Let’s vote to choose reliable representatives

Maung Motion

Democracy general elections will take place on 7 November 2010. All eligible voters can cast votes in polling stations. Certain foreign radio stations are dissuading the people from taking part in the voting. I wonder why they are that ignorant of the fact that the people have waited for years to embrace such a rare opportunity. I wonder if they are not happy with democratization process through voting. And I wonder if they think that Myanmar people are not intelligent enough of choosing reliable, responsible public representatives as yet.

Voting is, indeed, a fundamental right of every citizen. Those deceiving the people into refusing to enjoy the voting right are none other than anti-democracy activists. In reality, every citizen has the right to vote in Myanmar. They are not under any negative influence in that regard. They can vote if they want to and they may not vote if they don’t want to; it is up to them. If a citizen, despite having the voting right, does not participate in elections, such a person may be deemed to be an irresponsible opportunist. I do not think such persons deserve democracy. And if so, they are too foolish to enjoy democracy. Now, the country is transforming from the government-centered into public-centered system. Therefore, the people will have to enjoy fundamental rights and take fundamental duties. Voting is a responsibility of every citizen under which they have to express their desire freely. So, I would say every citizen should vote in elections.

Anyone can ask a question “For whom will we have to vote, then?” The answer is “You may vote for any candidate you favour”. In that case, a voter just has to put a tick in the box beside the candidate he is in favour of. All voters have the right to vote for any candidate. They do not need to claim who they voted for. The secret ballot system is applied in all polling stations to ensure free and fair elections. Rest assured no one can know for who a person voted in elections.

What should be taken into consideration is that which candidates are reliable for national interest. Voting should not be based on relationship, same location, and canvassing. Voters should try to know what the candidates for the constituency concerned are like.

Some say “I don’t think it matters if I don’t vote in the election.” Democracy is a system in which the strength of every citizen is mobilized to build a democratic nation. Every citizen is responsible for democratization.

Here, I would like to tell a story. Once upon a time, there existed a livestock village of a tribe without much civilization. Villagers raised cattle, goat, sheep, chicken and duck.

One day, the village head set a glazed pot in the middle of the village and said to the villagers that he had a plan to hold a festivity the next day. He asked them to prepare meals for themselves and put a quart (a bottle) of milk each into the pot from the evening onwards. He also said that the villagers might add milk at night, and milk would be boiled and a banquet would be held the next morning.

Commencing the dusk, villagers put milk into the pot till late at night. The following morning, the pot of milk was opened and it was found that what in the pot was all water, not milk.

Every villager thought that other house-holds would add pure milk into the pot. It did not matter even if he put water. And no one could notice that.

After all, inside the pot was all water due to irresponsibility of every villager.

Nothing added and nothing enjoyed.

The village head said to the villagers that their village remained poor whereas the village to the east and the village to the west of their village had become affluent; that he would like to ask why their village was still poor; that day, they could know the root cause of why their village was poor; and that it was due to lack of goodwill or sense of responsibility. And he exhorted his followers to have a sense of duty. Later, every villager did their bit in the tasks for development of their village. Before long, the village became economically developed.

Only each and every person has a sense of altruistic spirit in a society, will it be possible for such a society to enjoy progress and prosperity. The total strength of everyone is mighty. No sweat to go to the polling station and cast votes. The number of the citizens who have voted in the general elections is an indicator for the political sense of the people.

If the people all take part in the elections, the image projected to the international community by Myanmar will be very positive.

Then, the countries that are in favour of Myanmar will show their praise. The countries that dislike Myanmar will be shocked. The countries that want Myanmar to enjoy development will be happy. The countries that try to bring Myanmar into trouble will be unhappy.

So, every citizen is solemnly urged to vote in the elections. Voting is a duty entrusted to every citizen.

Whoever is found guilty of disturbing the people from casting votes in elections may face a one-year prison term or a fine of 100,000 kyats or both. The people should, therefore, weigh the broadcasts aired by certain foreign radios as to the forthcoming elections. They should not let themselves under the sway of such broadcasts.

At first, an eligible voter has to search his name in the list of voters on the board. It will be convenient if he put his roll number into his memory. It will be easy for the polling booth officer or the deputy polling booth officer to identify him if he lets them know what is his roll number in the book of the names of 500 to 1000 voters. Voters should extend a helping hand to those responsible for elections.

If his name is not included yet in the list of voters attached to the board, a voter should inform the ward election commission about that. Every eligible voter is to be on the voters list. Rest assured. (A voter shall not vote twice nor does he vote in two elections. Every voter shall vote only one time).

Suppose today is 7 November 2010 (First Waxing of Tazaungmone, 1372 Myanmar Era):

(1) Go to the polling station and draw a ballot paper. What he just needs is to put the ballot paper into the ballot box. Put a tick-marked vote in the box shown against the name of the Pyithu Hluttaw candidate he favours. That is all he has to do. (Remark: Do not put any cross-marked vote in the box.) If a voter puts a cross mark in the box, his ballot paper will be a canceled vote.

The names and party emblems of candidates are stated on the ballot paper.

A voter can choose the candidate he favours in the polling booth and put a tick-marked vote in the box shown against the name of the candidate. Then, put the paper into the green-coloured ballot box.

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(2) He also has to draw another ballot paper to vote for a township candidate to the Amyotha Hluttaw. The number of the candidates to Amyotha Hluttaw may be three to five.

Put a tick-marked vote in the box shown against the name of the favoured candidate. And put the ballot paper into the blue-coloured ballot box.

(3) Also draw the third ballot paper to vote for a candidate to State (or) Region Hluttaw. The number of the candidates to State (or) Region Hluttaw may be two to three. Put a tick-marked vote in the box shown against the name of the favoured candidate. And put the ballot paper into the violet-coloured ballot box.

(4) If a local in Yangon Region is a Kayin national, he also can enjoy the right to choose a candidate for the seat of Kayin people. Draw out a ballot paper. Put a tick-marked vote in the box shown against the name of the favoured candidate. And put the ballot paper into the fourth ballot box.

To vote, it is needed to take into consideration the behaviors of each candidate and party. Elected representatives should be all qualified. And the favoured parties should be the ones with correct policies capable of serving national interests. The people should vote the most reliable, suitable candidates.

Fire Services Department demonstrates rescue task in Mayangon

YANGON, 9 Sept—A concluding ceremony of 13/2010 rescue technique training course of Fire Services Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement took place at Fire Services Department (Head Office) in Mayangon Township here this morning with demonstration.

Director-General of Fire Services Department U Tin Moe enjoyed practical demonstration of rescue technique of the trainees and presented prize money.

A total of 60 trainees including Officers of Fire Services Department (Head Office), heads of Township FSD, trainers from the States and Regions attended the 6-week course. MNA

Myanmar Sports Meet for the Disabled commences

NAV Pyi Taw, 9 Sept—The 22nd Myanmar Sports Meet for the Disabled 2010 was opened at Aung San Gymnasium, here, yesterday morning.

On behalf of the Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee, Minister for Sports, Mr. Douglas J. Kirwin from Society of Economic Geologists and Dr. Andrew H. Mitchell from Ivanhoe Myanmar Mining Ltd will give talks on mineral deposits in the Republic of Korea and Australia and copper deposits in Monywa and gold deposit in Yameethin, Myanmar. The association has invited its members and enthusiasts to attend the talk. MNA

Talks on geosciences on 11 Sept

YANGON, 8 Sept—Myanmar Geosciences Association will conduct an educative talk at Myanmar Engineering Society in Hline University campus at 1 pm on 11 September.

Mr. Douglas J. Kirwin from Society of Economic Geologists and Dr. Andrew H. Mitchell from Ivanhoe Myanmar Mining Ltd will give talks on mineral deposits in the Republic of Korea and Australia and copper deposit in Monywa and gold deposit in Yameethin, Myanmar. The association has invited its members and enthusiasts to attend the talk. MNA

The opening ceremony of 1st Myanmar-Korea ICT Products & Solutions Exhibition 2010 in progress at Myanmar Info-Tech in Hline University Campus in Yangon. (News on page 16)—MNA

MCPA to hold symposium and workshop on 13, 14 Sept

YANGON, 9 Sept—With a view to improving information and communication technology, Myanmar Computer Professionals Association plans to hold symposium and workshop titled “Ethic and Technology” with sponsorship of Myanmar Blogger Society (MBS) at Myanmar Info-Tech in Hline Township, here, on 13 and 14 September.

The symposium titled “Culture and Technology” will be held at the conference hall of Myanmar Info-Tech from 9 am to 5 pm on 13 September, and workshop “Ethic and Technology” at Room No. 205, Myanmar Info-Tech from 9 am to 5 pm on the next day. For further details, contact MCPA, Room No. 4, Building No. 4, Myanmar Info-Tech, Hline University Campus (Ph: 652276 or 73088300).—MNA