

ELECTION MONITOR NO. 36

UNION ELECTION COMMISSION ANNOUNCES ELECTION DATE

The following is Notification No.89/2010 issued by the Union Election Commission for parliamentary elections to be held on 7 November 2010.¹

**Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Notification No. 89/2010
3rd Waxing of Wagaung, 1372 ME
(13 August 2010)**

The announcement of the date to hold the multiparty democracy general elections for the respective Hluttaws

The Union Election Commission exercising the duties and powers contained in the Article 8 of the Union Election Commission Law announces that it will hold the multiparty democracy general elections for the respective Hluttaws on Sunday, the 1st waxing of Tazaungmone, 1372 ME (7 November 2010) in accordance with the Article 34 (c) of the respective Hluttaw Election Laws and Rules 16 (a).

UNION ELECTION COMMISSION SETS DATELINES FOR SUBMISSION/WITHDRAWAL OF HLUTTAW CANDIDATES LIST

In a separate announcement, the UEC issued Notification No.90/2010 dated 13 August 2010, setting the dates for the submission, scrutiny, and withdrawal of the candidates to contest the elections.²

**Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Notification No. 90/2010
3rd Waxing of Wagaung, 1372 ME
(13 August 2010)**

The announcement on the dates concerning the submission, scrutiny, withdrawal of the list of names of the candidates of the respective Hluttaws.

The Union Election Commission exercising the powers contained in Election Rules 16 of the respective Hluttaws announced the following dates:

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| a) The starting date for submission of the list of the names of candidates for the constituencies of the respective Hluttaws | 6 th Waxing of Wagaung, 1372 ME
(16 August 2010) |
| b) The final date for submission of the list of the names of candidates for the constituencies of the respective Hluttaws | 5 th Waxing of Wagaung, 1372 ME
(30 August 2010) |
| c) The date to scrutinize the applications on the list the names of Hluttaw candidates | From 12 th Waning of Wagaung, 1372 ME to 2 nd Waxing of Tawthalin 1372 ME
(from 6 to 10 September 2010) |
| d) The final date to withdraw the applications list the names of Hluttaw candidates if there is any wish to do so | 9 th Waning of Wagaung, 1372 ME
(3 September 2010) |

¹ UEC announces date to hold multiparty democracy general elections- <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-08-14.pdf> (NLM) 14 August 2010

² UEC announces starting and final dates for submission of Hluttaw candidate list, date to scrutinize applications of candidates and final date to withdraw applications of candidates - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-08-14.pdf> (NLM) 14 August 2010

UNION ELECTION COMMISSION DESIGNATES CONSTITUENCIES

The Union Election Commission issued on 11 August 2010 the following Notifications to allocate the constituencies for the respective Hluttaws (Parliaments) in accordance with Election Laws:³

1. Notification No. 85/2010 - Pyithu Hluttaw constituencies
2. Notification No. 86/2010 - Amyotha Hluttaw constituencies
3. Notification No. 87/2010 - Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw constituencies
4. Notification No. 88/2010 - Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Nationalities constituencies

KSDDP APPLICATION TO FORM POLITICAL PARTY APPROVED, SUBMIT REGISTRATION

The following group has been approved by the Union Election Commission (UEC) to form a political party:

1. The Kayin State Democracy and Development Party (KSDDP) (11 Aug 2010) Date submitted
(12 Aug 2010) Date approved
(12 Aug 2010) Submits application for registration

To date, there are 47 groups that submitted applications to form and to continue to exist as political parties. Forty of 41 parties that submitted applications for registration of political party have been granted permission to register.⁴

RECENT SUBMISSIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES' MEMBER LISTS TO UEC

The following parties have submitted the lists of their party members to the UEC:

1. Modern People Party - (6 August 2010) Date Submitted.⁵
2. National Political Alliances League - (6 August 2010) Date Submitted.⁵
3. Chin National Party - (12 August 2010) Date Submitted.⁶

To date, fourteen of 40 parties that have been granted permission to register have already submitted the members list of their parties to the UEC.

JUNTA PROVIDES ID CARDS TO CHINESE CITIZENS TO CAST VOTES

Junta authorities are reportedly providing national ID cards to Chinese citizens (classifying them as part of the Lisu ethnic group) in order to reach the 0.1% population quota as required by the junta-drawn constitution for the upcoming general elections, according to sources from the Sino-Burma border. Lisu residents in Shan State North's Namkham and Muse townships reportedly want to have a representative in the Shan State legislature in order to be eligible to become a minister of the State/Regional government. However, since the group's population is still less than 59,000, in order to fulfil the required quota Panhsay Kyaw Myint, a well-known militia chief from Namkham, together with officials from Namkham immigration have been cooperating and providing ID cards to ethnic Chinese in Namkham and Muse and named them as Lisus. If Lisu fill the quota, Sai Kyaw Myint's relative, Sai Htun Maung, would be chosen as a representative of the Lisu nationality and could also become a Lisu minister. During the 2008 referendum, thousands of Chinese citizens were offered temporary cards by the military junta to support its 2008 constitution, which was officially declared to have been approved by more than 90% of eligible voters.⁷

³ Union Election Commission designates constituencies - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-08-12.pdf> (NLM) 12 August 2010

⁴ Applications for formation, registration of political party scrutinized, passed - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-08-13.pdf> (NLM) 13 August 2010

⁵ Political parties submit lists of party members to UEC - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-08-07.pdf> (NLM) 7 August 2010

⁶ Political parties submit lists of party members to UEC - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-08-13.pdf> (NLM) 13 August 2010

⁷ Junta provide ID cards to Chinese citizens to cast votes - http://www.shanland.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3140:9-august-2010&catid=85:politics&Itemid=266 (Shan Herald) 9 August 2010

SECRETARY OF KAYAH STATE ELECTION SUB-COMMISSION INSPECTS BRANCH OFFICES

Secretary of Kayah State Election Sub-commission U Khin Maung Yi and members of the Sub-commission inspected branch offices of the sub-commissions and sites chosen for construction of polling stations in wards in Loikaw Township on 6 August. Accompanied by the Chairman of Loikaw Township Election Sub-commission, the secretary also inspected the list of eligible voters and gave necessary instructions to officials concerned.⁸

KAYAH STATE ELECTION SUB-COMMISSION PREPARING FOR ELECTION

Chairman of Kayah State Election Sub-commission U Kadio in company with Secretary U Khin Maung Yi and members visited on 7 August the Sanpya 6th Village-tract and Ngwetaung Village-tract in Dimawhso Township and inspected lists of eligible voters, ongoing electoral courses and samples of polling stations. At the township General Administration Department, they met with members of sub-commissions, returning officers and deputy returning officers from village-tracts, wards and the township for electoral works.⁹

UEC CHAIRMAN MEETS SUB-COMMISSIONS IN TANINTHAYI DIVISION

Union Election Commission Chairman U Thein Soe met members of sub-commissions from districts, townships, wards and village-tracts in Taninthayi Division at Pale Yadana Hall in Myeik on 7 August, where he gave a speech. Chairman U Tin Aung Win of Taninthayi Division Election Sub-commission gave an account of on-going electoral works. Other chairmen of sub-commissions from districts and townships also briefed the UEC chair on preparations being conducted for the elections. In conclusion, Chairman U Thein Soe responded to questions raised by those present. Also present were UEC Members U Aung Myint and U Myint Naing, chairmen and members of sub-commissions, polling booth officers and their deputies from Taninthayi division.¹⁰

ANALYSIS

The long awaited election has been set and the date will now become a time-frame for the registered parties to speed up their election campaigns. Furthermore, the timeframe set for the submission of the lists of candidates from 16 August to 30 August will become a major headache for many parties to quickly recruit would-be candidates. Parties are faced with not only financial difficulties but also the task of trying to find the right candidates to represent their party in the polls. The outcome will most likely be that many of the parties will either have to cut down on the nominations of candidates and also the number of constituencies, leaving the military-backed party unopposed in many constituencies across the country.

⁸ Secretary of Kayah State Election Subcommission inspects branch offices - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-08-07.pdf> (NLM) 7 August 2010

⁹ Kayah State Election Sub-commission preparing for election - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-08-09.pdf> (NLM) 9 August 2010

¹⁰ UEC chairman meets sub-commissions in Taninthayi division - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-08-10.pdf> (NLM) 10 August 2010