Position Paper of the Constitutional Committee on the Revelations of the People's Aspirations

Introduction

The Burma Lawyers' Council (BLC) is an organization that publishes journals and booklets, provides training for the public, conducts workshops and educational sessions and also broadcasts radio programs, in regards to constitutional affairs throughout its work. The BLC consistently aims to promote and explain the constitutional drafting process to the people of Burma.

The National League for Democracy - Liberated Area (NLD-LA) is an organization which implements and shares the NLD's political ideas amongst the ethnic and democratic organizations based along the Thai-Burma border. The NLD-LA liaises with democratic supporters; both those from within Burma or along the border and also those from the international community.

The State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) are in the process of drafting a constitution through a sham National Convention. However, policies, limitations and restrictions have been set down without first consulting the citizens of Burma or acquiring relevant advice from enlisted professionals.

If the SPDC's constitution process is successfully implemented, it will provide them with an overall right to exercise executive, legislative, and judicial power; consequently, this will prolong the power of the military dictatorship and allow them to rule legitimately. If such a process takes place, it will be impossible to overcome the current state of the country, and conditions for the people of Burma will continue to deteriorate much more than today.

Every citizen of Burma, who loves human rights, democracy and supports the establishment of liberty and justice, holds responsibility to prevent the deterioration of the country. To assist the people in fulfilling their responsibility, on the 15th September 2004, the BLC and the NLD-LA jointly formed the **"Constitutional Committee on the Revelation of the People's Aspirations"**, outlaying the following objectives:

(a) To promote at grassroots level, inside and outside of Burma, on understanding constitution and to enhance the participation of grassroots people in the drafting process of a future union constitution.

(b) To create a situation in which the grass roots ethnic nationalities can submit suggestions, discuss and exchange opinions, and reach mutual agreements, so that all responsible persons involved in the drafting of the constitution, can consider their opinions.

(c) To collect suggestions from the grassroots people and those international communities concerned with the future union constitution, and present them to the responsible political leaders, organizations and Burmese people, both outside and inside of Burma.

To fully achieve the objectives of CCRPA, the committee is undertaking the followings; distributing educational papers on constitution to grass roots Burmese peoples, inside and outside of Burma; giving short term trainings; holding meetings in the accessible places asking the opinions and suggestions; distributing the knowledge of constitution to the public through news media.

The committee will explain their aims, objectives and activities through legal professionals, writers, scholars, technicians, political parties and news media at every opportunity. The committee plan to do constitutional awareness raising program, such as writing articles, publishing and distributing pamphlets, short term training and educate the people as much as possible. The committee will communicate with leaders of various organizations, human rights activists in a possible ways and means and collect their opinions.

Intending to get support on these activities, the committee publishes the objectives of the committee to have a clear understanding by the inside and outside Burmese peoples, organization of human rights, law professionals and all the governments of the world willing to have democracy and rule of law. Then only they will cooperate with and help this committee on the constitutional works.