



គណៈកម្មាធិការដើម្បីការបោះឆ្នោតដោយសេរី និងយុត្តិធម៌ នៅកម្ពុជា

Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia

ខុមហ្វ្រែល COMFREL

Phnom Penh, 24th August 2015

PRESS RELEASE

Second Semester-Report Summary on Parliament and its Members Watch of the Fifth Mandate National Assembly

From January to June 2015, the performance of national assembly commissions and number of parliamentarians' field visit improved when compared to the same period in the previous mandate. The discussion and debate on law adoption were found to be not qualitative because they were rushed through the approval process. Below are the key findings:

Parliamentarian's constituency/field visits: 70 parliamentarians from both Cambodian People Party (CPP) and Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP) conducted 612 filed/constituency visits. The number of field/constituency visits has increased, but the number of parliamentarians visiting the field has slightly decreased, while this time last year, 400 constituency/ field visits were conducted by 74 parliamentarians. CNRP's parliamentarians increased the constituency/field visit because after entering National Assembly it makes it easier for them as parliamentarians than as elected candidate to perform their duties.

For the first six months of the second year of fifth mandate, COMFREL found that 85 constituency/field visits took place by 38 CPP parliamentarians while another 527 constituency/field visits were made by 32 CNRP parliamentarians.

National Assembly Commissions: Activities of NA commission led by both CPP and CNRP has remarkably increased by 45 times. Eight ministers were invited to clarify orally in the commission and their ministries. Commission activities includes inviting the minister to clarify in the commission and meeting with them at ministry concerned, receiving people's complaints, and meeting with local authorities ,people and/or CSO representatives, and visiting conflict areas.

National Assembly Plenary Session: the National Assembly held ten meetings of an ordinary plenary session and an extra-ordinary plenary session. 15 agendas including voting for member of National Election Committee and of NA commission were discussed and approved.

27 parliamentarians spent 550 minutes to come up with ideas during those meetings. It was found that the debates and discussions were inefficient because they were rushed for approval. For example, during discussion on proposed law on Organizing and Functioning National Election Committee and proposed law on Election of Member of the National Assembly, it was seen only Mr. H.E Sam Rainsy came up with his idea. He was complimenting the two-political party working group's effort on proposing the law. It is noted that he also requested to other parliamentarians not to come up with any idea of this proposed law. It is a poor lesson learnt, that minority leader in NA raised this proposal in the NA's session because it contrasts with the spirit of NA's session in which parliamentarians discuss openly changes or interpretations of vague articles. Those two proposed laws have also points which some stakeholders requested parliamentarians to revise.

Two draft laws were passed in the National Assembly by only CPP's votes and other two important draft laws were passed without discussing their contents. Furthermore, during the discussion on the controversial draft law on Association and Non-Government Organization, parliamentarians were playing role like government representatives expressing only positive points of the draft law, while the draft law was being widely criticized by national and international communities for restricting associations and non-government organizations' rights and freedoms.

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

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

ទស្សនៈវិស័យ ៖ ដើម្បីការបោះឆ្នោតជាតិដោយសេរី និងយុត្តិធម៌ ដែលប្រកបដោយលទ្ធភាព ប្រជាជនមានប្រយោជន៍

Parliamentarians' Intervention Letters: It was found that 22 Parliamentarians' letters have been submitted to the executive and NA commission calling for immediate action and intervention on people's issue. COMFREL found that the government responded to only four of them while another three letters were rejected by the NA president to send to the government. His rejection is considered as an abuse of power.

This is the first time in the fifth mandate of NA, that CPP parliamentarian from Ratanakiri province issued an intervention letter for requesting the dismissal of Ban Lung governor, who is also a member of CPP, after people complained again about his abuse of power.

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