



## PRESS STATEMENT

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### **STATEMENT OF THE ZOMI RE-UNIFICATION ORGANIZATION ON THE UPCOMING SPDC'S REFERENDUM**

The SPDC propose to hold a referendum in May, 2008 to approve the constitution drafted to their desire according to their so-called Road Map to Democracy. In this connection, the Zomi Re-Unification Organization (ZRO) hereby declare and state its opinion and stand that:

1. Constitution of a sovereign state is to be prepared by the peoples' representatives. However, in the case of Burma, the junta hand-picked persons of their choice to draft the same on their behalf with the object of entrenching the military's role in governance. Therefore, it will not conform to the peoples' desire nor lead to peace, national reconciliation and a genuine democracy in Burma.
2. The junta had prohibited freedom of speech, expression and mobilizing campaigns by the opposition threatening them with severe consequences including long-term imprisonment. In such scenario, the question of holding of a transparent, inclusive and participatory referendum according to the international standards and norms of democratic system do not arise. The exercise of holding a referendum is a clever ploy of the junta to entrench and legalize their hold of power in the country in the view of international community.
3. ZRO respect the desire of the general public and view the elected representatives in the 1990 Multi-Party General Election as true representatives of the people. It strongly opposes the idea of the SPDC to nullify their election. It firmly believed that the political problems of Burma can be solved by political and peaceful means. To achieve that a Tripartite Dialogue between the SPDC, Ethnic Nationalities and the 1990 Election Winner Parties lead by NLD and Aung San Suu Kyi is a must.
4. Therefore, ZRO call on the people in general and the Zomi/Chins in particular, to totally reject and boycott the referendum. The organisation would like to warn that this sham referendum is a means to legalize the military dictatorship through constitutional means and nullify everything that happened prior to the new constitution including the 1990 Election Results and even the Historic Panglong Agreement which recognized all the ethnic nationalities as equal and founding partners of the Union of Burma. If forced to vote, we urge the general public to stamp their disapproval on the NO vote.
5. The organization strongly belief that the participation of militaries in the political sphere of the country is against the progress of the country. The lack of development in Burma has been caused by the misrule of military since the past several decades. To give them a chance to let them shackle the country under their rule would tantamount to political hara-kiri. This is the moment to halt them. They should, therefore, be opposed tooth and nail. ZRO re-dedicates itself to fight in all possible means and ways to halt and stop this referendum and the election process of SPDC.

May Truth, Freedom and Peace prevail in Burma.

**The Central Executive Committee  
Zomi Re-Unification Organisation**