

ELECTION MONITOR NO. 38

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES DESIGNATION OF DIVISIONS AS REGIONS

The State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar issued Notification No. 32/2010 dated 20 August 2010 announcing the designation of Divisions as Regions according to the 2008 Constitution.¹

The Union of Myanmar
The State Peace and Development Council
Notification No. 32/2010
10th Waxing of Wagaung, 1372 ME
(20 August 2010)

Designation of Regions

In accord with Article 443 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar which states that the State Peace and Development Council is to carry out the preparatory work before the Constitution comes into operation, to bring the Constitution into operation, and as prescribed in Article 49 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

- (a) Sagaing Division is designated as Sagaing Region
- (b) Taninthayi Division is designated as Taninthayi Region
- (c) Bago Division is designated as Bago Region
- (d) Magway Division is designated as Magway Region
- (e) Mandalay Division is designated as Mandalay Region
- (f) Yangon Division is designated as Yangon Region
- (g) Ayeyawaddy Division is designated as Ayeyawaddy Region.

By Order
Sd/ Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo
General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

DISTRICT, TOWNSHIPS DESIGNATED IN NAY PYI TAW, THE UNION TERRITORY

The State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar issued Notification No. 34/2010 dated 20 August 2010 designating the district and townships to be encompassed in Nay Pyi Taw, the Union Territory as stipulated in the 2008 Constitution.²

The Union of Myanmar
The State Peace and Development Council
Notification No. 34/2010
10th Waxing of Wagaung, 1372 ME
(20 August 2010)

District, townships designated in Nay Pyi Taw, the Union Territory

- (a) Article 284 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar states the provisions for the administration of Nay Pyi Taw, which is the Union Territory.
- (b) In accord with the Article 443 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar which states that the State Peace and Development Council is to carry out the preparatory work before the

¹ Divisions designated as Regions - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-08-21.pdf> (NLM) 21 August 2010

² District, townships designated in Nay Pyi Taw, the Union Territory - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-08-21.pdf> (NLM) 21 August 2010

Constitution comes into operation, to bring the Constitution into operation, the following district and townships have been designated as the Union Territory—

(a) **District:**

Nay Pyi Taw District

(b) **Townships:**

- (1) Zeyathiri Township
- (2) Zabuthiri Township
- (3) Dekkhinathiri Township
- (4) Ottarathiri Township
- (5) Pobbathiri Township
- (6) Pyinmana Township
- (7) Lewe Township
- (8) Tatkon Township

By order
Sd/Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo
General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

SELF-ADMINISTERED DIVISION, SELF-ADMINISTERED ZONES DELINEATED

The State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar issued Notification No. 33/2010 dated 20 August 2010 designating the Self-Administered Division and Self-Administered Zones as prescribed in the 2008 Constitution.³

The Union of Myanmar
The State Peace and Development Council
Notification No. 33/2010
10th Waxing of Wagaung, 1372 ME
(20 August 2010)

Delineation of Self-Administered Division and Self-Administered Zones and their seats of government

1. According to Article 56 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar the Self-Administered Division and Self-Administered Zones are delineated as follows:
 - (a) Grouping six townships—Hopang, Mongmao, Panwaing, Narphant, Metmang and Pangsang (Pangkham) townships—in Shan State as the **'Wa' Self-Administered Division**;
 - (b) Grouping Leshi, Lahe and Nanyun townships in Sagaing Division as **Naga Self-Administered Zone**;
 - (c) Grouping Ywangan and Pindaya townships in Shan State as **Danu Self-Administered Zone**;
 - (d) Grouping HoPong, HsiHseng and Pinlaung townships in Shan State as **Pa-O Self-Administered Zone**;
 - (e) Grouping Namhsan and Mantung townships in Shan State as **Pa Laung Self-Administered Zone**;
 - (f) Grouping Kongyan and Laukkai townships in Shan State as **Kokang Self-Administered Zone**.
2. In accord with Article 443 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar which states that the State Peace and Development Council is to carry out the preparatory work before the Constitution comes into operation, to bring the Constitution into operation, the Self-Administered Division and Self-

³ Self-administered division, self-administered zones delineated - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-08-21.pdf> (NLM) 21 August 2010

Administered Zones are delineated as mentioned in the Paragraph (1) and the seats of the Self-Administered Division and Self-Administered Zones are designated as follows:-

- (a) Hopang for **'Wa' Self-Administered Division**;
- (b) Lahe for **Naga Self-Administered Zone**;
- (c) Pindaya for **Danu Self-Administered Zone**;
- (d) HoPong, for **Pa-O Self-Administered Zone**;
- (e) Namhsan for **Pa Laung Self-Administered Zone**;
- (f) Laukkai for **Kokang Self-Administered Zone**.

By order
Sd/ Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo
General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

NEW APPLICATION TO REGISTER AS A POLITICAL PARTY APPROVED

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

1. National Development and Peace Party (NDPP) (24 August 2010) Date approved.⁴

The deadline to register as a political party has now passed. Of the 47 parties that submitted applications to form and to subsist as political parties, only 42 parties have been granted permission to register.

RECENT SUBMISSIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES' MEMBER LISTS TO UEC

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

1. United Democratic Party (UDP) - (20 August 2010) Date Submitted⁵
2. Union of Myanmar Federation of National Politics - (20 August 2010) Date Submitted⁵
3. 88 Generation Student Youths (Union of Myanmar) - (20 August 2010) Date Submitted⁵
4. Union Kayin League - (18 August 2010) Date Submitted⁶
5. Democracy and Peace Party - (21 August 2010) Date Submitted⁶
6. Chin Progressive Party - (23 August 2010) Date Submitted⁶
7. Wunthanu NLD (Union of Myanmar) - (24 August 2010) Date Submitted⁷
8. Union Democratic Party - (25 August 2010) Date Submitted⁸
9. "Wa" Democratic Party - (26 August 2010) Date Submitted⁹
10. Peace and Diversity Party - (26 August 2010) Date Submitted⁹
11. Rakhine Nationalities Development Party (RNDP) - (26 August 2010) Date Submitted⁹

⁴ Applications for registration of political parties scrutinized, passed - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-08-25.pdf> (NLM) 25 August 2010

⁵ Political parties submit lists of members to UEC - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-08-21.pdf> (NLM) 21 August 2010

⁶ Political parties submit lists of members to UEC - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-08-24.pdf> (NLM) 24 August 2010

⁷ Political parties submit lists of members to UEC - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-08-25.pdf> (NLM) 25 August 2010

⁸ Political parties submit lists of members to UEC - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-08-26.pdf> (NLM) 26 August 2010

⁹ Political parties submit lists of members to UEC - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-08-27.pdf> (NLM) 27 August 2010

USDP FIRES FIRST SALVO IN ELECTION RACE

The junta-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) opened more than 400 party offices across the country simultaneously on 20 August. Fifty offices were opened in Yangon Division, including 45 township offices, 4 district offices and 1 divisional office. According to a senior official the party will focus on winning support among the “grassroots” of society, followed by the middle class. The USDP has already selected 149 candidates for Yangon Division – the maximum permitted for a single party – of which 45 are for Pyithu Hluttaw constituencies, 12 for Amyotha Hluttaw constituencies and 90 for the Yangon Regional Hluttaw. An additional two USDP candidates will stand for the Yangon Regional Hluttaw as representatives of the Rakhine and Kayin ethnic groups, which both get to elect a special representative in the regional legislature as they have more than 60,000 residents in Yangon. The candidates list has been submitted to the UEC and candidates will pay the 500,000 Kyat registration fee themselves. U Aung Thein Linn, head of the USDP’s Yangon Division Central Executive Committee, will contest the Pyithu Hluttaw in the South Okkalapa constituency.¹⁰

USDP OPENS MANDALAY OFFICE

The USDP inaugurated its Mandalay party headquarters on 20 August with Mayor Phone Zaw Han and Minister for Health Dr. Kyaw Myint attending the opening ceremony. According to Aung Kyaw Tha, the joint secretary general of the Mandalay USDP, the USDP has a membership of over a million members in Mandalay Division and hopes to double that figure during the campaign. Both Phone Kyaw Han and Minister Kyaw Myint are being tipped to run as the party’s candidates in Mandalay.¹¹

DEMOCRATIC PARTY (MYANMAR) OPENS PARTY OFFICE IN THAYAWADDY, BAGO DIVISION

The Democratic Party (Myanmar) officially opened its branch office in Thayawaddy, Bago Division on 18 August and the ceremony was attended by party Chairman U Thu Wai and senior members of the party. Currently, the party Secretary for Thayawaddy, U Thaug Sein, is being tipped to run as its candidate while Cho Cho Kyaw Nyein (daughter of former Deputy Prime Minister U Kyaw Nyein) will run in Gyobingauk, another major town in Bago Division.¹²

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FORCE OPENS MANDALAY BRANCH

The National Democratic Force (NDF) opened a new office in Mandalay on 19 August to drum up support ahead of the November 7 election. The opening ceremony was held in Mandalay city centre and was attended by NDF party officials, invited guests and local residents. The NDF was formed by former members of the NLD, which was de-registered in early May 2010. NDF Chairman Dr. Than Nyein said NDF members felt they would be failing in their duties if they did not stand in the country’s first polls in two decades when people are ready to cast their votes. “We will not go backwards nor run away. We are not people who will retreat because of difficulties,” he said. The NDF’s decision to contest the election has put it at odds with other former members of the NLD. While the NDF – whose headquarters is in Yangon – is expected to struggle to fill the NLD’s shoes, it is managing to win over some fans. “We want democracy and we must participate in the election,” said a NDF member.¹³

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES PREPARE TO REGISTER FOR POLLS

Prominent businessmen, politicians and leaders of civil society groups have been preparing to file applications with the UEC to stand as independent candidates in the November 7 elections. The deadline for nomination as an independent candidate was 30 August, the same as for candidates from registered political parties. Those who are planning to contest the polls include:

¹⁰ USDP fires first salvo in election race - <http://www.mmtimes.com/2010/news/537/news07.html> (Myanmar Times) 23 August 2010

¹¹ USDP opens Mandalay office - <http://www.mmtimes.com/2010/news/537/news08.html> (Myanmar Times) 23 August 2010

¹² Democratic party (Myanmar) opens party office in Thayawaddy, Bago Division - <http://www.myanmar.mmtimes.com/2010/news/481/news03.html> (Myanmar Times) 23 August 2010

¹³ National democratic force opens Mandalay branch - <http://www.mmtimes.com/2010/news/537/news05.html> (Myanmar Times) 23 August 2010

- U Hla Shaing, Vice Chairman of Union of Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Mon State)
- U Yan Kyaw (Pazundaung Township, Rangoon Division)
- U Ba Tint Swe (North Okkalapa Township, Rangoon Division)

The 3 men are part of a “network” of 20 politicians who plan to stand for election as independents. U Ba Tint Swe was Chairman of the Patriotic Youth Organisation in 1990 and contested the seat of Okkalapa (2) in Rangoon Division. Other independent candidates of the so-called network are planning to stand as candidates in the following constituencies: Rangoon Division - Sanchaung, Pabedan, Kungyangon, Kamaryut, Ahlone, Hlaing, Shwe Pyi Thar; Magway Division - Yenangyaung and Yesagyo; Shan State – Taunggyi; Ayeyawaddy Division - Dedaye, Labutta, Wakema and Maubin.¹⁴

MON STATE PARTY TARGETS 50 CONSTITUENCIES

The Mawlamyine-based All Mon Region Democracy Party has said that it will contest in 50 constituencies in Mon and Kayin states. The party has opened branch offices in Ye, Thaton, Kyaikhtiyo, Balugyun, Thanbyzayat and Mudon townships and plans to expand into other areas of Mon State before the election, said U Naing Ngwe Thein, the party’s 72-year-old chairman. The majority of the party’s candidates will stand in Mon State, but will also contest Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Kayin State Hluttaw constituencies in Hpa-an and Kawkareik townships in Kayin State. “We have organised eight candidates for Kayin State and the rest will be standing for Mon State,” said Naing Ngwe Thein.¹⁵

ANALYSIS

Since the announcement of the election date, many parties have been busy attempting to compile their party member lists as well as choosing would-be candidates before the registration deadline of 31 August. They have been hampered, however, by a lack of funding. Many parties are now faced with the dilemma of having to reduce the number candidates they can field. The exception is the junta-backed USDP party. It seems to have the upper hand by fielding more candidates than any other party. It is quite evident that the laws and announcements made by the UEC have been crafted to create favourable conditions for USDP and to deprive all opposition parties of support. The registration process for independent candidates has also been taking place. Though the number of independent candidates expected to register may not be high, their role could prove to be significant in shaping the overall outcome of the elections. What remains to be seen during the remaining 67 days before the polls, is the ability of opposition parties to stand firm against the intimidation tactics of the junta while remaining committed to their beliefs and intentions to bring change to the country.

¹⁴ Independent candidates prepare to register for polls - <http://www.mmtimes.com/2010/news/537/news03.html> (Myanmar Times) 23 August 2010

¹⁵ Mon State party targets 50 constituencies - <http://www.mmtimes.com/2010/news/537/news06.html> (Myanmar Times) 23 August 2010