

## The 9<sup>th</sup> Position Statement of Nationalities Brotherhood Forum

1. We, members of the Nationalities Brotherhood Forum, had participated in the 2010 elections in the interest of democratic development, and not because we had believed that the 2008 constitution was a sound charter. Amidst many great challenges, our parties were able to secure a combined total of 127 seats across the three tiers of parliaments. The November 7, 2010 elections were neither free nor fair. But we saw that the recent by-elections on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 were relatively much freer and fairer. We now hope that the next elections in 2015 will be fully free and fair.
2. In our statement (6/2011) on 15 October 2011, the Nationalities Brotherhood Forum had called on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to form a political party in line with democratic principles and contest the elections. We welcome the landslide victory of the National League for Democracy in the recent by-elections.
3. We consider any system of government that dismisses the rights of minorities to be a bully and a system that lacks basic democratic norms. Members of the Nationalities Brotherhood Forum will steadfastly and collectively oppose such a system.
4. Loyalty to, and love for one's own ethnic identity, homeland, language, literature and culture are innate qualities inherent in all ethnic nationalities. We therefore oppose any attempts to subjugate the ethnic nationalities by trying to dismantle and undermine their spirit and unity.
5. The Nationalities Brotherhood Forum hereby pledges to continue to steadfastly work towards the emergence of genuine federalism in line with democratic means and principles.

U Zo Zam, Chairman, Chin National Party

  
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U Naing Ngwe Thein, Chairman, All Mon Region Democratic Party

  
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U Saw Win, Vice-Chairman, Phalon-Sawor Democratic Party

  
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U Sao Than Myint, Treasurer, Shan Nationalities Democratic Party

  
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U Ohn Tin, Vice Chairman, Rakhine Nationalities Development Party

  
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Date: 7 April 2012

Place: Yangon