



Phnom Penh, Date: March 29, 2016

**Press Release**

**On**

**2015-Report on Political Irregularities:**

**(Misuse of State Resources<sup>1</sup> and Political Corruption<sup>2</sup>)**

COMFREL has conducted annual its monitoring report on the misuse of state resources and political corruption which was conducted between January to December 2015. It was found that there were 297 cases related to misuse of state resources and political corruption. The recorded cases increased by 80 cases from the previous year. In 2015, there were 297 cases recorded include 11 cases related to abuse of powers by authorities, which have been committed by high senior political leaders in legislative, executive and judicial branches, and leaders running political parties; 135 cases of irregularities including; bribes and fraud by high rank public officials, and 133 recorded cases related to misuse of state resources with the aim of benefiting a political party. It was noted that the number of cases relating to the use of state vehicles decreased. The decrease in the use of state vehicles for political purposes is due to some ministries' measures, for example the Ministry of Interior, constantly taking action and implementing measures. The other 11 cases are related to the political bribes and fraud committed by elected officials, and the remaining 8 cases are related to the irregularities with the appointment of officials into office in favour of family, conflict of interest and relatives (cronyism and nepotism).

There were 133 cases recorded, related to abuse of state resources for the benefit of political parties. The abuse of state resources mentioned above were cases involving abuse of state human resources and state tangible assets. The data showed an increase to 73 from 60 reported in 2014. The use of government human resources and tangible assets refers to resources used for the benefit of a political party. Complicit in the abuse were senior government officials and commanders in chief of

<sup>1</sup> Misuse or abuse of State Resources in this report refers to (1) irregularities of related to state-run media and (2) irregularities of national budget transparency.

<sup>2</sup> Political Corruption in this report refers to (1) the abuse of power by authorities including senior political leaders, (2) the irregularities of appointment/nomination of relatives, family members (cronyism, nepotism) and conflict of interest, (3) irregularities including bribes and fraud committed by l elected officials and irregularities in bribes and fraud committed by public officials discharging offices and also refer to the irregularities of political party's finance.

**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](mailto:comfrel@online.com.kh) Website: [www.comfrel.org](http://www.comfrel.org)

Vision: A democratic society that democratization in particular democratic elections are promoted and qualified to bring benefits to people.

ទស្សនៈសង្គម ៖ ដើម្បីឱ្យការបោះឆ្នោតតាមបែបប្រជាធិបតេយ្យ និងយុត្តិធម៌ ត្រូវបានលើកកម្ពស់ និងមានគុណភាព ដើម្បីនាំមកនូវផលប្រយោជន៍ដល់ប្រជាពលរដ្ឋ។

armed forces as well as senior national police senior officials, high rank officials of public civil servants discharging office and other government staff under their supervision. Public high rank officials used government staff under their supervision and state resources for the benefit of the ruling party.

These cases were recorded in 24 provinces of the all 26 provinces/municipal. In Phnom Penh, Kandal and Preah Vihear provinces, there was a high rate of abuse of state resources compared to other provinces in the Kingdom.

It was found that state-run media, particularly, National TV of Cambodia (TVK) and National Radio, are being used as tools for the benefit of and to promote the ruling party's political platform, or attacking and harassing political opponents. Its broadcasting was continuously biased in favour of the ruling party's interests contravening its proper role as a state-run media. In 2015, COMFREL's monitoring officer in charge of Radio & TV monitoring observed and concluded that about 70 percent of its news broadcasting program was in favour of ruling party.

The situation regarding accountability and transparency of the national budget management was found not to be improving. International Budget Partnership transparency scores 2015 were very low. The National Assembly did not have enough time and information to critically examine the drafted budget law.

There were 135 cases related to irregularities such as bribes and fraud committed by public officials discharging offices in the service of the ruling party. Amongst all 135 cases, 64 cases were found to have been committed by civil servants 43 cases by senior members of the armed forces rank, 15 cases by court officials, and 12 other cases committed by local authorities. There were 4 more cases when compared to the previous year report.

In sum, political corruption and misuse of state resources serving political party interest increased in 2015. The abuse of state resources (human resources and tangible properties), by political leaders, and irregularities such as bribes and fraud committed by elected political officials and public officials discharging office, increased, especially cases involving military personnel. Other cases involve incidents of cronyism and nepotism. There were an additional 8 cases compared to the previous report in 2014.

**Contactable persons:**

<b>Mr. KOUL Panha</b>	Executive Director of the Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia, COMFREL Tel: +855 12 94 20 17, <a href="mailto:kpanha@comfrel.org">kpanha@comfrel.org</a>
<b>Mr. YOEURNG Sotheara</b>	Legal & Monitoring Officer, COMFREL Tel: +855 70 400 131, <a href="mailto:sotheara@comfrel.org">sotheara@comfrel.org</a>