



November 3, 2018 - Press Summary

Overall, the voting process was smooth but there was a lack of understanding of the role of election observers by polling station officers. Also, the setup of the polling stations should be improved to make them accessible to voters with disabilities.

Yangon, November 3

On November 3, PACE and Phan Tee Eain (PTE) deployed 579 short-term-observers to 12 townships to observe the by-elections for 12 vacant constituencies¹. From reports received thus far, all PACE and PTE observers have been able to observe the process. PACE and PTE received isolated reports of observers not being able to enter the polling stations initially, but those incidents have been resolved. Due to problems in the communications network, PACE and PTE has not been able to receive observer reports from parts of Chin and Shan states. Therefore, there might be some changes in the findings at the final report.

Khin Lay Nge of Phan Tee Eain said, "It is worth to acknowledge that there is more gender equality of polling station members in these by-elections compared with previous elections."

Sai Ye Kyaw Swar Myint of PACE said, "Even though the incidents where observers were not allowed to observe the elections initially because of confusion by polling station officials may not have a big impact in these by-elections, it is import to have more effective training for polling station officers for the 2020 general elections."

- Almost all observers (96%) were permitted to enter the polling station before voting began. The incidents of observers (4%) who were initially not allowed to monitor the setup procedures were quickly addressed with the assistance of election authorities. In most of these cases, polling station officials incorrectly asked observers to provide Form 8, which is the assignment form of party agents.
- More than half of the polling station officers (57%) are women, including 97% in Yangon and 51% outside of Yangon. Of all the polling station members, 60% are women and 40% are men.
- Around half (53%) of polling station facilities were accessible to voters who use wheelchairs. However, these voters would not be able to access 47% of the polling stations without assistance. A slightly lower

¹ The process to fill the vacant Shan ethnic minister seat in Mandalay is not included in this observation.

proportion of polling stations (46%) provided at least one voting booth for voters who use wheelchairs; in the remaining 54%, those voters using wheelchairs would lack accessible voting booths.

- In 90% of polling stations, the advance ballot boxes were delivered before the station opened as required by election regulations. In 10% of polling stations, observers reported that they did not see advance ballot boxes being delivered.
- In 79% of polling stations, Form 13 (Advance Voting) was posted outside the polling station; this was not the case in 21% of polling stations.
- At the time of opening, almost all polling stations (97%) had all necessary materials. In 3% of the polling stations, Forms 16 and 17 were missing.
- In most polling stations (96%), voting began by 6:30 am, while in 4% voting started after that time.

PACE and Phan Tee Eain plan to release their preliminary findings on the conduct of election day tomorrow, November 4.

The People's Alliance for Credible Elections (PACE) is an independent, non-partisan, non-government domestic election observer group working to promote transparency, accountability and inclusiveness in the electoral process. PACE mainly works on civic and voter education, election observation and electoral reform.

Phan Tee Eain (PTE) was established in 2009 and provided civic and voter education for the 2010 election. PTE promotes gender equality among parliamentarians and in political parties by strengthening the leadership capacity and skills of elected and potentially elected women in Myanmar. PTE has conducted voter education, voter list awareness and vote-for-women campaigns.

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