

POLITICAL MONITOR NO. 7

NOMINATIONS OF CHIEF MINISTERS FOR REGIONS AND STATES

Regular sessions of the first Region and State Hluttaws took place simultaneously for the second day on 11 February in the respective Regions and States. At the sessions, discussions were focussed on the number of ministries to be established, appointment of ministers, high court judges and Chief Ministers for the respective Regions and States. The following are the names of MPs who have been nominated and approved to the posts Chief Ministers for the Regions and States:¹

REGIONS		
Name	Area	Party / Background
U Thein Aung	Ingapu Township Constituency (1), AYEYAWADDY REGION	USDP, former Minister for Forestry
U Nyan Win	Zigon Township Constituency (1), BAGO REGION	USDP, former Minister for Foreign Affairs
U Phone Maw Shwe	Minbu Township Constituency (1), MAGWAY REGION	USDP, former Chairman of Magway State Peace and Development Council
U Ye Myint	Pyin-Oo-Lwin Township Constituency (2), MANDALAY REGION	USDP, former Military Security Affairs Chief
U Tha Aye	Butalin Township Constituency (2), SAGAING REGION	USDP, former SPDC member and former Chief of Bureau of Special Operations No.4
U Khin Zaw	Myeik Township Constituency (1), TANINTHAYI REGION	USDP, former Chief of Bureau of Special Operations No. 6 (Nay Pyi Taw)
U Myint Swe	Seikkyi-khanaung-toe Township Constituency (2), YANGON REGION	USDP, former Chief of Bureau of Special Operations No.5
STATES		
U Hong Ngai	Mindat Township Constituency (2) - CHIN STATE	USDP, former Tactical Commander and Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council
U La John Ngan Hsaing	Tanai Township Constituency (1) - KACHIN STATE	USDP, businessman and native Kachin (Buddhist)
U Khin Maung Oo (a) U Bu Reh	Bawlake Township Constituency (1) - KAYAH STATE	USDP
Brig-Gen Zaw Min	Defence Services Personnel Representative - KAYIN STATE	USDP, Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council
U Ohn Myint	Mudon Township Constituency (1) - MON STATE	Ex-Brig-General and former Minister for Mines
U Hla Maung Tin	An Township Constituency(1) RAKHINE STATE-	USDP, retired Colonel
U Aung Myat (a) Sao Aung Myat	Pindaya Township Constituency (1) - SHAN STATE	USDP, former Lt. Col from LID 66, Central Command

¹ Second-day regular sessions of first Region and State Hluttaws take place: Approval sought to designate chief ministers, numbers of ministries, ministers and high court judges in Regions and States - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs11/NLM2011-02-12.pdf> (NLM) 12 February 2011 (p. 5)

NOMINATION OF REGION/STATE MINISTERS APPROVED

On the third day of the regular sessions of Hluttaw held in the Regions and States on 14 February, the elected Chief Ministers of the Regions and States announced the list of persons to be assigned as Region or State Ministers. Also at the sessions, the respective Hluttaws approved the list of national race representatives to be assigned Ministers for National Race Affairs in the respective Regions and States.²

Ayewaddy Region Ministers		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Party (if known)</i>
Col Maung Maung Win	Defence Services Personnel Representative	-
U Tin Soe	Kyonpyaw Township Constituency No.2	USDP
U Win Ko Ko	Myaungmya Township Constituency No.2	USDP
U Hla Khaing	Zalun Township Constituency No.1	USDP
U Soe Myint	Hinthada Township Constituency No.1	USDP
U San Maung	Bogale Township Constituency No.2	USDP
U Than Tun	Maubin Township Constituency No.2	USDP
U Saw Mya Thein	Wakema Township Constituency No.1	USDP
U Kyaw Win Naing	Laymyathnar Township No.1	USDP
Bago Region Ministers		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Party (if known)</i>
Col Thet Tun	Defence Services Personnel Hluttaw Representative	-
U Ye Myint Tun	Bago Township Constituency No.2	USDP
U Myint Lwin Oo	Thayawady Township Constituency No.1	USDP
Dr Kyaw Oo	Toungoo Township Constituency No.2	USDP
U Kyaw Myint	Padaung Township Constituency No.1	USDP
U Tun Wa	Monyo Township Constituency No.1	USDP
U Tin Soe	Toungoo Township Constituency No.1	USDP
U Kyaw Htay	Htantabin Township Constituency No.2	USDP
U Baby Ohn	Kyaukkyi Township Constituency No.2	USDP
Magway Region Ministers		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Party (if known)</i>
Col Arnt Zaw	Defence Services Personnel Hluttaw Representative	-
U Win Myint Maung	Ganggaw Township Constituency No.2	USDP
U Win Pe	Saw Township Constituency No.2	USDP
U Nay Shin	Chauk Township Constituency No.1	USDP
U Aung Kyaw Min	Natmauk Township Constituency No.1	USDP
U Aung Naing	Pwintbyu Township Constituency No.2	USDP
U Kyi Min	Thayet Township Constituency No.1	USDP
U Thein Tun	Pakokku Township Constituency No.1	USDP
U Myint Naing	Yesagyo Township Constituency No.1	USDP

²Third-day regular session of First Region or State Hluttaws commence simultaneously: Approval sought for ministers of Regions or States - Nomination of national race representatives approved for National Race Affairs Ministers - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs11/NLM2011-02-15.pdf> (NLM) 15 February 2011 (p. 16)

Mandalay Region Ministers		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Party (if known)</i>
Col Aung Kyaw Moe	Defence Services Personnel Hluttaw Representative	-
U Aung Zan	Myingyan Township Constituency No.2	USDP
U Myint Than	Tada-U Township Constituency No.1	USDP
Dr. Win Hlaing	Aungmyaythazan Township Constituency No.1	USDP
U Phone Zaw Han	Aungmyaythazan Township Constituency No.2	USDP
U Kyaw Hsan	Myingyan Township Constituency No.1	USDP
U Than Soe Myint	Kyaukse Township Constituency No.2	USDP
Dr. Myint Kyu	Chanmyathazi Township Constituency No.1	USDP
U Aung Moug	Mahaaungmyay Township Constituency No.1	USDP
Sagaing Region Ministers		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Party (if known)</i>
Col Kyi Naing	Defence Services Personnel Hluttaw Representative	-
U Sein Win	Kalay Township Constituency No. 1	USDP
U Saw Myint Oo	Hkamti Township Constituency No. 1	USDP
U Sein Moug	Mawlaik Township Constituency No. 2	USDP
U Than Htaik	Chaung-U Township Constituency No. 1	USDP
U Tin Ngwe	Wetlet Township Constituency No. 1	USDP
Dr. Myint Thein	Chaung-U Township Constituency No. 2	USDP
U Tin Win	Katha Township Constituency No. 1	USDP
U Kyaw Win	Homalin Township Constituency No. 1	NUP
Taninthayi Region Ministers		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Party (if known)</i>
Col Zaw Lwin	Defence Services Personnel Hluttaw Representative	-
U Myat Ko	Dawei Township Constituency No.2	USDP
Dr Win Aung	Launglon Township Constituency No.1	USDP
Dr Win Aung	Kawthoung Township Constituency No.2	USDP
U Than Aung	Dawei Township Constituency No.1	USDP
Dr Kyaw Hsan	Myeik Township Constituency No.2	USDP
U Win Swe	Palaw Township Constituency No.1	USDP
U Thein Lwin	Kyunsu Township Constituency No.1	USDP
U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo	Bokpyin Township Constituency No.2	USDP
Yangon Region Ministers		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Party (if known)</i>
Col Tin Win	Defence Services Personnel Hluttaw Representative	
U Hla Myint	Retired Ambassador	
U Nyan Tun Oo	Dagon Township Constituency No.2	USDP
U Soe Min	Mingaladon Township Constituency No.2	USDP
U Kyaw Soe	Mingala Taungnyunt Township Constituency No.2	USDP
U Than Myint	Htantabin Township Constituency No.1	USDP
U Aung Khin	Kamayut Township Constituency No.1	USDP
Daw San San Nwe	Shwepyitha Township Constituency No.2	USDP
Dr. Myint Thein	Thongwa Township Constituency No.1	USDP

Chin State Ministers		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Party (if known)</i>
Col Zaw Min Oo	Defence Services Personnel Hluttaw Representative	-
U Nan Za Mon	Tiddim Township Constituency No. 1	USDP
U Ram Manh	Haka Township Constituency No. 1	CHIN NATIONAL PARTY (CNP)
U Van Htaung	Retired Chin State Manager of Myanmar Cotton and Sericulture Enterprise	
U Kyaw Nyein	Paletwa Township Constituency No. 1	CHIN PROGRESSIVE PARTY (CPP)
U Kwi Thang	Kanpetlet Township Constituency No. 1	USDP
U Ciin Lyan Paung	Tonzang Township Constituency No. 1	USDP
Dr. Ba Maung	Retired Director-General of Archaeology Department	
U Nein Naing	Mindat Township Constituency No.1	USDP
Kachin State Ministers		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Party (if known)</i>
Col Than Aung	Defence Services Personnel Hluttaw Representative	-
U Nyunt Aung	Mohnyin Township Constituency No. 1	USDP
U B Htaw Zaung	Chipwe Township Constituency No. 1	USDP
U Alay Par	M'Janyang Township Constituency No. 1	USDP
U Kaman Du Naw	Myitkyina Township Constituency No. 1	NUP
U Aung Naing	Shwegu Township Constituency No. 1	USDP
U Sai Maung Shwe	Mansi Township Constituency No. 2	SNDP
U Khin Maung Tun	Myitkyina Township Constituency No. 2	USDP
Daw Bauk Ja	Sumprabum Township Constituency No. 1	NDF
Kayah State Ministers		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Party (if known)</i>
Col Tin Soe	Defence Services Personnel Hluttaw Representative	-
U Tau Yei	Dimawhso Township Constituency No. 1	USDP
U Chit Hla	Bawlakhe Township Constituency No. 2	USDP
U Ye Win	Shadaw Township Constituency No. 1	USDP
U Saw Hu Hu	Pruhso Township Constituency No. 1	USDP
U Koe Yei	Loikaw Township Constituency No. 2	USDP
U Than Kyaw Soe	Pasawng Township Constituency No 1	USDP
U Poe Yei (a) Poe Yei Yan Aung	Dimawhso Township Constituency No. 2	USDP
U Aung Naing Oo	Meisei Township Constituency No. 2	USDP

Kayin State Ministers		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Party (if known)</i>
Col Aung Lwin	Defence Services Personnel Hluttaw Representative	-
U Chit Hlaing	Myawaddy Township Constituency No. 1	Kayin State Democracy and Development Party
U Saw Khin Maung Myint	Hpa-an Township Constituency No. 2	Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party
U Min Soe Thein (a) U Naing Min Soe Thein	Kawkareik Township Constituency No. 2	All Mon Region Democracy Party
U Saw Christopher	Thantaunggyi Township Constituency No. 1	Kayin People's Party
U Saw Hsa Law La	Kyainseikkyi Township Constituency No. 2	USDP
U Than Daing	Myawaddy Township Constituency No. 2	USDP
U Saw Win Htein	Papun Township Constituency No. 1	USDP
U Saw Kyi Lin	Hpa-an Constituency No. 1	Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party
Mon State Ministers		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Party (if known)</i>
Col Htay Myint Aung	Defence Services Personnel Hluttaw Representative	-
Dr. Khin Maung Thwin	Bilin Township Constituency No.1	USDP
Dr. Toe Toe Aung	Mawlamyine Township Constituency No.2	USDP
Dr. Hla Oo	Mawlamyine Township Constituency No.1	USDP
U Myo Nyunt	Thanbyuzayet Township Constituency No.1	USDP
U Win Maw Oo	Bilin Township Constituency No.2	USDP
U Tun Hlaing	Thaton Township Constituency No.1	National Unity Party (NUP)
U Naing Lawei Aung	Ye Township Constituency No.1	All Mon Region Democracy Party
Dr. Min Nwe Soe	Mudon Township Constituency No.2	All Mon Region Democracy Party
Rakhine State Ministers		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Party (if known)</i>
Col Htein Lin	Defence Services Personnel Hluttaw Representative	-
U Kyaw Khin	Yanbye Township Constituency No.2	USDP
U Kyaw Thein	Mrauk-U Township Constituency No.2	Rakhine Nationals Development Party
U Soe Aye	Gwa Township Constituency No.2	USDP
U Mya Aung	Maungtaw Township Constituency No.2	USDP
U Tha Luche	Sittway Township Constituency No.1	Rakhine Nationals Development Party
Dr. Aung Kyaw Min	Taunggyup Township Constituency No.2	USDP
U Aung Than Tin	Ponnagyun Township Constituency No.2	Rakhine Nationals Development Party
U Hla Han	Thandwe Township Constituency No.1	USDP

Shan State Ministers		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Party (if known)</i>
Col Aung Thu	Defence Services Personnel Representative	-
U Kun Thein Maung	Taunggyi Township Constituency No.2	USDP
U Thaung Shwe	Kalaw Township Constituency No.1	USDP
Dr. Myo Tun	Kunlong Township Constituency No.1	USDP
U Tu Maung	Tachilek Township Constituency No.2	USDP
U Sai Aik Paung	Hsenwi Township Constituency No.2	Shan Nationalities Democratic Party
U Sai Hsalu	Kutkai Township Constituency No.1	USDP
U Sai Naw Khan (a) U Tin Tun Aung	Hsipaw Township Constituency No.1	
U Sai Tun Yin	Taunggyi Township Constituency No.1	USDP

TIN AYE APPOINTED AS EC CHAIRMAN

Retired Lieutenant General Tin Aye was unanimously approved as the Chairman of the Union Election Commission (UEC) by a joint session of the Burmese Parliament on the morning of 18 February. A former senior SPDC member and MP-elect of Tada-Oo Township constituency in Mandalay Region, Tin Aye resigned from his parliamentary post in order to be eligible for the appointment as Election Commission chairman. According to the Constitution, the chairman and members of UEC cannot serve as members of a political party. The UEC exercises far reaching powers in determining the qualifications of political candidates, arbitrating in political disputes and challenges pertaining to the election laws, and hearing cases of malfeasance. Tin Aye was also the military's Chief of Ordnance and Chairman of Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited.³

BURMA NAMES NEW CHIEF JUSTICE

Top Burmese judge Tun Tun Oo has been appointed the country's new chief justice. Tun Tun Oo, who had previously held the position as Deputy Chief Justice, was personally nominated by President-elect Thein Sein. The newly appointed Chief Justice will head the revamped Supreme Court of the Union, described in the 2008 constitution as the "court of final appeal" – effectively the country's top judicial authority. The appointment comes amidst a shake-up of Burma's administrative and judicial departments, as well as the creation of a Constitutional Tribunal of the Union.⁴

NINE MEMBERS, CHAIRPERSON FOR CONSTITUTIONAL TRIBUNAL OF THE UNION SUBMITTED TO PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW

The Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw submitted the candidature list of 9 persons—3 members each nominated by the elected President, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Speaker of the formation of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union and one of them to be assigned as the Chairperson of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union nominated by the elected President. The Tribunal of the Union will be formed with 9 members including the chairperson as prescribed in the Article 320 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The 3 members nominated by the elected President were U Thein Soe, Dr. Tin Aung Aye and Daw Khin Hla Myint. The 3 members chosen by the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw were U Tun Kyi, U Soe Thein and U Khin Tun.

³Tin Aye to be EC chairman; Tun Tun Oo appointed chief justice - <http://www.mizzima.com/news/inside-burma/4898-tin-aye-to-be-ec-chairman-tun-tun-oo-appointed-chief-justice.html> (Mizzima) 17 February 2011

⁴Burma names new Chief of Justice - <http://www.dvb.no/news/burma-names-new-chief-justice/14312> (DVB) 17 February 2011

The 3 members nominated by the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw were U Hsan Myint, U Myint Kyaing and Daw Mi Mi Yi. Next, it was announced that the elected President had submitted U Thein Soe as the candidate to be assigned as Chairperson of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.⁵

JUNTA'S APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF MINISTER NOT WELCOME IN KACHIN STATE

The appointment of Lajawn Ngan Seng, a native Kachin and a Buddhist, who was approved as Chief Minister of Kachin State by Burma's military-dominated parliament on 11 February, is not being welcomed by the Kachin people, according to the sources in Kachin State. Kachin politicians said they believe Majoi Marai Duwa Ngan Seng was selected as head of the government in Kachin State to persuade the international community that Kachin State is ruled by Kachin people. Awng Wa, a Kachin student leader in the 1988 Democracy Uprisings on China-Burma border said that Ngan Seng was picked for the post because of his membership in the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) and his religion, Buddhism, which is the religion of the Burman majority. "The selection of the Buddhist, *Ngan Seng*, for a post giving him authority over the majority Christian Kachin society shows the continued imposition of Buddhism on the Christian minority by the new government," said a Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) official. An engineer and a businessman, Duwa Ngan Seng is a son of Lajawn Tu Hkawng, now deceased, who served as a member of the Nationalities Parliament (Amyotha Hluttaw) from Kachin State during U Nu's parliament from 1948-1962, before Gen Ne Win took control of the country. He is also a relative of Sawa Duwa Sinwa Nawng, first chairman of Kachin State and pro-Burman Kachin leader in the era of U Nu.⁶

ANALYSIS

While steps to implement Burma's disciplined democracy take shape with the appointments of Chief Ministers and Ministers for Regions and States, members of the Constitutional Tribunal as well as Chairman of the Union Election Commission (UEC) many still have reservations. Most, if not all, appointments thus far have been rubber-stamped in parliament sessions, where the junta-backed MPs together with the military appointed representatives have majority control. Questions are being asked as to whether these three tiers of government have the authority or capability to run the country. The answer to this lies with the real authority - Senior General Than Shwe. Thus, the role of the government, the military and the parliament will determine Burma's political agenda as well as the country's future only to the extent that Than Shwe allows them. But some questions worth asking include: The role and reaction of ex-military officials turned MPs? How will former generals now appointed as Chief Ministers accustom themselves to their new roles and how will the civilian side interact with the military institutions? The answers to these questions will shed light on Burma's future since history has shown that in a country where the military has dictated and dominated the political scene only those in uniform are the ones with the true power and authority. Our questions will no doubt be answered in the near future, while at the same time an unexpected turn of events could yet prove the existing theory wrong.

⁵Nine members, Chairperson for Constitutional Tribunal of the Union submitted to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs11/NLM2011-02-12.pdf> (NLM) 12 February 2011 (p.16)

⁶Junta's appointment of Chief Minister not welcome in Kachin State - <http://www.kachinnews.com/news/1854-juntas-appointment-of-chief-minister-not-welcome-in-kachin-state.html> (Kachin News) 15 February 2011