



ខុមហ្វ្រែល COMFREL

គណៈកម្មាធិការដើម្បីការបោះឆ្នោតដោយសេរី និងយុត្តិធម៌នៅកម្ពុជា (គ.ប.ស.យ)

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P.R/No 21/07 COMFREL/M.U

2<sup>nd</sup> Preliminary Report  
on  
Voter List Revision and Voter Registration Irregularities

Phnom Penh, October 18, 2007

COMFREL continues to observe the National Election Committee (NEC) and commune/sangkat authority works towards achieving high results in registering voters and updating voter lists.

According to the NEC's update of the 2007 annual Voter List Revision and Voter Registration, as of **October 15, 2007, 651,439 new voters**, equal to **94%** of the estimated number of new voters, have registered to vote<sup>1</sup>.

The above figure explains nothing if we analyze the number of new voters to be registered, which may exceed the NEC's estimate as in 2006, when the real number for registration of new voters was 200% of the NEC's estimate. Additionally, observation found that a high number of new voters had not been registered in some places, such as **Boeung Pram in Battambang province**. Observation found that local authorities had yet to issue residential documents to around 1,000 families sheltering on disputed land which they would then be able to use as evidence to register to vote.

Meanwhile, COMFREL is very concerned over the extraction of voter names onto Form 1025 to be removed from the voter list as, in some cases, this has not been carried out in accordance with NEC Guideline No 658/07 dated October 5, 2007, which requires legal documents or clear evidence. COMFREL has found that some voter names have been extracted for removal based on those voters not being able to be found, or based on it being said that those voters had moved away from the commune/sangkat. This act has greatly negative impacts, leading to loss of the right to vote – contrary to the Constitution.

COMFREL is still finding some cases of irregularity arising from the voter list revision and voter registration process, such as **lack of respect of working hours, failure to post Form 1025, fraudulent data correction on identity cards and registration of voter names without the voter being present.**

COMFREL would like to suggest that the NEC instruct Tropang Phlang commune authorities of Chhouk district of Kampot province and those from Boeung Pram area of Borvel district of Battambang province to round up information and register people to vote, following the example of Kork Roka commune authorities, in Phnom Penh Municipality's Kork Roka district, who registered some voters evicted from Bird's Nest village, even though said authorities have not yet recognized them as legal residents of the district.

<sup>1</sup> N° 10.32/07 NEC.SG.PIB, Update of the 2007 Annual Voter list Revision and Registration dated October 16, 2007.

*Meanwhile, the NEC should add another four days, as it has done in previous years, especially in places where there is a low turnout of newly registered voters and in large provinces, and in places where conflict between the authorities and the people has taken place.*

*The NEC must push officials in charge of voter registration to obey Guideline No 658/07 to ensure that the right to vote is not lost owing to any error or bad intention.*

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*COMFREL's mission is to help to create an informed and favorable democratic climate (1) **for free and fair elections** through lobbying and advocacy to establish a permanent and suitable legal framework; education to inform citizens of their rights; and monitoring activities that both discourage irregularities and provide comprehensive data to enable an objective, non-partisan assessment to be made of the election process, and (2) for the general public to **fully understand democratic processes not just before elections but after and between them.** It arranges, towards this end, educational sessions and public forums to encourage citizens to participate in politics and decision making. It encourages constructive advocacy and lobbying for electoral reforms that increase the accountability of elected officials. Finally, by providing comprehensive observation and monitoring, it enables objective, non-partisan assessments to be made on the progress of commitment made in political platforms and on the performance of elected officials.*