



State and Region Parliaments

News Bulletin



Wa MPs Would Sit in Hluttaw, but Wa Territory Isn't under Government Control. How to Deal With This?

Union Election Commission (UEC) and Wa leaders held a discussion on holding elections in 2020 in four townships in Wa Self-administered Zone, according to Wa State TV.

Vice-president of United Wa State Party (UWSP) U Xiao Minlian, Deputy Commander-in-Chief U Zhao Zhongdang and Vice Secretary General U Bao Yu Yi met Chairman of UEC U Hla Thein and team at the headquarter in Panghsang on February 27.

During the meeting the leaders discussed about holding election in four townships – Mong Mau, Pang Wai, Nah Parn and Panghsang – in Wa self-administered zone. In other

words, it can be said that Wa State is in good term with Myanmar Government. Just last week, Wa State purchased a helicopter. It is interesting if elections could be really held in Wa State which is not under the government control. The Voice Journal talked to U Maung Maung Soe, an ethnic affairs observer.

The Voice Journal (TVJ): It is reported that when Wa leaders and UEC met, they told him about their 30-year vision and made an eight-point requests. What could be these requests?

U Maung Maung Soe (UMMS): First, Wa officially uses the term Wa State People's Government. But the Myanmar government recognises only Wa Self-administered Zone. There is this difference. Second, according to Myanmar government there are six townships in the Wa Region, of which Hopang and Met Man townships are under the government control. The other four townships aren't.

TVJ: The Wa governs the other four townships?

UMMS: Yes, they govern the other four townships. The Wa controlled area is about 15,000 km² and a population of about 500,000 people. The government designates Wa Self-administered Zone with four townships.

However, the UWSD organise their region in 3 districts, 2 special townships, all together 22 townships. Mong Maw district has 11 township, Mong Lin district, 6 and in Mongpawk, 6. So the regional organisation structure is not the same. Third, Wa has not signed bilateral ceasefire agreement with the government.

Only after signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), political dialogues could be held and peace conflicts resolved. Wa didn't participate here either.

Under these circumstances, it's questionable on what political view the UEC based its intention to hold election in Wa Region. In my opinion, without resolving political issues first, having election in Wa Region would be hard.

TVJ: Didn't they hold election in 2015 in Hopang and Met Man which are under the government control?

UMMS: Elections were held there in 2010 and 2015. But not in townships under Wa control.

TVJ: In your view, would it be possible to have election in the area under Wa control?

UMMS: I think UEC went a bit over the top. The possibility is slim.

TVJ: On what ground do you say that the possibility is slim?

UMMS: Based on the three points I've just mentioned.

TVJ: People say UWSP will win the election since there are no other parties contesting there. If they win, four MPs would sit in the Hluttaw. For these reasons, other people believe that Wa would hold election.

UMMS. Exactly. Wa MPs would sit in the Hluttaw. But the region is not under the government control. How to deal with this? Like I've just said, how do you deal with political issues?

TVJ: Of the 30-year vision, 10 points were told to UEC Chairman U Hla Thein. In addition, 8-point requests, which were based on historical facts, were made. What do you think they are?

UMMS: I don't know about the 8-point requests. However, it is possible that in the 30-year anniversary held last year, Wa made a request of Wa State under construction. So, although according to the 2008 constitution, it is Wa Self-administered Zone, Wa considers their region an autonomous state. And they use the term Wa State. I think it's about this.

TVJ: What about Wa's 30-year vision?

UMMS: That's what I'm talking about. On April 17 last year, in the 30-year anniversary celebration, Wa referred to itself as Wa State under construction. So in 10 years, they are going to establish a Wa State. I think it is this mission they are talking about.

TVJ: They [Wa] have literature, language and media. They recently bought a helicopter. Among ethnic armed organisation, it's the first group that owns a helicopter. Previously, although not officially, it's reported that they have a helicopter.

UMMS: I think this one they've just bought is the first helicopter they own. I haven't seen any other.

TVJ: Thank you very much.

Reference: <https://thevoicejournal.com>

State and Region Hluttaw Sessions Suspended Indefinitely Due to Covid-19

March 25, 2020

It is reported that the ongoing Rakhine State Hluttaw session and Mandalay Region Hluttaw session have been temporarily suspended in order to contain the outbreak of covid-19.

The pandemic covid-19 can spread through social gatherings that the President Office has instructed

on March 24 to forbid all kinds of events with a lot of people such as meetings, celebrations and festivals. The seventeenth regular session of Mandalay Region Hluttaw that began on March 19 and the thirteen regular session of Rakhine State Hluttaw that started on March 24 were suspended indefinitely, and the date to resume the session

would be announced.

The state and region hluttaw speakers have also urged respective government departmental teams for the prevention, control and treatment of covid-19, respective government organisations and lawmakers to collaborate.

Reference: Mandalay Region Hluttaw Facebook, Development Media Group, The Voice

Kachin State Chief Auditor's Report Points out Certain Departments Not Acting According to Laws (Part - 2)



(continued from previous week)

Key findings of the report and recommendations

1. A total of 313.643 million kyats from fiscal year 2017-18 and 2018-19 was identified and refunded to the state coffers.
2. There were 128 projects worth 22,528.980 million kyats from fiscal year 2017-18, 6-month fiscal year of 2018 that could not be audited.
3. According to the finding of State Government Office, supplementary grants totalled over 37 million kyats and there were 13 projects that were carried out with below the budget in the first half of fiscal year 2018.
4. According to business appraisal of the State General Administration Department, the construction of car park cost over 600,000 kyats. According to eye witnesses, 646,785 kyats was refunded. The money was kept in hand for over 9 months to over a year.
5. 52 confiscated cars, 175 motorcycles, and 1 tri-cycle at State Attorney General's Office need to be systematically transferred to Central Machine Statistics and Inspection Department.
6. Livestock Breeding and Treatment Department has not paid PG 5 percent, worth 0.615 million kyats and it is urged to follow article 21 of contracting system guide.
7. Of over 400 million kyats to purchase equipment, furniture and vehicles by State Fire Department,

instead of paying PG 10 percent, only 5 percent was paid, and that the department need to follow project guide.8. The Agriculture Department which constructed administrator's office without inviting tenders was urged to follow instruction.

9. The State Government Office's decision made in an coordinating meeting to spend a lump sum of 31 million kyats to purchase furniture without inviting tenders was against the law, and respective authorities need to ensure that the state fund is not wasted in doing maintenance works.

10. Tanai Township assistant township educational administrator who kept back 16,000,000 kyats of scholarship fund instead of disbursing in full was suspended for a year, and the township educational administrator was transferred from Tanai for the laxity in overseeing. The measure taken against the assistant township educational administrator was inappropriate, and preparations are being made to present the case to the Union auditor general, the state chief auditor said at the hluttaw.

The detail of the state auditor general report was distributed among lawmakers. Actions of governmental departments not according to law and errors in execution of projects were pointed out in the previous audit report as well.

Reference: <https://www.myitkyinnewsjournal.com/>