

## 100-day plans of various Myanmar ministries

May 2016

### Summaries and Commentary

#### The Ministry of Electricity and Energy

The Ministry of Electricity and Energy intends to finish building electricity transmission yards across the country so as to boost electricity generation. The ministry also intends to promote private investment in renewable energy development, so as to ensure energy security in the entire country.

The impetus to increase electricity generating capacity in Myanmar is particularly pertinent in light of the recent blackouts in most of Myanmar's cities. Reportedly, Myanmar's total electricity consumption this summer reached 2730MW, whereas the country's power stations can only generate 2450MW of power combined.

Other priorities for the ministry include the development of the market for, and distribution of, CNG, LPG and jet fuel.

#### The Ministry of Construction

The Ministry of Construction has pledged to build low-cost housing costing less than MMK10 million per apartment, and envisages the development of an initial low-cost housing project in Nay Pyi Taw. It is contemplated that the ministry will cooperate with private developers to implement the project.

#### The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has announced it will boost wood-based industries and tackle illegal wood logging. The ministry also intends to focus on reforestation, research work, strengthening public-private cooperation, maintaining biodiversity and the coastal ecosystem.

A mining cadastre and mineral licence registry will be established whereby mining data will be made publicly available. The Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia and the Japan International Cooperation Agency will cooperate with the Mining Department in carrying out research into mineral deposits in Myanmar. Although Myanmar is considered a mineral rich country, since opening up its economy, Myanmar has not benefited from much investment in the mining sector. As such, Myanmar needs to take measures to make the sector more appealing for investment.

#### The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation will establish a 5 year programme together with the Korea International Cooperation Agency whereby it will provide grants of US\$20,000 to 100 selected villages to accelerate their development, with a further US\$40,000 available to villages which demonstrate successful implementation of development plans. The project has been allocated a budget of US\$5 million.

The Farmland Management and Statistics Department will replace the current manual property registration system in 120 townships with an electronic registration system, for land sale, pledge, gift, lease and other transfer of property and trademark instruments. It will also allow for the registration of powers of attorney, wills and court orders. This is likely to be a welcome development, as uncertainty over land rights and the inability to register leases and security over land use rights has been one of the greatest barriers to investment by foreign investors looking to enter Myanmar.

#### The Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health is drafting a new Food Law and Medical Devices Law. The Food and Drug Administration will step up inspections of the quality of food, drugs and cosmetics, and will increase cooperation with regional

and international agencies to exchange information on illegal and unregulated products. This is a positive development, as smuggling of fake and unregulated drugs is a significant problem in Myanmar.

### **The Ministry of Industry**

The Ministry of Industry is to increase its anti-venom and pentavalent vaccine production capacity.

### **The Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development**

The Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development is reviewing registration fees imposed on companies and exploring ways to reduce such costs.

For further information, we would be happy to get in touch:



**Chris Hughes**  
Partner  
Head of Myanmar  
T: +95 (0)9256 147 067  
chris.hughes@blplaw.com



**Nomita Nair**  
Partner  
Projects  
T: +65 6571 6626  
nomita.nair@blplaw.com



**Manoj Purush**  
Partner  
Corporate  
T: +65 6571 67304  
manoj.purush@blplaw.com



**Stefan Chapman**  
Associate  
Myanmar  
T: +95 (0)979 575 8272  
Stefan.chapman@blplaw.com

This document provides a general summary only and is not intended to be comprehensive nor legal advice. Specific legal advice should always be sought in relation to the particular facts of a given situation.

---