

Report on Parliamentary Watch in January 2005

I. Observation on performance of the National Assembly (NA):

No parliamentary session held at the National Assembly because the Member of Parliament was on vocation. However, few commission meetings were held at each related draft laws. In these meetings were attended by government's representatives summoned by each relevant expert commission.

The Principle 21 of the NA Rules of Procedure states that, "*Drafting law of the Royal Government has to be submitted to the Permanent Committee of the National Assembly..... The Permanent Committee of the National Assembly sends that drafting to a specific Commission exercising on that drafting to check.....*" Following this principle, it was observed in January 2005, the Permanent Committee of the National Assembly at least checked 9 of drafting laws and then sent to relevant expert commissions for checking before debating in the 2nd Plenary Session of the 3rd Legislature.

The nine drafted laws which had been checked by the relevant commissions are:

- Vienna Convention on Consular Relations;
- International Charter on Migration;
- Agreement on ASEAN Industry Cooperation (AICO);
- Convention on Drug in 1961;
- Draft law on Statistics;
- Chemical Weapons;
- Convention on Combating against Drug Smuggling and Physical Affects in 1971;
- Convention on Physical Affects in 1971;
- Extradition between Cambodia and Lao.

Though there were some debates between the Commission and the government's representatives over the drafted laws, it was reported that the discussion mainly focused on correcting few terminologies and their meaning.

II. Observation of MPs' activities:

1. Visits to constituency:

1.1. MPs visited to constituency:

In January 2005, there was 51 MPs went to their constituencies visiting the citizens for 141 visits in which;

- 30 MPs (41% of the total CPP MPs) from the CPP, visited 59 times;
- 12 MPs (50% of the total SRP MPs) from the SRP visited 67 times;
- 9 MPs (34% of the FCP MPs) from the FUNCINPEC, visited 15 times.

1.2. Purposes of visits/missions:

All the missions made by all MPs from the three elected parties are equal to 141, and which are classified into five main purposes as follows:

- *Addressing in people's concerns*: 21 times (15%)

The SRP MPs did more than the other two parties (19 times), then the CPP (2 times). Several actions dealt with such purpose such as: intervention in an illegal arrest of driver demonstrators which had taken place on the National Road No. 4 committed by AZ company's men; intervention to resolve land grabbing/dispute between people and military, and Heng Development company; and resolve the

conflict among people and monks. The FCP MPs also reminded to the government to immediately resolve the conflict concerning AZ company though those MPs did not take obvious action like the SRP MPs had done.

- *Visiting/gift giving and project inauguration*: 87 times (62%)

The CPP MPs visited people in the constituencies for 49 times for ceremonial reason, for example, they attended in Jan 7, 2005 Anniversary, followed by SRP (31 times), and the FCP (7 times).




- *Attending public forum*: 6 times (4%)

COMFREL observed that the SRP MPs were more active in participating in the public forum organized by the civil society/COMFREL (4 times), followed by the FCP (1 time) and CPP (1 time) too.

- *Strengthening party networks*: 17 times (12%)

- *Accompanying leaders*: 10 times (7%)

Table: MPs' purposes

Purpose of visits	Party			Total
				
<i>Addressing public's concerns</i>	19	2	0	21 (15%)
<i>Visiting, gift giving & project inauguration</i>	31	49	7	87 (87%)
<i>Attending CSO forums</i>	4	1	1	6 (4%)
<i>Strengthening party structures</i>	9	4	4	17 (12%)
<i>Accompanying leaders</i>	4	3	3	10 (7%)
Total	67	59	15	141 (100%)

1.3. Location of no visit:

In this period, COMFREL did not see any visit, or perhaps it had, in few constituencies such as: Kep, Koh Kong, Pailin, Svay Rieng and Oddor Meanchey. Only Kandal which MPs visited the most (41 times).

It should be noticed that, **H.E. Chrea Sochenda** (SRP, Kandal) was the leading MP in going to constituencies for 16 visits, followed by **H.E.Mrs. Chhuonh Sochhay** (CPP, Battambang) for 7 visits and Samdech Krom Preah **Norodom Ranariddh** (FCP, Kampong Cham) did 4 visits.

2. MP's promises:

Out of the total visits, there were people in the constituencies raised their concerns to the MPs at least 43 cases of which were accepted 39 cases and 18 new promises. It was observed that, at least 23 previous promises were done in this period.

3. Other intervention activity:

Beside the commission discussion and field visits, there were at least 4 SRP MPs wrote 10 intervention letters to the government and relevant institutions requesting for immediate action to help the people who were facing problems in their constituencies.

It should be noticed also that, on January 29, 2005 the opposition leader and as the parliamentarian, Sam Rainsy, were stopped by police for checking his car on his way back from a public forum organized by the Cambodian Center for Human Rights. This action was condemned by the MP as violation to his "impunity".

III. Conclusion:

In conclusion, we acknowledged that there were 51 MPs from the three elected political parties went to their own and other constituencies for several reasons, especially to visit and give gifts to at least people in 19 constituencies for 141 visits.

MPs' visits made citizens in the constituencies felt so happy, but still their few concerns had been addressed. However, some of MPs had committed to fulfill their promises by their field visits to the constituencies.

Most MPs normally dealt with visiting and meeting with citizens in the constituencies. MPs from the CPP mostly addressed to the visiting, gift giving for 49 times, whereas the SRP MPs did 31 times, and the FCP did only 7 times. The SRP is the most leading party who participated in CSO forums followed by the two party parliamentarians.

List of MPs who visited constituencies

From 01/01/2005 to 31/01/2005

Name of MPs	Constitution (Con)	Party	In (Con)	Out (Con)
1- H.E. Chrea Sochenda	Kandal	SRP	17	
2- H.E. Chan Cheng	Kandal	SRP	14	
3- H.E. Kuoy Bunroeun	Takeo	SRP	9	4
4- H.E. Mrs. Chuonh Sochhay	Battambang	CPP	7	
5- H.E. Ngor Sovann	Kandal	SRP	5	5
6- H.E. Kimsour Phirith	Banteay Meanchey	SRP	4	
7- H.E. Pal Samoeurn	Banteay Meanchey	CPP	4	
8- H.E. Sok Pheng	Kampong Thom	SRP	3	
9- H.E. Cheam Yeap	Prey Veng	CPP	3	
10- H.E. Suos Kanan	Preah Sihanouk	CPP	3	
11- H.E. Mao Monyvann	Kampong Cham	SRP	3	
12- H.E. Mrs. Ke Sovannroth	Siem Reap	SRP	3	
13- H.E. Seang Nam	Siem Reap	CPP	3	
14- H.E. Tea Banh	Siem Reap	CPP	3	
15- H.E. Tes Heanh	Battambang	CPP	3	
16- H.E. Nhem Thavy	Kampong Thom	CPP	2	
17- H.E. Roth Sarem	Mondul Kiri	CPP	2	
18- H.E. Sar Kheng	Battambang	CPP	2	1
19- Princess Sisowath Santa	Prey Veng	FUN	2	
20- H.E. Mrs. Peou Saveun	Siem Reap	CPP	2	
21- Samdach Hun Sen	Kandal	CPP	2	
22- H.E. Mrs. Troeung Thavy	Kratie	CPP	2	
23- H.E. Doeue Sophal	Kratie	CPP	2	
24- H.E. Pou Sothirak	Siem Reap	FUN	2	
25- H.E. Sok An	Takeo	CPP	2	
26- H.E. Sin Pinsen	Prey Veng	FUN	2	

27- H.E. Sam Rainsy	Kampong Cham	SRP	2	1
28- H.E. Mrs. Ly Kimlieng	Battambang	CPP	2	
29- H.E. Kieng Vang	Kampot	SRP	1	
30- H.E. Chea Poch	Prey Veng	SRP	1	
31- H.E. Khek Vandy	Takeo	FUN	1	
32- H.E. Mom	Kandal	CPP	1	
33- H.E. Monh Saphan	Kampong Cham	FUN	1	
34- H.E. Paing Ponnyamin	Kampong	CPP	1	
35- H.E. Bou Thong	Rattanak Kiri	CPP	1	
36- H.E. Muy Chat	Battambang	CPP	1	
37- Prince Norodom Ranariddh	Kampong Cham	FUN	1	3
38- H.E. Mrs. Kong Hach	Kampong Speu	FUN	1	
39- H.E. Khem Veasna	Prey Veng	SRP	1	
40- H.E. San Inthor	Stung Treng	CPP	1	
41- H.E. Ly Thuch	Pursat	FUN	1	
42- H.E. Suk Sameng	Preah Vihear	CPP	1	
43- H.E. Kheav Horl	Kampong Thom	CPP	1	
44- H.E. Mey Nan	Pursat	CPP	1	
45- H.E. Ly Narun	Pursat	CPP	1	
46- H.E. Kong Sam Ol	Kampong	CPP	1	
47- H.E. Nhim Vanda	Prey Veng	CPP	1	
48- H.E. Hong Sok	Takeo	FUN	1	
49- H.E. Nguon Nhel	Kampong Thom	CPP	1	
50- H.E. Un Ning	Kampong Thom	CPP	1	
51- H.E. Sman Teath	Pursat	CPP	1	
52- H.E. Son Chhay	Phnom Penh	SRP	1	
53- Samdach Norodom Sirivudh	Kandal	FUN	1	
Total			133	16