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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:

How to solve the land dispute?

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 LAND RIGHTS

Historical context:

The Land Acquisition Act is a colonial law passed in 1894, which gave the government a legal right to take over any private land to be used for public purpose. This law led to land grabbing in Myanmar becoming commonplace over the past few decades. Initially these land grabs were predominately conducted directly by military-state and non-state armed actors. However, after the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) took power in 1988, the country's first experiment in post-colonial capitalism sparked a large wave of land grabs conducted by the Burmese military. Since the advent of the Thein Sein government in 2011, land issues have risen to the top of the national political agenda. Over two-thirds of the country's population live in rural areas and protests by farming communities against land grabbing often make front pages. Following constitutional reform, a new Western-legitimated government, and neoliberal economic and legal reform packages, farmers have seen a new wave of land grabs. "Crony companies" with extreme wealth and political leverage have become the new driver of land grabs in different parts of the country, often financially backed by foreign investors.

Facts & figures:

- The Parliament unanimously decided that the nation-wide land grabbing done by the government, military and private companies needs to be compensated by September 2014.
- There are over 8,400 land cases that the Land Issues Investigation Commission sent to the Government, but there are only 400 cases which have been solved by the government.
- According to the Land Allocation and Utilisation Supervisory Committee which is formed by the President's Decree, amongst over 700 Land cases there are over 500 cases which are directly related with the military and these are the top cases

in the Government Ministries' Official List related to the Land Dispute Cases.

- According to the Land Confiscation Report, there have been over 200,000 acres of farm land confiscated by the military.
- A new land law was passed in March 2012.
- The government formed the Land Allocation and Utilisation Supervisory Committee on June 18th 2012 headed by the Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry
- The national government's Land Acquisition Investigation Commission cannot accept any land grab cases from before 1988

Points of view:

"If there is a land dispute, the farmers are always losers. Only those who have documents from the land management institutions became legal. Then, the farmers are taken action by law. Such kinds of cases should be investigated carefully.

(Thura U Shwe Man)

"If the farmers don't move, they come to destroy their homes at night under the 144 curfew law... They used pesticide to destroy the paddy fields"

(U Kyi Soe Spokesperson for farmers from Khanaung Chaung Wa Village)

Farmers are beginning to speak out now, so the government and people those in authority need to solve the problems of farmers as soon as possible. We want farmers to have a chance to have their voices heard."

(Myo Thant, Land rights activist)

"Difficulties in land management as squatters on forest land, virgin and fallow land and others are acting as if they originally own the plot they illegally occupied."

(President Thein Sein)

Information links:

<http://displacementsolutions.org/>

<http://farmlandgrab.org/>

www.dvb.no