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**November 8, 2015: Press Summary**

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## **2000 PACE observers watch election process around the country**

On November 8, PACE deployed nonpartisan observers in polling stations in all states and regions. From reports received thus far, most PACE observers have been able to observe the process. PACE has received isolated reports of observers being forced to leave polling stations due to overcrowding, not allowed inside before voting began, and being prevented from using observer forms. So far, PACE observers have been able to access polling stations. However despite receiving multiple levels of permission from the Yangon Election Sub-Commission and the Yangon Regional Government, PACE was prevented from observing polling stations in Cocokyun Township because transportation to the island was restricted.

Sai Ye Kyaw Swar Myint of PACE said, “We hope the UEC will ensure full transparency in the election process and allow observers to have sufficient access.”

PACE hopes that voters will participate and that the process will remain peaceful.

Due to problems in the communication network, PACE has not been able to contact observers in parts of Kachin, Northern Shan, Chin, Sagaing and Kayah. In addition, PACE has noted a busy network in central regions. PACE is in the process of collecting all reports from around the country. PACE plans to release its preliminary findings on the conduct of election day tomorrow, November 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **About PACE**

The People’s Alliance for Credible Elections (PACE) is an independent, non-partisan, non-government domestic election observer group based in Yangon. PACE was founded in 2013 to strengthen democratic institutions in Myanmar through safeguarding citizen rights and promoting public participation in the electoral process. To promote transparency, accountability and inclusiveness in the electoral process, PACE will mainly be working on civic and voter education, election observation and electoral reform.

Upholding the principles enshrined in “Universal Declaration of Human Rights”, PACE’s work will be implemented regardless of race, religion and gender. Moreover, PACE has signed “Declaration of Global Principles for “Nonpartisan Observation and Monitoring” by Citizen



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PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE FOR CREDIBLE ELECTIONS

Organizations,” which is a document endorsed by more than 260 organizations from 75 countries, and is a member of the Global Network of Domestic Election Monitors (GNDEM).

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