



គណៈកម្មាធិការដើម្បីការបោះឆ្នោតដោយសេរី និងយុត្តិធម៌នៅកម្ពុជា (គ.ប.ស.យ)

Committee For Free And Fair Elections In Cambodia (COMFREL)

ទីស្នាក់ការកណ្តាល ផ្ទះលេខ ១៣៨ ផ្លូវ ១២២ សង្កាត់ទឹកល្អក់ ១ ខ័ណ្ឌទួលគោក រាជធានីភ្នំពេញ ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា
Central Office: #138, St. 122, Teuk Laak I, Tuol Kork, Phnom Penh, CAMBODIA.
P.O. Box 1145, Tel: (855) 23 884 150/12 942 019, Fax: (855) 23 883 750 E-mail: comfrel@online.com.kh,
comfrel@comfrel.org or comfreladmin@online.com.kh, Site : www.comfrel.org

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Press Release On the Survey Results “Participation and Democratic Governance”

Phnom Penh, January 26, 2010

Today COMFREL is holding a workshop to disseminate and discuss the findings, concepts and principles of a survey entitled “Participation and Democratic Governance”, as well as the benchmarks on priority sectors identified in workshops held in 24 provinces/municipality.

Recommendations on strengthening “Citizen Participation and Democratic Governance” will also be discussed at the workshop.

The findings from the 2009 survey on “Participation and Democratic Governance”, which had a sample of 8,678 eligible voters¹ nationwide, showed that a limited number of eligible voters know their representative (Members of Parliament/MPs). Around 38% or around 3 million of the eligible voters know their MPs (28% can name one or more MPs and around 10% know their representative but cannot name them).

The number of citizens who communicate with MPs is also very low, with only 3.5% of eligible voters reporting being in communication with their MP. Of this figure, 75% communicated with MPs to seek their help to intervene in personal or community issues.

The findings also revealed that 84% of those who communicated with MPs were satisfied with the performance of their MPs.

Related to the question of whether members of the armed forces should be allowed to be involved in political activities, 42% of eligible voters do not support their involvement; while 27% support this, and 31.5% expressed no idea.

71.57% of eligible voters support the establishment of a law or policy which would reserve a certain proportion of seats for females as MPs or commune councilors.

About 31% of eligible voters have participated in the activities of commune councils; while 64.29% of survey respondents are satisfied with the performance of commune councilors.

“MPs and the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) should pay attention to citizen’s participation and strengthen their communication with and accountability to the voters,” said Mr. SOK Sam Oeun, Vice-president of Comfrel’s Board of Directors, and Executive Director of the Cambodian Defenders Project (CDP).

He also added that the National Assembly, RGC and political parties should take into account the majority of voters’ opinion that the armed forces should not be involved in political activities.

¹ Eligible voter refers to those aged 18 years and above and whose voting rights have not been revoked

The survey was performed in cooperation with NICFEC, People Development and Peace Center (PDP-Center) and the Khmer Youth Association (KYA) and received financial support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the British Embassy, Forum Syd, and the NPA. The survey started in February and was conducted until June 2009.

At the workshop, COMFREL is also presenting the benchmarks identified from Voter Benchmark Workshops held in 24 provinces/municipality. The benchmarks were identified by the voters in each province/municipality.

“The needs demanded by voters are essential information for elected officials seeking to solve problems and implement these benchmarks in their own constituency. Voters will evaluate the effectiveness of the performance and fulfillment of elected officials toward their promises”, said Mr. Thun Saray, President of Comfrel’s Board of Directors and President of ADHOC (the Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association).

During the workshop, other strategies will be raised to support implementation of the benchmarks. COMFREL will organize forums in some provinces to let the voters evaluate by providing a score on the performance of elected officials in achieving the benchmarks. COMFREL also sent the report which details the benchmarks on priority sectors identified in the workshops to the RGC and all MPs.

For detailed reports containing the survey findings and the benchmarks on priority sectors, please visit: www.comfrel.org.

For further information, please contact:

- Mr. KOUL Panha, Executive Director of Comfrel, 012 942 017
- Mr. SOK Pitour, Monitoring Coordinator of Comfrel, 089 525 446