

BURMA UPDATE
11 MARCH 2010
ELECTION LAWS AND FORMING THE UNION ELECTION COMMISSION

Rangoon, March 11 -- The most important feature of Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law and the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law, which are published by this morning's state-owned newspapers is the prospects for continued domination of future Burma politics by the military as these two laws prescribe that in both Pyithu Hluttaw (House of Representatives) and Amyotha Hluttaw (House of Nationalities) 25 per cent of the seats must be filled by members of the Tatmadaw (Burma military) nominated by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

To be exact, the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law provides that not more than 330 representatives must be elected to the Pyithu Hluttaw on the basis of township as well as population while 110 representatives must be military personnel nominated by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

As for Amyotha Hluttaw, 168 representatives must be elected to it in an equal number of 12 representatives from each region or state. To this Amyotha Hluttaw or House of Nationalities 56 representatives must be military personnel nominated by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

It should be understood that according to the 2008 State Constitution, all seven divisions where the Burmese reside have become seven regions while seven states where ethnic minority races reside will still remain as states.

As prescribed by the Political Parties Registration Law, both of these laws ban those serving prison sentences including persons in the process of putting up appeal for his or her prison sentences from contesting in the elections for both houses.

Furthermore, both the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law as well as Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law prohibits persons, who owe allegiance to a foreign government or a citizen of a foreign country from contesting in the elections for both houses.

Thus Aung San Suu Kyi, who was married to the British citizen the late Micheal Aris and who is now putting up an appeal against her three years prison sentence is banned from contesting in the coming elections.

As earlier reported Aung San Suu Kyi together with 2200 political prisoners now serving various prison terms are also banned from becoming members of the political parties by Political Parties Registration Law.

Both of these laws also empower the Union Elections Commission to postpone elections in areas where holding of free and fair elections will not be possible either due to natural disaster or security situations.

Most importantly, Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law firmly stipulates that all results of 1990 General Elections multi-party democracy elections have been deemed as

cancelled by this Law.

This stipulation is in direct contrast with the NLD's demand for recognition of the results of 1990 General Elections, which the NLD won by landslide.

Meanwhile Burma military authorities unlocked all divisional and township NLD offices, which have remained closed down in May 2003 in the wake of the bloody attack on Aung San Suu Kyi's motorcade by pro-government mob in upper part of Burma.

Forming the Union Election Commission

SPDC formed the Union Election Commission with following persons.

1. U Thein Soe - Chairman
2. U In Zaw Naw - Member
3. U Khin Maung Nu - Member
4. U Soe Ba Hlaing - Member
5. Dr. Ba Maung - Member
6. U Nyunt Tin - Member
7. U Maung Tha Hla - Member
8. Dr. Sai Khum Hlaing - Member
9. U Aung Myint - Member
10. U Myint Naing - Member
11. Dr. Tin Aung Aye - Member
12. Dr. Daw Myint Kyi - Member
13. Daw Khin Hla Myint - Member
14. U Tha Oo - Member
15. Dr. Maung Htoo - Member
16. U Tha Htay - Member
17. U Win Kyi - Member

Signed by
General Thaha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council