

## Myanmar strives for improving transport link with new capital

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Myanmar has been striving for the improvement of transport link with the new capital of Nay Pyi Taw as part of its development of the capital.

A new motor highway linking it with the former capital of Yangon is expected to be put into service later this month, according to the Ministry of Construction Saturday.

The Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw highway, which extends as 323.2 km, represents the prior part of the 563 kilometers-long overall Yangon- Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay highway.

The 8-lane highway, which is restricted to small vehicles, departmental vehicles and highway express, can withstand 80 tons of load, engineers said.

The new highway, built by 12 giant private construction companies, starts from the point of Ngarsudaung village in Yangon division's Hlegu township and bypass Phyu township in Bago division to reach Nay Pyi Taw directly.

It takes only 4 hours' drive to reach Nay Pyi Taw from Yangon by using the new highway instead of 8 hours by using the existing Yangon-Mandalay highway.

Nay Pyi Taw, about 390 km to the north of Yangon, is accessible by air, train and road.

Meanwhile, Myanmar is planning to build one more railway station in Nay Pyi Taw next to the existing Pyinmana station to facilitate rail transport to the new capital, local media reported, saying that feasibility study and land survey are underway for the move.

The new station will be the second one after the first one being built since 2006 which is reportedly nearing completion.

To pave way for the building of these new railway stations, inhabitants in the areas covered by the projects were moved and resettled at locations near Pyinmana with low-cost houses provided, the regional authorities were quoted as saying.

Myanmar moved its administrative capital to Nay Pyi Taw from Yangon in November 2005 and building of such transport infrastructure has been hastily underway for the development of the new capital.

Also as part of its development program, the Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee in August 2006 allotted some land areas in the new capital, inviting investment from local

nationals for the development by building new living quarters, shopping complexes, highway terminals and car workshops.

According to the committee, on completion of all the buildings, 30 years of land lease will be granted which is not transferable within the initial 10 years' period.

The committee also designates that applicants must be Myanmar nationals without links with people out of legal fold or the investors must be free from money laundering.

The government said it is making separate arrangement for allotting land plots for non-governmental organizations and legal associations, according to the committee.

The authorities also allotted lands in Nay Pyi Taw to long-service government employees as part of its efforts to develop the new capital.

Priority is given to such government employees, who have at least 10-year civil services and two years' in Nay Pyi Taw, to buy the allotted lands.

Nay Pyi Taw is being strived for transferring into an international-level city in a decade with a claim that regions covered by the new capital such as Lewei and Tatkon are attaining the characteristic of a city.

The new capital has developed to a land area of 7,054.37 square-km now with a population of 924,608, according to official figures.

"Source:Xinhua"