

- Cambodia's Million-Ton Rice Export Fails due to Limited Processing and High Input
- Government pushes for land registration by 2021
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Cambodia's Million-Ton Rice Export Fails due to Limited Processing and High Input



Cambodia News | March, 14/2019

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen unveiled two factors – limited rice-processing capacity and high input cost – led to the failure of Cambodia's million-ton rice export, addressing at the annual meeting of Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries on Thursday. Cambodia used to be the world's hungriest country; today, however, Cambodia has enough food to feed 16 million people with the surplus of four million tons of rice per annum. "What we achieved so far is fluffing our rice demand and with minor surplus of about 4 million tons, yet we fail to export a million ton of rice," the Premier stated. Prime Minister stated that Cambodia faces issue of rice processing and the expensive cost of input that make Cambodia hard to compete with regional countries. To prevent the decrease of rice worth, Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce Ministry shall join hands to fulfil the export quotas of 700,000 tons of rice to China and Viet Nam. Following Cambodia's policy to export a million ton of rice in 2010, the figure of rice production has increased steadily from year to year. A report from the Secretariat of One Window Service for Rice Export Formality showed that Cambodia exported 626,000 tons of rice in 2018, compared to 370,000 tons in 2014, and to 200,000 in 2012

Source: <http://en.freshnewsasia.com/index.php/en/local/news/13331-2019-03-14-06-03-18.html>

Government pushes for land registration by 2021



Cambodia News | March, 14/2019

The government is pushing for all land registration to be completed by 2021, a move which the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction says will curtail land disputes and boost real estate tax revenue for the government. During the closing ceremony of the 2018 Results and 2019 Goals Meeting of the Tbong Khmum provincial administration on Tuesday, Minister of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction Chea Sophara said registration is currently around 73 per cent, equal to 5.1 million plots among the nation's seven million registered plots. Land registration is a government policy to systemically control Cambodia's land management, the minister added. Sophara said once land registry has been completed, land disputes are expected to fall, and the state may also see an increase in income from land tax payments. "Registration is very important because it will be capital for people who have their documents in hand," he said, adding that those who do not have land titles are vulnerable and may be at risk. "My plan is for it to be completed by 2021." Sophara also urged the Ministry of Interior to help in the land registration process. "Before, land was not worth the price, but now it has led to a gold rush. Therefore, registration will help reduce land disputes," he said. "Don't sell, rent" Sophara cited Sihanoukville as an example and encouraged people to rent out land rather than sell it. "I told the

[provincial] department [of Land Management] to advise the people of Sihanoukville to not sell their land. I said they should rent it out because after 15-20 years of leasing, they will still own the land. If the land is sold to others, it's completely over," he said. Cambodian Valuers and Estate Agents Association (CVEA) president Chrek Soknim said land registration is important as it not only helps prevent land disputes, but it also contributes to raising tax revenues, helps make the real estate market more robust, as well as increases the Kingdom's attractiveness to foreign investors. "It will be a compass to help identify areas for long-term development," he said.

Source: <https://www.phnompenhpost.com/post-property/government-pushes-land-registration-2021>

Myanmar, China sign documents on industry, transport projects

 Myanmar News | March, 14/2019

NAY PYI TAW, March 14 (Xinhua) -- The Myanmar government signed the exchange of letters with China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) Thursday on industry and transportation projects in the capital of Nay Pyi Taw. The document on upgrading project for No.(2) Industrial Training Center, Mandalay was signed by Myanmar's Ministry of Industry and the CIDCA. The Ministry of Planning and Finance and CIDCA signed the exchange of letter on the project for the passenger coaches under the Chinese interest free loan. Tun Tun Naing, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Planning and Finance, said Myanmar

welcomed the projects as they met the government's objectives for the sustainable development of the country.

Source: http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-03/14/c_137895272.htm

Banana grower sues Myitkyina newspaper for defamation

 Myanmar News | March, 14/2019

The Chinese operator of a banana plantation in Kachin State is suing two senior executives and a reporter at the Myitkyina News Journal for defamation over a story about the company's operations in Waingmaw township. The case was filed in Waingmaw court on Tuesday by executives of the Tha Khin Sit Mining, Import and Export Co, said U Zau Hkun, one of those accused in the suit. "We reported the story with the public interest in mind, without malice and without intent to attack the company," he said. "We will defend ourselves in court. There is nothing wrong with our story." The case stemmed from a February 25 story in the newspaper about local residents planning to protest at a site being cleared by the Chinese joint venture to make way for a banana plantation in Mandaung village in Waingmaw. The township court will hear the case next week. The residents accuse the banana plantation operator of illegally seizing land and causing environmental damage. There are 150,000 acres of tissue-cultured banana plantations in Waingmaw, Momauk and Bhamaw townships, according to the Land Protection and Environmental Conservation Network, an organisation of 11 civil

society groups in Kachin. About 40 firms grow bananas in the state, most of them in Waingmaw, it said.

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/banana-grower-sues-myitkyina-newspaper-defamation.html>

Company vows to supply solar power to 500 villages



Myanmar News | March, 14/2019

Mandalay Yoma Solar Energy, which operates solar mini-grids to power rural regions, will generate solar power in 500 villages within three to five years, the company said. “First, we will supply electricity to 50 villages, and we estimate that up to 500 villages will be electrified within three to five years,” said Nathalie Riseau, the company’s director. Mandalay Yoma signed a cooperation agreement for the work with Engie, one of the largest renewable energy companies in the world. The company now operates solar mini-grids in Sagaing, Magwe and Mandalay regions and plans to install 50 solar power systems in 2019-2020. Officials of France’s Engie said the project would require an investment US\$313 million. Myanmar hopes to provide electricity to all villages across the country by 2030 by installing home solar power systems in off-grid areas and building solar mini-grids. About ten investors are operating about 45 solar mini-grids, according to U Khant Zaw, director general of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation’s Department of Rural Development. “Around 100 projects are expected to be carried out this year, including three that will be

signed with Mandalay Yoma this month,” he said. Solar mini-grids are built with 60 percent of funding provided by the government and 40pc provided by investors and users. “We would like the projects to be built with 100pc funding from investors,” he said, but there are still restrictions on investors in such projects. “We’re not sure if people in areas (where mini-grids are built) will ever be connected to the national grid. This worries investors,” U Khant Zaw said

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/company-vows-supply-solar-power-500-villages.html>

HNX-listed firms see total profits up 11.4 per cent in 2018



Vite Nam News | March, 15/2019

HÀ NỘI — Listed companies on the Hà Nội Stock Exchange (HNX) reported their profits grew 11.4 per cent year on year to reach VNĐ19.93 trillion (US\$855.6 million) in 2018. According to the northern market regulator, 360 of the total 369 companies on the HNX had released their fourth-quarter earnings reports as of the end of February 2019. Among the 360 reporting firms, 325 made profits in the fourth quarter of 2018, which rose 9.7 per cent year on year to nearly VNĐ20.95 trillion. Data from the northern market regulator showed seven of 11 sectors made higher profits in 2018 compared to 2017. The financial sector had the highest post-tax profit growth rate among 11 sectors, up 48.7 per cent to VNĐ8.66 trillion in 2018 from VNĐ5.82 trillion in 2017. Leading the financial sector were commercial

banks. Asia Commercial Bank (ACB) reported VNĐ5.13 trillion in net profit for 2018, up 143 per cent. The figures for Sài Gòn-Hà Nội Bank (SHB) and National Citizen Commercial Bank (NVB) were VNĐ1.66 trillion and VNĐ39.25 billion, up 7.8 per cent and 79 per cent, respectively. Among other financial firms, securities companies posted lower earnings for 2018. The real estate sector also performed well in 2018 with total post-tax profit rising 35.5 per cent to VNĐ1.58 trillion from VNĐ1.17 trillion in 2017 thanks to cost cuts and higher total sales. The sectors that saw strong declines in profits included construction. Forty of 68 construction firms on the HNX posted lower earnings in 2018 compared to 2017. The sector's total post-tax profit fell by 51.1 per cent to VNĐ1.64 trillion from VNĐ3.38 trillion. Thirty-five of the 360 companies reported losses of at least VNĐ1 trillion in 2018, down 15.3 per cent year on year. However, the number of loss-reporting companies was 35, up 16.7 per cent. — VNS

Source: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/507119/hn-x-listed-firms-see-total-profits-up-114-per-cent-in-2018.html#ZAb3Vki2v1StHSzR.97>
