

This is Google's cache of <http://observerleader.com/2015/11/aung-san-suu-kyi-returns-to-myanmar-parliament/>. It is a snapshot of the page as it appeared on 19 Nov 2015 02:31:51 GMT. The [current page](#) could have changed in the meantime. [Learn more](#)  
Full version [Text-only version](#) [View source](#)

# Observer Leader

## *Daily News*

### Aung San Suu Kyi returns to #Myanmar parliament

[Bobbie Sutton](#) | Thursday, November 19, 2015

For democracy to take firm root, long-term commitment and tireless efforts are required by the government and people to build and strengthen democratic institutions that will ensure such key fundamentals as freedom of speech, freedom of political and religious affiliation, respect for human rights and rule of law. She had been confined for the best part of two decades. Since then a gradual easing of the military's grip over Myanmar began, finally making way for the elections and the transition to democracy.



1 Myanmar promised smooth handover

The triumph of the charismatic Nobel peace prize laureate sweeps out the old guard of former generals that has run Myanmar, also known as Burma, since President Thein Sein ushered in a raft of democratic and economic reforms four years ago.

NIU professor Kenton Clymer has authored a newly published book on the history of US diplomatic relations with Myanmar, and it couldn't be timelier in light of the historic elections unfolding this month in the country. Voicing the hopes of many Burmese in the aftermath of the election, he said he believed Suu Kyi would bring about a transformation of fortunes for the country, where many live in poverty despite an abundance of resources.

Political commentator U Yan Myo Thein said this could be the most problematic issue for the NLD.

Feted by many in the West for her role as champion of Myanmar's pro-democracy movement during long years of military rule, she has been criticized overseas, and by a few in Myanmar, for saying little about the abuses faced by the group.

As of Monday, the NLD had captured 390 of the 664 seats in both houses of the Union Parliament, with 166 reserved for military appointees based on the 2008 military-drafted constitution, and 41 won by the USDP. "Our priorities are healthcare and education", Mr Win Htein, an NLD leader, told Reuters.

It was widely seen as a fair vote though there were reports of irregularities, and hundreds of thousands of people - including the Muslim Rohingya minority, who are not recognised as citizens - were denied voting rights. Thein Sein appointed a number of Myanmar academics as advisors and also established a government-linked think tank, the Myanmar Development Resource Institute, all of which could be tapped by Suu Kyi for advice.

Myanmar is still undergoing a fragile reform and democratisation process with many challenges.

With Suu Kyi's victory confirmed, the focus is shifting to the NLD's presidential candidate and its plans for government.

The victor becomes president and forms a government, while the losers become vice presidents with largely ceremonial responsibilities. While under the same constitution, the army chief, who will be in control of the security forces, will appoint the defence, border affairs and the interior ministers as well as 25% of the MPs. At present, she can not assume the presidency due to a clause banning those with close family connections to foreigners-her children are British citizens. He suggested that the NLD should ignore the current constitution and pass a new one via a simple 51 percent majority vote in parliament.