can be used to manufacture plastic products such as soda bottles, caps and food containers. The method can help keep plastics out of landfills. "We export [the pellets] to China now as a trial," said Soe Min. "It has been only for two months. If they find out exports are desirable they will accept."

#### ■ **Yangon Regional government withdraws project spending**

The Yangon Region Government has withdrawn plans to spend about MMK 16 billion (USD 10.45 million) on construction projects and the purchase of a ferry. It will instead spend the money on development projects, according to an article in The Irrawaddy. The funds had initially been set aside to construct a new police headquarters and courthouse. In addition, the budget also included purchasing a boat to travel between Yangon and Coco Islands, Andaman Sea. However, the report said that the Finance Commission, led by President U Win Myint, had recently met with state and regional chief ministers and called for funds to be spent on development. Some priority projects include road construction and electrification, as well as programs to expand education, health and social welfare services. The regional parliamentarian U Myint Thaug said that the K16 billion will now be used for rural electrification and construction.

## Companies and Investments

#### ■ **IFC takes 5 percent stake in Yoma Bank**

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has become the first international investor in a Myanmar bank. The IFC now takes a five percent stake of Yoma Bank, a conversion of a previously agreed USD 5 million loan. The investment arm of the World Bank Group had provided the convertible loan in 2014 to help the bank scale up its ability to lend to small and medium-sized enterprises

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(SMEs), said an article in the Myanmar Times. Vikram Kumar, IFC Country Manager for Myanmar and Thailand, was quoted as saying that the move will allow Yoma to expand its product offerings. He also added that the lender has followed “global standards of governance diligently”. It was reported that about four other local lenders are currently in discussions with foreign lenders. It was also added that the Yoma/IFC move would improve foreign firms’ confidence in investing in Myanmar’s financial institutions.

■ **Kyaukphyu deal expected to be signed soon**

The consortium behind a planned 135-megawatt project at Kyaukphyu, Rakhine State expects to sign a deal on the project soon. According to a report in Frontier, the project is being developed by Myanmar’s Supreme Group and China’s state-owned Sinohydro. It will utilize gas from the Shwe field to generate power in Rakhine State. U Htu Htu Aung, deputy chief executive officer for Supreme Group, was quoted as saying that the companies had signed an agreement with the Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing at the Belt and Road Forum in Beijing on August 28. However, it still requires final government approval. The Kyaukphyu project has faced numerous delays since a “notice to proceed” was issued by the ministry in January 2018. The expected completion date of the project is May 2020.

## Events

Name	Details	Organizer/Ministries	Contact Information
Emerging Asia Banking & Fintech Summit	<b>Venue:</b> Park Royal Yangon <b>Date:</b> 25-26 June 2019	Magenta Global Pte Ltd	enquiry@magenta-global.com.sg +65-6846 2360
Android Developers Conference	<b>Venue:</b> Taw Win Garden Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 9 July 2019	Droid Yangon	info@droidyangon.org
Builders Myanmar	<b>Venue:</b> Novotel Yangon Max Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 1-3 Aug 2019	Fireworks Myanmar	myanmar@asiafireworks.com +95 (0)1 377381
Powerex Myanmar and Electric Expo Myanmar	<b>Venue:</b> Novotel Yangon Max Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 1-3 Aug 2019	Fireworks Trade Media Pte Ltd	sg@asiafireworks.com +65-6100 9101
Myanmar FoodBev	<b>Venue:</b> Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 15-17 Aug 2019	Icvex	info@icvex.com +66-2713 3033
Arena Convention & Exhibition	<b>Venue:</b> Novotel Yangon Max Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 23-24 Aug 2019	Malaysian Institute of Estate Agents	secretariat@miea.com.my +603-7960 2577
Myanmar Phar-Med Expo	<b>Venue:</b> Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 5-7 Sep 2019	Minh Vi Exhibition & Advertisement Services Co., Ltd (VEAS)	info@veas.com.vn +95 9-420025684
Myanauto	<b>Venue:</b> Tatmadaw Hall, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 6-8 Sep 2019	AMB Tarsus Exhibitions Sdn Bhd	darren@ambtarsus.com +95 9-31496493
Printech Myanmar	<b>Venue:</b> MEP at Mindama, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 12-14 Sep 2019	UBM Allworld Exhibitions	yeemon.chen@ubm.com +95-1-378957
International Processing & Packaging Exhibition	<b>Venue:</b> Myanmar Expo Hall, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 12-14 Sep 2019	UBM Myanmar	yeemon.chen@ubm.com +95-1-378957

## Tenders

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

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers **MOEE-NEP/C1-W16/19 for Adaptation Villages in Sagaing, Magway, Shan (North), Shan (South), Bago (East), Bago (West) and Mon.**
2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for **Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers MOEE-NEP/C1-W16/19 for Adaptation Villages in Sagaing, Magway, Shan (North), Shan (South), Bago (East), Bago (West) and Mon** is:

Lot No.	Region	No. of Villages
Lot 1	Sagaing Region	68 villages
Lot 2	Shan (North) state, Bago (West) Region and Bago (East) Region	68 villages
Lot 3	Shan (South) State, Mon State and Magway Region	55 villages

3. 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 from Project Management Office (National Electrification Project), Project Manager and [nep.pmomoep@gmail.com](mailto:nep.pmomoep@gmail.com) and inspect the bidding documents during office hours at the address given below.
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The bidding documents will be issued through email only.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **12th July, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.** Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below.
7. All bids must be accompanied by "Bid-Security".
8. The address (es) referred to above is (are):

Attention: Project Manager

Project Management Office (National Electrification Project)

Office: Building No. 27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw

Telephone: +95-67-3431175

Fax: +95-67-3431176

Email: [nep.pmomoep@gmail.com](mailto:nep.pmomoep@gmail.com)

### ■ Yangon City Development Committee: Request for Expressions of Interest

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the South East Asia Disaster Risk Management Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds to finance the consulting services for Independent Dam Safety and Risk Assessment for Gyobyu, Phugyi and Hlawga Reservoirs.
2. The objectives of this assignment are to assist Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) as the responsible entity for water supply to Yangon City and Gyobyu, Phugyi and Hlawga reservoir owners and operators to (i) Assess the safety condition of the dams and appurtenant structures in accordance with the international and national standards as well as the World Bank's Operation Manual (WB OP / BP 4.37) for dam safety; (ii) Assess

the potential risks due to potential failure of the dams to local communities and assets, including assets to be financed as part of this project; (iii) Prepare a dam safety report including safety issue and recommendation of remedial measures along with conceptual design and preliminary cost estimates.

3. The consulting services shall consists of the following works for Gyobyu, Phugyi and Hlawga reservoirs and ap-purtenance: (i) Site visits, data collection and safety checking; (ii) Detailed dam safety/ reservoir and risk assess-ment analysis and evaluation; (iii) Preparation of dam safety and risk assessment report: and (iv) Preparation of conceptual designs and cost estimates.
4. The Yangon City Development Committee with the Building Engineering Department (BED), Building Control Authority will be implementing the project and now invites eigliale consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services. **Interested consultants must provide specific information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services.**
5. The short listing criteria are: (i) Specific experience relevant to the assignment: Sound knowledge and experi-ence in the fields of dam design, dam safety, geotechnical, seismic and hydraulic engineering with at least 15 years ' experience including: (a) Dam safety assessment inspections, (b) Extensive dam design (including up-grading and rehabilitation), construction and operation of dams, reservoirs and associated structures, (c) Exten-sive experience undertaking detailed risk and hazard assessments (flood and seismic), (d) Expertise in hydraulic and geotechnical (appraisal) engineering, numerical modeling and associated industry software packages for inter alia seepage, stress-strain, slope stability, flood routing, dam break analysis and inundation mapping, (e) At least three past projects of similar scope and nature; (ii) Relevant experience in Myanmar and or the region (highly desirable).
6. Interested consulting firms are **requested to provide specific information and past project examples** to demonstrate their ability **to meet each of the shortlisting criteria/ sub-criteria above.** Individual CV's of pro-posed team members need not be supplied at this stage (individual team members will be evaluated at RFP stage) and will not be taken into consideration. **The details of similar assignments carried out (including con-tract reference and scope of work undertaken) should be provided.** Failure to do so sorry result in consulting firms not being evaluated.
7. The attention of interested consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's Consultant Guidelines setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
8. Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications. The association may take the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy. In case of a joint ven-ture (JV), all members of the JV will be evaluated jointly for the purpose of short-listing and shall be jointly in case of award is made to that JV. Interested consultants should clearly indicate the structure of their association and the duties of the partners and sub-consultants in their application. Unclear expression of interests in terms of 'in association with' and/ or 'in affiliation with' and etc. without indicating the status of the partnership and designation of the lead partner may not be considered for short-listing.
9. A consultant will be selected in accordance with the quality and cost based selection method set out in guide-lines. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours.
10. Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, by mail, by fax or by email) by 4:00 p.m. on 9th July, 2019.

Contact: Daw Hnin Ei Win, Section Head Engineer, BED, Building Control Authority, YCDC

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