

Ethnic voters participation in 2015 General Elections

Background:

Nearly 3 millions (2,998,513) voters from different ethnicities cast votes for ethnic affair representatives during 2015 general elections.

Ethnic affair representatives were elected in States and Regions where an ethnic community had a population equal to, or greater than, 0.1 percent of the national population of Myanmar. Based on provisional census results, which identified the total population of Myanmar as 51,486,253, it had been estimated that the population required to elect an Ethnic Minister would be roughly 51,400 people. This rule however did not apply to ethnic minorities that were the majority within their state/region, or that lived within a state/region where the ethnic group already had a self-administered district/zone.

Data Source:

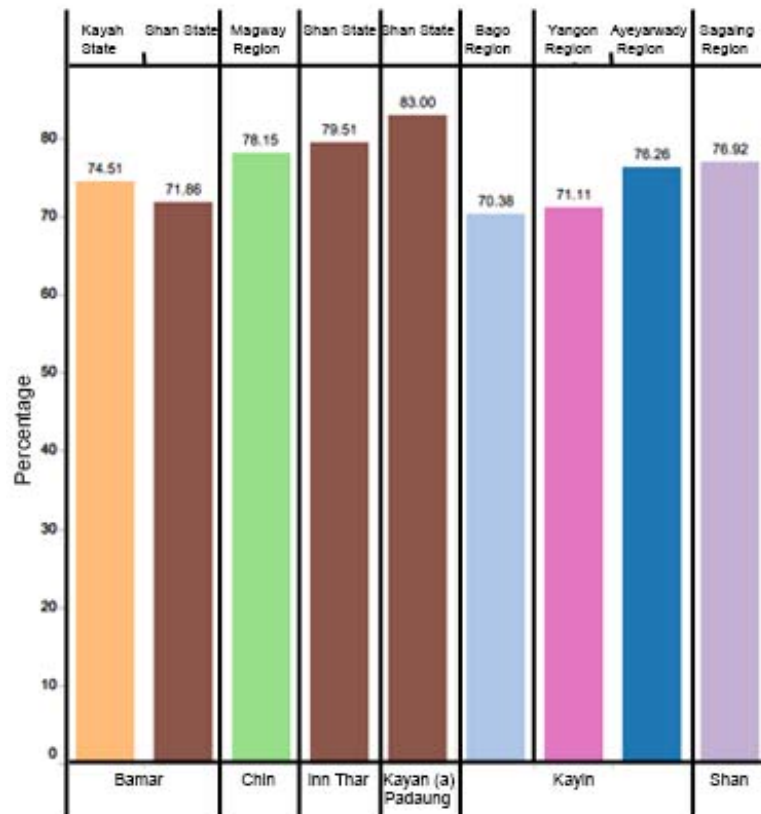
Union Election Commission (UEC) provided the results of 2015 General Election on their website (<http://www.uecmyanmar.org>) and results data are in Myanmar in PDF.

EMR translated tables and data from Myanmar to English and prepared in Microsoft Excel for further analysis.

Findings:

In general, 67% of voters turned out for ethnic affair representatives in 2015 general election with 48.16% in Kayin State (min) and 78% in Magway Region (max). There were 161 candidates ran the seats for 29 different ethnic affair ministers who represented 14 different ethnic groups namely Akha, Bamar, Chin, Inn Thar, Kachin, Kayan (a) Padaung, Kayin, La Hu, Lisu, Mon, Pao, Rakhine, Rawang and Shan.

Chart 1: States and Regions with more than 70% ethnic voters' participations



As shown in above chart, participations of 6 ethnic groups from 7 States and Regions exceeded 70% i.e., no: of voters (no: of votes cast at polling station plus advance votes) divided by no: of eligible voters.

Participations of voters with different ethnic backgrounds are presented as follows.

1. Akha – Akha voters were eligible to vote in Shan State only and voters' turnout was 56%.
2. Bamar – Voters with Bamar ethnicity were eligible to vote for their ethnic affair representatives in Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon and Shan States and the voters' turnout were 69%, 75%, 56%, 57% and 72% respectively.
3. Chin – Chin voters were eligible to vote for their ethnic affair representatives in Magway Region, Rakhine State and Sagaing Region. The voters' turnouts were 78%, 66% and 59% respectively.
4. Inn Thar – Shan was the only state where Inn Thars were eligible to vote for their representative and 80% turned out to vote.

5. Kachin – Similar to Inn Thar, Shan State is the only state where Kachin people were eligible to vote for their representative and 49% turned out to vote.
6. Kayan (a) Padaung – Similar to Inn Thar and Kachin, Kayan (a) Padaung people voted for their representative in Shan State only. Their participation was 83%, which was the maximum voters' turnout for an ethnic affair minister when compared to other ethnicities.
7. Kayin – Kayin people from Ayeyarwady Region, Bago Region, Mon State, Tanintharyi Region and Yangon Region were eligible to vote for their ethnic affair representatives and voters' turnout were 76%, 70%, 55%, 63% and 71% respectively.
8. La Hu- People with La Hu ethnicity were eligible to vote in Shan State for an ethnic affair representative and 67% turned out for voting.
9. Lisu – In Kachin and Shan States, Lisu people were eligible to vote for their ethnic affair representatives. In Kachin State, 67% and in Shan State, 50% turned out to vote.
10. Mon – Kayin is the only state where Mon people were eligible to vote for their representative. Voters' turnout was the lowest with 38%.
11. Pao – Pao people were eligible to vote for their ethnic affair representatives in Kayin and Mon States. Among eligible voters in each state, 47% in Kayin State and 52% in Mon State turned out for voting.
12. Rakhine – Rakhine people were eligible to vote for their ethnic affair representatives in Ayeyarwady and Yangon Regions. In Ayeyarwady Region, 68% turned out for voting and in Yangon Region, 67% turned out for voting.
13. Rawang – Kachin is the only state where Rawang people were eligible to vote for an ethnic affair representative. Out of eligible voters, 67% participated for voting.
14. Shan – In Kachin State, Mandalay Region and Sagaing Region, people with Shan ethnic background were eligible to vote for their ethnic affair representatives. Among all eligible voters in each State/Region, 70% in Kachin State, 60% in Mandalay Region and 77% in Sagaing Region participated for voting.