

# Military Coup in Myanmar: Its Civilian Consolidation is "weaker" Than The Military ?

In the "semi-democratic transition" system that has been in effect in Myanmar since 2008 - The military is still given as many as 166 or about 25% of the seats in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (MPR / Myanmar Parliament). Like the dual function of ABRI in the New Order regime / Suharto. Several international political academics also considered that the model of the 2008 constitution which was considered as Myanmar's "democratic transition" had indeed taken an example from the New Order system.

**Myanmar's democratic transition system (2008-2021) yesterday = imitating the New Order / Suharto system with its strong dual function of ABRI?**

## History of Military Government in Myanmar

- 1948, after independence from Britain, there was an uprising by communist and ethnic Karen groups who tried to take over the government.
- 1950, Prime Minister U Nu, asked the military commander in Myanmar, General Ne Win to stabilize the situation in Myanmar
- 1962, after the military managed to control the situation and return the government to civilian rule, internal politics experienced a split where the ruling fascist party influenced the unity within the military which had weakened at that time. And there was another coup organized by Ne Win
- 1988, there was an economic crisis which made Myanmar's situation worse and led to large demonstrations from students demanding Ne Win to resign from power. This military coup then resulted in a solution by establishing a military junta government in which the executive, legislative and judicial functions were held by the military. However, the Junta government will hold elections as a manifestation of democracy in Myanmar
- 1990, the election results were won by the Democratic Party (NLD) led by Suu Kyi, this is considered a victory for the people as well as a threat to the military. Unfortunately, the military rejected the election results and even detained Aung San Suu Kyi since 1989 which led to the junta government being criticized by various international human rights activists and organizations.
- 2010, the election at that time was not followed by Suu Kyi and the NLD party because of a violation of the constitution that led to the dissolution of the NLD party after it was declared illegal by the government. As a result, the USDP party won a majority vote and Thein Sein was appointed as the new leader of Myanmar. Many suspect that the 2010 elections were manipulated by the military.
- February 1, 2021, the history repeats again. The Myanmar military camp staged a coup against Myanmar's de facto leader, Aung San Suu Kyi. The cause is known because of the election dispute which was held in November 2020. The democracy party led by Suu Kyi, won a surprising 396 seats, while the opposition party formed by the military gained 33 seats in parliament.

## Constitutional Requirements in Myanmar

In Indonesia, the requirement to change the constitutional amendment is at least 50% + 1 MPR vote, a simple majority. Myanmar system? 75%, 3/4 of the entire parliament. Thus, 25% of the seats in the Myanmar MPR were automatically given to the Tatmadaw / military. So that only if all factions of the Myanmar MPR fight against the military faction alone can it be changed.

"But the democratic transfer of power is not by any means optimal, and the (2008) Constitution continues to be viewed by most of the people as a constitution of the Tatmadaw by the Tatmadaw for the Tatmadaw, and by ethnic minorities as a constitution of the Bamar by the Bamar for the Bamar. "

So it can be concluded, that such a "compromise" transitional system, sooner or later there will be a violent clash between the NLD and the military, especially in the last 2 years (2019-2020) the NLD is increasingly trying to promote any means so that it can enforce its proposed amendments to the Constitution without have to pass through parliament.

One of the proposed amendments is to gradually reduce the number of military seats in parliament & cabinet / ministry until 2035. And there has been sabotage this year.

Due to the increasingly "fierce" NLD, a coup occurred, as a "pre-emptive strike", because they wanted to defend the 2008 Constitution.

In PRC / mainland China, the highest executive governing body is the CCP / Communist Party Politburo Central Committee, which contains the President (Xi Jinping), the Prime Minister (Li Keqiang), and 5 other party officials. The 7-member council serves as the "core cabinet" of the PRC government. Myanmar also implements a similar system, namely the NDSC (National Defense & Security Council) as their "Politburo", contains 11 people.

Meanwhile, within the Security Council / NDSC, there are the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Home Affairs (which oversees the police), and the Ministry of Border Myanmar - all three positions continue to be held by members of the military / Tatmadaw. The Tatmadaw Commander & Deputy Commander in Chief also joined. Thus, there will always be a minimum of 5 military personnel in the NDSC, which consists of 11 people. The addition of the Vice President was given to members of the military-assisted USDP party as the second largest party, with a majority of 6 people. Members of the NDSC / Myanmar Security Council (2018–2020), there are 6 military members, while Aung San Suu Kyi and his party NLD, only got 4 seats here (Suu Kyi, President, Vice President 2, and chairman of the DPR). So even though the party is the majority in parliament, it remains a "minority" in the "core Cabinet".

Because of this Security Council, Suu Kyi and non-military officials were not given many rights to intervene, as they would be vetoed by the military.

Hopefully the constitutional and military system in Myanmar will improve in the future!

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[\[5\] Myanmar's Constitutional Impasse: The Constitutional Amendment Process in 2020](#)

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