

# The National Comprehensive Development Plan

Myanmar has set a course of accelerated inclusive growth enabling the country to surpass middle income graduation by 2030. In doing so, many millions of people will be lifted out of poverty, given better access to quality employment, housing, education, and medical care. The sustainable structural transformation of Myanmar's economy will induce the emergence of a stronger middle class that will propagate the seeds of democratic change. Higher incomes, better paid work, secure social protection for the vulnerable, and the opening of the domestic markets for trade will translate into all citizens owning higher purchasing power and the increased ability for Myanmar and its citizens to compete in the global arena and to integrate into the dynamic and expanding ASEAN economy.

The 1<sup>st</sup> National Comprehensive Development Plan provides the building blocks to enable Myanmar to become one of the major trading and production economies in ASEAN by 2030. To achieve this real economic growth must reach between 7 - 9 percent per year - on an ongoing basis, the structural transformation of the economy is to be systematically planned, and a modern fully democratic society be forged. The opportunities for Myanmar to attain such challenging targets are embedded within its comparative advantage of geographical location, a large endowment of natural resources including fertile lands and extensive water resources, and a young fervent population that is embracing social, economic, and democratic change.

The engines of structural change, the states and regions of Myanmar embody the uniqueness of the wide ethnic composition of the nation and the different geographical and natural characteristics, adding strength to the ability of the country to embrace and implement inclusive socio-economic development based upon diversity. State and region planning will endeavor to compliment the NCDP and create local solutions for local development that is based upon their distinct comparative advantages. De-concentration and decentralization processes that are envisioned within the NCDP will promote democratic accountable local government that encourages civic engagement and which serves the needs of the people. Improved well being for all will be fostered through clean, transparent, democratic accountable governance and people centered planning.

The NCDP builds upon the experiences of neighboring Asian countries that have witnessed rapid sustained growth over the last two decades. An inclusive pro-growth, export oriented transformation strategy underpins the NCDP that adopts a two-polar growth and economic agglomeration model to "kick start" Myanmar's integration into the regional production networks and global value chains.

Connectivity is a key policy feature of the NCDP that promotes the prioritized development of economic corridors linking international nodes with the two identified growth centers and the internal growth hubs. Corridor development will initially focus upon international connectivity with China, Thailand, and India. Border area development that introduces new customs and transport facilities that contribute to the formation of cross-border economic zones will boost socio-economic development within the states and regions, broadening the reach of the NCDP growth strategy.

The implementation of the NCDP can only be accomplished if the government, the business sector, civil society, and development partners embrace a new way of thinking in development, that is both pro-growth and people centered. All stakeholders must take a collective approach toward improving and utilizing Myanmar's endowments of a committed workforce, abundance of natural resources, strategic position, and reform-minded population, in order to propel the country forward. These stakeholders must pro-actively work together committed to attaining the well-articulated potentials of Myanmar with each actor contributing in the implementation, monitoring and update of this NCDP.

The government will not only be a regulator, it will also be a facilitator, and catalyst to support this change, providing necessary incentives, both fiscal and non fiscal. The private sector and civil society will be given an important major in socio economic development, particularly in responsible investments through PPPs, to increase and improve inclusive job opportunities, to empower the role of women in governance, politics and society, developing useful civic engagement, and mainstreaming environmental preservation,

## PREFACE

The NCDP provides a framework of 7 strategic thrusts (main programs) which comprise of between 5 and 6 individual elements, totaling 40 sub-strategies that require multi-sector solutions and strategies to be formulated for actual implementation and budgeting. The implementation of the NCDP will be realized through the 5-year plans (Medium Term Expenditure Framework - MTEF) and detailed annual plans (Plan Law). Sector Master plans and strategies will contribute to the formation of the 5-year plans, the MTEF, and the annual development plans. Individual Region and States long-term 2030 development plans will provide a framework for subsequent local government planning supporting local governments to plan towards structural change and utilization of their comparative advantages and local knowledge to stimulate economic and social development.

Implementation of the NCDP is expected to fully support and complement existing development planning documents produced by the government, inclusive of the Sector Master Plans and strategies that have been or are currently being developed. The implementation of NCDP will be coordinated by a Committee chaired by the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. This committee will be responsible for the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of specific strategies and actions identified in the NCDP.

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## FOREWORD

The NCDP is a policy framework that provides for the long-term development of Myanmar. It differs from a development plan in that it is based upon and proposes core policies to enable structural transformation of Myanmar's economy.

During the formulation of the NCDP, we have taken into account the different data sources from official government data, international organizations like ADB, OECD, IMF, UNDP, UNTACD and UN data sources. Therefore, the NCDP does not reference in high levels of detail national data since there is known and accepted issue of data reliability that constrains data usage and reliance. Further when analyzing other national plans in most cases only limited written data is used and there are virtually no comparative analysis of neighboring country performance carried within such national plans.

Nevertheless, this plan outlines for growth poles strategy, corridor development, rural electrification and connectivity. On the other hand, it addresses itself to the development challenges like poverty and equality, regional disparities, narrow economic structure, inadequate domestic connectivity and limited linkages to the international economy, and underdeveloped private sector. Emphasizing on these challenges and building on comparative advantage and economic infrastructure, Myanmar economy can grow faster and reduce the disparity.

I would like to thank all responsible personnel from concerned ministries, the development partners, international consultants and our planning team for their concerted efforts to formulate this plan.

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Director General  
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## The NCDP Contents

The NCDP is presented in a six-chapter format that introduces the NCDP, describes the current situation of Myanmar (2014), highlights the changes in the regional and global economies, provides a structural transformation and growth scenario, articulates the strategies that will be deployed to implement the structural change and to achieve sustainable high growth, and establishes the governance and monitoring systems that will be deployed to implement the NCDP.

- Chapter 1 Myanmar, a Prosperous Nation Integrated into the Global Community
- Chapter 2 Myanmar, an Emerging Nation
- Chapter 3 Myanmar in a Changing Environment
- Chapter 4 Inclusive Growth and Structural Transformation
- Chapter 5 Strategic Thrusts
- Chapter 6 Implementation and Governance of the NCDP