



**NLD PREVAILS.** Htin Kyaw, left, the newly elected president of Myanmar, walks with National League for Democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, right, at parliament in Naypyitaw, Myanmar. The country's parliament elected Htin Kyaw as the new president in a watershed moment that ushers the longtime opposition party of Suu Kyi into government. (AP Photo/Aung Shine Oo)

## Htin Kyaw wins historic president vote in Myanmar parliament

By Esther Htusan  
The Associated Press

**N**AYPYITAW, Myanmar — Myanmar's parliament has elected Htin Kyaw as Myanmar's new president, a watershed moment that ushers the longtime opposition party of Aung San Suu Kyi into government.

The 70-year-old Htin Kyaw, a longtime confidant of Suu Kyi, will take office April 1 to become Myanmar's first democratically elected leader after more than half a century of military rule.

Htin Kyaw secured 360 votes from among 652 ballots cast in the bicameral parliament, where the vote count was read

aloud and announced by a parliament official before a formal announcement.

"I hereby announce the president of Myanmar is Htin Kyaw, as he won the majority of votes," said speaker Mann Win Khaing Than.

The military's nominee, Myint Swe, won 213 votes and will become the first vice president. Htin Kyaw's running mate from the National League for Democracy (NLD) party, Henry Van Tio, won 79 votes and will take the post of second vice president.

A beaming Suu Kyi sat in the front row clapping as the chamber erupted in applause when the session ended. She smiled but did not comment as she exited, leaving the new president to deliver the first reaction.

"This is a victory for the people of this country," Htin Kyaw said in a brief comment to reporters.

Suu Kyi led her National League for Democracy party to a sweeping victory in November 8 elections, a reflection of the widespread public support she earned during her decades-long struggle for democracy in Myanmar which was ruled for half a century by a military junta.

The Nobel laureate and longtime political prisoner is the party's unquestionable leader but is blocked from becoming president because of a constitutional clause that excludes anyone with a foreign spouse or children. Suu Kyi's two sons are British, as was her late husband. The clause is widely seen as having been written by the military with Suu Kyi in mind.

To assume the top post in her place, the NLD nominated Suu Kyi's trusted friend and adviser Htin Kyaw, the son of a national poet and the son-in-law of a founding member of the country's pro-democracy movement.

Myanmar's electoral system requires that the president be chosen from candidates put forward by each of the two houses of parliament, and a third nominee from the military, which retains a quarter of the legislative seats.

Myint Swe is seen as a close ally of former junta leader Than Shwe and remains on a U.S. State Department blacklist that bars American companies from doing business with several tycoons and senior military figures connected with the former junta.



**MAN VS. MACHINE.** South Korean professional Go player Lee Sedol reviews the match after winning the fourth game of the Google DeepMind Challenge Match against Google's artificial-intelligence program, AlphaGo, in Seoul, South Korea, on March 13, 2016. (AP Photo/Lee Jin-man)

### Human Go champ says machine not superior despite 1:4 defeat

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As for Go, other top players are bracing themselves.

Chinese world Go champion Ke Jie said it was just a matter of time before top Go players like himself would be overtaken by artificial intelligence.

"It is very hard for Go players at my level to improve even a little bit, whereas AlphaGo has hundreds of computers to help it improve and can play hundreds of practice matches a day," Ke said.

"It does not seem like a good thing for we professional Go players, but the match played a very good role in promoting Go," Ke said.

AP videojournalist Peng Peng in Beijing contributed to this report.

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