I am worried

A Law Analyst

The State Peace and Development Council devotes itself to the State's seven-step Road Map it has adopted for democratization as aspired by the people. Now, the Road Map is in its fifth step: holding election for the formation of hluttaws (parliaments) in accordance with the State Constitution (2008). As groundwork, the government has promulgated Union Election Commission Law, Political Parties Registration Law, and Election Law and Rules.

Political parties that have been formed, following the adoption of Political Parties Registration Law have to apply to the Union Election Commission before the date prescribed in the law to register for political parties, and old political parties for continued existence. Political parties will play a major role in shaping the nation into a democratic one. It is, therefore, obligatory for political parties to put in the fore "Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity, and Perpetuation of sovereignty", to remain loyal to the nation, and to exercise the multiparty democracy system.

The Union Election Commission issued Notification No. 1/2010 dated 18 March 2010, announcing that political parties that wish to stand for election may apply in line with the law for registration. Notification No. 18/2010 dated 9 April 2010 says that if political parties that came into existence under Article 25 of Political Parties Registration Law wish to continue to exist may apply to the commission within the designated period of 60 days.

Article 25 of Political Parties Registration Law says that if a political party that exists according to Political Parties Registration Law (Ordinance No. 4/88 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council) wishes to continue as a political party, it shall apply to the Union Election Commission within the period of 60 days after the date this law comes into force. After being granted permission by the commission, it may go on in accordance with the provisions of this law. It shall be deemed to have been dissolved automatically as a political party if it does not apply.

Article 27 of the law says that Political Parties Registration Law (Law No. 4/88 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council) is repealed with this law.

As to repeal of a provision with another law, Article 14 of 1973 Interpretation Law says that provided that a statement is someway prescribed in the repealed law, it shall be as stated.

Article 25 and Article 27 of 2010 Political Parties Registration Law are consistent with the provisions in the exception of Article 14 of 1973 Interpretation Law. So, it is required to abide by the provisions in Article 25. As prescribed in Article 25, old political parties have to apply to the Union Election Commission before the deadline to continue to exist. However, Notification No. 97/2010 dated 14 September 2010 of the Union Election Commission says of the 10 parties stated in Paraghaph-1, the following five parties have become null and void according to the laws as they did not apply to continue to exist.

Article 12 of the Union Election Commission Law says that the commission and relevant sub-commissions formed under this law shall take over existing proceedings of the Multiparty Democracy General Election Commission and sub-commissions at all levels.

So, Notification No. 1/2010 was issued for old political parties to apply in accordance with Article 25 of Political Parties Registration Law (2/2010) to continue to exist. Regarding political parties that failed to apply to survive within the due period, Article 25 says the Union Election Commission shall announce the list of the political parties that have been granted permission to register as political parties, and the list of the political parties that have been revoked from the list of electoral registration and that have been revoked as political parties. **On the ground of that fact the Union Election Commission issued Notification No. 97/2010 dated 14 September 2010, announcing, "Of the 10 parties stated in Paragraph-1, the following five parties have become null and void according to the law as they did not apply for continued existence as political parties within the prescribed days. As those parties no longer have the right to continued existence as political parties, their registrations have been revoked and they have been dissolved."**

Nonetheless, a party that did not apply within the prescribed period to continue to exist is claiming that it has not been null and void; and that the Union Election Commission does not have any authority to announce the dissolution of an old political party. Indeed, the party is turning a blind eye to the provisions of the law and is just attempting to mislead the people into misunderstanding the law.

It has come to the knowledge of the people that the party is abetting the people to protest against the elections by boycotting the elections. The right to vote and the right not to cast votes in elections if a citizen does not want to are prescribed in Article (b) of Criminal Law 171-A, and in Hluttaws Election Law say that electoral right means the right of a person to stand, or not to stand as, or to withdraw from being as a candidate or to vote or refrain from voting at an election. If a person cheats people to protest against elections, he uses undue influence to prevent a person exercising the voting right and the right to stand for election. So, such a person violates Article 57 of Hluttaw Election Law. Article 57 of Hluttaw Election Law says, "Whoever is found guilty of violence, threat, undue influence, cheating, taking or giving of bribes to prevent a person from exercising the right of voting and the right to stand for election, shall, on conviction be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or with fine not exceeding one hundred thousand kyats or with both." Article 58 (d) of Hluttaw Election Law says that whoever is found guilty of giving speeches at meetings, instigation, writing, distributing or using posters or attempting by other means to disturb the voting or such acts shall, on conviction be punishable within imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or with fine not exceeding one hundred thousand kyats or with both.

In reality, attempting to disrupt elections designed to introduce multiparty democracy system to satisfy the aspiration of the people means showing disregard for the people's desire. Doing such acts without or with knowledge is associated with breach of the provisions of the law. So, the people are urged to abide by the law.

Translation: MS

Sun Shine opens salerooms in Yangon, Mandalay

YANGON, 17 Sept—Sun Shine produces quality personal goods made from leather and distributes them at fair prices.

Sun Shine in Myanmar Leather Wears Shops give service to the customers by polishing leather wears including its products free of charge.

Sun Shine extends salerooms at No. 443 at the corner of Merchant Street and 43rd Street, Tel: 01-291453 and 01-398080, No. 14/A on 83rd Street between 18th x 19th Streets, Mandalay, Tel: 02-72806 and 02-22639; at the corner of 80th and 9th streets, Mandalay, Tel: 02-22640 and 09-2027705, No. 139, northern wing, ground floor, Zaygyo, Mandalay, Tel: 02-72184 and 02-22185, No. 173/A, at the corner of 81st and 19th Street in Mandalay, Tel: 02-71006 and 096504640; No. 56, at the corner of 26th and 88th Streets, Mandalay, Tel: 02-35653; Room-10, Nguwah Hall, Advanced Thiri Marlar Housing, between 23rd x 24th Streets and 88th x 89th Streets in Mandalay; and No. 8. in front of Myoma Cinema; Tel: 085-22927 and 095114833.—*MNA*

Sun Shine Leather Store puts on display various kinds of quality leather wares.—MNA