



# LINCOLN LEGAL SERVICES (MYANMAR) LIMITED

NEWSLETTER 57 - 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019

**Dear Readers,**

Welcome to our first newsletter in 2019.

**1. Government finally officially announces the opening of the insurance market**

Ministry of Planning and Finance Announcement 1/2019 for the first time officially states that foreign insurance companies will be given market access. A timeline is not provided, but Nikkei reports (<https://tinyurl.com/y7q95z5r>) that specific screening criteria should be released as early as this month.

Our translation of the announcement can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y6vah46n>; it somewhat differs from the official translation.

According to the announcement, the Ministry of Planning and Finance will invite local and foreign insurance companies wishing to operate an insurance business within the country to submit their expression of interest and their proposal. The Financial Regulatory Department (FRD) will answer questions in this regard (as of today, however, the FRD does not seem to have appointed an officer in charge yet).

Foreign insurance companies will be given market access as follows:

**(a) Life insurance license**

A foreign insurer may (i) either opt for 100% foreign ownership and obtain a “license limited to the operation of three items” or (ii), if it has a rep office in the country, form a joint venture with a local insurer (and presumably obtain an unrestricted license).

It has been reported that only three life insurance licenses will be given out which, if correct, would mean that only three foreign insurers would be able to obtain market access. However, such a restriction is not contained in the Myanmar text of Announcement 1/2019, at least not according to our reading.

**(b) General (non-life) insurance license**

Foreign insurers with a rep office in the country may obtain a license if they form a joint venture with a local insurer.



### 2. Liberalisation of import rules

Notification 57/2018, published on the homepage of the Ministry of Commerce on 26 December 2018, codifies a policy that has been in place for some time already: Foreign companies, INGOs and branches of foreign companies may import office equipment and goods that they require in order to perform their services. An English translation of the notification is available to our premium subscribers.

### 3. Re-registration of companies and branches

This is just to remind our readers that companies and branches have only until 31 January 2019 to re-register under the new electronic filing system (MyCo).

### 4. Electricity and energy news

Deal signed for hydropower project: <https://tinyurl.com/ybrfx6nf>

### 5. Tenders

**Bridge Department, Ministry of Construction:** Construction of two bridges at Gyaing Zathapyin and Atran: <https://tinyurl.com/yam4pt8v>

We wish all our readers a happy 2019!

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