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ទស្សនៈវិស័យ ៖ ដើម្បីឱ្យការបោះឆ្នោតតាមបែបប្រជាធិបតេយ្យ និងយុត្តិធម៌ ត្រូវបានលើកកម្ពស់ និងគាំទ្រដោយសង្គមជាតិ ដើម្បីនាំមកនូវផលប្រយោជន៍ដល់ប្រជាជន។

Press Release
On
Final Report On
Survey Of

Voter List, Voter Registration, and Audit of the Voter List for the 2013 National Election Plus
Verification of the Deletion Forms (SVRA-Plus)

The Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (COMFREL) conducted a survey on the voter list, voter registration, and audit of the 2012 voter list for the 2013 national election plus the verifications on the deletion forms and primary voter list (SVRA-Plus). The survey employed a scientific method of random selection which determined 2600 eligible voters from 223 stations nationwide to participate in interviews about voter registration. The audit is to verify data from the survey against the data from the NEC's 2012 official voter list for the 2013 national election to determine whether the data is accurate. Moreover, there has been the verification of the primary voter list received from commune/sangkats, the deletion form 1025, and the primary voter list from the NEC to determine any differences and irregularities between them.

COMFREL appreciates the National Election Committee (NEC) for the open cooperation that COMFREL is allowed to access to the delete form 1016.

From SVRA-Plus, COMFREL found that the accuracy of the voter list and the deletion form showcase errors in voter verification procedures. COMFREL can conclude that the accuracy of the 2013 national election voter list has shown a little improvement from the voter list for 2012 commune council election and the 2008 election voter list with the number of both incidents of incorrect personal data and the duplicate registration of names of voters having decreased. COMFREL found that 13.5% of registered voters had no data recorded on the voter list for 2013 national assembly election (their name could not be found or their name/data had been changed

ទីស្នាក់ការកណ្តាល ៖ ផ្ទះលេខ ១៣៨ ផ្លូវ ១២២ សង្កាត់ ទឹកល្អក់ ១ ខណ្ឌ ទួលគោក រាជធានីភ្នំពេញ ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា

Central Office : #138, Street. 122, Teuk Laak I, Tuol Kork, Phnom Penh, CAMBODIA.

P.O. Box 1145, Phone : (855) 23 884 150 Fax: (855) 23 885 745 E-mail : comfrel@online.com.kh Website: www.comfrel.org

or deleted entirely). This means that some 1.25 million registered voters are likely to lose their right to vote in the 2013 upcoming election. This amount was decreased by 250,000 voters, according to voter survey on voter list, voter registration and audit of voter list 2011 for the 2012 election, there were 1.5 million registered voters or 17.2% of registered voters had no data recorded in the voter list. Among those with no data recorded on the voter list for the 2013 national election, 2.88% were found on the deletion form. The incorrect deletion of voters name is unusual, as those voters currently live in their own commune/sangkat and had registered their name in their commune/sangkat. Despite this their names were deleted from the voter list for the 2013 national election. Furthermore, the NEC deleted 468 485 voter names (approximately 5% of registered voters) from the voter list during 2012 voter registration and revision.

The SVRA-Plus found that the primary voter list which had already been amended and updated by commune/sangkats and sent to the NEC was different from the 2013 official voter list issued by the NEC. The survey revealed there was incorrect deletion of forms 1025, 1016 and 1017 by commune/sangkat clerks in charge of voter registration and revision.

In 2012, COMFREL conducted a case study on the 2011 official voter list for the 2012 commune election in Boeung Tum Pun sangkat Mean Chey district Phnom Penh capital city. The study revealed there were 127 duplicate names (256 names) among 4178 voter names in the list. With the same study conducted on the official voter list for the 2013 national assembly election, there are still 38 duplicate names (76 names approximately 30%) that remain on the list.

Below is a summary of the key findings of SVRA Plus for the 2013 election:

- 13.5% of registered voters had no data recorded on the voter list for the 2013 national election (their name could not be found or their name/ data had been changed entirely). This amounts to some 1.25 million registered voters likely to lose their right to vote in the coming election. Among those, 62.8% was women who had no data recorded in the 2012 voter list for the 2013 national election.
- Among registered voters with no data recorded on the voter list, 3.88% of registered voter's names were located in the deletion form of 1016 and 1017. The deletion of these names is unusual as most of those voters currently live in their own commune/sangkat and registered their

name in that same commune/sangkat. Despite this their names were deleted from the voter list for the 2013 election.

- In addition COMFREL conducted case studies relating to the verification of preliminary voter lists and official voter lists from the NEC in 226 polling stations. The aim of the study was to locate voter's name in the preliminary voter list and verify whether the data was consistent with the NEC's official voter list. COMFREL identified 25 discrepancies in voters data located in the two voter lists.
- In the case study conducted in Boueng Tum Pun commune, Mean Chey district, Phnom Penh capital city, 127 duplicate names (256 names) among 4178 voter names were found in the 2011 official voter list. The same study conducted in 2012 revealed that 38 double names (76 names) remain in the voter list for the 2013 election.
- In the case study on the verification of the preliminary voter list received from both commune/sangkats and the NEC that there were 16 discrepancies between names in 8 polling stations. The study was conducted in 134 polling stations in 111 commune/sangkats in 18 province/capitals. There were two differences between commune/sangkat's preliminary voter list and NEC's preliminary voter list. First the NEC deleted duplicate names of voters who registered in two different communes, and secondly there must be technical problems with the NEC's system because although commune sangkat have requested the NEC to delete voter's names, the names still appear in NEC's preliminary voter list.
- In the case study on the verification between the deletion form 1025 from commune/sangkats and the deletion forms 1016 and 1017 it was revealed that 1025, 1016, and 1017 were made by commune/sangkat clerks. After voter registration and revision, commune sangkat clerks compiled lists of all deletions of names in the form of 1025 to discuss among commune/sangkat councilors. According to this form, commune/sangkat councilors then decide which voter's name will be deleted and transfer them to forms 1016 and 1017 and send both forms to the NEC. COMFREL verified all forms in 50 commune/sangkats in 15 province/capitals. Irregularities were found in 13 cases where names were not recorded in the form 1025 however recorded in the form 1016. This illustrates that the current procedure for the deletion of voter' names by commune/sangkat clerks is incorrect and insufficient.

- Only 97.70% of eligible voters have registered to vote, therefore 2.30% have not yet registered. The NEC did however register eligible voters at a rate of 101.74% (9,675,403 people) which exceeds the estimated number of 9,509,732 people.
- 86 % of youth who will reach voting age of 18 by Election Day on the 28th July 2013 have registered to vote. According to the report on people counting in 2008 by the National Statistical Institute, there are 370,000 youth who will reach voting age and be eligible to register in voter list for the 2013 election. 13.1% of these youth have been registered on behalf of profiles of relatives or authorities without their presence at the polling station. This violates the registration procedure which states that one with the right to vote shall only register their name in person in the presence of the commune/sangkat clerk.
- 29.8% of people with the right to vote said that their expired identity card is not valid to register.

Mr. KOUL Panha, Executive Director of COMFREL said that *“there is seriously concerned on 13.5 of registered voters (or some 1.25 million voter’s names) who likely lose their right to vote in the 2013 upcoming election. The NEC should take responsibility for this by facilitating discussions to find a better solution and restore credibility of elections”*. The current system of voter registration, creation of voter list and the procedure for issuing identity cards for election (ICE) should also be reformed. We, COMFREL, are very happy to meet with other relevant institutions especially the NEC to find solutions to solve these problems to improve the accuracy of the voter list and voter registration procedures.

To enhance confidence in the voter list for the 2013 election, the NEC should accept the recommendations on the regulations and procedures for the 2013 National Assembly election. A recommendation suggests that observers from political parties to be permitted to stand directly beside the secretary of polling stations in order to observe that the election procedure is being carried out accurately. The recommendation also suggests the observer be permitted the right and opportunity to verify voters’ data in voter list against their identity documentation for the election to improve transparency of the verification of voter names and to stamp out election fraud resulting from the use of falsified documents. To enhance confidence and transparency in the issuing of identity cards for the 2013 election (ICE) and the proper implementation of election law, the NEC should accept other recommendation relating to the issuing of identity cards for election (ICE) which

shall close on 26 June 2013. The Commune Election Commission (CEC) shall post the relevant documents regarding the issuing of ICE and file them as currently only 1% of voters do not have a valid identity card according the SVRA-Plus.

The NEC shall propose to all broadcasting systems which belong to the state, including radios and televisions, to increase broadcasting times for the for voter information and education purposes such as finding the name of voter in the voter list at the polling station; which voter shall they ask for when voters cannot find their name on the voter list; what should voter do when they have no voter information notification (VIN); and especially for educating first voter in the importance of election. Each state broadcasting station should broadcast at least 3 hours per day during the Election Campaign.

For further information, please contact:

Ms. Kong Ravine	Monitoring Coordinator of COMFREL	Tel: 012 65 49 50
Mr. Korn Savang	Senior Database and Research Officer of COMFREL	Tel: 011 88 48 40