
ELECTION MONITOR NO. 31

POLITICAL PARTIES CROWDING SHAN STATE NORTH CAPITAL

The capital of Shan State North, Lashio, is crowded with several political parties representing different ethnic groups and pro-junta elements. The following parties have set up offices there:

1. Kokang Democracy and Unity Party (KDUP)
2. Lahu National Democratic Party (LNDP)
3. National Unity Party (NUP)
4. Northern Shan State Progressive Party (NSSPP)
5. Palaung (Ta-ang) National Party (PNP)
6. Shan National Democratic Party (SNDP)
7. Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
8. Wa Democratic Party (WDP)
9. Wa National and Unity Party (WNUP)

Of the 9 parties, the KDUP, LNDP, SNDP, WNUP and USDP have had inauguration ceremonies to open their party offices. The only party which has yet to be officially established is the NSSPP. It is still awaiting approval from the Election Commission. One of the prominent parties, the SNDP is believed to have filled its 1,000 member quota as it has a branch office in every township within Shan State North where it plans to contest. It is tipped to do well in the elections according to local residents.¹

APPLICATIONS TO FORM POLITICAL PARTIES

To date, there are 43 parties that have submitted their applications to form and to continue as political parties. The most recent to do so is the Regional Development Party (Pyay), which submitted its application on 7 July.²

The parties that have not yet been approved are:

	<u>Date Applied to UEC</u>
1. Kachin State Progressive Party (KSPP)	5 April 2010
2. Northern Shan State Progressive Party (NSSPP)	23 April 2010
3. United Democracy Party (Kachin State)	30 April 2010

¹ Political parties crowding Shan state north capital - http://www.shanland.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3092:political-parties-crowding-shan-state-north-capital&catid=85:politics&Itemid=266 (Shan Herald) 7 July 2010

² Application for registration as political party submitted - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-07-07.pdf> (NLM) 7 July 2010

NEW APPROVED APPLICATIONS TO REGISTER AS A POLITICAL PARTY

A total of 36 of 39 parties that have submitted applications to register with the Union Election Commission (UEC) have been permitted to register. The latest parties to either submit their applications or to be granted permission by the UEC to register are the following:

1. Unity and Democracy Party of Kachin State (UDPKS) 2 July 2010 (Date of application)³
2. Kaman National Progressive Party 5 July 2010 (Date approved)
3. Mro National Party 5 July 2010 (Date approved)
4. Myanmar Democracy Congress Party 5 July 2010 (Date approved)⁴

POLITICAL PARTIES SUBMIT LISTS OF PARTY MEMBERS

In line with Notification No.64/2010 dated 28 May 2010 and as prescribed in Article 13 (a) of Political Parties Registration Rules, parties are required to present lists of their party members to the Union Election Commission (UEC) within 90 days from the day they are granted permission to register. The first two parties that have submitted the list of its party members to the UEC are:

1. Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization (MKNSO) - 29 June 2010 (Date submitted)
2. National Unity Party (NUP) - 5 July 2010 (Date submitted)⁵

PARTY LEADERS INSTRUCTED TO SUBMIT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO UEC

Leaders from political parties that have registered with the Union Election Commission (UEC) have been instructed to provide more personal information. Initially all parties upon registering for permission to form parties had to submit the personal data of their leaders as well as prominent would-be party members. However, recently, the UEC has imposed more stringent measures and parties are now required to submit more detailed information about their party leaders including convictions as well as past political activities. The newly created format of personal data is to be completed and returned to the UEC within 14 days upon receipt of the official notification. Those failing to provide the information within the prescribed time-frame will face legal action, though the nature of the action to be handed down has yet to be defined clearly. According to local news media sources, leaders of the Peace and Diversity Party, Union Democracy Party (Myanmar) and Chin Nationals Party are known to be amongst those to have received communication from the UEC demanding further additional information on their leaders. Political parties feel that the information being requested by the authorities is part of a scheme to monitor their activities and, furthermore, to use the information against party leaders if and when the regime wishes to do so.⁶

³ Applications for registration as political party submitted - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-07-03.pdf> (NLM) 3 July 2010

⁴ Applications for registration of political party scrutinized, passed - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-07-06.pdf> (NLM) 6 July 2010

⁵ Political parties submit lists of party members <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-07-06.pdf> (NLM) 6 July 2010

⁶ Party leaders instructed to submit additional information to election commission - <http://www.mizzimaburmese.com/news/2010-election/5639-2010-07-02-14-44-30.html> (Mizzima) 2 July 2010

UEC MEMBER OVERSEES TASKS FOR HOLDING ELECTIONS IN AYEYAWADDY DIVISION

UEC Member Daw Khin Hla Myint toured Ayeyawady Division from 24 June to 2 July to oversee work of the township sub-commissions for the elections and inspected buildings to be used as polling stations, locations and demonstration of casting votes at temporary polling stations in the townships in Ayeyawady Division. During her tour, she also held meetings with members of district/township, ward and village election sub-commissions and discussed the work of the election sub-commissions and laid down tasks for the sub-commissions. The UEC member, accompanied by the Chairman of Ayeyawady Division EC U Myo Tun, also held meetings in Sarmalauk, Nyaungdon, Pantanaw and Kyaunggon townships on 24 June, Pathein on 25 June, Thabaung, Einme, Myaungmya, Wakema, Labutta and Mawlamyinegyun townships on 26 and 27 June, Myaungmya, Yekyi and Kyonpyaw on 28 June, Hinthada, Laymyethna, Ingapu, Myanaung, Kyangin on 29 June, Zalun, Danubyu and Maubin on 30 June, Kyeiklat and Bogale on 1 July and Bogale, Pyapon and Dedaye on 3 July respectively.⁷

UEC CHAIRMAN MEETS MEMBERS OF DISTRICT/TOWNSHIP/WARD VILLAGE-TRACT ELECTION SUB-COMMISSIONS OF SHAN STATE (NORTH)

Union Election Commission Chairman U Thein Soe held a meeting with members of district/township/ward and village-tract sub-election commissions of Kyaukme, Muse, Laukkai and Kunlong Districts in Shan State (North) on 28 and 29 June. On 28 June, the UEC Chairman also met with members of district/township/village-tract sub-election commissions of Kyaukme, Hsipaw, Nawngkhio, Namtu in Kyaukme District, Momeik and Mabein in Momeik, Namhsan and Mongton in Namhsan, Muse district, Muse, Nankham, Kutkai in Muse, Laukkai district, Laukkai, Kongyan township in Laukkai, Kunlong district, Kunglon and Hopan township in Kunglon. At the meetings, the chairman discussed electoral work and the chairmen of sub-election commissions reported on work undertaken in preparing for the elections. The UEC chairman replied to queries raised by those present and delivered a concluding speech.⁸

MULTIPLIER ELECTORAL COURSE OPENED IN BO-TA-HTAUNG TOWNSHIP

A multiplier electoral course for members of the Ward Election Sub-commission was conducted by Botahtaung Township Election Sub-Commission in Yangon East District, at No. 2 Basic Education High School in Botahtaung Township on the morning of 3 July. Chairman of Botahtaung Township Election Sub-Commission U Khin Nyo gave an opening speech and in-charge of Yangon East District U Ye Myint presented reports on electoral tasks. It was attended by Members of Yangon Division Election Sub-Commission—U Kyaw and U Ye Myint (in charge of Yangon East District), Chairman U Khin Maung Kyaw and member U Aung Win of Yangon East District Election Sub-Commission and Chairman and members of Township Election Sub-commission. The 72 members of Ward Election Sub-Commission observed electoral rules and laws and demonstration on duties of returning officers and deputy returning officers in the course.⁹

⁷ UEC member oversees tasks for holding elections in Ayeyawaddy division -

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-07-04.pdf> (NLM) 4 July 2010

⁸ UEC chairman meets members of district/township/ward village-tract election sub-commissions of Shan State (North) -

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-07-05.pdf> (NLM) 5 July 2010

⁹ Multiplier electoral course opened in Botahtaung township - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-07-06.pdf> (NLM) 6 July 2010

MULTIPLIER COURSE ON ELECTION IN THAN-LYIN TOWNSHIP

The launching of multiplier course on election, conducted by Election Sub-Commission of Thanlyin Township, Yangon South District, took place at Sasana Beikman in Thanlyin Yangon on 5 July. Chairman of Yangon Division Election Sub-Commission U Ko Ko gave a speech, and Township Election Sub-Commissions members and officials gave lectures on election laws, regulations, and the duties of Sub-Commissions, returning officers and members of polling stations. Also present on the occasion were Chairman U Myat Soe of Yangon South District Election Sub-Commission and members, Chairman U Chit Nyunt of Thanlyin Township Election Sub-Commission and members. Altogether 563 trainees from ward/village-tract election sub-commissions attended the course.¹⁰

¹⁰ Multiplier course on election in Thanlyin township - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-07-06.pdf> (NLM) 6 July 2010