

## **Recommendations on recruitment procedures for Provincial/Capital Election Commission and Other Sub-Election Commissions**

The Committee for Free and Fair Elections (COMFREL), wish to publicly inform the National Election Committee (NEC) of our recommendations on the **recruiting procedures for provincial and capital election commissions.**

These recommendations were agreed with other civil society groups and political parties who attended the Sunway Hotel conference of the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2013 addressing COMFREL's Survey of the 2012 voter list, voter registration, and voter list auditing for the 2013 National Elections, and subsequent discussions on the selection of Provincial, Commune and Polling Station Commissions.

### **'Principles of equality, fairness, transparency and neutrality'**

**The NEC shall publicly and transparently follow the established recruiting procedures for provincial and capital election commissions, especially as regards the positions of Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Provincial/Capital Election Commission. The selection period for the submission of applications should also last for a full ten days.**

In reference to the announcement letters (No.115 and 116) from the National Election Committee dated March 20th 2013, chairpersons of the Provincial/Capital Election Commissions across all provinces were not recruited through a public and transparent process. This was also true in the case of Provincial/Capital Election Commission Vice-Chairpersons in some provinces. Additionally, the selection period took place over only five days.

We are concerned that the recruiting and appointing of Provincial/Capital Election Commissions is happening without the transparency required by the regulations and procedures of the fifth mandate of National Assembly Election (Article 3.19, Chapter 3) that clearly states that the, **"recruiting and appointing procedures of Provincial/Capital Election Commission and National Election Commission be based on the principles of equality, fairness, transparency and neutrality....."**.

Following these recommendations would ensure that all positions in the Provincial/Capital Election Commissions and Other Sub-Election Commissions would be recruited and appointed publicly and transparently. At a minimum, representatives of political parties holding seats in National Assembly must be invited and allowed to monitor the recruiting and appointing procedures of the NEC.

We, in agreement with other civil society groups and political parties, sincerely hope that the NEC consider these recommendations and strive to build public trust in their recruiting and appointing of Provincial/Capital Election Commissions and Sub-Election Commissions.

For Further information, please contact:

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