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**Collective comment.**

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**NEW YEAR AND TIME FOR A NEW CONTENDER TO TAKE THE CORNER FOR BURMA!**

**There are talkers and there are doers. Now is the time for the doers.**

As another year passes, we ask readers to reflect on any advances made, which could be attributable to the NLD and NCGUB, toward restoring democracy to Burma . Let us not forget also, those who voice their opinions but do not have the required will, courage, or influence, to promote their ill-conceived philosophy into action, but instead, place Burma into deeper jeopardy by expecting others to follow their words. The hard truth of course; is that no advances have been made by any of the above, quite the contrary in fact. The NLD and NCGUB have brought the democracy movement to a shuddering halt through their ineptness.

On the other part, where voices are simply out to gain credibility by rambling on about areas which they consider themselves to be expert, which have no bearing at all, on defeating the regime.

Many, talk about how Burma should be structured, once democracy is restored, when in fact; the issue, which should be at the forefront of peoples planning today, is unification and the removal of the regime. Talks, about anything else, at this stage, belong firmly, in the pages of pure fantasy, because, while the regime still rules, that is, exactly what it is, a tale of fantasy! Talking beforehand, is purely hypothetical, and only wastes what could be precious time toward more decisive talks on how to unite Burma, and remove the regime. All effort should be concentrated on this move. Any thoughts beforehand, on post regime Burma could change dramatically once democracy is realised and not seen only as a dream. The world's economy and social structures, which change daily, will have a strong influence on how to structure the new Burma .

**Note:**

**Beware! Do not allow Burma to become a future conflict arena for world powers.**

*If Burma was to become a federal union from day one, it would be easy for foreign powers to instigate divide and rule tactics if it suited their foreign policy, in much the same way as the regime has done over the years. Because Burma's population comprises of mixed cultures and languages, as opposed to other federal systems, the temptation to break away under the influence and promises, of another country, would be, that much more probable than simply being a possibility.*

*Of the 193 countries in the world, only 25 have adopted the federal system. Many of those countries, were either, once part of a larger empire, which was shared out between the masters of that empire, later to become separate nations, or otherwise, a colony of another country. Today's United Arab Emirates, for example, rose from the 'Trucial States', set up by the British, not as a colony, but as a protectorate, who withdrew in 1971. A federation was formed, but two, Bahrain and Oman, decided to opt out, many say due to British influence, as both held strategic positions in the Middle East!*

No individual person or single group can carry the fight to the regime, whether it's to the table, or on the battlefield. Neither, can a split country protect itself from outsiders. Only a unified body, with the people behind it can achieve that. To move into a federal system immediately after democracy is restored, would create years of delay in constituting new laws to please all. It would then take years before a fully-fledged federal system is acceptable to all concerned. During that period, developing unrest will irritate the population; some ethnics may opt out, with the knowledge that a dictator will not be persecuting them into the ground, but instead fall under the influence of its neighbours.

For Burma to survive from its own misconception of federalism, it must first form a united Burma under one law for all. A united parliament, armed forces, police force, political, free choice to move about, freedom of expression etc. etc.

For Burma, it must first bring about a free society, when it does, and the present state of mind still exists, its immediate neighbours, will assess, what is best for them, who will then, quickly set out on a journey of exploration, seeing whom they can influence the most. The ethnic nations are off course the most obvious targets, due to the topography and resources, and because of the instability created by the regime over decades. This interference, will disrupt the unification of Burma, and lead to the ethnic nations becoming satellites of another country, or worst, rouge states, and a future conflict arena as witnessed in old Europe, and the Middle East.

A quick solution is not the right solution for continued peace with democracy. If democracy is to be restored, if, Burma wants to move on, it must unite now, under one banner, though not, of a particular party, but of Burma! The campaigning for federalism, can begin after democracy is restored, and its social structure is set in concrete protecting its people from the outside world, enabling it to benefit from its much sought after resources, instead of having it stolen, like many other unfortunate developing countries.

Burma has at its disposal today; experienced politicians, military minds, and advisors; already in place, and has been working hard for years under its own steam while Burma plunged deeper into oblivion under the hypnotic shadow of both the NLD and Suu Kyi's publicity barrage, which diverted peoples minds away from what was really happening, or rather not happening.

Burma must plan and coordinate, ready to step into the shoes of unification, strong enough to deter any coaxing from outsiders. If it cannot do that, any plans for a federal system will fall apart long before it has time to become reality!

World powers used to colonise in order to boost influence, today they use leverage in other ways, just as former colonies, now use their resources as a form of leverage against their one time colonial masters. Burma has the chance to control its own destiny, but it can only do that if it creates a nation standing together against the world.

Burma debate, to-date, is influenced too much, by foreign verbal, intervention, individuals, who regard themselves as experts, firstly in politics/diplomacy/bureaucracy, and secondly, on Burma itself. Sadly, this intervention, if anything, has prevented many from Burma, both exiles or otherwise, from acting on their own initiative, although, as records now show, most, Burmese

exiles, had no direction beforehand anyway. Nevertheless, the easy way out for these people, was to listen to others for answers, which in turn, has left the democracy bench confused, with no ideas of their own.

The good thing to come from this however, is the growing support for the PDP, who has had direction for decades, but foolishly fell in with the crowd, and supported the NLD, who later, was to reject the PDP, who patriotically, wanted to work with the NLD, offering their long experience of politics and conflict. The NLD and the NCGUB, wanted to be top dog, hence, the country has suffered a further 16 years of persecution, because of it.

### **The doers risk death, while talkers revel in comfort:**

We appreciate, very much, that inside Burma , the NLD has severe restrictions forced upon its members, as do, affiliated and non-affiliated political groups, but to go on using the excuse of Suu Kyi's home confinement as reason for failure, is to admit that there was no strategy in place from the beginning, making tactical planning impossible.

Nevertheless, there are no such restrictions forced upon the NCGUB, who are, after all, the self- imposed government in exile. Under Sein Win, they operate autonomously outside of the NLD, often going against the will of the NLD and their record of failures are staggering, but they have of course succeeded, in becoming wealthy and live comfortable life styles, while even their supposed leader is locked in suspension. The whole episode is a whirlpool of corruption and internal backstabbing.

We ask what lessons have been learned and what actions are the people of Burma , likely, to respond to today, now that the NLD and the NCGUB are falling apart and are not viable options. If lessons have been learned, how are they to be integrated into today's, plan of future tactics, where everything is taken into consideration, and by whom?

Has the reshuffle of leaders, within the NLD, NCGUB, been considered, if not, why? The fact that some were elected as MP's in 1990, is completely irrelevant today, it was after all, 16 years ago, and not only did they never take up the role as MP's, the mandate given, is long gone. In which case, any person from Burma has the right to contest anyone who purports they are representatives of Burma , in open confrontation.

Perhaps, the funding, fed into the NCGUB's coffers, could be managed better, under a new administration. This would allow for a wider political platform, instead of financing only those who bow down to Sein Win, along with others who profit from it, and subsequently, allows the regime to continue its oppression, while the NCGUB, takes care of its own circle, in the comforts of the USA, and other free countries.

### **Outside influences:**

Are the worlds democracies, who really want democracy in Burma ,, bothering to look elsewhere amongst the political web, seeking out new prospects, and not catering solely, for their own interest? The worlds choice, to wear blinkers, give those who seek a platform, whether it's to celebritise themselves, and to profit, or indeed, to deliberately harass proceedings on the side of the regime, and preventing unification from obtaining a strong foothold, the opportunity to do so.

### **One name one game?**

Is it not the time to end iconic worship of an individual, allowing others to manipulate a name, for profit? Most if not all, conflicts, past and present, are instigated, by medieval worship of an individual, whose cronies then begin the manipulation of weaker minds, who otherwise would never rise above ground level, which then leads to the masses being terrorised into submission.

Most fanatical groups have one figurehead, and an army of zombies who force their doctrine upon others through force, fear and propaganda. Democracies, on the other hand, are brought about by unified debate, requiring intelligent minds to further a country's prospect, and by introducing laws that will protect and benefit a society and not persecute it.

Burma's, farcical govt. in exile, though not in the same league as other fanatical elements one could mention, do however, operated a one sided policy, even though, they only represent a small contingent of followers from a population of 60 million, led by one, vanity driven, egotistic profiteer. They profit from Burma's dilemma, something they prefer not to share with any other democracy groups, or indeed, their country. Although, maybe not, an oppressor on the ground, the NCGUB, does in fact profit by inflicting suffering on the people by proxy, because, they allow the regime to continue its persecution without lifting a finger to help the people. ***What is worse; the devil acting as the devil, or a devil pretending to be a saint?***

One would think, though nothing more than a consortium, the NCGUB, who are supposed to inform the world of Burma's suffering, and aid its recovery, would include all of Burma's pro-democracy groups, into the debate, and share the funding, which flows into its coffers, but no, it sees itself, as master of Burma's destiny. So much for democracy!

### CHARACTER PLAYING:

Should not Burma, concentrate more, on ability to serve, than simply accept what is; playing out the part?

The longer this charade continues, the more apparent the farce becomes. History will never see Suu Kyi as Burma's saviour, indeed, when her political portfolio is studied by future academics, and perhaps future politicians, it will become obvious, that her ineptness, arrogance and complacency was not only her, downfall, but that of Burma? The same applies to the NCGUB and Sein Win.

Naturally, we want to see all political prisoners free, that's what it is all about, but there is too much emphasis, applied to Suu Kyi's incarceration and not enough on the real issues related to it. People tend to forget, she can leave Burma anytime she likes on her British passport, unlike those sealed in prison, and of course Nelson Mandela, who had no choice either. When are those from Burma, going to admit their true feelings about the NLD and NCGUB, and the ethnic unification obstacle? We can understand the fear of reprisal from fanatical elements who want to install iconic leadership over a tired people, but isn't that exactly what the SPDC do. Same game, different name? If Burma does not have the people to confront extremists, or the hurdles placed in front of unification, how will they act if democracy is suddenly thrust upon them?

If Burma wants to join the rest of the world, it must conform, though not to its western ways, but to commonsense, matching the reality of its predicament, and not fall prey to myth, and the worship of other human beings, who only see the people as servants and slaves, rather than real people with feelings and emotion.

In the past few years, a well-established political party, established meaning, that its predecessors were elected leaders of Burma , something no other party in Burma , can boast. Today's party has adapted to 21<sup>st</sup> century thinking, and naturally, retains its countries multi cultural way of thinking.

***'The PDP is the only political party, which actively generates Burma's image as one people with equal rights for all. It is the only party who can influence foreign powers to respect Burma as one country with one voice, that of its entire people'!***

The PDP, are after all, people from Burma , who have fought relentlessly against military dictatorship since 1962. Members fought bravely, and are still fighting, without, outside help. Today, the PDP has no competition in the pro-democracy arena, as only the wise and dedicated freedom fighters will proclaim. Those others, who constantly voice their own agendas, are, but lone wolves, who have no following, making them very insignificant. The NLD and pacifically, the NCGUB, who have received millions of dollars over the years, have failed miserably, to ease the suffering of the people of Burma .

It is time for Burma 's doers to confront its nightmares, on behalf of the people.

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