

CARI CAPTURES



01 KPK TO PROVIDE OVERWATCH FOR VILLAGE FUNDS

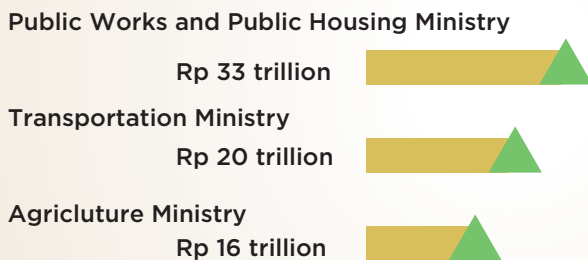
INDONESIA

Village Law and The Budget

1. Macroeconomic assumptions

- Growth : 5.8%
- Inflation : 5%
- Rupiah : 12,200 per dollar
- Oil Price : \$70 per barrel
- Oil Lifting : 849,000 barrels per day
- Gas Lifting : 1.12 Million equivalent bpd
- Three-month treasury bills : 6.2%

2. Three ministries with higher additional budget



3. Dividend payments of state-run firms to decrease from Rp44 trillion to Rp 35 trillion



First Established in 2013
Provides welfare to over 73,000 villages
Villages to receive approximately RP850 million a year each



4. Village funds increase



5. Fuel subsidies to decrease from Rp 276 trillion to Rp 81 trillion



The Jakarta Post

Following the completion of a six month study into regulations regarding funding towards village development, the corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) of Indonesia has identified the disbursement of state funds as a key point of interest in terms of transparency.

The federal Indonesian government, which is slated to disburse up to Rp20.7 trillion in funds to 74,093 villages over the course of three stages, has already completed the successful distribution of Rp898 billion in funds to 63 regencies channelling money into the development of rural Indonesian villages

- ▶ Whilst the funds are officially earmarked for development initiatives, KPK commissioner Johan Budi has noted in the KPK's most recent report that fund disbursement under Government Regulation No. 22/2015 is not as transparent as one would wish
- ▶ In addition to the lack of transparency, a common criticism of the government's rural development program would be the allocation of funds between villages; whereby villages are given equal funds irregardless of demographic differences

02 PHILIPPINES TO PRESENT SEA CASE AT HAGUE



The Philippines will argue its case against China's claim over most of the disputed West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) at The Hague in July. The Netherlands-based UN court is scheduled to conduct a hearing from 7 July on a case lodged by the Philippines in 2013 which China has spurned.

- ▶ The waters are a crucial sea lane and rich fishing ground also believed to hold large mineral resources. The Philippines asked the UN tribunal in January 2013 to declare China's claim invalid and against international law
- ▶ Manila says some of the areas claimed by its powerful Asian neighbour encroach on the former's exclusive economic zone as defined by a 1982

- ▶ UN convention on the law of the sea, which both countries have ratified
- ▶ Recently the Philippines has accused China of taking more aggressive measures to press its claim. These include reclaiming land to turn previously submerged islets into artificial islands capable of hosting military installations. This has alarmed foreign governments including the United States and Japan, raising fears it could eventually impede freedom of navigation and commerce

[ABC CBN News \(15 June 2015\)](#)

03 SINGAPORE TOBACCO REGULATIONS TIGHTEN



The Ministry of Health recently declared plans to ban both existing and emerging tobacco products in a pre-emptive measure to protect public health and wellbeing.

- ▶ The ban is aimed at preventing emerging tobacco products from achieving a foothold in the nation, which is in line with Singapore's campaign against tobacco and tobacco related products
- ▶ In a statement released on the 15 June, the ministry clarified that the ban would take place under two separate stages; the first, which will take effect on the 15 December 2015, will ban newer products such as smokeless cigarettes and any form of creative ingestion of the drug
- ▶ The second stage ban includes nasal and oral snuff, chewable tobacco, and other raw products and will take effect on the 1 August 2016; the remaining products within the market would be traditional cigarettes and tobacco infused gum

[International Business Times \(16 June 2015\)](#)

Banned Products in Singapore

Products banned in first stage

- Smokeless cigars, smokeless cigarillos or smokeless cigarettes
- Dissolvable tobacco or nicotine
- Any product containing nicotine or tobacco that may be used topically for application, by implant or injected into any parts of the body
- Any solution or substance, of which tobacco or nicotine is a constituent ie intended to be used with an electronic nicotine delivery system or vapouriser (or what is commonly referred to as an e-cigarette)

Products banned in second stage

- Nasal snuff
- Oral snuff
- Raw, chewable tobacco products

[International Business Times](#)

04 PM PROPOSES LOW-COST HOUSING FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES



Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha floated the idea of building low-cost apartments for low-income people at locations close to mass-transit stations or major public-transport systems.

- ▶ Each unit should cost no more than Bt300,000. This means buyers will only have to pay a monthly instalment of just between Bt1,000 and Bt2,000

- ▶ The proposal aims to pull people out of slums and clear public spaces, such as plots along public waterways, for common use

[Nation Multimedia \(16 June 2015\)](#)

05 USD 1.37BN EXPRESSWAY PROPOSED TO LINK HO CHI MINH CITY WITH SOUTHERN BORDER PROVINCE



A Ho Chi Minh City-based company has proposed developing a 84.5km expressway to connect the city with a neighboring province that borders Cambodia. The proposed expressway will link a district northeast of the city with Moc Bai International Border Gate in Tay Ninh.

- ▶ The project is expected to cost nearly VND30 trillion (\$1.37 billion) and will be developed in the BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) form and the investment capital will come from many sources, including Official Development Assistance (ODA) and loans from the Asian Development Bank
- ▶ The expressway is expected to run from the Thu Duc Crossroads in

Thu Duc District to the intersection between National Highway 22 and Provincial Road 786 in Tay Ninh's Ben Cau District. The future road will connect the Moc Bai border gate with the city's belt ways 3 and 4, creating an uninterrupted traffic system. The project will be started in the first quarter of 2018 is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2021

- ▶ Upon completion, the expressway will also serve as a major entrance to the city, contribute to boost the social and economic development of the city, Tay Ninh and other localities

[Tuoitrenews \(13 June 2015\)](#)

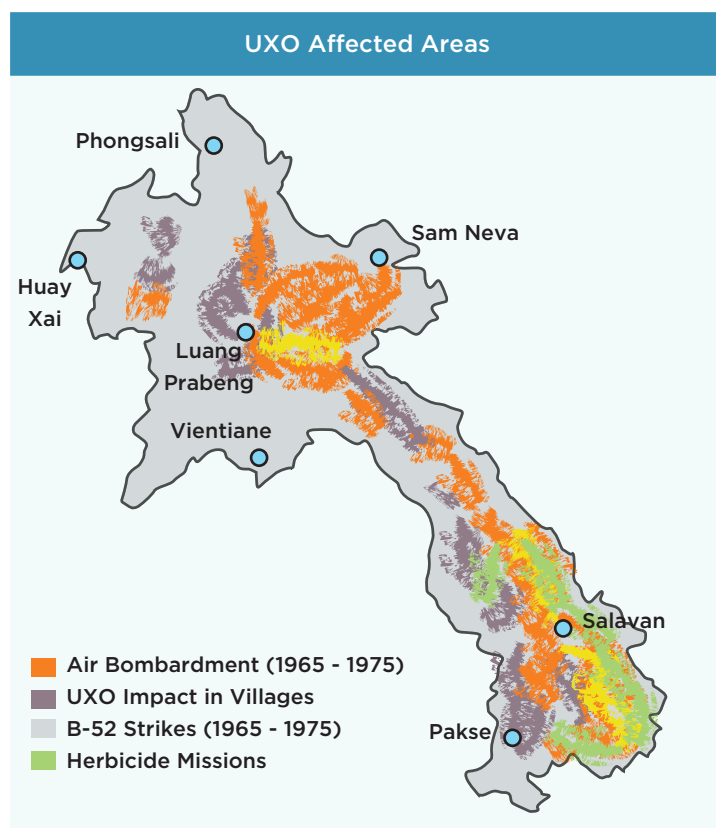
06 LAOS ACCELERATES UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE CLEARING



Deputy Governor of Luang Prabang province, Mr Khankham Chanthavisouk, has affirmed the province's commitment towards clearing Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and hopes to speed up the process through a new plan of action.

- ▶ Currently, the government hopes to clear munitions from over 200,000 hectares of land by 2020, as pressure created by development priorities and accidents continue to mount; in the past two decades alone, 149 people have been maimed or killed in UXO-related accidents, with 54 people killed, 87 disabled and 8 injured to a lesser degree
- ▶ Over the course of the past 17 years, 6 teams have cleared almost 3,259 hectares of contaminated land and destroyed 139,501 items of UXO
- ▶ The munitions that remained in Laos are a legacy of the Indochina War from 1964-1973, and still posed a threat to people's livelihoods and property; twelve districts in the province were affected, with Phoukhoun and Nambak being the worst hit as they were revolutionary strongholds during the war

[Vientiane Times \(15 June 2015\)](#)



[James Madison University](#)

07 MISSING MALAYSIAN TANKER CARRYING FUEL WORTH \$5.4 MILLION MISSING FOUND IN CAMBODIAN WATERS



A Malaysian-registered tanker carrying nearly 7.5 million litres of RON95 petrol has gone missing in the waters off Johor's east coast has been found in Cambodian waters.

- ▶ The tanker went missing at 8.57pm on 11 June as it was ferrying the petrol from Malacca on the west coast of peninsular Malaysia to Kuantan on the east coast. Of the 22 crew on board the vessel, owned by Magna Meridian Sdn Bhd, 16 are Malaysian; five, Indonesian and one, a Myanmar.

- ▶ The MT Orkim Harmony was said to be carrying 6,000 tonnes of petrol valued at RM21 million (US\$5.6 million)

[Asia One \(15 June 2015\)](#)

08 MYANMAR MONITOR 

ECONOMY

▶ Businesspeople and members of the public are invited to submit opinions on the draft law of the much-anticipated Companies Act. One of the most contentious issues around the Companies Act is what constitutes a foreign company. Currently, a single foreign shareholder in a company makes an otherwise Myanmar company into a foreign company. This excludes foreigners from owning shares in local banks or local distribution companies as they are not allowed to be foreign companies.

[Myanmar Times \(19 June 2015\)](#)

POLITICS

▶ If parliament accepts amendments to laws governing campaigning now under consideration, the president and other senior government officials will not be able to campaign as representatives of their political party, but they can campaign as independent candidates.

[Myanmar Times \(23 June 2015\)](#)

▶ Minister for Labour U Aye Myint promised yesterday to determine a proposed minimum wage for garment factory workers by the end of this month, despite strong opposition from employers. The process of reaching an agreement for the sector has been punctuated by strikes and protests that have dented investors' confidence.

[Myanmar Times \(23 June 2015\)](#)

▶ Myanmar's opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi said on 21 June that the country would need to be stable for an election due in November to be successful. "Stability is very important for the election period," she said. "Instability should not be the reason to stray from the way the country is going."

[Reuters \(21 June 2015\)](#)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

▶ Myanmar and the European Union (EU) have reaffirmed their commitment to continue and strengthen dialogue and cooperation in the field of human rights. The EU underlined its strong commitment to continue supporting Myanmar's democratic transition and reform and to further deepen bilateral ties, in a joint press release published on 22 June following the second Myanmar-EU human rights dialogue in Yangon.

[Shanghai Daily \(22 June 2015\)](#)

▶ The 7th Summit of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) kicked off in Naypyidaw on 22 June. The ministers attending the summit exchanged views on the economic cooperation among CLMV countries, trade and investments cooperation and development plans and financial assistance from international partners.

[Shanghai Daily \(22 June 2015\)](#)

09 THAILAND AND CAMBODIA TALKING ON AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION FOR THEIR INVESTORS



Thailand and Cambodia are negotiating on the avoidance of double taxation for investors from each others side. Thai Ambassador to Phnom Penh Nuttavudh Photisaro told Radio Thailand reporters that if the negotiation is successful, it will save both Thai and Cambodian investors from paying taxes twice.

- ▶ At the interview, the Thai ambassador was also asked about his opinion on measures to regulate migrant workers from neighboring countries
- ▶ At present, Thailand is the ninth largest foreign investor in Cambodia while many Cambodians are also interested to invest more in Thailand

[Thai Visa News \(16 June 2015\)](#)

10 SINABUNG ERUPTION SPARKS MASS EVACUATION



Thousands of people living close to the Sinabung Volcano in Indonesia have been forced to flee their homes after it began erupting violently.

- ▶ Mount Sinabung, on the island of Sumatra, was dormant for more than 400 years until its unexpected eruption in 2010; more recently on 2 June 2015, the volcano began to exhibit signs of activity
- ▶ On the 15 June, the volcano featured 28 pyroclastic flows, or surges of hot ash and gas which descend down the side of the mountain at high speeds; this has prompted the evacuation of several thousand individuals
- ▶ In February 2014 alone, the eruption of Mount Sinabung killed at least 14 people and displaced thousands; since then, the volcano had been relatively stable in its activities

[BBC News 15 June 2015\)](#)



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