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The Electoral Reform Alliance (ERA)



Phnom Penh, 31 July 2014

Open Letter to

the Cambodian People's Party and the Cambodian National Rescue Party

In order to implement the agreement between the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and the Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP) on political resolutions smoothly and effectively, and to ensure both sides' commitment, the Electoral Reform Alliance recommends the following:

1. The Constitution, which will be amended to add an additional chapter on the election management body (EMB), should state clearly the responsibilities, jurisdiction and independence of the body. It should exercise authority with transparency and with the participation of stakeholders. It should have its own budget with transparent expenses. Its work and data must be publicized to be observed or/and audited. The EMB should be responsible for voter registration and for producing the voter list. It should be authorized to establish other commissions to exercise its responsibilities effectively including a separate mechanism on electoral dispute resolution and media management during the election period.

During the election period, the EMB should have the power and rights to issue a regulation to stop or annul resolutions or postpone activities that affect the process of free and fair elections. Regulations of the EMB shall be enforced effectively by authorities and various competent institutions of the government.

The EMB should consist of male and female candidates who are qualified and who are not a spouse or close relative of the political parties' leaders that have seats in the National Assembly EMB members should also be required to promise not to be a member of any political party for two years after the end of their mandate.

Members of this institution shall have immunity and security of tenure shall be guaranteed that they are not removed from office during their mandate unless:

- He/she is dead.
- He/she resigns officially.



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- He/she is unable to perform his/her job.
- 2. The Joint Commission and the three working groups from both political parties should work in accordance with the principles of openness and transparency to allow Cambodian civil society organizations (CSOs) and/or national or international stakeholders to give comments and/or to observe their discussions.
- 3. The National Assembly which has participation from the CPP and CNRP should reconvene when the mixed commission which consists of members from the two political parties completed their work on the proposal for the amendment to the Constitution and other relevant laws. The National Assembly should seek the timely approval of the legal framework, which will be submitted by the mixed commission to the National Assembly in September 2014.

The ERA prepared a proposal for the amendment of the Constitution and LEMNA and is ready to provide and offer clarification on these proposals upon request of the mixed commission or working group of the two political parties.

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