

National League for Democracy presents its policy, stance and work programmes

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March— Chairperson of the National League for Democracy Daw Aung San Suu Kyi presented the party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV today.

The translation of her presentation is as follows:-



The presentation of our party's policy, stance and work programmes before holding the by-election on 1 April in a way has recognized a public right.

Not only voters, all the citizens as well have the right to decide which organization and who they will vote for by studying and reviewing the party organizations and the people they want to represent.

As we will accept the public decision according to the basic principles of democracy, now I would like to explain our ambitions for the nation and the people along with the principles that have been upheld for more than 20 years.

The three points the National League for Democracy has prioritized out of its main aims are the rule of law, internal peace and constitutional amendments.

Public fear reigned in the country as the rule of law had been hampered due to various ways such as the putting of judicial system under control of the government machinery, nationalization of media and the revoking of the people's rights to speak, write, hear and express freely by passing strict media and sensor rules.

Democracy will not flourish unless the people have freedom from fear and human rights. With the rule of law, the people will really enjoy protection by law and the taste of freedom.

The rule of law will give the ordinary people, service personnel and politicians protection and care they deserve. Then, persons, organizations and leaders with full authority will not be able to take action against and bully anyone through irrevocable order. Only then, will democracy flourish.

What shall we do to ensure the rule of law?

- We have to promptly abolish some outdated rules oppressing the people.
- We have to pass the laws protecting the people.
- We have to make sure that the judicial system is independent, and make it upright.
- We have to grant complete press freedom.
- We have to extend supporting networks of law to help the people.

The judicial pillar must stand independently together with the legislative and executive pillars that are in conformity with the democratic concept. The judicial pillar must always be above the executive pillar. And any rulers or organizations in breach of law must be brought to justice. Every person is presumed to be innocent until proved guilty.

The civil war born together with independence is still burning in our country. Since 1947 when the national leaders were assassinated, we have not been able to put on the negotiation table the issues of doubts among the national ethnic groups and different ideologies among those with different political views. Instead, we have been trying to solve those problems so far with the use of weapons. What's more, the absence of the rule of law fanned the flame of civil war. The security and rights of the national races could not have been protected, and a military dictatorship had emerged as a consequence of civil war.

We will be able to develop our nation only if we can put out the fire of civil war and ensure peace. We have to take three steps to end the civil war for peace.

First, there must be a nationwide ceasefire. Second, we must seek negotiations and solutions by holding political talks. Third, we must find common ground in order to build a genuine Union based on equality which is the basis of Panglong as aspired by the national races, the right to have

own rule and the right to decide freely in accord with the constitution. I strongly believe that our national brethren want only a genuine democratic Union, and they don't want secession at all.

Since the draft constitution appeared, the NLD announced its disagreement pointing out that needed amendment.

All the Hluttaw representatives, including united military forces, are to work together to amend the constitution with a sense of serving the interests of the nation only without attachment to own party and own group and personality cult.

We cannot deny the fact that the armed forces of Myanmar and of global countries are main forces for national defence.

According to the political experiences and incidents of Myanmar, I believe that the endeavours for development of Myanmar call for essential participation of the Tatmadaw.

I also believe that the Tatmadaw founded by my father General Aung San is always ready to serve the national interests.

Actually, a constitution is a charter placed between the people and the rulers. It can be amended, changed or abolished when necessary. It is found that the present constitution is not in conformity with democratic norms and standards.

One clear example is that only the rule of people by the representatives elected by the people is the true essence of democracy. It has been known to all that in the 2008 constitution, the parliamentary seats of unelected representatives account for 25 percent of all. As there are unelected representatives in the respective Hluttaws, it is not in conformity with democratic principles. The National League for Democracy has publicly announced the sections of the constitution that need amendments.

It is common knowledge that after the 1988 democratic campaign, the NLD has been struggling for the emergence of a genuine democracy for over 20 years under various pressures and oppressions. The members loyal to the party were kicked out of their jobs, lawyers and doctors had their licences revoked, some were unjustly arrested and got severest sentences. Consequently, our social lives were ruined and the economy of our families deteriorated. Anyhow, our NLD members have stood for the people and the party maintaining their conviction.

Our League has developed contacts at international level which can guarantee cordial relations with global nations and potential benefits to our people. We have also managed to establish friendly relations not only with developed old democracies but also with neighbours. We will also focus on seeking necessary international assistance for development of the nation.

Regarding the economy, it is required to make a shift to market economy with a right balance between freedom, stability and social justice, based on the rule of law.

We will have to focus our efforts on creating new jobs and solving unemployment problem to wipe out poverty, enhance living standard and social dignity of each individual of different national races in different regions, and make sure all the national races residing in the country have equal rights to work or to be employed.

We have to tackle the budget deficit but not by printing money but by seeking other ways and means. We have to smash the barrier in current monetary and banking systems.

It is required to closely cooperate with the International Monetary Fund, International Finance Commission, and the World Bank for development all the State-run and private-owned businesses. NLD is paving the way for such cooperation right now.

As an education initiative, we need to make sure every citizen has access to standard education, every school-age child has access to compulsory primary education and to open middle and high schools and vocational training schools in regions and states.

It is required to draw educational plans designed to help offspring of ethnics with language barrier. We need to initiate special programmes for school-age children and youths who found it hard to receive formal education to be able to pursue non-formal one.

It is critically important to promote our educational standard to reach international level. Only then, there will emerge real human resources which has been the hot topic in these days. It is extremely important that teachers are competent. For this, we need to make reforms while considering providing them with right emolument they deserve.



It is also required to get rid of hindrances in current education system to undertake educational reforms.

As to health, the State should have quality health care system.

We need to explore ways and means to establish separate health security programmes for the public especially for the needy.

We need to cooperate with international experts and medical institutions for modernization of medical teaching, pharmacology, medical therapies, and pharmaceutical technologies.

To make sure farmers have legal rights to manage and own farmland is our priority. Again, it needs to make sure farmers are allowed to grow, process and trade agricultural products freely in accordance with the market oriented economic system and their products fetch reasonable prices.

We need to be aware of globally increase in prices of agricultural produce and set up forward-looking agro-economic system.

It needs to allow the formation of united farmers unions to be able to freely deal with losses, rights and affairs of farmers in their interests.

We need to take actions for formation of labour unions legally protection of labour rights to make sure full rights of workers.

It is required to make sure all workers are equally treated, have equal opportunities, acceptable working environment, enjoy the same amount of earnings for the same work, rights to be paid and protection against unemployment.

We need to stop forced labour and take every measure we possibly could to meet the ILO's norms.

For any country, youths are the most valuable forces of the nation. We, therefore, are committed to give encouragement to better and accessible education and right careers for youths. Unemployment problem is to be addressed by creating jobs for the youth.

We will employ the efficiency of the youth, the human resources and the future of the nation as strong force in the nation-building. Again, it needs to allow formation of independent students unions legally founded by students.

To protect the rights of women who make up the over 50 per cent of the population and to expand their role in social, economic and political issues should also be main priorities.

I have articulated most of policies and stances I have just presented here in my electoral campaigns. People may be thinking now like this—your words sound great but can they really be realized? Well, to establish the Union aspired by us is not an easy task. But, I do believe nothing is impossible if only we try out of wish, industry, sentiment and knowledge in unison.

The National League of Democracy has decades of experiences in dealing with difficult tasks with diligence and industry. I would like to request the voters to vote in favour of our candidates as an assignment of harder national tasks for us to accomplish. Our emblem is a golden peacock on the red-coloured background with a five-angle white star at the left top corner and a phrase reading "National League for Democracy." Please vote for the National League for Democracy.

Thank you all!