

National League for Democracy
(97/b) West Shwegondine Road
Bahan, Rangoon

Statement 8 (1/99)

For everyone's information, the directions given by the National League for Democracy to the organising committees in the towns of Yenangyaung and Chauk regarding the "unlawful entry and harassment at the offices of the party by members of the township election commission " is herewith published.

(Start)

" Despite the use of every means and device to get the NLD Organising Committees in Chauk township to resign, the authorities have failed because the members have displayed their solidarity and refused to cave in.

The authorities have now responded with vengeance and demanded an inspection of the records of town, ward and village committees. The township committee refused to submit their records under any circumstances for inspection in accordance with directions given by the Central Executive Committee.

It now appears that the authorities have resurrected the defunct Township Elections Commission to issue orders demanding the submission of all records of political parties and their branches within six days for scrutiny to examine whether they are operating systematically. Documents to be produced are incoming and outgoing letters, attendance registers, all other files and account books.

For the reasons given below, the resurrected Township Elections Commission has no jurisdiction and is not empowered under the Political Parties Registration Law to make such demands for inspection:-

- (1) The Multiparty Elections Commission is not an administrative body, hence it has no power to interfere in matters of administration.
- (2) The Multiparty Elections Commission was charged to attend to matters relating to the elections alone. After elections were completed which was 9 years ago, it has no more tasks to perform. It has no function in political matters.
- (3) A commission is appointed for the performance of a specific project or business.

Therefore, the township organising committees are instructed that they are not obliged to acquiesce to the illegal demands of any authority."

(End)

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

12 January 1999