

STEP
DEMOCRACY
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2020 General Election in Myanmar- Fact Sheet

INTERNATIONAL IDEA MYANMAR 2020

STEP DEMOCRACY PROGRAMME

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Acronyms

UEC	- Union Election Commission in Myanmar
EMB	- Election Management Body
FPTP	- First-Past-The-Post Electoral System
SAZ	- Self-Administrative Zone
SEC	- Sub-Election Commission
MP	- Member of Parliament
GE	- General Election
MMK	- Myanmar Kyat (Currency in Myanmar)
PS	- Polling Station
CoC	- Code of Conduct
PP	- Political Party
E-day	- The Election Day
NGO	- Non-Governmental Organization
CSO	- Civil Society Organization
PSO	- Polling Station Officer
MOFA	- Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Myanmar
MOHA	- Ministry of Home Affairs in Myanmar
MOD	- Ministry of Defense in Myanmar
VL	- Voter List
MPF	- Myanmar Police Force

2020 GENERAL ELECTION IN MYANMAR- FACT SHEET

1. 2020 General Election Day

8 November 2020 (Sunday).¹

The first regular session of a term of the Pyithu Hluttaw shall be held within 90 days after the commencement of the general election.² The last date of the second term of the Pyithu Hluttaw is on 31 January 2021. Therefore, the election date will be from 1 November 2020 to 30 January 2021.

The UEC shall:

- (a) hold the elections simultaneously on the same day as far as possible;
- (b) hold the elections on public holiday as far as possible;
- (c) designate and declare the date of election in advance.³

2. Election Management Body

According to the constitution of Myanmar, the Union Election Commission (UEC) is the Election Management Body of Myanmar. UEC is responsible to organize the Hluttaw Elections (the Amyotha Hluttaw (the Upper House), the Pyithu Hluttaw (the Lower House) and State/Region Hluttaw (State/Region Assemblies). The President may appoint a minimum of five members including the chairperson of UEC.⁴ There are 14 State/Regional Level Sub-commissions and one Union Territory SEC, 83 District Level Sub-Commissions and 326 Township Level Sub-commissions (4 Townships are

not formed in Wa SAZ: 1. Pangwaun, 2. Narphan, 3. Pangsang and 4. Mongla) under the UEC. The current UEC consists of the Chairperson, HE U Hla Thein and 14 Commissioners. Each State/Region is assigned to one Commissioner.

2.1. Model of Electoral Management

Independent⁵

3. Electoral System

3.1. Electoral Formula:

First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) system

3.2. District Magnitude

Single Member Constituency (one representative for each legislative body)

3.3. Ballot Structure:

Three separate ballots for candidates contesting for the Lower House, Upper House, and regional assemblies. An additional ballot is cast for the ethnic affairs ministers.

3.4. Compulsory/voluntary voting:

Voluntary

4. Elected Bodies

4.1. The Amyotha Hluttaw (The Upper House)

Maximum Seat Number is 224. 12 representatives from each of the 14 State / Region (168) plus 56

1 UEC Notification No (115/2020)

2 Constitution Article 123

3 Hluttaw Election Laws Article 34 (c) and Hluttaw Election Bylaws Article 16 (a)

4 The Constitution: Article. 398 (a)

5 The UEC Law: Article 10

military MPs are appointed by the Commander in Chief.

4.2. The Pyithu Hluttaw (The Lower House)

Maximum of 440 Seats. Pyithu Hluttaw constituencies are based on township boundary, not more than 330 constituencies. 110 military MPs are appointed by the Commander in Chief.⁶

4.3. State & Region Hluttaw (State & Region Assemblies)

Maximum Seat Number is 644 plus Ethnic Race Representatives. State/Region Hluttaw constituencies are based on townships and two representatives are elected for each township, not including the Union Territory. The splitting of the townships should be done by dividing the number of populations symmetrically. The constituency boundaries No (1) and (2) should be defined by existing wards/villages boundaries.⁷

MPs from the military are appointed by the Commander in Chief (one third of total elected number).

The State/Region, District, Township and Ward/Village-Tract Sub-Election Commissions have to re-announce the designated constituencies at least 30 days before the E-day.⁸

4.4. National Race Representative (National Race Affairs Minister for State and Region Assemblies)

National Race Affairs Ministers will be elected in each state and region where an ethnic community has a population equal to, or greater than 0.1 percent of the national population of Myanmar.⁹ Based on provisional census results, the total population of Myanmar is **55.58 Million**.¹⁰ The minimum threshold of the population required to elect an National Race Affairs Minister is thus **54,437** people. This does not apply to ethnic minorities that are in the majority within their State/Region,

or that live within a state/region where the ethnic group already has a self-administered district/zone. There are no elections for the State/Region Hluttaw in the Union Territory.

A total of 29 National Race Affairs Ministers will be elected in the 2020 General Elections. The UEC will announce the number of ethnic representative constituencies. The Union Territory (Nay Pyi Taw) is under the direct administration of the President and no state/region Hluttaw MPs seats are in this constituency. There are eight townships in the Union Territory.

5. Election Process of the President:

The President is elected by the Presidential Electoral College. The Presidential Electoral College is formed by (1) Elected MPs from Amyotha Hluttaw, (2) Elected MPs from Pyithu Hluttaw and, (3) Defense Services personnel Hluttaw representatives who are nominated by the Commander-in-Chief. Each of the three groups elects a Vice-President. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw elects the President out of three Vice-Presidents using the First Past the Post System.

6. Constituency Boundaries

The UEC shall designate the constituencies for the next term at **least 60 days** in advance prior to the expiry of the term of the Hluttaw.¹¹ The UEC announced the constituencies on 1 July 2020. There are 330 constituencies in Pyithu Hluttaw, 168 constituencies for Amyotha Hluttaw, 644 constituencies for State/Region Hluttaw and 29 constituencies for National Race Representatives in the 2020 General Election.¹²

UEC shall decide not to hold election in some area due natural disasters or security concerns to some situations or issues.

The UEC shall postpone and/or cancel elections in constituencies in which free and fair elections

⁶ The Constitution:109 (a) & (b)

⁷ The Hluttaw Election Bylaws; Article 3 (a) (i)

⁸ The Hluttaw Election Bylaws; Article 3 (a)

⁹ The Constitution:161 (b)

¹⁰ Department of Population, Myanmar: Last Updated 1st April 2020 (UEC use this number to define the constituency of National Race Representatives)

¹¹ The Hluttaw Election Laws; Article 5 (c)

¹² UEC Announcements: No (111/2020) for Pyithu Hluttaw, No (112/2020) for Amyotha Hluttaw and No (113/2020) for State/Region Hluttaw and No (114/2020) for National Race Representative

could not be held due to a natural disaster or a situation of regional security,¹³ and the UEC shall decide to hold elections in some areas within a constituency where the situation permits, decide not to hold elections in some areas therein where the situation does not permit or decide to transfer the polling booths to secure places.¹⁴

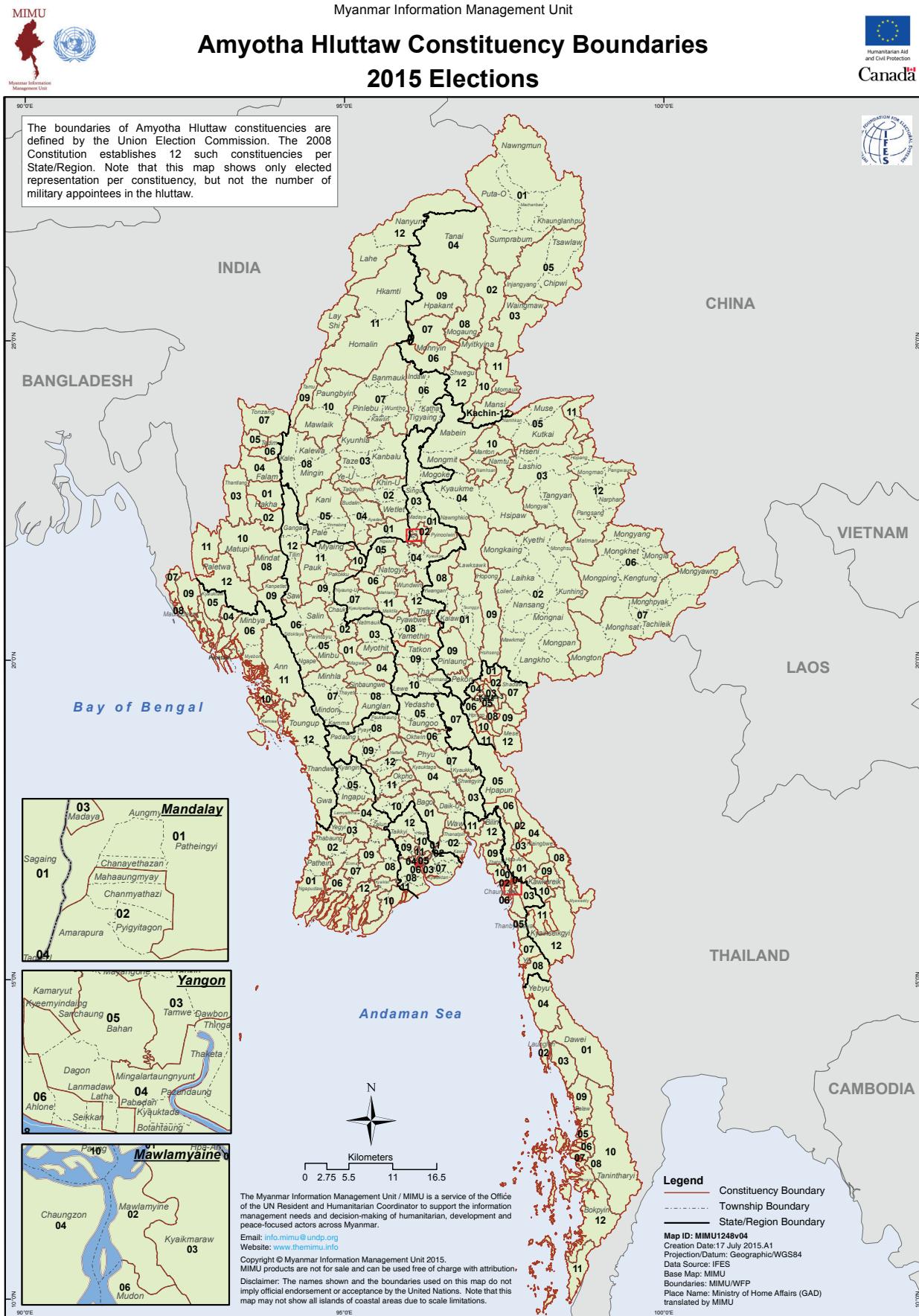
6.1. Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency Boundary in the 2015 GE



13 The UEC Law Chapter IV Article 10 (f)

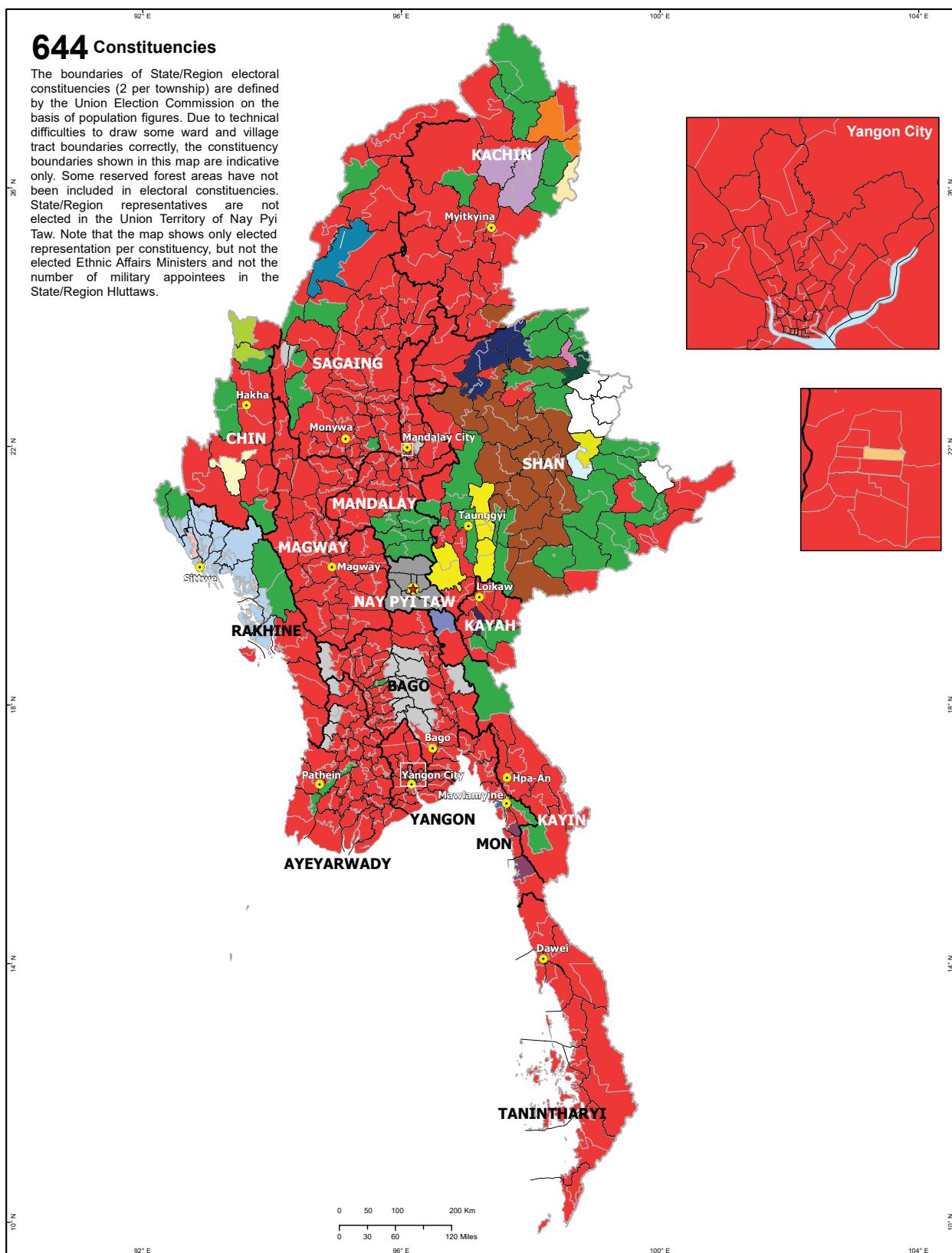
14 Section 50 (c) of the Hluttaw Election Laws Chapter XI, State and Region Hluttaw Bylaws Chapter 2 Section 50 (c)

6.2. Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency Boundary in the 2015 GE

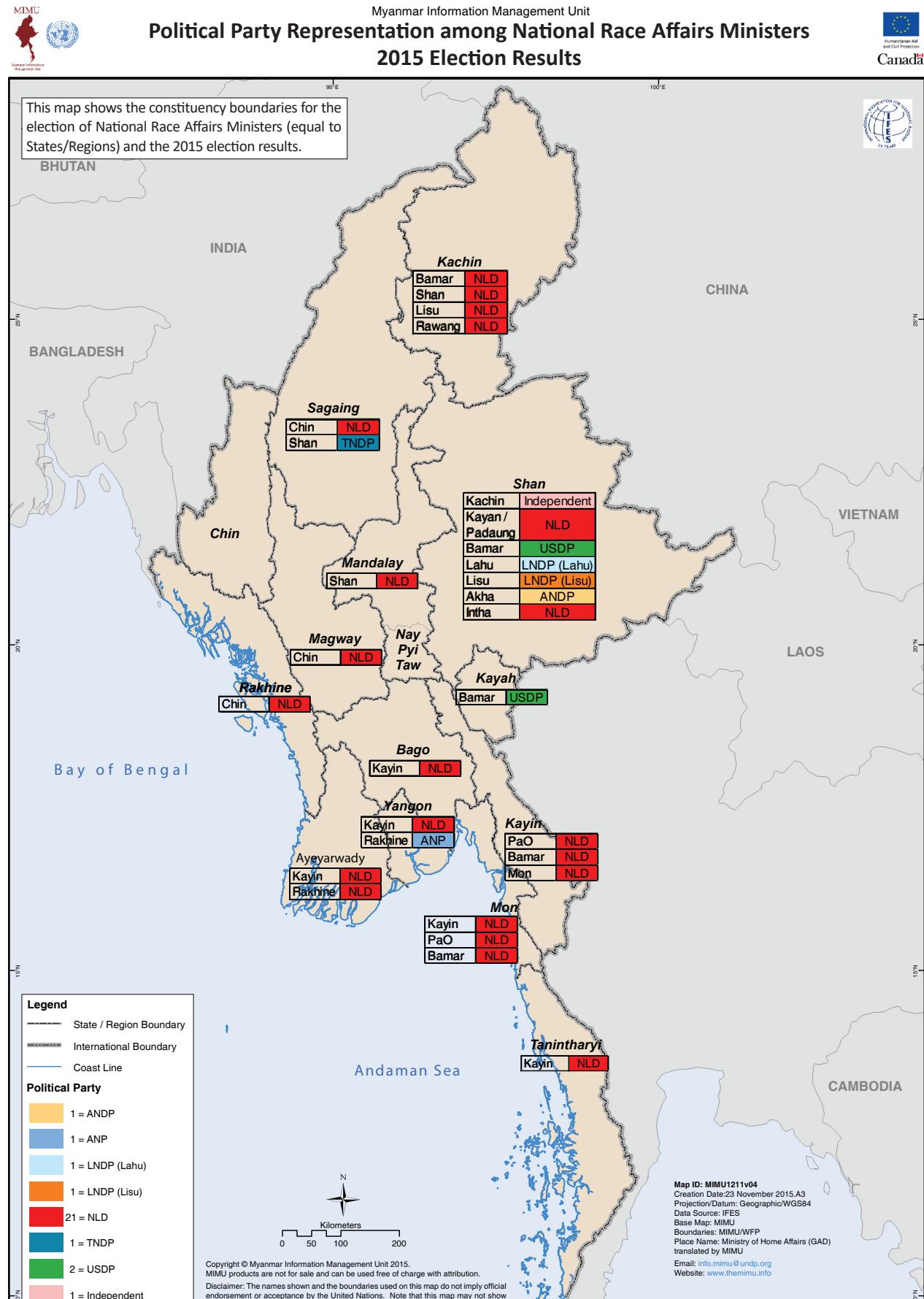


6.3. State/Region Hluttaw Constituency Boundary in the 2015 GE and its results

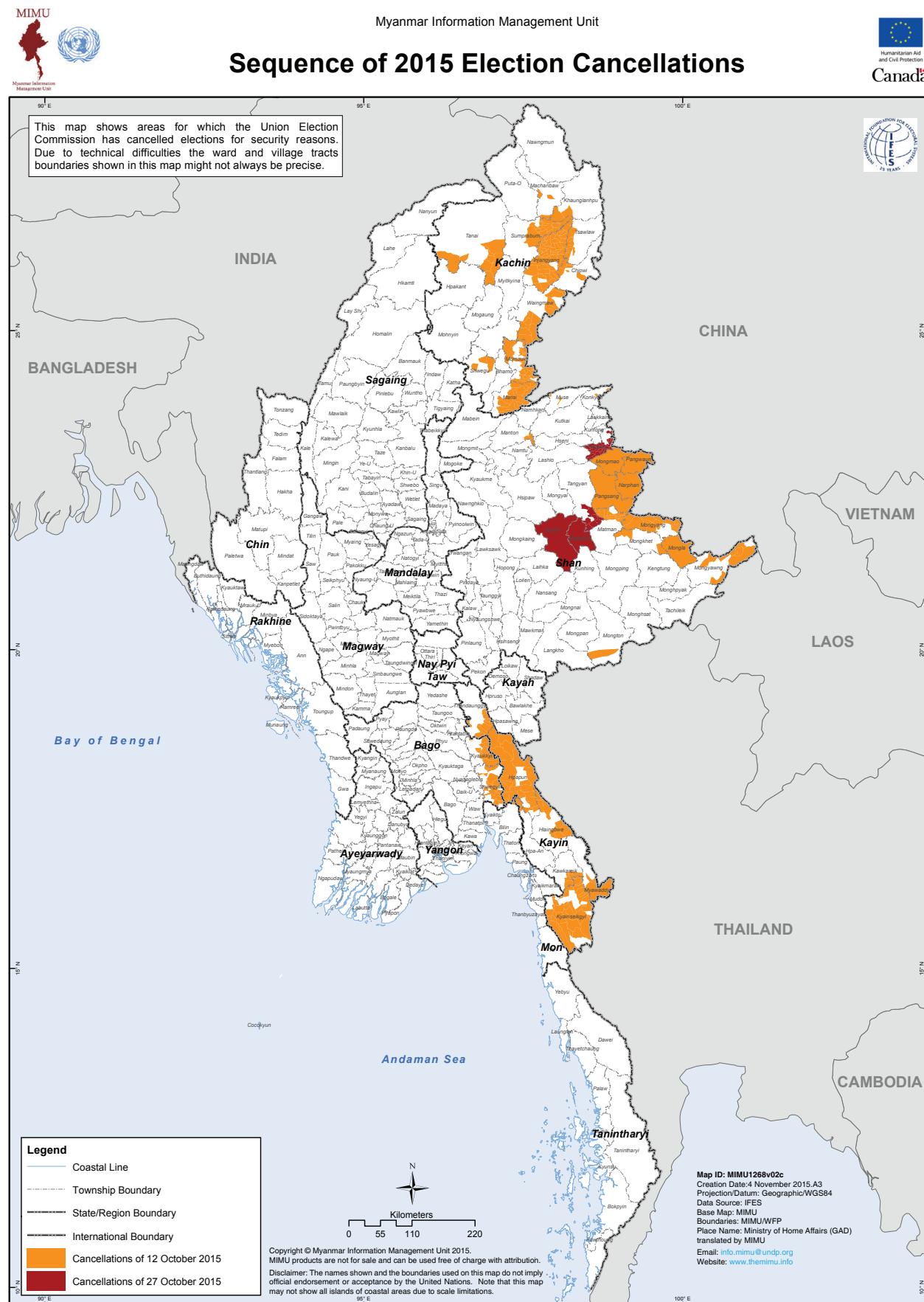
State and Region Hluttaw Election Results



6.4. National Race Representative Constituency Boundary in 2015 GE and its results



6.5. Cancelled Area of constituency in 2015 GE



7. Eligibility Criteria for Voters

7.1. Eligible Criteria of Voters

- a. Citizen (Pink Color Card), associate citizen (Green Color Card), naturalized citizen who is 18 years old on Election Day.
- b. Person whose name has been included in the Voter List of the respective constituency

7.2. Ineligible Criteria of Voters

- a. Member of religious order
- b. Convict
- c. Person adjudged to be of unsound mind as provided for in the relevant law
- d. Person who has not yet been discharged as an insolvent
- e. Foreigner or person who has assumed foreign citizenship.

8. Voter List

Total Registered Voter – 37.4 Million (Last Updated: 18 December 2019). This number does not include military personnel and their family members.

8.1. Responsible bodies for the preparation of voter list

8.1.1. Primary Data Collectors

- a. Village-tract/Ward General Administrator
- b. Township Immigration and Population Office
- c. Commander/Chief Officer in Tatmadaw (only for military personnel and their families)

8.1.2. Secondary Data Collector

- a. Village-tract/Ward Sub-election commission

If the names of a group of persons who are entitled to vote are found to be excluded from the voter list, the upper level of Township SECs concerned may give permission to include those names in the supplementary voting rolls, not later than 7 days

before the E-day. Migrant workers who are out of their constituency for at least 90 days, can apply to be included in the respective voter list of their current constituency (where they work or study).

9. Political Parties and Candidates

The total number of political parties eligible to contest the 2020 Election is 93 out of a total of 96. Three political parties have been suspended by the UEC due to technical reasons. Political Party Registration Application deadline was 30 December 2019.

- o Union Level – 78 Political Parties
- o State/ Regional Level – 18 Political Parties
- o (Ethnic and Minorities political parties – 49 out of 93)

9.1. Obligations of Political Parties¹⁵

The Political Parties Registration Law directs political parties to adhere to the following instructions while conducting their activities:

- a. safeguarding the non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of the national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
- b. safeguarding the prevalence of law and order and tranquility;
- c. respecting and abiding by the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar;
- d. abstaining from writing, delivering speeches or organizing and instigating conflict or taking actions that can affect the dignity and morals relating to nationality, religion, individuals or the public;
- e. abstaining from abuse of religion for political ends
- f. abstaining from accepting and using directly or indirectly funds,, property, other assistance from the government of any foreign country, any religious organization, any other organization or any person or, not accepting their influence;

9.1.1. Code of Conduct for Political Parties

A Code of Conduct (CoC) was signed by 65 political parties on 26 June. The CoC is a set of ethical principles which the political parties developed by consensus.. The CoC contains the following voluntary obligations: :

- a. Political parties and candidates commit to respect and promote the rights and freedoms of all political parties, candidates and voters.
- b. Political parties and candidates commit to cooperate with the UEC in resolving disputes through dialogue and electoral mediation mechanisms.
- c. Campaigning without slandering other political parties and candidates, a commitment not to spread incorrect or false criticisms regarding personal matters, and not to use religious and racial discriminatory messages in campaigning.
- d. Security to maintain peace and stability during the campaigning.
- e. Level Playing Field which prohibits the use of state-owned and public resources to influence voters and which abide by campaign finance regulations.
- f. Diversity and Inclusion to provide equal opportunities for different groups such as women, youth, differently abled persons and people from marginalized groups.
- g. Political parties and candidates agreed to establish the CoC monitoring committee to take corrective action to facilitate the implementation of the CoC.

9.2. Suspension of a political party and/or cancellation of registration of a political party if it falls in any of the below categories:¹⁶

- a. unable to contest with at least three candidates in different constituencies in any type of Hluttaw constituencies in the general election
- b. having been declared as an unlawful association under any existing law

- c. contacting or abetting directly or indirectly an insurgent organization/individual (notified by State)
- d. having failed to abide by the Code of Conduct of Political Party
- e. being found that the organization obtained and used directly or indirectly funds, land, house, building, vehicle, property owned by the State
- f. concealing intentionally that unqualified party members were dismissed from the party¹⁷
- g. unable to organize party members (Union Level Party: > 1000 members, State/Regional Level Party: >500 members) within 90 days of its filing application for registration, UEC shall cancel its registration.

9.3. Eligibility Criteria for Candidates¹⁸

- a. A person who has completed the age of 30 years for the Amyotha Hluttaw MP and 25 years for Pyithu Hluttaw and State/Regional Hluttaw MP
- b. A person who has resided in the Union of Myanmar for at least 10 consecutive years up to the time of his election (the official period of stay in a foreign country with the permission of the State shall be counted as a residing period in the State);
- c. A person included in the voters list
- d. A person whose parents are citizens
- e. Not a convict
- f. Persons not eligible to stand for election as a Hluttaw representative due to conviction for an offence causing disqualification of Hluttaw representative, or having committed a malpractice related to election
- g. A person of sound mind as provided in the relevant law
- h. A person who has not been discharged from being an insolvent as declared by the relevant court
- i. Not a person whose parents, both or one of whom was not citizen at the time of his birth

¹⁶ Political Parties Registration Law; Article 12 (a)

¹⁷ Political Party Registration Law: Article 10
¹⁸ The Hluttaw Election Laws; Article 8 & 10

- j. Not a person who owes allegiance to a foreign government or person under the influence of a foreign government or subject of a foreign government or a citizen of a foreign country
- k. Not a person who is entitled to enjoy the rights and privileges of a subject of a foreign government or a citizen of a foreign country
- l. Not a person who obtains and utilizes directly or indirectly funds, land, housing, building, vehicle, property, etc. from government or religious organization or any other organization or any individual of a foreign country or is a member of an organization which obtains and utilizes said assistance
- m. Not a person who uses religion for political purpose and utters, delivers speeches, and makes or issues declarations to vote or not to vote and who encourages and incites such acts or is a member of an organization which carries out such acts;
- n. Not a member of a religious order
- o. Not a civil servant (does not apply to the Defense Services personnel)
- p. Not a person who obtains and utilizes directly or indirectly the State-owned funds, land, housing, building, vehicle, property, etc. or is a member of an organization which carries out such acts (not including pension, emoluments by the Union for services and State permitted services/property)

Deposit Money to nominate as a candidate: **300,000 MMK** (Three Hundred Thousand Kyats Only). The deposit money will be reimbursed to the respective candidate if the candidate receives at least one-eighth of valid votes in the election.¹⁹

10. Candidate Nomination Procedure

10.1. Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) and Amyothar Hluttaw (Upper House)



10.2. State/Region Hluttaw



10.3. National Race Representative



In the 2020 General Election, the period for candidate nomination is 20 July 2020 to 7 August 2020. The end date for withdrawal of candidate nomination is 10 August 2020 and the scrutinization period for candidate nomination is from 11 to 17 August 2020.²⁰

11. Campaign and Campaign Finance

11.1. Campaign period

Campaign period – The UEC decides on the duration and dates with a directive (from 00:01 a.m. of first date to 12:00 a.m. of last date). In 2015, the duration of campaign was 60 days.

Silent Day – One day before the Election Day

Eligible Donations: (1) Own funds and property of candidate, (2) donations from individual citizen, (3) donations from political parties, (4) donations from companies or group of companies (only Myanmar citizens)

¹⁹ Hluttaw Election Bylaws: Article 38 (b)

²⁰ UEC Announcement No. (116/2020)

Campaign Expense: not more than **10 Million** (MMK) for Lower House, Upper House, State & Region and not more than **15 Million** (MMK) for an National Race Representative (National Race Affairs Minister for State and Region Assemblies).

Declaration of Election Expense: Within **30 days** of announcement of results by State/Region Sub-commissions, all candidates must submit their campaign expenditures using Form 20 to the respective district level sub-commissions.²¹

12. Advance Voting

There are two types of Advance Voting in Myanmar: (1) In-constituency and (2) out-of-constituency (within Myanmar and abroad). In Myanmar only “personal voting” exists. Other commonly used methods such as (1) postal voting (2) proxy voting and (3) e-voting are not foreseen.

12.1. In - Constituency Advance Voting in Ward/Village-tract sub-commission offices

12.1.1. Eligibility criteria to vote within the 2 day period before E-Day

- A voter who has to travel on E-Day
- A voter who has to go out of their constituency on duty (government staff)
- A voter who is not able to come to the polling station (elderly people, people who are suffering from leprosy, people who are severely ill at home, pregnant women, differently abled people)
- Detainees (not convicted)
- Inpatients in hospitals

12.1.2. Eligibility criteria to vote within the 10 days period before E-Day

- Union government members and union level organization members
- State/Regional government members and state/regional level organization members
- State/Region sub-election commission members

- Voters who need to serve for electoral activities

12.2. Out-Of-Constituency Advance Voting (within the country)

Heads of government institutions, schools, hospitals, and custody can contact the respective Sub-election commissions to get Form 15 **from 2 July 2020**. They must return these documents to the sub-commission of their respective townships **by 26 August 2020** after being completed by the voters. Sub-election commissions of respective townships must send ballot papers and envelopes for advance voting to the institutions, schools, hospitals and custodies **by 7 October 2020**. Advance voting must be organized at government institutions, schools, hospitals and custodies on their appropriate day **from 8 October 2020 to 21 October 2020**. The envelopes containing ballot papers must be sent back to the sub-election commission of respective townships **by 4 pm on 8 November 2020**.²²

Form 15: Advance voting for Out-of-Constituency and Out-of-Country Voting consists of two steps. The first step involves the eligible voters to obtain, fill, and return within the prescribed period Form 15 from respective Sub-Commissions or Embassies, as the case may be, to convey their willingness to participate in voting process. The second step involves casting of votes by those voters on the day(s) specified for voting.

12.2.1. Eligible Advance Voters

- Military personnel and their family members
- Students and trainees
- Detainees (not convicted)
- Inpatients in hospitals
- Voters who are out of their constituency including public servants (staff from Myanmar Police Force and their family members)

12.3. Out-Of-Country Voting (abroad)

In the 2020 General Election, voters who live outside Myanmar can obtain Form 15 at relevant embassies **from 3 July 2020**. These forms with com-

21 Hluttaw Election Bylaws: Article 77

22 UEC announcement on 2nd July 2020

pleted data need to be returned to respective embassies from 16 July 2020 to 5 August 2020.²³

12.3.1. Eligible Advance Voters²⁴

- Diplomats
- Delegates who are assigned by the government
- Civil services personnel who are assigned by the government
- Eligible voters who are working at an international organization, or a department of a foreign government
- Eligible voters who are working abroad at a private business and have the permission of the government to leave the country
- State scholars and their household and other dependents with the permission of the government to leave the country
- Eligible voters who are outside the country with the permission of the government.²⁵

13. Polling Station

In the 2015 general election, 40,141 Polling Stations were established. In the 2020 general election, the number of Polling Stations will be over 41,000²⁶ and the accurate number will be announced by the UEC subsequently.

Polling Station Layout

Each polling station has 3 ballot boxes for three types of Hluttaw and 1 additional ballot box where ethnic race representatives are elected. Each polling station has 2 voting screens per ballot box. One Advance Voting Box in white will be put on the table near the Polling Station Officer.

13.1. Location of Polling Station

The UEC will decide:

- (a) Based on the number of voters and the geographical situation, the number of polling stations for the ward/village-tract

²³ UEC announcement No: (118/2020)

²⁴ Hluttaw Election Bylaws: Article 2 (h)

²⁵ Hluttaw Election Laws: Article 47 (a)

²⁶ UEC press conference in 2020

or designate the township sub-commissions with this task. A PS can have between 300 and 1,500 voters assigned.

- (b) In the event that several Hluttaw elections will be held simultaneously in one PS, the township sub-commissions may form separate rooms for each Hluttaw election in the polling stations.
- (c) Arrangements should be made in advance, to set up the polling stations in secure and easy to access locations. The secrecy of the vote must always be guaranteed. The voters shall be informed of the location of their respective polling stations in advance of Election Day.
- (d) The location of the polling station must be easily accessible for people with disabilities.²⁷
- (e) Religious premises may not be used as a PS

13.2. Staff requirements per polling station

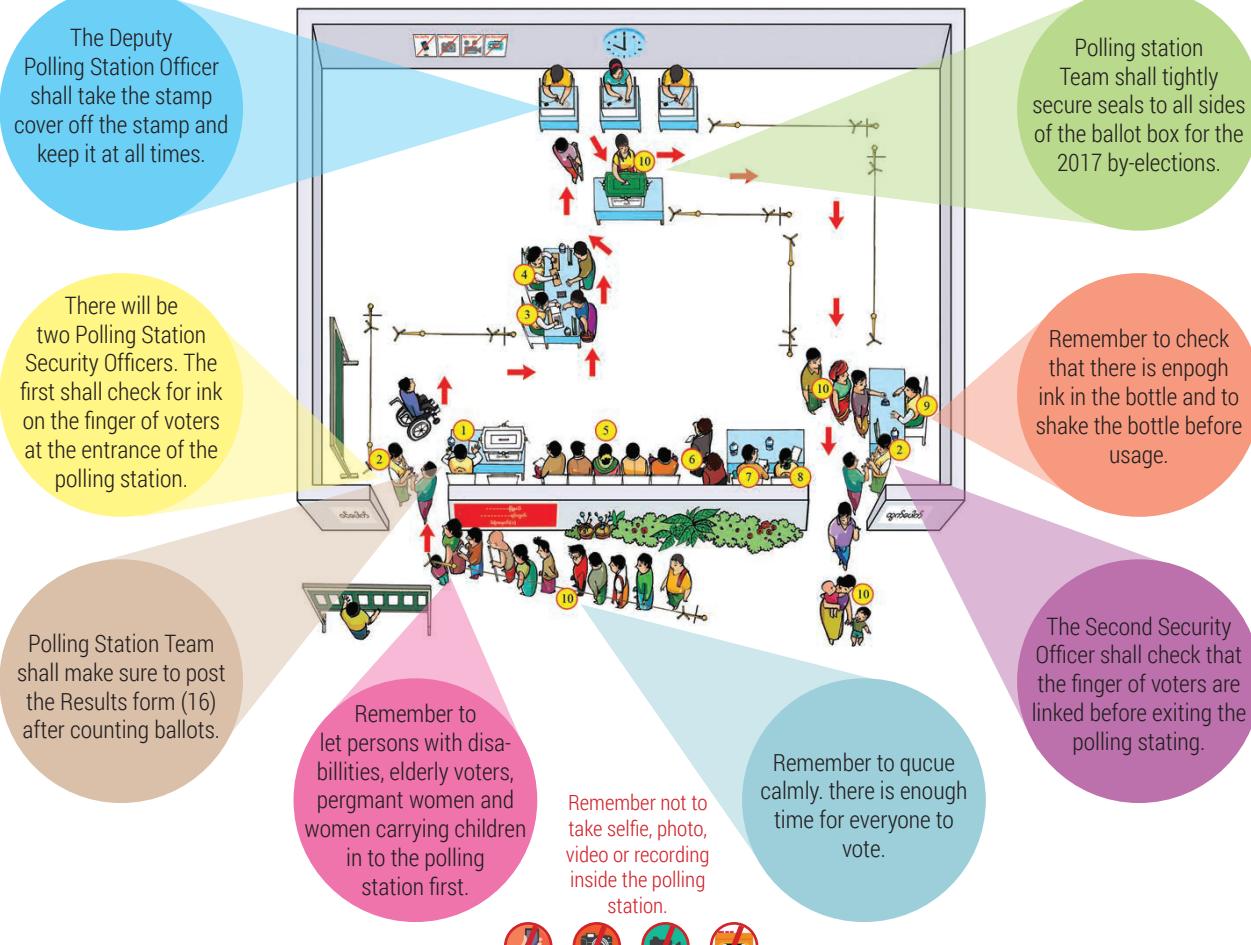
- Polling Station Officer (Chair)
- Deputy Polling Station Officer
- At least (3) Voter List Checkers
- At least (3) Ballot Paper Issuers
- Polling Station Security
- Ink Marker/total at least 10 members

13.3. Personnel authorized to enter a polling station

- Polling Station Staff
- Voters
- Police Officers on duty with the permission of PSO or W/VT sub-commission or Township sub-commissions
- In reference to Article 42 of the by-laws, any person chosen by an illiterate and/or disabled voter to accompany and assist them
- Members of the UEC and relevant sub-commissions
- Local contesting Hluttaw Candidates, his/her election agents, his/her polling station agentsassistants
- UEC accredited domestic and international election observers and diplomatic observers

²⁷ Hluttaw Election Bylaws: Article 39 (a)

Polling Station Layout



1. Polling station Officer
2. Polling Station Security
3. Voter List Checker
4. Ballot Paper Issuer
5. Candidate/Candidate Agent/Polling Station Agent/Assistant
6. Domestic/International Observers
7. Ward/Village tract sub-commission members
8. Deputy Polling Station Officer
9. Ink marker
10. Voters

Sr. No	Color of ballot box	Hluttaw Type	Type of House
1	Green	The Pyithu Hluttaw	The Lower House
2	Blue	The Amyotha Hluttaw	The Upper House
3	Purple	Region/State Hluttaw & Ethnic Race Representative	State/Regional Assembly

13.4. Locations of Polling Stations for Out-of-country Advance Voting²⁸

PS locations are the Myanmar Embassies, Consulates and Permanent Representative Offices of that country.

Polling Station Member

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| | Polling Station Officer |  |
|  | Deputy Polling Station Officer |  |
|  | Voting roll checker for 3 Hluttaws and national race election (3+1) |  |
|  | Ballot paper issuer for 3 Hluttaws and national race election (3+1) |  |
|  | Polling Station Security |  |
|  | Ink Marker |  |
|  | Voters () |  |
|  | Political party representative and Election observers | |
|  | Election agents, Polling station agents/ Assisting agents | |
|  | Members of ward/ Village-tract Sub-commission | |

14. Voting Process

14.1. Sensitive Materials

Sensitive materials are essential for the conduct of the election and they must always be secured and accounted for by an election official. Sensitive materials, according to the UEC are:

- Ballot Papers & Counterfoil



- Ballot Box Seals



- Voting Stamps (used by voters to mark the ballot)



- #### • Polling and Advance Voting Ballot Boxes



- Voter List

- Advance Voter Lists
- Objection Forms
- Results Forms
- Invalid Vote Forms
- Voter List Handover Forms
- Ballot Pad Handover Form for the ballot issuer
- Report of Incidents in Polling Station

14.2. Non-sensitive Materials

Non-sensitive materials are required for the election but not essential. Non-sensitive Materials are below:

- Working Guidelines and Polling Station Manual
- Name Tag (ID Card) for polling station members
- Ink Pad (to thumbprint/sign the voter list /ballot box counterfoil)



- Rope



- UEC Stamp and Sealing Wax



- Polling Station Sign with Number

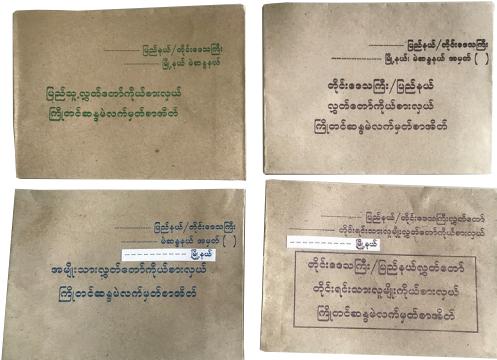
- Pens (only black and blue)



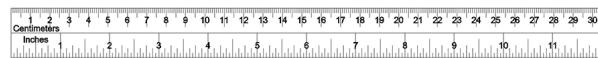
- Candle and Lighter



- Tamper evident bags



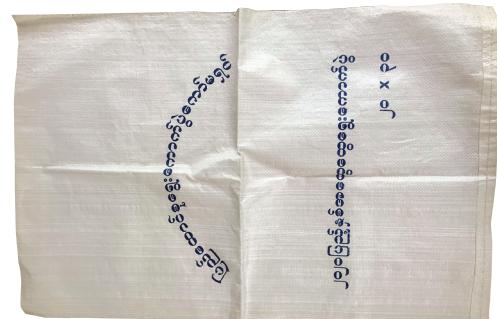
- Ruler (to tear the ballot paper of counter foil)



- Baskets (to count the ballot papers)



- Envelopes for Advance Voting (Not including ballot paper)



- Voting Screens



- A makeshift sink for hand washing



- Hand Sanitizer and Infrared Thermometer



- Glove



- Surgical Mask



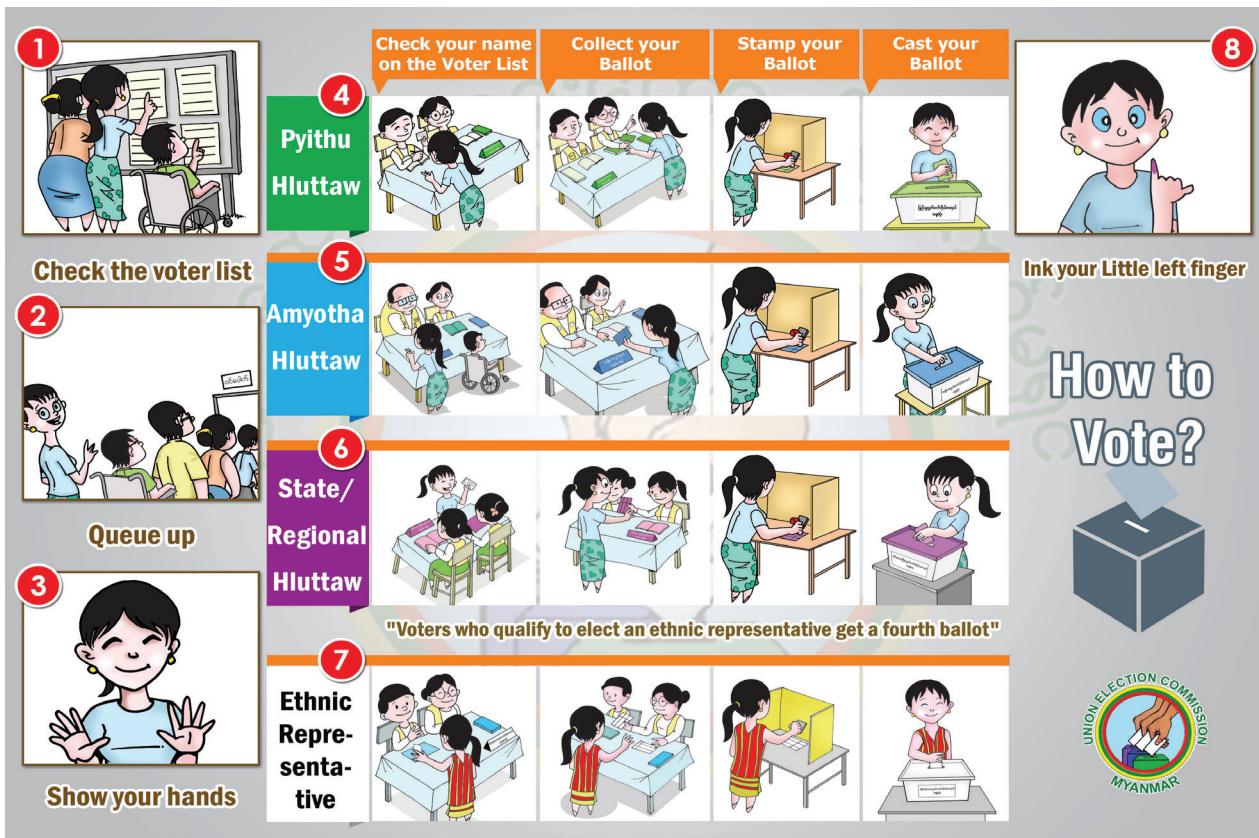
14.3. Voting Day

Opening time of polling station: **6:00 am**, closing time: **4:00 pm** (if voters queuing outside the PS at 4:00 pm, they are allowed to vote)

The ballot boxes which were used for In-constituency Advance Voting need to be delivered by the Ward/Village – tract to the respective Polling Station before opening on E-Day.

14.4. Voting Process - Step by Step:

- 1) Check the Voter List in front of the Polling Station. If the name of the voter is found on the respective voter list, the voter can enter the PS;
- 2) All fingers of the voter will be checked by the PS security officer for traces of indelible ink;
- 3) Any identification card/letter can be shown to the ballot paper issuer;
- 4) The voter name is checked by the voter list checker in the voter list and the voter has to sign or thumb print beside his/her name on the voter list;
- 5) Before the ballot paper is issued, the voter must sign/thumb print on the Voter List section. The ballot paper receipt must be signed on the back by the ballot paper issuer. After that, the voter takes the ballot paper;
- 6) The voter goes behind the voting screen and marks the candidate of his choice with the voting stamp (Pen with any ink color will be used for out of constituency advance voting- domestic and aboard only). No pen/pencil will be used to mark the ballot paper during normal voting
- 7) The voter folds the ballot paper to ensure the secrecy of the vote and inserts the folded ballot paper into the respective ballot box
- 8) The voter has to vote at least three times for (1) Pyithu Hluttaw, (2) Amyotha Hluttaw, (3) State/Region Hluttaw and if the voter is entitled to vote for his/her Ethnic Race Representative, s/he also needs to vote for (4) Ethnic Race Representative according to Step 5-7
- 9) Before going out from the polling station, the left little finger will be marked with indelible ink by the ink marker. if a voter does not have the little finger, any finger can be marked.



14.5. Counting

14.5.1. Polling Station:

At 4:00 PM or after the last voter has left, the polling station will be closed. The polling station officer can assign other polling station staff for counting, or s/he takes on this duty him/herself

Following persons can be present inside the polling station at the opening of the ballot box and counting of the ballot papers:

- Polling Station Members.
- Witnesses (Candidates, Voters, Election Agents, Agents from Political Parties, etc.)
- Public (Media persons, people)
- Polling Station Agents.
- Election Observers if present.

First, the assigned staff open the Advance Voting (in-constituency) ballot box and count the votes. Then the Pyithu Hluttaw ballot box is opened, third is Amyotha Hluttaw, fourth is State/Region Hluttaw and last is Ethnic Race Representatives.

14.5.2. Township Sub-Election Commission Office:

Sub-Election Commission members start counting the out-of-constituency advance votes and out of country advance votes received.

14.6. Consolidation of Results:

Results from PS are transferred to the Township Sub-election commission, where the results from the Advance Votes (out of constituency and out of country) will be added = Results.

14.6.1. Process of Counting and Consolidation

Type of Hluttaw	Collecting Forms
Pyithu Hluttaw ²⁹	Form 16 + Form 18 = Form 19 - Result
Amyotha Hluttaw (For one district in the constituency boundary) ³⁰	1 st Step Form 16 + Form 18 = Form 19 for Each Township 2 nd Step Form 19 for Township A + Form 19 for Township B = Form 19 (A) - Result
Amyotha Hluttaw (For more than one district in the constituency boundary) ³¹	1 st Step Form 16 + Form 18 = Form 19 for Each Township 2 nd Step Form 19 for Township A + Form 19 for Township B = Form 19 (A) for Each District 3 rd Step Form 19 (A) for District A + Form 19 (A) for District B = Form 19 (B)- Result
State Region Hluttaw ³²	Form 16 + Form 18 = Form 19 - Result
Ethnic Race Representa- tive ³³	1 st Step Form 16 (A) + Form 18 (A) = Form 19 (A) for Each Township 3 rd Step Form 19 (A) for District A+ Form 19 (A) for District B = Form 19 (B)- Result

14.6.2. Result Announcement Process

Level of EMB	Polling Station	Township SECs	District/Union Territory/SAZ SECs	State/Region SECs	UEC
Activity	Counting and Transfer	Counting, Consolidate, Verify and Transfer	Consolidate, Verify and Transfer	Consolidate, Verify, Announce and Transfer	Collecting, Re-announce and Insert in the Gazette

15. Election Observation

Both international and domestic observation organization can apply to be accredited within the announced dates. The accreditation procedures will be published on the UEC web page.

15.1. Domestic Election Observer

Accreditation procedures:

- Application to the Township Sub-commission where the organization plans to observe
- Application to the District Sub-commission if the organization plans to observe in more than one Township
- Application to the Region/ State Sub-commission if the organization plans to observe in more than one District
- Application to the UEC if the organization plans to observe in more than one State/ Region

29 Pyithu Hluttaw Election Bylaw: Article 66 (c), 67 (a) and 67 (b)

30 Amyotha Hluttaw Election Bylaw: Article 66 (c), 67 (a), 67 (b), 67 (a) and 68 (a)

31 Amyotha Hluttaw Election Bylaw: Article 66 (c), 67 (a), 67 (b), 67 (a) and 68 (a)

32 State/Region Hluttaw Election Bylaw: Article 66 (c), 67 (a) and 67 (b)

33 State/Region Hluttaw Election Bylaw: Article 66 (c), 67 (a), 67 (b), 67 (a) and 68 (a)

15.2. International Election Observer

Accreditation procedures

- Embassies shall submit the hard copy application to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and soft copy to the Union Election Commission by email
- International election observation organizations and international electoral assisting organization in the country may directly apply to the Union Election Commission following the issued instructions and guidelines,
- The name list of international election observers approved by the Union Election Commission shall be sent to the MOFA, MOHA and respective Region/ State SECs.

15.3. Don'ts for Election Observers

- Ask for whom a voter has cast a vote within 15 yards of the polling station in order to maintain secrecy of the vote
- Carry weapons or explosive materials
- Conduct any activity that can interfere with the duties and rights of electoral officials and voters
- Disturb or interfere in the secrecy of the vote, voting, counting, announcement of results or the electoral disputes process
- Make statements to the media about the election unless authorized to do so by their observation organization.

16. Election Report

The UEC has to publish the final election report within 45 days after the election day.³⁴

17. Election Dispute Resolution

There are three periods of election dispute resolution: (1) Pre-election, (2) election and, (3) post-election. There were 29 electoral dispute cases in the 2010 GE and 54 electoral dispute cases in the 2015 GE. The tribunal is composed of one chair from the

UEC member and two members from the suitable legal expert citizens or the UEC members.³⁵

17.1. Types of Election Dispute

17.1.1. Pre-election Period

- Candidate Nomination Disputes
- Voter List Disputes
- Malpractices before election: Illegal canvassing, committing violence and threatening voters, abuse of public property, illegal campaign expenses, misusing/damaging election materials.

*General In-charge Organization: (1) UEC and (2) SECs

17.1.2. Election Period

- Campaigning
- Violence and threats
- Destroying electoral documents and materials
- Observers or election agents being barred from entering the polling station
- Voting by unlawful means
- Violating the secrecy of the vote
- Influencing and instigating to vote or not to vote for a certain Hluttaw candidate
- Interfering by the polling station officer and polling station members while carrying out their duties
- Counting process.

*General In-charge Organization: (1) Mediation Committee and (2) MPF

17.1.3. Post-election Period

- Any voter who voted or any contesting candidate can object within 45 days from the announcement of the winning candidates to the State/Region SEC³⁶
- Objections regarding election expenses of candidates
- Objections against elected candidates and appeals
- The objector has to pay a deposit of 500,000 (five hundred thousand) Kyats for litigation costs.

*In-charge Organization: Tribunal in UEC

³⁴ Hluttaw Election Bylaws; Article 69 (a) (i)

³⁵ Hluttaw Election Bylaws: Article 87

17.2. Appeal Process

During the election dispute, the tribunal decides on any necessary probational measures. If the decision of the tribunal is not accepted by either the defender or complainant, the decision can be appealed within 15 days. The appellant has to pay a deposit of 500,000 (five hundred thousand) kyats to cover appeal costs. The full tribunal (1 Chairman and 14 Commission Members from the UEC) is initiated. The decision of the full tribunal is final.

18. Annex³⁷

Election Related Facts and Data of 2010 and 2015 General Election			
S/N	Description	2010 GE	2015 GE
1	Number of State/ Region in which the election was held (#)	14	14
2	Number of District in which the election was held (#)	67	74
3	Number of Township in which the election was held (#)	325	323
4	Number of political parties contested (#)	37	91
5	Number of parties won in the election (#)	22	22
6	Number of candidates contested (#)	3,069	6,038
7	Number of Candidate contested (From political parties) (#)	2,987	5,728
8	Number of candidates contested (Independent) (#)	82	310
9	Number of elected representative (#)	1,154	1,150
10	Number of elected representative (From political parties) (#)	1,148	1,145
11	Number of elected representative (Independent) (#)	6	5
12	Number of representative (Male) (#)	1,109	999
13	Number of representative (Female) (#)	49	151
14	Number of objections submitted (#)	29	45
15	Number of candidates who failed to submit election expenses (#)	121	175
16	Number of eligible voter (#)	29,021,608	34,295,334
17	Voter who cast votes (#)	22,421,123	23,911,784
18	Percentage Voter Turnout (%)	77.60	69.72
19	Voter who cast vote with ballot papers (#)	19,889,105	22,473,602
20	Voter who cast vote with advance ballot papers (#)	2,014,151	1,438,182
21	Number of voter where only one candidate existed (No vote casting) (#)	517,867	-
22	Number of valid vote obtained (#)	20,865,161	22,416,310
23	Percentage of valid vote obtained (%)	93.06	93.75
24	E-Day (Date)	7.11.2010	8.11.2015

<http://www.stepdemocracy.eu/>



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