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Inception of 22 Winning Political Parties

In 1962, the nominally socialist military government took over power and ruled the country by 1974 constitution as a single-party socialist system. Due to 8888 Uprising against the Burma Socialist Program Party (BSPP), Tattmadaw (Military) took the power and established the "State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC)" in 1988.

As people's desire, SLORC (the Junta) held 1990 general elections to implement the multi-party system of the government. There were 235 political parties registered to run in 1990 general elections. In that election, National Leagues for Democracy (NLD) won National Unity Party (NUP) which was formed by former BSPP, and it obtained votes for 392 out of the 492 contested seats. That was a landslide victory of NLD and it was 58.7\%.

However, the dictatorship rejected this result and it kept ruling the country until March 2011.

In 2008 referendum, the new constitution had been approved and the general election was consecutively prepared to hold in 2010. Thus, 34 political parties registered to run in the 2010 general elections. Nevertheless NLD had been openly against the 2008 constitution and it decided to show its standing by not running in the 2010 general elections.

During 2010 general elections, Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) had got most of the votes and Shan Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP) and National Unity Party (NUP) also won $2^{\text {nd }}$ and $3^{\text {rd }}$ place respectively.

In fact, the five political parties participated in the 2010 general elections were among ten political parties which were not canceled after running in 1990 general elections. They are named as National Unity party, Kokang Democratic and Unity party, La Hu National Development Party, Mro National Solidarity Organization and United Kayin Leagues.

Because of 2010 general elections, the new presidential government was formed in 2011 and some of parliament members became ministers in the new government. This situation basically caused to hold the by-election to fill the vacant seats in parliament.

Then, by-election was held on $1^{\text {st }}$ April, 2012. NLD and some of the new political parties competed for 45 vacant parliament seats. NLD won 43 out of 45 contested seats among 17 political parties.

In 2012 by-election, USDP and SNLD each won one vacant seat.
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Recently, 2015 general election was held on $8^{\text {th }}$ November 2015 and 90 political parties contested for parliament seats. NLD got landslide victory with the majority of seats - 886 out of 1150 parliament seats. As for second and third winning parties, USDP won 117 seats and Arakan National Party won 45 contested seats.

During recent elections, 90 political parties competed that consisted of 53 ethnic parties and other 37 parties. In total, 22 parties won of which 18 were ethnic parties and other 4 parties were NLD, USDP, NUP and Democratic Party (Myanmar).

The following analysis was based on the "profiles of winning parties" developed by EMReF.

NLD and NUP were established and contested since 1990 general elections and NUP was re-registered for the 2010 elections. NLD which overwhelmingly won 1990 general elections, was only re-registered for 2012 by-elections. The party registration number of NUP is (2) and NLD is (47).

USDP was established in 1993 by changing its name "Union Solidarity and Development Association" to Union Solidarity and Development Party. In this party, retired military generals were taking the leading roles and some of them won most of the seats in 2010 general elections. The registration number of USDP is (32).

Democratic Party (Myanmar) was the party established to run the 2010 general elections and the registration number is (6). U Thu Wai was the president and Daw Than Than Nu (daughter of Prime minister U Nu in Parliament Democracy), Daw Cho Cho Kyaw Nyein (daughter of Minister U Kyaw Nyein) and Daw Nay Yee Ba Swe (daughter of Minister U Ba Swe) were leading the party.

Among 18 winning ethnic political parties, La Hu National Development Party and Kokang Democracy and Unity Party had still been existed since 1990 elections without changing their names before the 2010 general elections. For 2010 general elections, these two parties re-registered according to the article 25 of the law of political party registration (SLORC 2/2010).

The registration numbers of La Hu National Development Party and Kokang Democracy and Unity Party were (3) and (4) respectively.

Shan Nationalities Leagues for Democracy participated in the 1990 general election but it boycotted the 2010 general election like NLD and did not compete for a seat in 2010 elections. It re-registered only after 2012 by-election and the registration number was (56).

Among other ethnic parties, Akha National Development Party, Mon National Party, Kachin State Democracy party, Lisu National Development Party, Tai-Leng Nationalities Development Party, Zomi Congress for Democracy Party and Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) were newly registered as political parties after 2012 by-election. The rest ethnic parties registered since 2010 general election.


