THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

2020 General Elections
Reflections and Remarks from Poll Stations

Poll Station Teachers

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Report Background

There are several confusions, debates, and denials with regard to the 2020 general elections in Myanmar. We the teachers who served as poll station officers have shared on social media our experiences and incidents. Nevertheless, our posts are invisible among heavily partisan content prevalent on the platform.

The military announced the state of emergency on 1 February, handing over all three pillars on power, with their main reason being the election fraud. They also claim to be scrutinising the voter lists. Thus, as myself being the Head of the poll station, I feel obliged to put forward my experiences as well as a compilation of posts by fellow teachers and latest announcements, and hereby present this report on behalf of teachers assigned at poll stations.

Please refer to this report without any prejudice and political affiliations, and sincerely hoping this could be of help in the interests of our nation and its democratic transition as the ultimate goal. Despite being on different vehicles, may we all venture on the same journey.

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2020 General Election - Reflections and Remarks from Poll Stations
(By Teachers assigned at Poll Stations)

1. Introduction

On the 8th of November 2020, for the third term of the multi-party democratic regime in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, general elections were successfully held. Myanmar’s military (known as the Tatmadaw) appears to have accepted the election results released by the Union Election Commission (UCEC) without any objection.

Nevertheless, Tatmadaw Information Team began to raise the number of duplications in the registered voter lists, who shall allegedly vote multiple times; accused fraudulence on the increased number of advance votes, which are in fact the result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and also accused fraudulence via voting in place of no-voters. They did so by publishing Excel data sheets 30 times, which have since then prompted certain groups of people to speculate suspicions.

2. Empty Indictments of the Tatmadaw

Historically, successive UEC Chairs in Myanmar have said that voter lists can hardly be accurate, and have been quoted as such nationwide and internationally. For instance, the previous UEC led by U Tin Aye mentioned that the lists can only be accurate as much as 30%. Therefore, it is evident that the Tatmadaw Information Team is unaware of the ground situations.

Moreover, in the myriad statements released by the Tatmadaw Information Team, no evidence on how the fraud was conducted nor how the ballots were rigged has been provided. Their reports at a glance may incur doubts among everyday readers for their accusations are heavily exaggerated and seemingly plotted. Careful reviews on their publications have only revealed that the allegations are solely based on possible voter frauds due to voter lists irregularities and contains no reference to actual ballots (advanced + in-person).

Even in a scenario where voter frauds indeed occurred, legislations imply that a party may report such cases to the respective electoral tribunal in accordance with the laws and regulations issued for the elections. There were a total of 287 cases submitted with proper evidence and explanations – 94 cases reported by the voters and 193 cases reported by the election candidates. The corresponding electoral tribunals have begun the hearings for the reported cases.
Hence, Tatmadaw’s requests and accusations that were made based on colluded numbers, without any strong evidence or explanations, are at best empty and unjustified, and need not be responded. On the other hand, the commission has been handling the objection cases that were reported with accurate evidences. For Tatmadaw to turn a blind eye to this and plainly push forward with accusations merely to portray the state of emergency is equivalent to failing a student for not answering a question that is not tested in the first place.

We have observed that some citizens and international stakeholders have wrongly concluded that the military staged the coup because their accusations had not been addressed. However, one has to keep in mind that the military has submitted groundless accusations and charges that do not require any explanation within legal boundaries, and hence their claims had not been addressed. Previous elections also witnessed the UEC only handling objection forms with accurate evidences. Meanwhile, we must admit that the Commission led by U Hla Thein significantly lacked in the area of explaining to other parties involved. Their responses may have encouraged dilemmas and further fuelled distrust on neutrality of the Commission.

In reality, Tatmadaw ignored the will of the majority of citizens and overtook the country’s power by force, ignoring the 2008 Constitution as well as other laws issued, purely based on groundless accusations of possible voter fraud which are again only based on the irregularities in the voter lists. However, we hereby stand in a position that the declaration of the state of emergency was unnecessary and that the military was trying to make the problems bigger than they actually are.

3. Were Previous Voter Lists Accurate?

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has witnessed three multi-party elections – the first time in 2010, secondly in 2015, and now for the third time in 2020. Even in other public polls (such as the referendum for the constitution), the voter lists remained far from accurate.

No one was aware of those inaccuracies in the voter lists in the previous elections since the military only decided to scrutinise and challenge the lists in 2020. Nevertheless, we found out that duplication of voter lists, sudden arrival of advance ballot boxes at midnight and the villages where everyone at that village was said to vote during the previous elections do not exist at all when investigations were done with field works.

The voter lists for the 2020 elections were based on those of the previous ones, so there were definitely duplications and anomalies during the previous voter lists too. It is dubious why only now that Tatmadaw is eagerly raising duplicated voter lists and possible fraudulence.
This election took place in Myanmar where the statistics are not reliable, unlike western countries where they have e-government. Even the agricultural acreage that are immovable is not precise in Myanmar according to different years and different government departments. They have been changing it to whatever the way they wanted. Let alone the population census where birth and deaths of people were changing as the time passes by.

In a country like Myanmar where e-government facilities are weak, it is not easy to have a precise voter list when we have to do field works. This is because the lists consist of (1) migrants who are working and living out of towns (2) working and living migrants who were not natives to the town (3) people who entered the country (4) the deceased (5) underage children (6) people who were eligible to vote but not included in the list (7) Myanmar citizens who are abroad. Therefore, the voter lists were announced and revised 3 times to the public after a series of amendments.

Even so, it is hard to say that the voter lists were the actual lists of the people residing in those Regions and States.

(1) When a person moves to another quarter, village, township, region and state, that person might be in the voter list of his or her original address and also in the new address. As you may all be aware, for a particular opportunity for the people living in a certain township like career prospects, there are many people being in the census of that township without actually living there. Some people take on the easy path and update their household list as they see fit and convenient.

Certain analysts are claiming that the UEC which is influenced by former military officers might make the voter lists repetitive intentionally. In reality, regardless of the fact that the voter lists are duplicated accidentally or intentionally, we might still face such problems in the future as long as each and every one of our citizens is not granted electronic ID code numbers.

Successive governments have used the policy in which the government does not control the UEC (despite being appointed by them in the first place) and that it is an independent organization. The government led by Daw Aung San Su Kyi also practiced that policy. Therefore, both our people and international bodies have clearly seen that the electoral parties have already accepted and participated in the election based on the voter lists proclaimed by the UEC.

Regardless of the duplications, we need to keep in mind a person who has already voted at one place will be absent in another. That number of absentee would be equivalent to the so-called 10.5 million duplicated frauds as claimed by the Tatmadaw Commander in Chief. Careful analysis
would reveal that the actual number of duplicated voters is about 3 million only, and this will be elaborated in another section.

(2) People rarely report each and every death and birth, the deceased people might be in the voter lists too. Some might have passed away just before the election period. How many people would report the deaths and births to the respective offices and departments? Many teachers among ourselves have faced several cases in which the parents make their child’s birth certificate with a close health worker only before the school enrolment.

(3) People under 18, young children and the elderly people over 100 years old might also be in the voter lists due to computer typing errors. A person born in 1991 might be mistakenly marked as a person born in 1919 in the list. However, they were allowed to vote as long as their ID card and the person matches. Tatmadaw is now questioning if the 101 years old people really came to vote just by looking at the tables on paper, drawing conclusions themselves without field work. In some cases, those who were indeed over 100 years old did vote via advanced ballots.

A person born in 2001 might be wrongly marked as born in 2011. In reality, it is not a nine-year old child who voted. It was a nineteen-year old youngster.

Even if there were underage people who came to vote as they were in the voter lists, the assigned polling station chiefs are teachers from basic education schools who have the ability to guess the age of the voter to prevent mistakes. They also are unable to cheat due to the presence of the public, representatives of the parliamentary candidates, election observers, and the media. Even if they are on the voter list, they will not be granted the ballot unless they can prove that they are eligible voters.

(4) In Myanmar, we are well aware that there might be two persons with the same NRC number, one person having two or three ID numbers and the people without ID numbers although they have been living in the same neighbourhood with their ancestors.

It is difficult for the real citizens living in Myanmar to get NRC cards without paying charges. If one can afford, even foreigners who are not even capable of speaking Burmese or any ethnic languages are easily having access to NRC cards. If he/she can prove to be an 18-year old Myanmar citizen, it is certain for the person to give a vote. No citizen must lose the chance to vote.

Hence, it is hard to take the exact numbers of voters. Furthermore, compared with the 2015 election, COVID-19 crisis gives rise to less chance for the voters to verify the voter lists.
Myanmar, incorrect numbers of voters are more like a tradition and have no direct relations with election fraud.

4. Announcement of Voter Lists

The preliminary list of eligible voters was announced from 25.7.2020 to 14.8.2020 for the first time. It was allowed to make requests if a voter is not included in the list according to Form (3), to object the ineligible voter (who is dead or underage or repeated) according to Form (4) and to make a re-registration for the voters whose personal information are incorrect according to Form (4 – C).

After correcting, editing and discarding as necessary, the voters list was declared at the corresponding electoral commission offices for the second time from 1.10.2020 and 14.10.2020. The second voter list was updated with addition of people, whose names were not included in the list, who have reached the voting age but are not included, who are newly submitted family members, and removed people who died or had moved out.

According to the third voters list, over 38 million people (38,271,447) including citizens currently living in Myanmar, citizens living overseas, citizens who had returned to Myanmar, and military members are eligible to vote. It should also be noted that a lot of people who lost their chance to vote for they are still not included in this final voters list. In some villages and wards, the whole families were not registered. Let alone the allegations raised by the Tatmadaw Information Team, citizen themselves failed to check the lists. It is the right of a citizen to demand the chance to vote.

Despite the odds, based on this third round of voters list, the election was held on 8th November 2020. Teachers from the Ministry of Education (and some staff from other Ministries) worked as chiefs and deputy chiefs of polling stations and performed electoral duties.

5. Duplications in the Voters List

Could this number, 10.5 million voter frauds, claimed by the Commander in Chief based on the voters list be possible? As teachers who performed electoral tasks, we ought to know where these numbers come from, and the followings are our observations.

These numbers are as found in the 30th announcement of the Tatmadaw Information Team. There were 15 townships where elections were not held. They clarified that their numbers are based on 315 townships where elections were held.
1) Duplications in the same Township – 2,946,532
2) Duplications across different Townships – 1,070,100
3) Duplications across different Regions/States – 1,786,302
4) Underage individuals – 11,943
5) Individuals without a national ID – 4,648,270
6) Individuals above the age of 100 – 18,356
7) Others (died) – 613

These figures sum up to 10,482,116 and this is the reason they used the number 10.5 million. Voter duplications in the list were presumed to have contributed to potential fraudulent votes.

After a closer look to these anomalies, for example, if U Mya Aung was included in both Township A and Township B, even though there has been a repetition of a voter, there was in fact one vote that U Mya Aung cast. However, the Military Information Team had counted an ID duplicated twice as two different cases, and similarly for three cases and so on. Therefore, for the figures stated in 1, 2 and 3, there was in fact one correct entry, and hence only half the total number must be considered duplications.

Those underage and those above the age of 100 as in 4 and 6 are believed to be typing errors. 1991 as in DOB must have been mistyped as 1919; 2001 as 2011, as in an aforementioned explanation. However, there exist people who are alive past the age of 100 and who also cast their early votes. Therefore, it is unreasonable to firmly conclude there have been duplicated votes for this age group.

Those without a national ID as in number 5 cannot also be said to be among the fraudulent votes. As mentioned before, there may have been other ways they could have cast their votes officially.

As for other issues said in number 7, there may have been cases where voters passed away before they voted. There is a very slim chance that the votes of the dead were substituted for they were announced and known to have passed away. The number was also as low as 613.

To conclude, only half the figures in 1, 2 and 3 will be assumed to have been over-counted. After all, only one is over-counted if a voter entry was duplicated.

(1) Extra votes in one Township are 1,473,266 if 2,946,532 is divided by 2
(2) Extra votes in one Township and another Township are 535,050 if 1,070,100 is divided by 2
(3) Extra votes in Regions and States are 893,151 if 1,786,302 is divided by 2
The sum of the above three types of extra ballots turns out as 2,901,467. The sum of these extra ballots and 613 extra ballots from the list (No. 7: Extra ballots from sudden deaths) is 2,902,080. The estimated total number of exceeded populations in the voter list is 2.9 Million (3 Million) more than the real population. It was already reported that the statistics under No.4, No.5, and No. 6 cannot be considered as exact numbers.

If the voter list’s error is only approximately 3 million out of 38 million eligible voters, the accuracy of the voter list is better compared to what U Tin Aye’s UEC stated as “Merely 30% of the voters list is correct”. It is an acceptable ballot inflation considering Myanmar’s situation. It is therefore obvious that the voter list in the 2020 Election was based on the modification of the voter lists in the 2010 and 2015 Elections in order to provide more accurate data. The aforementioned factors also point out no possibility of getting 100% accuracy in the voter list.

6. Fraudulence in Advance Ballots

There have been allegations that election fraud using advance votes was seen in the 2020 Election. Only 5,884,420 votes (6 million) were advance votes out of 27,512,855 votes (27.5 million) for Pyithu Hluttaw from Regions and States.

The accusers seem to have assumed that advance voters went to other Townships or Villages on November 8 to double the votes. However, not everyone was allowed to vote in advance as advance voters were mostly public servants who were assigned to work in polling stations. How and where could they vote during the duty period? In addition, it is true that the number of advance votes increased during the COVID-19 Pandemic but those voters were still publicly known as elderly and disabled people. The names of advance voters were marked with lines after voters finished voting. The numbers of voters were also noted down in the observation record of Polling Stations’ Officers. The representatives from political parties for polling stations also witnessed the entire process in order to record the numbers of advance votes who finished voting every day and reported back to their respective political parties.

There might have been 1 in 10,000 people (advance voters with repeat voting in special places) who committed election fraud if one is to look up the probability statistically as secret advance voters were not included in the Election Law. They can be about 600 voters at maximum with 0.1% of eligible advance voters. It is nevertheless a negligible number. Therefore, over 27.5 million votes can be recognized officially with no election fraud from advance votes. (It is important to note that not all of those votes represent one same political party.)
The Union Election Commission also had the Ward/ Village Election Sub-Commission stuck notice pamphlets about extracts from the Election Law (types of criminal cases in election and their penalties) in order to prevent such election frauds.

The main elements about the advance voting in the 2020 Election are explained as follows. The advance voter list was collected between 29 October and 5 November for 8 days and the advance voters were originally declared in the voter lists. To be eligible for advance voting, one must be:

(1) Elderly people over 60
(2) Chronic patients in bed
(3) People with disabilities in mobility
(4) Quarantined people
(5) Education Officers and officers from other government departments assigned in polling stations (especially the military personnel, Police Forces and their family members)
(6) People who could not return to original places (migrant workers, embassies’ staffs)

No one except the aforementioned were not allowed to vote in advance or request to vote in advance.

With the above criteria, it is clear that the majority of the eligible advance voters were military personnel and their families.

The Election Sub-Commission, election observers, and representatives from political parties witnessed the eligible advance voters from No (1) to (4) from above voted at home. Advance voters from No (5) and (6) also voted at the polling stations of the related Village/Ward Election Sub-Commissions. One exception here is that, in some wards, and villages where some military battalions are present, the relevant Ward/Village Election Sub-Commissions had only knowledge of the number of voters and names. Like advance votes from abroad and other Townships, the battalions sent the ballots to the Township Election Sub-Commissions. There were other cases where they voted at the polling stations in advance.

The number of advance voters had to be recorded in the original voter list and in the observation record of the Polling Station’s Officer. Hence, it was impossible for advanced voters to repeat voting on November 8 regardless of any documentation. (They might have received the registration cards again for administrative needs but those cards are not ballot paper. It will be later explained in detail.) Secured advance ballot boxes were kept at the Office of Ward/Village Election Sub-Commission.
At 4:00 PM after the voting is concluded on November 8, the number of ballot tickets taken from the Sub-Commission was announced before the secured ballot box was open. The number of ballot tickets was then checked if it was the same as the taken number in front of the election observers. The next step was checking and calculating the number of valid and invalid voters. If it is so, when, where and how the teachers and servants performing at polling booths did such controversial carelessness which can be alleged to be a vote fraud? Even if it has been done, it can be solved by submitting refutation scrolls accompanying appropriate evidence to the election tribunal. It can also be prosecuted and take actions if only related to the crime entwined by the police.

7. Sabotaging the No-Voters

There has been an accusation that imposters came and voted in the place for No-Voters in the 2020 election. This is also nothing but another mere conspiracy theory by the accusers.

No one can know absolutely who is not going to come and vote at 4 pm in the evening before the polling booth is closed. According to the proposal of the election observers, it was known that people who desired not to vote originally and those who vouched themselves to sit on the fence even came and voted unexpectedly according to the dissatisfaction towards the military’s impositions and proposals. It was witnessed by us, while performing polling booth duty, that a bulky group of people are awaiting to vote even before the morning.

The officials at polling booths were very busy at the presence of the citizens, poll representatives of parliament candidates, election observers, and the press, having no extra time to commit a vote fraud. In order to get a vote signature, whether it was included or not was examined by the voting list, and the names of the voter and his/her father, birth date and address are also checked. Also, it cannot be scratched with a random pen as in previous voting procedures. It is required to stamp with the seal marked as UEC kept only in the voting booth. There is no easy chance to give votes by impersonating.

Thus, the number of Pyithu Hluttaw votes 27,512,855, confirmed by UEC, was accomplished by these procedures for both advance votes and walk-in votes at the polling booth which implies that there cannot be much vote frauds despite the voters list being duplicated. (This observation is done based on the higher number 27,512,855 for Pyithu Hluttaw compared with Amyotha Hluttaw votes having only 27,495,555 in total.)
8. The Number of Absentees

One of the examples given by other parties in the 2020 election is to assume there are 40 voters in total although the number of actual people is 30. Despite this example being irrelevant to the current issues, it seems to be ambiguous for those civilians, who have no idea about the election process, that a false voting list must be a voter fraud implicitly.

There are overall 38,271,447 (approximately over 38 million) eligible voters in Myanmar 2020 election. The number of voters did not surpass the amount 40 million as being alleged in the above example. However, the number of printed ballots is expected to be over 40 million for each (Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, Region/State Hluttaw, and Ethnic Affairs Ministers) as a safety margin. The remaining ballots which were not used need to be returned exactly. (About 44 million vote ballots were imprinted for each Hluttaw according to the latest news.) There are 27,512,855 votes in the Pyithu Hluttaw whereas only 27,495,555 votes were found in the Amyotha Hluttaw. Approximately, it is 27.5 million. Therefore, if most of the actual voters are assumed to be 27,512,855, automatically, there would be 10,758,592 (over 10.7 million/about 10.8 million) absent voters.

It is crucial to realize that among those absent voter, there can be not only absent voters, who were undecided and likely did not vote, but also overlapped names in the list who are alleged to be a factor of vote fraud.

Let’s look at the election in 4 townships of Bago as an example, in order to get an insight of the voting confusion from the recent election.

According to the following table, there are 15 people actually (4 people each in Pauk Khaung, Paung Ti, Phyuu whereas 3 from Pyay). However, due to the overlapped voters list such as one voter in two or three cities (highlighted in red), the overall voting is ensured as 22 in total. For instance, U Aung from the table serial number 10 is included in both three cities in the voting list. To conclude, the total number of votes is precipitated to be 22 (actual 15 votes + excess 7 votes highlighted in red).

Let’s assume we are going to depict 22 as total votes in the voting list regardless of actual 15 people and then host an election. Next, three people from Pyay did not come and vote. If so, there will be 12 votes by the rest of the voters and there will be 10 absent votes as well if being subtracted by 22 in the previous voting list. Extra 7 votes + absent 3 votes will be 10 votes in total.
The overlapping individuals in the voters list are unable to vote in different constituencies and their tally shall come out as absentees (7 + 3). Therefore, it must be clearly understood that an absentee vote is the combination of no votes and overlapping excess votes. This overlapping of voter lists which has led to statistical confusion during the 2020 General Election, has been dubbed as voting fraud.

In the 2020 General Election, the total number of eligible voters included in the overlapped voter lists is more than 38 million while the total number of voters (a combination of advance voting and voting at the polling stations) is more than 27.5 million. However, the number of absentee votes is more than 10.7 million (approximately 10.8 million). Taking account of all the above explained factors, the anomalies fabricated by the military as voting fraud are the overlapping...
votes which are already comprehended in the absentee list. In fact, if the number of overlapping votes exceeds the number of absentee votes, it can be considered as voting fraud.

As elucidated in the preceding sections, the 10.7 million (approximately 10.8 million) absentee votes are just the summation of 3 million overlapped voter lists and no votes. Accordingly, the voting fraud alleged by the Tatmadaw Commander in chief is inadequate to make a difference, in the general election results, over the landslide victory of more than 27.5 million votes. (According to the statistics, the highest number of fraudulent votes is estimated at a maximum of 600.)

9. Voting on 8th November

On the Election Day on 8th November 2020, the election workers were wary of the possibilities that some voters might bypass to vote the ballots. However, there were specific bypasses as expected. Therefore, according to the official list released by the Union Election Committee, the number of Pyithu Hluttaw (House of Representatives) voters is 27,512,855 and the number of Amyotha Hluttaw (House of Nationalities) voters is 27,495,555. Amongst the two assemblies, there is a numerical difference of 17,300 voters. These validated statistics are the actual number of Myanmar citizens who voted in advance in front of the public and who literally voted at the polling stations. In Pyithu Hluttaw (House of Representatives), there was a total of 27,512,855 voters with 5,884,420 advance votes and 21,628,435 votes at the polling stations.

According to the overlapping in the voter lists, a single eligible voter, named U Thein Aye, may appear in the voter lists of both Ward (1) and Ward (5) in the same city. Otherwise, let’s suppose his name is on the voter list in Meikhtila, where he now lives and in Pyaw-Bwel, where he had previously lived.

Hereby, we need to consider how many times U Thein Aye is able to cast his votes in a day. Once a vote is cast, the little finger of the voter is inked with non-abrasive ink, which lasts at least a week. We urge people not to criticize advance voters for not being inked on the little fingers since we’ve aforementioned that not everyone is eligible to cast votes in advance. Moreover, advance votes are not votes which can be casted confidentially. It has already been explained that voting frauds might occur to a small extent. However, it shouldn’t be generally concluded that the voting frauds occurred to an extent that altered the election results.

Due to the overlapping of voter lists, many of the voter ID cards that U Thein Aye is entitled were not ballot papers. These cards have also been issued in previous elections to facilitate in verifying the voter turnout which helped in expediting the voting process.
Regarding the many identical voter ID cards received by the same person, there were posts on social media at the time. However, the public has already seen and resolved it. There have been cases where polling station members have involved in conducting the verification of fraud voters with such voter ID cards to obtain a valid ballot paper. To prevent voting frauds, excerpts from the election law, including the type of crime and the penalties, have been displayed at ward/village tract/ commission offices.

During the 2020 General Election, ballot papers are issued only after a series of inspections. Unlike in previous elections, polling station members were not able to suddenly tick with a pen and put in the ballot box. A stamp with the UEC logo, which is kept only in the polling booth, must be stamped.

After the polls close at 4pm in the evening, the number of people on the voter list who cast their votes (excluding the advance voters) is inspected to see whether they match the lists from the voter list checkers and ballot paper issuers in the respective parliaments. It is more impossible to have informally issued ballot papers in advance. In case the polling station officer has signed the ballot paper in advance, the paper is cancelled out with a cross-sign. The remaining ballot papers must then be returned in exact quantities. Like in exams, extra questionnaires and answer sheets are granted; however, if they are not used, they have to be returned with a chronicle.

After scrutinizing whether the number of ballots cast is identical to the number of ballot papers issued, the ballot boxes from the respective parliaments are verified and counted as valid votes or invalid ones in front of large groups of observers.

Before the advance ballot box is opened in front of large groups of observers, the security line is checked and the number of advance ballot papers previously issued is recounted to check if they match the envelope ballots cast. These advance ballot papers were also verified and counted as valid votes or invalid ones in front of large groups of observers.

According to the voting process, the results of the election are based on the ballot papers of the voters who cast their votes. The ballot papers are showed off and counted individually, and the number of votes received by each candidate is complied with Form-16 and signed for verification publicly in front of the respective ward/village-tract sub-commission members, polling station officer and members, respective Hluttaw representatives, candidates’ agents, polling station agents and assistant agents from the various political parties at the polling stations, election observers, medias, civil society organizations and the voter witnesses. From this, it can be seen
that the voting process is functioned technically in accordance with the 2008 Constitution and the existing electoral laws.

10. Conclusion

In summary, the voters list of the multi-party democracy general election 2020 held in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for the third time may not be flawless. However, that does not measure up to overturn the actual votes of the citizens. It is palpable that there has been no incident such as "vote fraud". The submitted objection papers regarding some vote fraud are still in the process of audit conducted by the electoral tribunal as well. The options are still available to propose amendments, to hear appeals from the Union Election Committee if you are malcontent with the result conducted by the electoral tribunal. In actual facts, scrutinising the voters list is unnecessary; in lieu of that, the hearing process should be carried out.

Therefore, instead of interfering with the process of the UEC acting in accordance with 2008 constitution, the military’s primary concerns should be of national security and reassurance of the citizens all according to 12 conventions of the military. In all seriousness, the polling station teachers urge the military to recognise and cherish the results of the 2020 general election by retrieving the unnecessary announcement of the state of emergency and facilitating in the process of establishing a civilian government to establish a good reputation. The military, citizens, multi-parties and organizations should work together in the interests of our nation and its democratic transition as the ultimate goal. Despite being on different vehicles, may we all venture on the same journey. Warmest regards from education personnel who worked as polling station members.

Polling station teachers