

LINCOLN LEGAL SERVICES (MYANMAR) LIMITED

NEWSLETTER 198 - 7 June 2025

Dear Readers,

Welcome to a new edition of our newsletter.

1. ILO resolution on Myanmar

(a) Resolution dated 5 June 2025

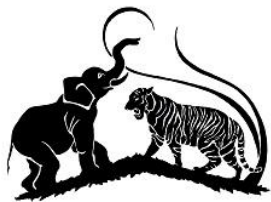
The [International Labour Organization](#) (ILO), founded in 1919, is a UN agency that sets international labour standards. Myanmar has been a member since 1948.

The ILO's governing body in March 2022 established a commission of inquiry to investigate reported violations by the Myanmar military authorities of the freedom of association (ILO convention no. 87) and the prohibition of forced labour (ILO convention no. 29). The commission presented its [findings and recommendations](#) in October 2023. Considering the response of the State Administration Council ("SAC") to be inadequate, the ILO's governing body in March 2025 recommended to the ILO's annual conference (a kind of members' meeting) to adopt measures according to article 33 of the [ILO's constitution](#) to ensure compliance with the recommendations.

On 5 June 2025, the ILO conference in its 113th session [adopted](#) these measures, which partly consist in an invitation to the ILO's constituents (governments, employers, workers) to

- coordinate to help implement the inquiry commission's recommendations;
- support activities that "benefit directly the Myanmar people and their communities";
- provide "independent and confidential monitoring and reporting systems";
- review their relations, if any, with the Myanmar military authorities, and end those that may cause harm;
- end the supply of military equipment or means, including jet fuel, and the free flow of funds to the military authorities; and
- refrain from extraditing labour activists to Myanmar.

Furthermore, the conference invites the ILO's director-general to, among others, collaborate with international organisations, the UN and its various Myanmar-related initiatives, and ASEAN and other relevant regional bodies.



After adopting measures against Myanmar in 2000 (lifted in 2012) and against the government of Belarus in 2023, this is the third time that the ILO invokes article 33.

(b) Impact of the resolution

The resolution has resonated quite a lot in the independent press. It is, however, important to note that the ILO conference's resolution is not binding on any member state and its employers and workers; it is merely an invitation to do something.

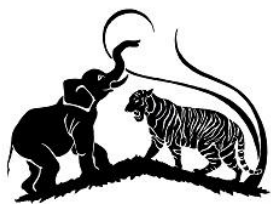
In particular, the resolution does not impose sanctions. Sanctions are measures pressed by state actors or international organisations to influence the conduct of other state actors, groups or persons. The ILO does not have the power to impose trade, financial or diplomatic embargoes, travel bans, or restrictions on arms dealings. As the US, the EU and other jurisdictions have already implemented a sophisticated sanctions regime, and other jurisdictions have conversely chosen not to resort to sanctions despite many calls by various groups to do so, we do not expect the ILO resolution to trigger new sanctions by its members that they would not adopt anyway.

Furthermore, somewhat differently from the earlier resolution in 2000, the ILO does not call on investors and other stakeholders to disengage from Myanmar as a whole, but to invest responsibly in activities that benefit the Myanmar people. The resolution therefore cannot be construed as urging textile sourcers and manufacturers and investors in other labour-intensive industries to stay away from Myanmar. We think that, on the contrary, the resolution rather encourages labour-intensive investment that complies with good labour practices, as such investment secures jobs that are desperately needed and, due to its low profit margins, does usually not attract the interest of sanctioned entities.

2. Myanmar nationals may not enter the US

On [4 June 2024](#), the Trump administration prohibited the nationals of 12 countries (Myanmar, Afghanistan, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen) from entering the US, and restricted partially restricted entry by nationals of 7 other countries: Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan and Venezuela, effective from 9 June 2025 12.01 a.m. Eastern Time. Exceptions include:

- Visas issued before that time;
- US permanent residents;



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- diplomats on non-immigrant visas;
- athletes or members of an athletic team and immediate relatives, travelling for the World Cup, Olympics, or other major sporting event;
- immediate family immigrant visas;
- adoptions;
- special immigrant visas for US government employees.

3. Visa extension issues in Myanmar

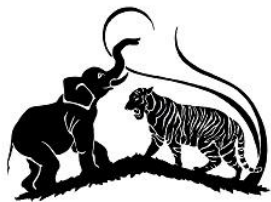
There is no official announcement, but immigration officers and visa agents confirm that visa extensions in Myanmar (e.g., with a recommendation from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration “DICA”) have been limited to 3-month stay periods since April 2025, down from a maximum of 1 year previously. Explanations (and predictions as to whether there will be further restrictions in the future) vary depending on who is being asked: It may be a desire to limit the number of foreigners in the country in the run-up to the upcoming elections announced by the SAC for the end of this year, or due to the destruction of the Immigration Department’s office building in Nay Pyi Taw by the earthquake in the end of March.

4. Electricity and energy news

Power cuts have been markedly reduced since the beginning of June, at least in Yangon, possibly due to the rainy season which filled the hydropower reservoirs.

The Ministry of Electric Power under the SAC furthermore announced (already a while ago) that [11 solar power projects](#) with a combined installed capacity of 1,026 MW were under construction, and that efforts were underway to resume operations at the Thilawa (Thanlyin) and Thakayta [LNG-fired power plants](#) in Yangon Region.

Additionally, the Ministry of Energy [announced](#), amid the existing 6 blocks approaching the end of the commercial life, the signing of a production sharing contract with a Thai company for a new offshore block (Min Ye Thu project, Mottama offshore block M-10), hoping for commercial production to start in 2028.



5. Handling of explosives

On 26 May 2025, the SAC decreed standard operating procedures to enable the Myanmar Quarry Products Suppliers Association to cooperate with relevant ministries regarding the construction of explosives depots, the temporary transfer of explosives depots, and the import, transportation, storage and use of explosives for industrial use.

The procedures

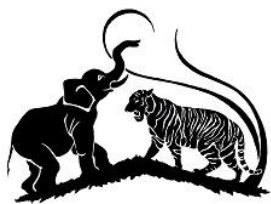
- provide for the establishment of a supervisory committee,
- set forth the processes for the application for a quarrying permit, approval for the land where the explosives depots will be constructed (must be within a township where the Prisons Department has production camps), the temporary transfer of an explosives deposit, the placing of orders by the Myanmar Quarry Products Suppliers Association for the import of explosives for industrial use, the transportation, storage, possession and use of such explosives, and permission to destroy explosives for industrial use stored in a licensed explosives depot, and
- oblige the operator to provide a letter of undertaking to the Prisons Department concerning a list of specified commitments, among them a commitment to pay MMK 1,000 per kg of explosives into a prison labour fund.

Please contact us if you wish to receive an English translation of the procedures (for a fee).

6. Import of electric vehicles

On 29 May 2025, the Ministry of Commerce under the SAC [notified](#) the terms and conditions for the import of electric passenger and transport vehicles during a pilot project from January 2025 to 31 March 2026. Companies wishing to import electric vehicles

- must be citizen-owned or a joint venture;
- must present a bank guarantee confirming a deposit of MMK 50,000,000;
- require approval from the National Steering Committee for the Development of Electric Vehicles and Related Industries, an electric vehicle showroom registration, a permit from the Region or State government and a municipal business license;
- must have a dealership or distributorship contract for each brand to be imported



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- must present a tax clearance certificate;
- may only import the number of vehicles with the standards as prescribed by the committee; and
- must make arrangements for warranty, spare-parts and after-sale services;

Showroom and warehouse must conform to the following specifications:

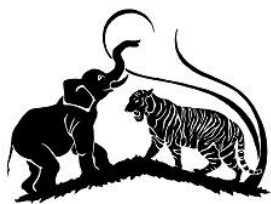
- Land area: 10,000 square feet. A 10% reduction may be granted depending on land availability;
- showroom (must have glass panels on the front and on the side and meet international standards), including service centre and customer waiting area: 5,000 square feet;
- warehouse (fully roofed and enclosed, stored items to be organised): 5,000 square feet;
- signboard (vehicle brand to be displayed according to international standards): 50 square feet;
- distance to the road: 12 feet;
- showroom and warehouse may be in the same building.

7. Customs duty rates for fuel-powered vehicles reduced

On [4 June 2025](#), the Ministry of Planning and Finance reduced the “customs duty rates for the import of fuel-powered vehicles to be manufactured domestically under the semi-knocked down (SKD) and completely knocked down (CKD) systems”. The table furthermore contains columns for “CBU” which stands for “completely built-up” and means vehicles that are imported completely assembled from the country of origin. We are not entirely sure what to make of it; our understanding is that the import of fuel-powered vehicles is currently suspended as a matter of administrative practice.

The new rates apply from 1 June 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Sr.		Rate in MCT 2022			Reduced rate		
		CBU	SKD	CND	CBU	SKD	CND
(a)	Passenger vehicles of 2000CC and below	30%	7.5%	5%	-	5%	3%



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(b)	Passenger vehicles of 2001CC and above	40%	7.5%	5%	-	5%	3%
(c)	Three-wheeled motorcycles (passenger)	20%	7.5%	5%	-	3%	1.5%
(d)	Three-wheeled motorcycles (cargo)	10%	7.5%	5%	-	3%	3%
(e)	Buses	10%	7.5%	5%	-	3%	3%
(f)	Trucks / trucks for body building	10%	7.5%	5%	-	3%	3%
(g)	Motorcycles	5%	3%	3%	-	1.5%	1.5%

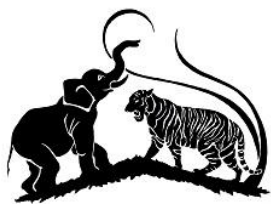
8. Seminar invitation: Leasing property in Myanmar

As many organisations seem to be renting office space and warehouses now in Mandalay and other earthquake-affected areas and we are often also contacted to deal with issues concerning the lease of factories and land, we would like to share our insights and cordially invite our readers and anybody else to attend our upcoming seminar on leasing property in Myanmar.

(Download seminar invitation as [PDF](#))

Proposed agenda:

- Important clauses in lease agreements
- Lease agreements submitted to the Myanmar Investment Commission and their subsequent amendments
- Restrictions on foreigners renting immovable property
- The Urban Rent Control Act 1960
- Zoning and land use restrictions; heritage buildings
- Commercial tax (important!), income tax of the landlord, municipal property tax
- Stamp duty, and what may happen at most if it is not paid
- Registration of lease agreements, and what may happen if a lease agreement is not registered
- Long Q&A session



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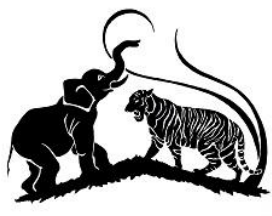
Date and time	Thursday, 12 th June 2025, 2:30pm - 4:00pm
Place	Rose Garden Hotel, 171 Upper Pansodan Road, Yangon
Speaker	Sebastian Pawlita
Language	English
Participation fee	MMK 25,000 per person, payable in cash at the reception desk
Registration	Please register by sending an e-mail to info@lincolnmyanmar.com , stating the name of your organisation and the names of the participants.
Suggesting a topic	If you wish us to discuss a particular topic at the seminar, please do not hesitate to include this in your registration e-mail; we will be happy to amend the agenda.

9. **Luxury apartment for rent**

We are posting this for a friend:

*160 sqm with 2 ensuite bedrooms. Large kitchen and dining area, plus living. Open plan. Wooden floors. All mod cons. (Voltage stabiliser, water filtration, A/C). Well furnished with quality items. Upper level, 10th. floor with lift. **24 hours electricity**. Price to be negotiated. Contact Peter: sanlan.peter@gmail.com*





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We hope that you have found this information useful.

Sebastian Pawlita
Managing Director

About Lincoln Legal Services (Myanmar) Limited

Lincoln Legal Services (Myanmar) Limited provides the full range of legal and tax advisory and compliance work required by investors. We pride ourselves in offering result-oriented work, high dependability and a fast response time at very competitive prices. Please do not hesitate to contact us:

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