



Supreme Court Rejects NLD Appeal to be Reinstated

By KO HTWE

Tuesday, November 23, 2010

The Burmese Supreme Court in Naypyidaw on Monday rejected the lawsuit by pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) challenging its disbandment for failing to register as a political party. A senior official in Naypyidaw said the lawsuit had been rejected, according to Deutsche Presse Agentur (DPA).

However, Tin Oo, the NLD vice chairman, said, "We still haven't received any information about the rejection." Normally, the court's rulings are posted publicly, said also NLD lawyers.

After her release from house arrest last week, Suu Kyi met with the NLD legal team and discussed the military government's disbandment of the party after it decided not to participate in the national election, the first in 20 years, saying it was undemocratic.

On Thursday, lawyers for the NLD argued in a hearing before the court in Naypyidaw that the Election Commission was wrong in banning the party. "In the mind of the public and all NLD members, the party still exists," Tin Oo said. Many youth are more interested in joining the NLD after Suu Kyi's release, he said.

The NLD was officially disbanded after it failed to register for the Nov. 7 election. In the appeal before the Supreme Court, the NLD called for the cancellation of Article 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law, which required existing political parties to re-register or face disbandment.



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Article 25 reads: "The political parties established in accord with the Political Parties Registration Law 4/88 shall apply for registration to the Election Commission within 60 days after the promulgation of this law." The NLD claimed the provision did not apply to the NLD.

The NLD first presented its case to the Supreme Court in Rangoon in April. It was one of a number of law suits it filed, including an appeal by 26 party members who won in the 1990 election. They asked for the election results to be recognized and for the establishment of a parliament in accordance with the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law 14/89, which was issued in 1989.

The regime rejected the results of the 1990 election and promulgated a new Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law, repealing the 1989 law.

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