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If Elections Could Not Be Held in Most Constituencies in Rakhine State, Military Would Dominate Hluttaw

January 3, 2020

If the number of constituencies in which elections could not be held increased, the state government and hluttaw would be dominated by the military, reckoned U Tun Aung, a member of Policy-Leading Committee of the Arakan National Party (ANP).

“The state hluttaw will continue to exist. The reason is that elections would surely be held in peaceful regions. According to the 2008 constitution, 25% of hluttaw seats are reserved for the military. There would be other parliamentarians elected by the people. I think that if elected MPs are weak, the government

and hluttaw would be led by the military,” he said.

Of the seventeen townships in Rakhine State, fightings are going on in Rathedaung, Buthidaung, Maungdaw, Mrauk-U, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Ponnagyun, Ann, Myebon Townships and over 100,000 people have fled their homes.

The fighting could intensify if peace making is not carried out more energetically, and the areas where elections could be held will be greatly reduced. As a result, forming hluttaw and government would be difficult, according to legal specialist U Khin Maung Myint.

If Election Commission decided that the local government could not

guarantee security, elections could be cancelled, said a member of Election Commission.

“We are now in the second week of January 2020. The government, hluttaw and Arakan Army (AA) need to hold negotiation and find a concrete solution to the conflicts in order to make peace and create circumstances where people who have fled their homes and villages could return safely and resume their livelihood activities. But now the voters have fled their constituencies and are living in temporary camps. How are voter lists to be collected?,” said U Tun Aung Kyaw.

Reference: <http://thevoicemyanmar.com>

Civilians Trapped by Fighting in Rathedaung Rescued

December 28, 2019

The elderlies and 27 villagers who were trapped by fighting in Rathedaung were rescued, according to MP U Khin Maung Lat of Ponnagyun Township.

When fighting broke out on December 14 near Thaungdaya Village, some villagers fled the village, but the elderlies and other villagers were trapped in the village.

These people were rescued by some parliamentarians and members of Red Cross in the evening of December 27, U Khin Maung Lat said.

“All the people were taken to township administration department and given shelter there,” said U Khin Maung Lat.

Fightings between the Myanmar army and Arakan Army (AA) broke out near the closing of 2018, and currently there are more than 100,000 people fleeing the conflict, according to community based groups.

Reference: <https://7day.news>



The elderlies are recused. (Photo: Khin Lat's Facebook)

Not That Bago Region Government Did not Report to Hluttaw, Only That Usage of Word and the Way of Doing Different: Minister

January 19, 2020

It is not true that Bago Region Government did not report its executions of programs to the hluttaw. It was just that the usage of word and the way it did was different, said the Spokesperson for Bago Region Government, Minister Dr. Saw Nyo Win.

The minister said thus in response to the accusation that was made in the report submitted to the ongoing fourteenth regular hluttaw session by Rule of Law and Draft Bill Committee that Bago Region Government did not submit its report to the hluttaw.

“As I examine the source of the accusation, I see that it’s not the case that the chief minister did not submit the report to the hluttaw. He actually did in every hluttaw session. However, the hluttaw read it as the ‘address’ by chief minister. This usage of word caused misunderstanding. Another thing is that since the hluttaw used ‘address’ instead of ‘report’, there was no more room for discussion. This will be worked out with the hluttaw,” said Dr. Saw Nyo Win.

He continued that the regional government reported all its undertakings to the hluttaw in the thirteenth regular session except the Hanthawaddy Airport construction which is managed by the union government.

However, the report by the Rule of Law and Draft Bill Committee that was submitted on the fourteenth day of the fourteenth regular Bago Hluttaw session pointed out that the government submitted its report only once to the hluttaw, and despite the fact that respective government officials were supposed to answer to the hluttaw in respective of sectors of works, only the chief justice did all the answering, and that these need to be changed.

“Reports to hluttaw are supposed to be done with respect and should include the future, present and



Minister Dr. Saw Nyo Win (Photo: Bago Region Hluttaw)

past activities. Address is given from a position of some sort of authority. The two words (address and report) are very different. And he [the spokesperson] said it was just a different usage of words. That’s nonsense,” MP U Zaw Naing of Thegone -1 opined.

The report by the Rule of Law and Draft Bill Committee also pointed out that the regional government spent surplus budget without the knowledge of hluttaw, but the government claimed that it was justified.

Reference: <https://7day.news>

People's Voice with Regard to Peace Submitted to Hluttaw

January 15, 2020

Peace talks were held at 4 places at township level and 1 place at state level in 2019 in Kayah State. The outcomes from these talks were presented to the hluttaw, but the result is not satisfactory, said Mu Catherine, the secretary of Kayan New Generation Youth (KNGY).

"The hluttaw said it could put some matters into effect. But it did not mention anything with certainty like 'We can do this and that for sure'," said Mu Catherine.

According to her, they (KNGY) wanted to take the people's voice through the hluttaw to the government and implement change.

The talk was held between KNGY and Karenni State Farmers Union (KSFU) on December 20, 2019 at Kayah State Hluttaw Office.

"The talk didn't achieve outcomes we had expected. We had hoped that the hluttaw could take something to the government," Mu Catherine regretted.

They discussed issues related to peace such as farmland and environment, youth and peace, politics and local governance, social and educational matters, rights of local people, farmers and economy and job opportunities and presented to the hluttaw.

Moreover, they requested the hluttaw to voice up to the government to settle justly the charges the



Kayan New Generation Youth (KNGY) and Karenni State Farmers Union (KSFU) hold talks with parliamentarians at hluttaw office. (Photo: KNGY)

Myanmar military had taken against Karenni farmers. However, the hluttaw's reaction was unsatisfactory, said Ko Tu Reh, the chair of KSFU.

"We were sad to hear parliamen-

tarians hint that there was nothing they could do about farmers being charged by the military," said Ko Tu Reh.

Reference: <https://www.kantarawaddytimes.org>

Company Renting Yangon Secretariat Appears to Be Given Special Privilege by Gov: Chief Auditor

January 8, 2020

It appears that Anawmar Art Group which is renting Yangon Secretariat is given special privilege by Yangon Region Government, and it is necessary that the State receives rent fully in agreed-upon time, according to Chief Auditor Daw Khin Than Hla.

She mentioned it in her submission of the fiscal year 2017-18 findings report to the hluttaw session held on January 8.

The report found that the terms in the contract included that if the rent was not paid in the agreed-upon time, a fine of 10% of the rent would be charged. However, the fine was not imposed when Anawmar Group actually failed to give the rent. In addition, with regards to implementing projects, the company did not consult

with the government. Although the Myanmar Investment Commission had permitted the company extended time for renovation works, no contract was signed.

"Watch groups are formed with regards to the Yangon Secretariat, and they are monitoring it. Regarding the spa that was opened there, it has been closed. However, there was no action taken. According to the Chief Auditor's report, the company did not pay the rent on time. Continued monitoring will be carried out," said U Aung Htoo, Yangon Region MP for Botahtaung Township.

Anawmar Art Group had won the bid to renovate and use the Yangon Government owned Secretariat (15.963 acres) in Botahtaung Township from January 29, 2015 to January 29, 2065.

Reference: <http://thevoicemyanmar.com>