

## Government's Policy

### **1/ Healthcare reform needed to improve Myanmar health standards**

New Light of Myanmar, 30 April 2014

To support socio-economic development in Myanmar, Vice President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham called for further reform to improve the standard of Myanmar's healthcare system for the public, despite a four-fold increase in the health budget over the past 3 years. This includes developing adequate infrastructure, human resources and medicine, and medical equipment. Also, upper income people from Myanmar spends approximately USD 200 million overseas for medical treatment each year; establishing up-to-international standards hospitals would help Myanmar economy by keeping that expenditure at home.

## Trade and Investment

### **2/ Myanmar's trade deficit in FY 2013 hits USD 2,555.54 million**

New Light of Myanmar, 2 May 2014

According to Central Statistical Organization, Myanmar's trade deficit in fiscal year 2013 reached USD 2555.54 million on exports of USD 11,203.96 million (USD 8,442.77 of general exports and USD 2,761.19 million of cross-border exports) and imports of 13,759.50 million (USD 11,932.60 million of general imports and USD 1,826.90 million of cross-border imports).

### **3/ Government needs to address rising inflation rate; World Bank economists**

Myanmar Times, 28 April - 4 May 2014

World Bank officials have urged Myanmar Government to take steps to avoid the rising inflation. Last year inflation rose sharply to 5.8% (from 2.8%) in the 2013 – 2014 fiscal year. This is likely to have a negative effect on the population, especially as food price increases by about 20%. According to the Bank, two main drivers of inflation are insufficient domestic rice supply resulting from flooding, and increase in the money supply for domestic credit to the private sector.

### **4/ FDI tops USD 4 billion on manufacturing boost**

Myanmar Times, 28 April – 4 May 2014

Myanmar received historically high of almost USD 2 billion in new foreign investment in manufacturing during the FY 2013 – 2014, accounting for around 45% of total foreign investment of USD 4.1 billion. The labour-intensive manufacturing sector has been prioritized and promoted by the Government to boost employment in Myanmar.

### 5/ Energy Contracts Signing This Month

Myanmar Business Today, 1 – 7 May 2014

Production sharing contracts for energy companies tasked with exploring Myanmar's onshore reserves is expected to be signed in May 2014. A total of 26 foreign companies bid for the onshore blocks, with 10 firms selected to sign the production sharing contracts. In mid-October 2013, the Ministry of Energy awarded 16 of the 18 onshore blocks offered in the tender: Italy's Eni, India's ONGC Videsh Ltd., Malaysia's Petronas Carigali, Canada's Pacific Energy Hunt Corp., Pakistan's Petroleum Exploration Ltd and British Virgin Islands registered MRPL E&P Pte Ltd. were each awarded 2 blocks. Thailand's PTTEP, Brunei National Petroleum, Luxembourg's CAOG and Russia's JSOC Bashneft were awarded 1 block each.

### 6/ MAPCO, Mitsui to Form Irrigated Rice Complex Product JV

Myanmar Business Today, 1 – 7 May 2014

Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corp (MAPCO) and Japanese Mitsui Co will form a joint venture in a bid to develop Myanmar's rice industry establishing Myanmar-Japan Rice Industry Co Ltd and starting the initial implementation of the Irrigated Rice Complex Product (IRCP) project in Twante township in Yangon region. The USD 60 million project, which will contain value-added facilities for crops including rice, will play an important role in Myanmar's agriculture sector and will accelerate the agricultural development of Yangon and Ayeyarwaddy regions.

### International Relations

### 7/ Myanmar and China's Yunnan Province eye closer economic cooperation

New Light of Myanmar, 29 April 2014

Myanmar Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham held talks with government officials from China's southern Yunnan province to discuss economic cooperation focusing on boosting bilateral economic cooperation, promotion of cross-border trade in Kachin and Shan states which share borders with Yunnan province.

### 8/ Air China flies between Kunming and Nay Pyi Taw

Myanmar Business Today, 1 – 7 May 2014

On 29 April 2014 Air China started flying between Kunming, a city in China's Yunnan province, and Myanmar's capital Nay Pyi Taw twice a week. Prior to this, Bangkok Airways is the only foreign airline that flies to Nay Pyi Taw. Air Asia has suspended its flights from Bangkok to Nay Pyi Taw temporarily due to low seat occupancy.

### 9/ ADB and Japan to Give USD 2 million to Upgrade Youth Skills to Lift Economy

Myanmar Business Today, 1 – 7 May 2014

A USD 2 million Japan fund for Poverty Reduction grant will be administered by ADB to train at least 1,000 young people in a three-month long competency based courses in skills such as construction, welding, and use and repair of rural machinery, all of which are foundational and needed to support Myanmar's economic transformation.

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