

Aung San Suu Kyi to be Myanmar foreign minister

25th March, 2016



Aung San Suu Kyi is to be Myanmar's new foreign minister in the first civilian government the country has had in decades. Suu Kyi's National

League for Democracy (NLD) party won an absolute majority in the general election in November 2015 under her leadership. This happened after decades of military rule. However, Suu Kyi is ineligible to become Myanmar's president as she is blocked by the country's constitution, which bars people with foreign family links from the post - her two sons are British citizens. There are unconfirmed rumours that Ms Suu Kyi could also take on other roles and become the minister for education as well as the energy minister.

Suu Kyi was the sole woman named among 15 ministers. An NLD spokesman told reporters: "She will be the foreign minister, mainly. If she wants to share the duties she has in other ministries with qualified people, she can assign them." The foreign ministry role gives her international influence and a seat at Myanmar's influential military-dominated security council. Suu Kyi has made it very clear that she will rule above the president. She has tried without success in recent weeks to remove the constitutional barrier to her becoming president. Trevor Wilson, a former ambassador to Myanmar, said: "She wants to be at the heart of government. She wants to do it properly and formally and...legally."

Sources: *TheDailyStar* / *StraitsTimes* / *Telegraph.co.uk*

Writing

A foreign minister is more important than a finance minister. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

foreign minister / civilian / decades / majority / general election / constitution / energy / reporters / duties / qualified / influence / security council / success / ambassador

True / False

- Myanmar has its second civilian government in the past 10 years. T / F
- Aung San Suu Kyi's party won an election last December. T / F
- Aung San Suu Kyi can't become president because her sons are British. T / F
- Aung San Suu Kyi could take on four roles in government. T / F
- Aung San Suu Kyi is the only female minister named. T / F
- An NLD spokesman said she should not share duties. T / F
- Aung San Suu Kyi said she would not rule above the president. T / F
- A former ambassador said Suu Kyi wants to do things legally. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. country | a. only |
| 2. absolute | b. control |
| 3. rule | c. correctly |
| 4. ineligible | d. prohibits |
| 5. bars | e. nation |
| 6. sole | f. responsibilities |
| 7. duties | g. obstacle |
| 8. influential | h. total |
| 9. barrier | i. important |
| 10. properly | j. ruled out |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about Aung San Suu Kyi?
- What kind of foreign minister will Aung San Suu Kyi be?
- What do you know about democracy in Myanmar?
- What is the foreign minister of your country like?
- How difficult would life be under military rule?
- Should Aung San Suu Kyi be allowed to be president?
- Why should it matter that her two sons are British?
- What will Myanmar be like in 20 years from now?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. the first civilian | a. rule |
| 2. an absolute | b. barrier |
| 3. decades of military | c. for education |
| 4. unconfirmed | d. among 15 ministers |
| 5. the minister | e. government |
| 6. the sole woman named | f. to Myanmar |
| 7. security | g. rumours |
| 8. constitutional | h. council |
| 9. a former ambassador | i. and formally |
| 10. She wants to do it properly | j. majority |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about Myanmar?
- What will Aung San Suu Kyi do to change Myanmar?
- Should the country be called Myanmar or Burma?
- Do you think Aung San Suu Kyi will be able to take on four roles?
- Why is Aung San Suu Kyi so popular?
- Where does Aung San Suu Kyi rank among world leaders?
- What advice do you have for Aung San Suu Kyi?
- What questions would you like to ask Aung San Suu Kyi?

Spelling

- the first ilaciniv government
- an absolute ayijortm
- in the general noleetic
- after decades of irtlmyai rule
- blocked by the country's tnnsoutticoi
- There are foceuidmnrn rumours
- laquiedf people
- she can issgan them
- international fnlleuiec
- security onlcuic
- a former sbaadsramo to Myanmar
- do it properly and formally and...lelyagl

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. b	4. j	5. d
6. a	7. f	8. i	9. g	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Foreign affairs

You think foreign affairs is the best department to be leader of. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their departments aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): finance, sports or national security.

Role B – Finance

You think finance is the best department to be leader of. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their departments aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): foreign affairs, sports or national security.

Role C – Sports

You think sports is the best department to be leader of. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their departments aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): finance, foreign affairs or national security.

Role D – National security

You think national security is the best department to be leader of. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their departments aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): finance, sports or foreign affairs.

Speaking – Government

Rank these with your partner. Put the best departments to lead at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| • Health | • Foreign affairs |
| • Transport | • President |
| • National security | • Finance |
| • Environment | • Sports |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.