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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 political is showbiz?

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 MYANMAR STARS

Historical context:

Across the world, countless celebrities have used their fame and status to bring attention to contemporary political issues. Celebrities perform a range of different social, cultural and political functions and have a strong influence over the general population. In Burma the social and cultural roles of celebrities are no different, though working within a highly media-controlled society has posed challenges. In 1968 General Ne Win nationalised cinemas and formed the Film Council, an outfit tasked with using the big screen to promote the regime's quasi-socialist ideology. He also cut ties with foreign film organisations like MGM and Universal, as part of his xenophobic policies. After 1989 the movie industry was fully privatized and film stars who had been involved in political activities were banned from appearing in films. All media required approval from the censorship board so most films and songs that were produced focused on romance and comedy and lacked any political tone. Songwriters were obliged to include positive songs about the country in their albums, and media was used to promote government policy. Though some celebrities in Myanmar have used their fame to voice criticism against the policies of the former governments in the past, most saw advertising in practical terms of maintaining a career.

Facts & figures:

- The first Burmese motion picture was produced in 1932
- The Myanmar Music Association (MMA) was formed in 1991.
- The domestic movie market is dominated by financiers, who invest not in creativity but in films that guarantee returns. However, even successful movies make only around US\$70,000 on average.
- In 2012 only 17 Burmese-produced movies made it to the cinema in 2012. In the 1970s, the figure averaged around 70.
- Until 2012, all media circulated in Myanmar required approval from censorship panels eliminating content deemed revolutionary, salacious or even overtly foreign.

Points of view:

“I want to focus on political affairs more than my art. It does not mean I want to be a hluttaw representative but I want to give my support to people so they can become representatives”

(Zaganar, comedian and actor)

“Most people want entertainment – they want to see beautiful actors and don't care about the story”

(Thaidhi, film producer)

“I don't understand too much about the constitution law and the elections in the country. I just understand that these affairs are carried out by the experts”

(Sai Sai Kham Hlaing, singer)

Aung San Suu Kyi has expressed reservations about celebrity news, saying that while she understands that it can help to sell papers it does not add legitimacy media seeking to be reputable.

Information links:

www.myanmaritv.com

www.myanmarmusicassociation.org

www.myanmarcelebrity.com

www.myanmarcelebritiesnews.com

www.myanmarentertainment.net

www.fashionmagazinemyanmar.com

www.people.com.mm