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DVB Debate is produced by DVB Multimedia Group Ltd. Co. The debate is recorded every Saturday morning in Yangon with a live audience, which is invited to join the discussion as well.

 DVB TV		DVB RADIO	
Sunday	7.15 pm	Saturday	Evenings
Monday	1.15 am / 7.15 am / 1.15 pm	Sunday	Mornings
Wednesday	8.45 pm	DVB ONLINE	
Thursday	2.45 am / 8.45 am / 2.45 pm	dvbdebate.com	24/7
Friday	8.45 pm	facebook.com/ dvb.debate	
Saturday	2.45 am / 8.45 am / 2.45 pm	twitter @dvbdebate	

DVB Debate aims to contribute to a new culture of open debate, in which anyone can participate and agree to disagree, in order to exchange ideas, create better mutual understanding and find solutions for societal issues to improve the future of Myanmar.

The team invites fellow media and debating clubs to join this initiative for open debate. A weekly press release, press picture and cartoon are available shortly after the recording. DVB Debate also has a modest budget to support local debating initiatives.

For any inquiries, remarks or questions, please call 01292743 (office hours), leave a comment on facebook.com/dvb.debate or email debate@dvb.no.

DVB DEBATE



Welcome to DVB Debate,
Myanmar's 1st open debate program.

This week's debate question is:

Will the census bring consensus?

If you have any remarks, suggestions or questions,
please ask a team member,
call 01292743 (office hours) or email debate@dvb.no.

This week's topic is THE CENSUS

Historical context:

The 2014 census will be the first census to be held in the country in over 30 years. The most complete historical census, albeit one that left large areas unsurveyed, was in the colonial era in 1931. In the past censuses of 1973 and 1983, the country's ongoing armed conflicts put many parts of the country out of reach, as large areas of territory were under insurgent control. The results of the most recent censuses are still contested and Myanmar's published population figures range from 48 million to 65 million. Many ethnic civil society groups have called upon the government to delay or amend the 2014 census on the grounds its methodology is flawed on the question of ethnicity and could be used to strip minorities of their rights. International groups have warned that the questions and timing of the 2014 Census could trigger further violence against minority Muslims, and undermine the government's reform process and peace negotiations with armed ethnic groups.

Facts & figures:

- The government expects to have 26,000 supervisors and 85,000 enumerators trained by the end of March. Most are local teachers.
- The cost of the exercise is estimated at over \$74 million US dollars.
- There are 41 questions in the census.
- The Myanmar Census 2014 is a nation-wide census scheduled to take place between 30 March and 10 April 2014 in Burma
- The last census to be conducted in Myanmar was in 1983.

Points of view:

“For the census, there is no count on whether people are legal or illegal residences. The census is just a survey on how many people live in the country”.

(Janet Jackson, UNFPA country coordinator)

“In principal the census is important, but we want more consultation and conversation with the government before we can give permission”.

(Padoh Mahn Mahn, KNU Spokesperson)

“Concerning the census, there is a very low level of awareness in public. Amongst the public, there are concerns and complexities”.

U Nyi Nyi, Director, Ministry of Immigration and Population)

“The KIA does not plan to allow enumerators to collect data within its territory on the Myanmar-China border”.

(U La Nan, KIA Spokesperson)

"The census promises to compound old grievances with a new generation of complexities,"

(Transnational Institute [TNI] report)

“All censuses are politically charged. ... the census should be cut to five or six politically and culturally neutral questions.”

David I. Steinberg Professor of Asian studies, Georgetown University

Information links:

www.networkmyanmar.org/index.php/politics/myanmar-census-2014

www.countryoffice.unfpa.org/myanmar/census/

www.thediplomat.com/2014/02/myanmars-census-controversy/

www.facebook.com/pages/2014-Myanmar-Population-and-Housing-Census/332301026870830

www.sdc.admin.ch/en/Home/Projects/Project_Detail?projectdbID=24981

www.mnped.gov.mm

www.dvb.no