



- Tax revenue up 28 percent
- Govt to levy higher excise tax on unnecessary products
- MNA in 5th year of losses
- Agricultural sector sees production and business growth in H1



Tax revenue up 28 percent



Cambodia News | June, 20 /2019

The General Department of Taxation (GDT) collected more than \$1.3 billion in tax revenue during the first five months of the year, an increase of 28 percent compared to the same months last year. In May alone, the government collected \$185.8 million in taxes, up more than 38 percent compared to the same month last year, GDT said in a recent statement. Kong Vibol, GDT director general, said in the statement that the hike in revenue collection is the result of the modernisation of the tax collection system through the adoption of new technology. "To improve tax collection and enhance revenue, GDT is always strengthening good governance by focusing on good administration, technology, effective leadership and management, and meritocracy," Mr Vibol said. "To ensure efficiency in revenue management and achieve the targets set by the government, GDT strictly adheres to high standards to make tax collection more efficient and comply with the government's reforms," he said. Mr Vibol said GDT will continue to improve the taxpayer registration system. The agency also aims to increase compliance by strengthening the law and efficiently implementing existing regulation. Last year, GDT collected nearly 2.2 billion, an increase of 13.3 percent compared to 2017. Over the last few years, revenue growth has averaged 20 percent, moving from just over \$1 billion in 2014 to 1.9 billion in 2017.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50615716/tax-revenue-up-28-percent/>

Govt to levy higher excise tax on unnecessary products



Laos News | June, 20 /2019

Products or services the government doesn't promote, including alcoholic beverages, will be subject to higher taxes if a new law on excise duties comes into force in January 2020. In contrast, lower levies will be imposed on items such as fuel and motorcycles that the government believes are necessary for improving people's lives. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Mr Somdy Duangdy, presented a draft of the proposed law on excise duties for debate during the National Assembly's (NA) ongoing session yesterday. He highlighted the need to enact the law to reflect the reality of the nation and to conform to international integration. The excise duties law is derived from Part III of the tax law, in which the content was limited and not comprehensive. Nevertheless, more contents are needed to reflect the reality of the nation. The current rates of excise duties do not promote domestic productivity, resulting in producers evading. The new law is designed to differentiate tax rates imposed on products that are necessary for people's lives and those which will have negative impacts on people's health and the environment. Under the draft law, excise tax for fuel will drop from the current rates ranging from 9 to 39 percent to 5 to 35 percent as fuel is a necessity for people. The tax

charged on 110 cc motorcycles will decrease from 20 percent to five percent as a way to support low-income earners. Levies charged for internet access will be reduced from 10 percent to three percent as the internet is essential for business operations and the daily lives of people. The government will charge a higher excise tax for golf business operations, increasing it from 10 percent to 25 percent. The levy imposed on casinos and casino games will increase from 35 percent to 50 percent as the government does not promote gambling and wants to control this type of business. Unlike a sales tax, an excise duty is an indirect tax charged on the sale of a particular good or service, such as alcohol and fuel. Providers and manufacturers of the goods or services will charge the tax from the buyers and pass the payment on to the government. The government has listed 18 items and services to be covered by the law. These include fuel, vehicles, alcoholic beverages and other extravagant products. Other services to be subject to the law include vehicle-racing, cock-fighting and horse racing. The NA member for Attapeu province, Mr Manyso Somounty, called for the law drafting sub-committee to detail the rates for different types of alcoholic beverages so that expensive alcohol drinks can be taxed sufficiently. The NA member for Xieng Khuang province, Mr Vilaysouk Phimmasone, said he strongly supported the enactment of this law, and that if the law is enforced properly, it will help generate more revenue for Laos in the near future.

Source: http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_Govt142.php

MNA in 5th year of losses



Myanmar News | June, 19/2019

Myanmar National Airlines (MNA), the country's flag carrier, is in its fifth year of losses since corporatisation and its move into international operations, smartaviation-apac.com, reported. The national assembly's Joint Public Accounts Committee says the losses have amounted to over 21 billion Myanmar kyat (US\$13.7 million) since the start of 2016, despite the airline growing revenue consistently over the same period. This is due to higher maintenance and employee costs, but also interest on loans taken out to purchase replacements for its older Fokker and ATR aircraft, it adds. U Aung Min, the committee's deputy chair, says to become profitable, MNA will need to restructure and reduce its cost base, but also invest more in staff. He says when the airline was first established, there was no aim to be profitable because it was operating routes as a public service.

Source: <http://mizzima.com/article/mna-5th-year-losses>

Agricultural sector sees production and business growth in H1



Vietnam News | June, 19/2019

HA NOI – The agricultural sector has maintained growth in the first half of this year despite facing difficulties, especially the African swine fever epidemic which had a heavy impact on the domestic

animal husbandry sector. Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Phùng Đức Tiến made the statement at a press conference on June 17 about the sector's production and business in the first half of the year. In the first six months of the year, the sector's agricultural production value was estimated at 2.7-2.9 per cent higher than the same period last year. Of which, growth reached 1.68 per cent in farming, 4.53 per cent in forestry and 6.5 per cent in fisheries. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), the total export value of agricultural, forestry and fishery products in the first six months rose 2.1 per cent year-on-year to US\$19.75 billion. Of which, the export value of major farming products dropped by 8.8 per cent year-on-year to \$9.33 billion, meanwhile value surged by 1.8 per cent to \$311 million for livestock products, 0.7 per cent to \$4 billion for seafood products and 21.2 per cent to \$5.27 billion for forestry products. The forestry export value included \$4.9 billion from wood and wood products, up by 20 per cent, and \$236 million from rattan and bamboo products, up by 55.7 per cent. Tiến said during the six months, seafood output was estimated at 3.78 million tonnes, up 6.2 per cent over the same period last year, including 1.92 million tonnes from domestic aquaculture. Tra fish output in the Mekong Delta reached 684,000 tonnes, up 6.4 per cent and shrimp output was 278,000 tonnes, up 6.9 per cent. The structure of commodities for production and export has changed to increase the quantity of

advantageous and high-quality products such as seafood (especially brackish water shrimp), vegetables, flowers, fruits, industrial trees with high value, furniture and forest products. However, the agricultural sector in the first six months faced many challenges such as unusual weather, saline intrusion in the Mekong Delta, as well as drought in the Central Highlands and South Central Coast, he said. Many agricultural, forestry and fishery products declined in price while development of the African swine fever epidemic had hit the output of pork. The sector had worked to develop cattle, poultry and aquatic farming to make up for a possible pork shortage at the end of this year as a result of the African swine fever epidemic, Tiến said. Data from the General Statistics Office showed that the number of cattle farmed nationwide had increased by 2.9 per cent while the amount of live cattle sold for meat was about 193,000 tonnes, up 4 per cent from a year earlier, thanks to good consumption and high prices which have encouraged farming. The number of farmed poultry has risen by 11-12 per cent as there were no epidemics. Meanwhile, good growth has also been recorded in fisheries and it is hoped to reach 6.5-6.7 per cent in 2019. Highlighting the growth in overseas shipments, the official said the export target of \$43 billion for this year is high but still achievable, adding that the proportion of high-quality products in agricultural production and exports has increased. - VNS

Sources:<https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/521504/agricultural-sector-sees-production-and-business-growth-in-h1.html#bgRIE60JHXqDxVWV.97>
