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Member Comment:

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Last Stand?

The NLD's request that the SPDC should sit down and talk simply because its offers to recognise it as the governing body of Burma is seen by many as a last resort effort by the NLD, to stay in business. The SPDC feeds on weakness, so instead of opening new ground the NLD has in fact, offered fresh nourishment for the regime to gorge itself on, whilst humiliating and exposing the NLD as a spent force even more so. The NLD is portraying itself as begging for morsels because it is no longer able to sustain itself as a political entity but, still wants to give the appearance of being part of the game. Its supporters, who see this as an enigma, believe strongly, that to lose the NLD is to lose the fight. However; the inevitable has happened; or rather, it has reached its climax?

The NLD rejected all input from other political sources once it became clear the regime was not going to allow the 1990 elections to stand. It isolated itself from reality and chose instead to act like deposed royalty who had just had their crown stolen, and all offers of help were received with contempt as though from commoners who hold no status with them, and would therefore; be ignored! The outcome of this arrogant and selfish attitude is now very clear to all who have followed Burma's plight. The NLD, and its offshoots, had selfish ambitions, which in turn, destroy nations, as opposed to selfless ambition, which build them!

Burma has been clutching at straws for many years. Although the NLD failed in its political task, it provided valuable lessons. The first must surely be; that no, one autonomous group, elected or otherwise, can overthrow a well established dictatorship. This is why coalitions are formed between allies in time of conflict. Secondly; when personal ambition is taken as paramount to the suffering of others, risk and sacrifice, which are part and parcel of politics, as they are in war, is avoided at all cost.

The consequence of this stance is total defeat, accompanied with humiliation and degradation!

The people should support those who place their country above all personal ambitions!

Old politics with its successes and failures do not represent the new, just as children are not clones of their parents! Clear examples are; ASSK, has not inherited her fathers gust for politics, but people expect it of her. Today's PDP is not the PPP/PDP of yesteryear, so therefore should not be judged or compared to it.

Both ASSK (NLD) and Bo Aung Din (PDP) are today's people; their tactics however; differ between them, as do their motives. Due to the unrealistic tactics and selfish motivation of the NLD, together with its subsidiaries, the struggle for Burma's democracy has been seriously undermined.

On the other hand; the rekindling and rapid expansion of the PDP, with its limited funds, fundamentally underpins essential but important differences between the past and today's NLD!

The NLD with all its fanfare, financial and world support failed the people. The PDP, with its self financing from the pockets of members, and having isolation forced upon it because it was seen as a threat to the NLD, has given more to the people in every way. The people have realised that the PDP does not lie to them. It reveals the true situation without offering empty promises. They know that PDP members give all they can without expecting reward. They do not expect miracles, only the truth, and loyalty to them, the people!

Struggles are won by recognising today's facts and not by drawing on the past!

I speak this way from observations I made whilst living among the people both along the Thai/Burma border and inside. I showed no favouritism at any time between the NLD and the PDP.

Its time the world showed the same respect to the voice of the PDP as do the people of Burma, after all, isn't that what democracy is all about and precisely what we in the west are promoting, and what my 22 years as a soldier was all about, or have I naively, got it wrong?

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