

## **What ASEAN Can Do To Help The Political Crisis In Myanmar?**

The Myanmar military took over again from the hands of the civilian government on February 1, 2021. This of course attracted the attention and condemnation of the international community because the military junta's actions against the pro-democracy masses were considered to have exceeded humanitarian limits and were against universal human rights principles.

The current coup in Myanmar is based on the military's claims of voter registration fraud in the polls, although the election commission said there was no evidence to support that claim. At least this reflects the military's unpreparedness to hand over power completely to the civilian government. In addressing this matter, the UN spokesman, Stephane Dujarric, emphasized that the use of lethal force against peaceful protesters and arbitrary arrests is unacceptable (Republika, 22 March 2021). Several Western countries then imposed sanctions, because the military junta's actions were feared to disrupt the stability of the region.

Not only observing developments in Myanmar, but the international community also highlighted the role of ASEAN. Brunei Darussalam as chairman of ASEAN asked Myanmar to seek dialogue, reconciliation, and normalization. By referring to the ASEAN Charter, Brunei asks Myanmar to adhere to the principles of democracy, the rule of law and good governance, respect and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reminds that political stability in ASEAN is very important to achieve a peaceful, stable, and prosperous ASEAN Community. prosperous. Therefore, ASEAN must be able to enter by promoting other principles contained in the ASEAN Charter into Myanmar's political life, such as democracy, respect for human rights, and good governance.

Seeing that the Myanmar military coup this time was more lenient than the previous military coup, the first alternative solution that could be done was to invite the Tatmadaw (Myanmar Military) to hand over power to the civilian government. Through the involvement of international parties, including ASEAN, reconciliation needs to be encouraged through negotiations between the military and civilian government leaders regarding the role and place of the military in a democratic Myanmar state. The second alternative solution that can be done is to form a temporary government with a leader not from the military or civilians (not from the Tatmadaw or Aung San Suu Kyi's party/NLD). This formation is provided if the Tatmadaw

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agrees because it refuses to return power to civilians. In addition, this government is only tasked with bringing the general situation back into stability and holding re-elections that are fair and honest so that whatever the results, they must be mutually acceptable. With this re-election, the international community will certainly be able to participate in overseeing the electoral process. The third solution that can be provided is to do what the Tatmadaw wants, namely re-election within one year after the invalid declaration of the November 2020 election results.

When ASEAN's intervention is not effective, then an alternative solution to deal with the Myanmar crisis could be to involve the wider international community, including the United Nations. By implementing these solutions, it is hoped that Myanmar's democratic process will be back on track. Various solutions exist to overcome the problem, however, and unlimited solutions have not been found.

**Reference:**

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