

# Thura NewsViews

## Politics

### ■ YCDC offers paperless building permit applications

Prospective builders in the city of Yangon can now apply for permits online. The new paperless system by YCDC aims to streamline the city's notoriously difficult permit-seeking process, according to a Myanmar Times report.

There are roughly 4000 building permit applications submitted each year in the fast-developing city. The YCDC claims the new system will reduce the average processing time by more than half. Previously, it took 95 days and that has reduced to 45 days.

The IFC, part of the World Bank Group, provided support for the new system. "Compared to other sectors, Myanmar's construction sector has the highest earning potential. An efficient, transparent, and affordable permit system will enable a conducive business environment in Myanmar," Vikram Kumar, IFC Country Manager for Myanmar, told The Myanmar Times.

### ■ Charter report approved by Myanmar parliament

Myanmar's Union Parliament voted Friday to approve a report by its Charter Amendment Committee. It recommended more than 3700 changes to the country's constitution. The vote will allow parliament to begin drafting constitutional amendments.

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### August Highlights

Myanmar citizens can now apply for a combined B-1/B-2 visa, which allows travel to the US for business and/or tourism.

Maybank has signed an agreement with Hayman Capital to provide a USD 3 million loan for business expansion.

Tanintharyi Region is looking to attract investors in the hotel and tourism, real estate and mining industries, as discussed during an investment forum.

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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 ...

Many of the committee's recommendations would temper the power of the military over civilian politics. They have met strong opposition from the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) and pro-military activists. They have protested charter reforms in recent months.

The military itself, which holds a constitution-mandated 25% of parliament seats, boycotted any discussions of the report. As constitutional amendments require a 75% majority vote, the military has effective veto power against proposed changes. In 2015, the military struck down the first and only proposed amendment of the constitution.

The proposed changes also include removing a clause that currently prevents State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from being appointed president.

## Economy

### ■ EU grants €8 million to develop Myanmar trade

The EU has pledged €8 million in funding to develop Myanmar trade. It supports initiatives within the ARISE Plus Myanmar program. The latter is designed to bring Myanmar businesses up to international standards. The International Trade Centre will partner with the World Trade Organisation. They plan to roll out the funding over the course of the next four years, according to a press release. Goals for the new funding include supply chain development, forming sustainable trade policies, developing value-added export products and better job opportunities for the nation's poor, especially women.

Although international sanctions have been lifted in recent years, Myanmar has struggled to position itself in the export market. Agriculture accounts for almost 40% of the nation's GDP. Nevertheless, the majority of crops it grows do not meet standards for US or EU markets. Likewise, Myanmar exports very little value-added products, such as tinned food.

"We're very honoured to support Myanmar through the ARISE Plus Myanmar project to further diversify its trade and enhance its integration, regionally and internationally," said Johann Hesse, the EU delegation to Myanmar's head of cooperation. "The EU remains committed to assisting Myanmar in achieving these important objectives."

## Companies and Investments

### ■ Belgian company first to cut ties with Mytel

A Belgian satellite communications provider has become the first company to cut ties with a Myanmar partner, reported VOA News. The activity occurred after following the UN's call for a boycott of military-affiliated businesses. The firm, Newtech, announced that it would officially cease all activities with Mytel, a company partially owned by the military.

The UN Fact-Finding Mission report demands to sever all ties to businesses tied to military officers. The full economic impact of the UN statement remains to be seen, but Newtech's announcement is a blow against one of Myanmar's most important industries, as it strives to extend cellular coverage to 95% of its popu-

## Myanmar in Figures

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

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

GDP growth rate: 6.2% (2018)

Population: 54.22 mn people (Apr 2019)

Inflation: 7.1% (2018)

Foreign trade: \$35.9bn (2017-2018)

FDI: \$80.9bn (30/06/2019)

International reserves: \$5.2bn (Jan 2018)

CBM rate Kyat/\$ = 1,516K/1\$ (15/08/19)

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lation. Last year, Mytel became the country's fourth licensed cellular carrier, assisted by a Newtech mobile backhaul network.

Although the Myanmar government has "categorically rejected" the UN's claims, Newtech remains unconvinced. "We will never knowingly sell to any organization or company linked to the [military's] campaign of violence... and the atrocities committed against the Rohingya," the company said in a statement.

- **Myanmar's first 5 G service tested by Mytel**

Myanmar telco Mytel recently tested what could become Myanmar's first 5G cellular service. Last year, Mytel launched as Myanmar's fourth licensed carrier. It recently conducted the 5G tests on its 3.5GHz band, according to Mobile World Live. Mytel claimed the trials reached peak download speeds of 1.6gb/s.

Recently Mytel suffered a setback. One of its major satellite service providers, Belgian company Newtech, ended its relationship with the carrier due to its military ties. Nevertheless, another Mytel partner Communications & Commerce, claimed that the incident would not seriously affect Mytel. Nor would it impact Myanmar's 15 million SIM card holders.

Indeed, the tests are a sign that Myanmar's telecom infrastructure is finally catching up to the rest of the region. The country's former military regime strongly resisted the integration of information technology in the country. For decades, Myanmar was regarded as an internet dead zone. Though in recent years the government has poured tremendous resources into telecom infrastructure. It aims at to connecting 95% of its population by the end of 2019.

- **A new industrial park proposed near Yangon**

A major Myanmar conglomerate has proposed a new industrial park to be developed outside Yangon. This is the latest of 11 proposed industrial centres designed to attract foreign investment. According to The Myanmar Times, the Tah Moe Hnye Group Investment and Development Co. Ltd., along with an unnamed Chinese partner, proposed the industrial park in Thanlyin township in south of Yangon. The site would host mainly garment and furniture factories.

If approved, the site would be the latest in a series of new industrial parks proposed by the Yangon regional government at the last year's Yangon Investment Forum 2018. According to the report, the regional parliament officially approved two sites last month. One, a 1000-acre site in Htantabin Township, will require a USD 500 million investment.

Thanlyin has seen a string of new developments in recent years, including the ambitious Star City luxury housing development. The estate is marketed to foreign residents and the high-end business community.

## Events

Name	Details	Organizer/Ministries	Contact Information
Launch Entrepreneurs' Guide to Myanmar	<b>Venue:</b> The Penthouse, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 22 August	CCI France Myanmar, Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association (MYEA)	communication@ccifrance-myanmar.org
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 Sept 2019	Minh Vi Exhibition & Advertisement Services Co., Ltd (VEAS)	info@veas.com.vn +95-9-4200 25684
Myanauto	<b>Venue:</b> Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 6-8 Sept 2019	AMB Tarsus Exhibitions Sdn Bhd	darren@ambtarsus.com +95-9-3149 6493
Pintech Myanmar	<b>Venue:</b> MEP at Mindama, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 12-14 Sept 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 Sept 2019	UBM Myanmar	yeemon.chen@ubm.com +95-1-378957
Myanmar Connect	<b>Venue:</b> Pan Pacific Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 17-19 Sept 2019	TelCap/ Capacity Media	info@capacitymedia.com +44-020-7779-7227
Agri Myanmar	<b>Venue:</b> Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 26-28 Sept 2019	Minh Vi Exhibition & Advertisement Services Co., Ltd (VEAS)	info@veas.com.vn +95-9-4200 25684
International Construction Power & Mining Exhibition	<b>Venue:</b> Fortune Plaza, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 9-11 Oct 2019	UBM Myanmar	yeemon.chen@ubm.com +95-1-378957

## Tenders

### ■ Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation: Invitation for Price Quotations

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the **National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP)**. The IDA number of the financing agreement is No. H814MM. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing towards eligible payments under the Purchase Order/ Contract for the following packages.
2. DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Reference No.	Lot No.	Description	Quantity
G 138	1	Printing Vinyl Posters of Operation and Maintenance	8,500 Sheets
G 139	1	Printing Operation and Maintenance Handbook	27,000 Books
G 141	1	Printing Gender Training Manual	400 Books
	2	Printing Gender Check List	2,500 Books
	3	Printing Stories	6,000 Books

3. Expressions of Interest on Quotation must be submitted in a written form to the email address below and clearly indicate the reference number above. The invitation to quote will be distribute on the needs of DRD. Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive an Invitation To Quote (ITQ). Sealed quotations will be submitted to the address by corresponding date and time stated in respective ITQ, after which no Quotations will be accepted.
4. The goods will be contracted in lot-by-lot basis. Suppliers will be selected following the shopping method as per the "Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011.
5. Expression of Interest for receiving the Invitation to Quote (ITQ) must be submitted to Mrs. Nyo Nyo Win, Project Director, NCDD Project Secretariat, Department of Rural Development at the office Building No. 36, Nay Pyi Taw under the telephone number: +95-67-418604.
6. Detailed information can be obtained from U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section under the telephone numbers: +95-9-43434333 and +95-67-418637 or through email address: [procurement@ncddpmyanmar.org](mailto:procurement@ncddpmyanmar.org).
7. Please indicate your email address as only electronic copies of the ITQ will be send as well as introduce your company name and contact number to communicate with you. Further information can be obtained at its website - [www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org](http://www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org).

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

1. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy 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 Distribution Transformer for National Electrification Project.
2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders fro supply of Steel Parts for

11k Distribution Line and Transformer Station, for the total quantities of 6,326,361 Steel Parts to be delivered in 2019 and 2020 to multiple destinations in all Regions and States of Myanmar. Domestic preference with the margin of 15% will apply. The goods will be grouped into 9 lots and bidders may submit bid for any one more lots. Evaluation and award of contract will be on a lot-wise basis.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding Procedures as specified in the World Bank's Procurement Guidelines, and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Manager at the office No. 27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy through email address - [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 **10:00 a.m. on 26th Sept, 2019**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidder's designated representatives at the **Yadanar Hall, Grand Floor, Office Building No. 27**, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw below at **10:00 a.m. on 26th Sept, 2019**.
7. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as stated in ITB 19.1 Bid Data Sheet of the bidding document.
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)

■ **Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation: Open Tender**

1. The Department of Mines under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation invites to submit the tender quotation sale open tender of (2000) Metric Tons, (15) Lot of Cathode Copper by USD as follows:
  - (a) **(100) Metric Tons each, (10) Lot Monywa, Mine Site**
  - (b) **(200) Metric Tons each, (5) Lot Monywa, Mine Site**
2. Base price of Cathode Copper shall be based on the London Metal Exchange Copper price on the date of tender opening. The highest proposal amount (Premium amount added to the LME price and deduction of transportation and handling expenses) shall be winning tender.
3. Tender closing date and time is **2rd Sept, 2019 at 02:00 p.m.** and tender opening time is **03:00 p.m.**
4. Tender documents are available from the Mineral Development Division, Department of Mines, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation at the Office Building No. 19, Nay Pyi Taw. Detailed information can be asked under the telephone numbers: +95-67-3409378 and +95-67-409372 within office hours.