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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:

What is our National Identity?

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 NATIONAL IDENTITY

Historical context:

In May 1989, the military government officially changed the name of the country in English to the "Republic of the Union of Myanmar". The renaming caused some controversy and many political and ethnic opposition groups continue to use "Burma". Both the name Burma and Myanmar are derived from the name of the majority Burmese ethnic group and the government have been accused of "Burmanization" -an attempt to destroy the language and culture of ethnic minorities in the country. Burma, or Myanmar is an ethnically diverse nation with over 135 distinct ethnic groups. There are many ethnic political and armed groups that are still calling for autonomy or more independence from the central government.

Facts & figures:

- Burma gained independence on January 4th 1948.
- The government officially recognizes 135 ethnic groups.
- There are at least 6 unrecognized large ethnic groups in Burma (Burma Campaign UK)
- The "Pinlon agreement" was signed on the 12th Feb 1947
- The last national census to be held in Burma was in 1983.
- According to the 1983 census the majority Burmese ethnic group accounted for 69% of the population.
- The Burmese national flag has been changed 3 times since British rule ended- 1948, 1974 and 2010.

Points of view:

"Loyalty to a state is affection built between the state and its citizens. The greater that affection is, the more loyalty the citizen has for the state. The basis of this affection is national identity"

(Dr. Min Zaw Oo- Myanmar Peace Centre)

"Building a union does not depend on the promise of the Burmese. It depends on mutual loyalty amongst all the ethnicities inside the union.

(Daw Aung San Suu Kyi)

"Lack of a reliable census makes it impossible to more than roughly estimate the composition of Burma's ethnic mosaic or it's total population"

(Burma Campaign UK)

"There is a significant number of Chin who can no longer speak their ethnic language fluently, so they are often mistaken for or classified as Burman"

(Za Uk Lin- Chin Human Rights Organization)

"People of all ethnic backgrounds and faiths in Myanmar must feel part of this new national identity"

(President Thein Sein)

Information links:

www.shanwomen.org
www.burmacampaign.org.uk
www.democraticmyanmar.com/
www.culturemyanmar.org/
www.minorityrights.org
www.thisismyanmar.com/myanmars/people
www.ethnologue.com/country/MM
www.oxfordburmaalliance.org/ethnic-groups
www.dvb.no/