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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	7.30 pm	Saturday	Evenings
Monday	1.30 am / 7.30 am / 1.30 pm	Sunday	Mornings
Wednesday	8.45 pm	DVB ONLINE	
Thursday	2.45 am / 8.45 am / 2.45 pm	dvbdebate.com	24/7
Friday	7.30 pm	facebook.com/ dvb.debate	
Saturday	1.30 am / 7.30 am / 1.30 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:
How corrupt is Burma's legal system?

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 CORRUPTION IN THE JUDICIARY

Historical context:

Extreme corruption and the politicization of Myanmar's judiciary under military rule has led to the destruction of rule of law in Myanmar. Judges are well-known for accepting bribes and following instructions from the executive arm of government, demonstrating lack of independence in the Judiciary. Lawyers in Myanmar do not have an independent Bar Council and there is little protection for lawyers within the system. Although in the wake of drastic political reforms authorities have reportedly decreased interference in legal processes, lawyers still face on-going challenges to their independence. They continue to be harassed and intimidated, particularly in politically sensitive and criminal cases. The legacy of judicial corruption remains in the foreground of public debate about Myanmar and demand for proper rule of law continues.

Facts & figures:

- In the criminal justice system, more than 90 percent of accused are convicted
(Myanmar Rule of Law Needs Assessment- by DLA Piper)
- In 2013 Myanmar ranked 20th in the most corrupt countries
(Transparency International)
- 8th August 2013 anti-corruption bill was passed through the Burmese parliament.

Points of view:

Aung San Suu Kyi (General Secretary NLD)

"People in Myanmar have been living without rule of law for many years. In order to have a strong democracy the most important thing is rule of law".

U Myint Aung (Judge)

"In judicial systems a lot of unethical things take root".

Thura Aung Ko, (Rule of Law Committee)

"Currently Myanmar ranks the lowest globally in terms of rule of law and there is a lot of corruption in the judiciary process".

U Gyi Myint (Lawyer)

"Things will only improve if judges' salaries are raised.

Judges' salaries should be between 1 and 1.5 million Kyat. If the country cannot provide a good salary like that it is unfair to blame people for taking bribes".

Information links:

<http://newperimeter.org/our-work/access-to-justice/myanmar-rule-of-law.html>

www.unionsupremecourt.gov.mm

www.blc-burma.org/

www.aappb.org/

www.burmapartnership.org/

www.dvb.no/