

## ELECTION MONITOR NO. 33

### NEW APPLICATIONS TO FORM A POLITICAL PARTY

The latest party to submit its application to the Union Election Commission to form a party is:

1. The People's New Society Party (PNSP) - (21 July 2010) Date of Application

To date, 45 parties have submitted applications to form and to continue existence as political parties. Thirty-nine parties have been approved to register.<sup>1</sup>

### NEW APPROVED APPLICATIONS TO REGISTER AS A POLITICAL PARTY

The latest parties to either submit their applications or to be granted permission by the (UEC) are as follows:

1. National Development and Peace Party - (16 July 2010) Date of Application
2. Regional Development Party (Pyay) - (16 July 2010) Date Approved
3. Unity and Democracy Party of Kachin State - (16 July 2010) Date Approved<sup>2</sup>

### RECENT SUBMISSIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES' MEMBER LISTS TO UEC

As prescribed under Article 13 (a) of the Political Parties Registration Law, the following parties have submitted their member lists to the Union Election Commission (UEC):

1. Lahu National Development Party - (20 July 2010) Date Submitted
2. Rakhine State National Force of Myanmar Party - (16 July 2010) Date Submitted<sup>3</sup>

### KAMAN NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE PARTY WORKS TO ENLIST MEMBERS

The UEC has approved the registration of the Yangon-based Kaman National Progressive Party (Kaman NPP) on 5 July. The party represents one of the country's smallest ethnic groups and it now has 90 days to sign up 500 members. Chairman U Zaw Win said on 9 July that the party will begin by targeting the 700 Kaman households in Yangon before heading to other Kaman strongholds in the Rakhine State. The party will contest in three constituencies namely Sittwe, Thandwe, Kyaukpyu and will focus on the Rakhine State Hluttaw elections as its main priority. At present, a 16-member Central Executive Committee has been formed with many of the members either businessmen or former government officials, and the party is relying on funding from the many Kaman nationals throughout the country. The Kamans are an ethnic sub-group of Indian descent who primarily practise Islam. They are one of seven recognized minority groups in Rakhine State, along with the Rakhine, Mro, Khumi (Khumi), Kaman, Dienet, Maramagyi and Kahhmwe. The population of Rakhine State is estimated to be 2.7 million.<sup>4</sup>

### UDPKS GETS 50 MILLION KYAT FROM JUNTA-BACKED USDP

In a bid to win the elections in Kachin State, the Burmese junta is going all out to fund its sponsored political parties. The newly created ethnic Kachin party, the Unity and Democracy Party of Kachin State (UDPKS), recently received 50 million Kyat (US\$52,814) as a start-up fund from the junta-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP). This fund was received by Duwa Hkyet Hting Nan, leader of UDPKS even before the party was approved by the UEC on 16 July. The idea to form the party was floated in late June by Kachin businessmen and cultural leaders after discussions with two senior USDP officials - Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and U Aung Thaug. Using the USDP's fund, the UDPKS leader Duwa Hkyet Hting Nan and Vice-leader Hpaula Gam

<sup>1</sup> Application for formation of political party submitted - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-07-22.pdf> (NLM) 22 July 2010

<sup>2</sup> Applications for registration of political parties scrutinized, passed - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-07-17.pdf> (NLM) 17 July 2010

<sup>3</sup> Political parties submit member list to Union Election Commission - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-07-21.pdf> (NLM) 21 July 2010

<sup>4</sup> Party works to enlist members - <http://www.mmtimes.com/2010/news/532/news007.html> (Myanmar Times) 19 July 2010

H pang launched the election campaign at a Kachin Roman Catholic Church in Myitkyina, the capital of Kachin State on 18 July. According to UDPKS sources the party leader Hting Nan and Vice-leader Gam H pang will also kick start the election campaign in Bhamo (Manmaw). More financial support is expected for the newly created Kachin party in the near future from the USDP to support election campaigns in the Kachin state.<sup>5</sup>

### **ELECTION COMMISSION GIVES REASSURANCE TO KSPP ON PARTY REGISTRATION**

On a recent trip to Naypyitaw on 16 July, Kachin State Progressive Party (KSPP) officials were informed by the UEC that the party's registration would be approved before the end of the month. Dr. Tu Ja, leader of the KSPP, reiterated that his party's registration has been delayed and that this was the third and final visit to Naypyitaw to seek approval from the UEC. The news of the KSPP party registration coincides with the creation of the UDPKS.<sup>6</sup>

### **CPP OPENS SUB-OFFICES IN SIX TOWNSHIPS IN CHIN STATE**

Gearing up to contest the forthcoming elections in Burma, the Chin Progressive Party (CPP) has opened sub-offices in six townships in Chin State as well as in Kalemyo, Sagaing Division. The party has also formed township-level working committees in Falam, Tamu and Kalemyo in Sagaing Division and has also opened sub-offices in these towns recently. The township-level working committee in Tamu town was formed on 12 July. Those elected as members of the committee are as follows:

1. Pu Thang Kho Hau (Thado) – President
2. Pu Sui Ling (Falam) - Vice- President -1
3. Pu Kai Khan Lun (Zo) – Vice. President
4. Pu Kham Do En (Tiddim) - General Secretary
5. Pu Mang Lian Pau (Zo) - Joint Secretary
6. Pu Thawng Kho Hau (Thado) - Joint Secretary-2
7. Pu Mal Sawm (Falam) - Joint Secretary-3
8. Pu Lun Khenkap Thang (Tiddim) - Treasurer
9. Pu Let Kho Hau (Thado) - Assistant Treasurer

Similarly, a CPP working committee was setup in Kalemyo on 7 July and a sub-office was also opened there. The elected members include:

1. Pu Van Kim (President)
2. Pu KT Ngo Za Lian (Vice President)
3. Pu Hrang Sum (Vice President)
4. Pu Sung Lawm Thang (Secretary)
5. Pu Hrang Laan (Joint Secretary)
6. Pu Thang Sa Vung (Joint Secretary)
7. Pu Sui Than Ce (Treasurer)
8. Pu Tin Kap (Joint Treasurer)
9. Pu Hrang UK (Finance Secretary).

The CPP will hold a conference on 13 and 14 August where party leaders will be selected. The party has already formed township-level committees in southern Chin State - Pu Cho Maung Maung was made the

<sup>5</sup> UDPKS gets 50 million Kyat from junta-backed USDP - <http://www.kachinnews.com/news/1679-udpks-gets-50-million-kyat-from-junta-backed-usdp.html> (Kachin News Group) 20 July 2010

<sup>6</sup> Election commission gives reassurance to KSPP on party registration - <http://kachinnews.com/burmese/2010-01-18-05-43-21/199-kspp---.html> (KNG) 20 July 2010

party's office in-charge for Kanpalet Township, Pu Shing Thun was made office in-charge for Mindat Township and Pu Sun Thaih for Paletwa Township. Meanwhile, CPP sub-offices in Hakha and Thantlang Township are expected to be opened as soon.<sup>7</sup>

### **MEMBER OF UEC SUPERVISES ELECTORAL WORKS IN YANGON SOUTH DISTRICT**

Member of the UEC (in-charge of Yangon Division) Dr. Tin Aung Aye, accompanied by Division and District Election Sub-Commission officials, visited offices of Kayinseik Village-tract, Amuhtan Ward (Thanlyin Township), Thaiktugan Village-tract (Thongwa Township), Patokgyi Village-tract, and No.3, No.5 and Myohla Ward in Kayan Township on 14 July. They also visited sub-commission offices of Ohnbinsu Ward, Kyuntaw Ward, Kanbe Village-tract, Peinnegon Village-tract, Natsingon Village-tract in Twantay Township, Myothit Ward (Kawhmu Township), Ingalon Village-tract (Kungyangon Township), Denedaw Village-tract (Seikkyi-khanaungto Township), and Kamakathwe Ward (Dalla Township) where they inspected ongoing works and gave instructions to ensure the smooth running of electoral work conducted there.<sup>8</sup>

### **UEC CHAIRMAN MEETS MEMBERS OF SUB-COMMISSIONS IN MON STATE**

On 14 July Union Election Commission (UEC) Chairman U Thein Soe met members of Mon State Election Sub-Commission and Township, Ward and Village-Tract Election Sub-Commissions of Mawlamyine District at Yamanya Hall of Mon State Peace and Development Council Office in Mawlamyine. At the meeting, the UEC Chairman made an opening speech after which Chairman of Mon State Election Sub-commission U Thein Tun Aye and Chairman of Mawlamyine District Election Sub-commission U Khin Tun reported on electoral work in Mon State. Also present were Township Election Sub-commission Chairmen who briefed the UEC Chairman on the activities at township level. After reviewing the reports submitted by those present, UEC Chairman U Thein Soe made concluding remarks.<sup>9</sup>

### **UEC MEMBER SUPERVISES KAYAN TOWNSHIP ELECTION SUB-COMMISSION**

Member of the UEC (in-charge of Yangon Division) Dr Tin Aung Aye, together with Chairman of Yangon Division Election Sub-Commission U Ko Ko, Chairman of Yangon South District Election Sub-Commission U Myat Soe and sub-commission members, visited the offices of the Kayan Township Election Sub- Commission on 14 July. The group was greeted at the Kayan Township Election Sub-commission (TESC) by the Chairman and members of the local election office who gave reports on progress of electoral work. Dr. Tin Aung Aye gave instructions to the election sub-commission officials present.<sup>10</sup>

### **UEC CHAIRMAN MEETS KAYAH STATE/DISTRICT/TOWNSHIP SUB-COMMISSIONS**

A meeting between UEC Chairman U Thein Soe and members of the Kayah State/District/Township Sub-commissions, Ward/Village-Tract Sub-commissions, returning officers and deputy returning officers was held at the Town Hall in Loikaw on 17 July. The UEC Chairman delivered an address and heard reports on the progress of electoral work by the Kayah State Sub-commission chairman, as well as a report on the working being done by State/District/Township/Ward/Village-Tract Sub-Commissions in Kayah State by Secretary U Khin Maung Yi of Kayah State sub-commission, and respective work by seven townships sub-commissions in the state. The UEC Chairman answered the queries raised by the Loikaw District Chairman and Bawlake District Sub-Commissions and made concluding remarks.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>7</sup> CPP opens sub-offices in six townships in Chin state - <http://www.khonumthung.org/news.php?readmore=250> (Khonumthung) 23 July 2010

<sup>8</sup> Member of UEC supervises electoral works in Yangon South District - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-07-17.pdf> (NLM) 17 July 2010

<sup>9</sup> UEC Chairman meets members of sub-commissions in Mon state - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-07-18.pdf> (NLM) 18 July 2010

<sup>10</sup> UEC member supervises Kayan township election sub-commission - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-07-19.pdf> (NLM) 19 July 2010

<sup>11</sup> UEC chairman meets Kayah State/District/Township sub-commissions - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-07-21.pdf> (NLM) 21 July 2010

## **UEC CHAIRMAN MEETS KAYIN STATE/DISTRICT/TOWNSHIP/WARD/VILLAGE-TRACT SUB-COMMISSIONS**

A meeting between UEC Chairman U Thein Soe and responsible persons of the Kayin State Sub-Commission and District/Township/Ward/Village-Tract Sub-Commissions in Hpa-an District took place at Zweekabin Hall of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Office in Hpa-an on 13 July. U Thein Soe gave opening and closing remarks to those assembled, while Chairmen of Kayin State and Hpa-an District Sub-commissions, members of the township sub-commissions and other present reported on the electoral process. In addition, the UEC Chairman met responsible persons of District/Township/Ward/Village-Tract Sub-Commissions in Kawkareik Township Hall in Kayin State. After delivering an address, the UEC Chairman heard reports on electoral process presented by the chairmen of sub-commissions and gave concluding remarks.<sup>12</sup>

## **UEC CHAIRMAN MEETS SHAN STATE/DISTRICT/TOWNSHIP/WARD/VILLAGE-TRACT SUB-COMMISSIONS**

UEC Chairman U Thein Soe met responsible officials from the Shan State/District/Township Sub-Commissions and Ward/Village-tract Sub-Commissions in Taunggyi, Shan State at Town Hall on 19 July. On the occasion, U Thein Soe delivered an opening address and U Pwint, Chairman of Shan State Sub-Commission, explained arrangements made for electoral work. Likewise, Taunggyi District Sub-Commission Chairman U Tin Oo, Chairman U Khin Maung Nyunt of Taunggyi Township Sub-Commission, Chairman U Than Win of Hopung Township sub-commission, Chairman U Tun Mya of Nyaungshwe Township sub-commission, Chairman U Mung of Hsihseng Township also presented reports and updates on electoral work. While in Shan State, the UEC Chairman and his group also held separate meetings with sub-commission officials from Pinlaung, Pekhon, Kalaw, Loilem and Langkho townships on 18 and 20 July respectively. At the meetings, the Chairman was also briefed on electoral work and given updates by election sub-commission officials from Loilem, Namhsan, Kunhing, Laikha, Mongkai, Kehsi and Monghsu, Langkho, Mongnai, Maukmai and Mongping.<sup>13</sup>

## **ANALYSIS**

Though party registration is still an on-going process, party registration will remain low compared with the 1990 elections. Lack of funding has become a major issue for the majority of registered parties. The idea to form alliances is being considered by some in order to overcome this challenge. However, some have been fortunate to acquire funds more easily than others – such as the funding given to the newly established Unity and Democracy Party of Kachin State (UDPKS) by the junta-backed USDP of 50 million Kyat as start-up funds. Such tactics and strategies are not new. The USDP has been lobbying for support by providing financial support to build roads in local communities in return for votes. While the UDPKS has been receiving special privileges, others have been less fortunate. The Kachin State Progressive Party (KSPP)'s registration still remains unresolved. The credibility of the UEC is at stake.

The UEC has been busy conducting electoral work as well as coordination meetings in the various States and Divisions. Though the work of the UEC is seen to be moving ahead fairly smoothly, many observers are still unhappy with the present method in which the electoral process is being conducted.

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<sup>12</sup> UEC chairman meets Kayin State/District/Township/Ward and Village/Tract sub-commissions - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-07-21.pdf> (NLM) 21 July 2010

<sup>13</sup> UEC chairman meets Shan State/District/Township/Ward and Village/Tract sub-commissions - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-07-22.pdf> (NLM) 22 July 2010