



Press Release

‘Assessment and Voters’ Scorecard on the Third Year Fulfillment of Political Platform of the Fifth Mandate of Government’

During the fourth year of the fifth mandate of the National Assembly (NA), the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC), led by the Cambodian People’s Party (CPP), has fulfilled six of 16 political platform promises with precise indicators. They are: annual economic growth of 7%, annual poverty reduction of 1%, halting of economic land concessions, design a national housing policy, create a city transportation policy, and develop a national policy related to jobs and careers.

Another six political platforms related to one million tons of rice exports, water for family fishing, land title registration, people’s access to running water, village electricity supplies, and a target for the number of foreign tourists by 2018, have only been partly fulfilled and/or implemented by the RGC.

Four political platform promises have been implemented, but when considering their targets, the RGC is unlikely to fulfill them. For example, maintenance of existing forest cover, annual 300km to 400km of rural roads improvement, secondary school construction in all communes and implementation of retirement allowance in the private sector. In 2017, the RGC was failed to implement the policy of situating secondary schools in all communes although it was partly fulfilled in 2016. The public education statistic and indicator for 2016-2017 said that the number of secondary schools decreased by 6 (it was 1251 in 2016 and it was 1255 in 2017 as six were probably turned into high schools. Therefore, the RGC in 2017 did not carry out the political promise to establish new secondary schools.

For the fourth year of the fifth mandate of the National Assembly, the voters’ scorecard on the fulfillment of political platform promises with imprecise indicators, showed that of 214 participants (38% are female) 17% were satisfied, 60% of them were partly satisfied, while 22% were not satisfied. It is notable that the percentage of participants who were partly satisfied dramatically increased from 38% in 2014 to 60% in 2015, but for the last three years, the percentage remains the same (around 60%), while the percentage of participants who were satisfied decreased and the percentage of participants, who were not satisfied increased.

Reviewing the 2017 national budget, the RGC planned to spend USD 5,046 million, 17% of which was not allocated. The RGC planned to allocate to social affairs about 28%, to the economic sector about 26%, to national defence, security and public order about 17%, and to general administration around 10%. In 2017, the budget allocation to economic sector, if compared to 2016, decreased 3% while the budget allocation to other sectors slightly increased.

To fulfill and implement its political platforms promises in the fourth year, the RGC has been found to decrease its cabinet members but to increase Undersecretaries of state. By November 2017, at

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least 03 officials left the cabinet. At the monitoring period, 30 officials have been appointed in 16 ministries as Undersecretary of State, while only 10 has been found fired. Also, Ten Royal Government of Cambodia’s advisor, ranked as members of the cabinet, have been appointed while six have been fired.

In relation to the RGC’s cabinet, since the end of 2017, RGC ruled by the CPP has proposed a constitutional amendment of article 118 (NEW) of the Cambodian Constitution relating to the composition of RGC cabinet. The amendment proposes to withdraw Secretary of States from the cabinet membership. The withdrawal will result in a planned decrease in cabinet member, but there still remain a lot of Secretaries of State and also an important change in procedure for appointing them. A Secretary of State would be appointed by Royal degree based only on the Prime Minister’s request, and would no longer be subject to a vote of confidence by the National Assembly (NA), and so not accountable to the NA. It is also observed because of an absence of any law or regulation limiting the number of Under secretaries of State, there has been new appointments every year.

During the 11-months period the RGC had issued 1,579 sub degrees and 344 announcements. Around 4% of sub degrees concerned the transferring of public property to the private property of the state and transfer of budget funds. The remainder concerned the awarding of medals, commendations and promotions to government officials.

The RGC has been implementing, since late 2013, a political platform which is categorized into four main sectors: 1. National defence, security and public order; 2 Improvement of public administration, decentralization and deconcentration, law and justice, and anti-corruption activities, 3: Development of economics; and, 4: Development of education, health, labor, culture and social affairs. In relation to the implementation of political promises, the RGC has also been carrying out the Rectangular Strategy Phase 3: Employment growth, equity and efficiency in Cambodia.

For more inquiry, should you contact:

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Missions: To help to create an informed and favorable climate 1)- for free and fair elections through lobbying and advocacy for a suitable legal framework, education to inform voters of their rights and monitoring activities that both discourage irregularities and provide comprehensive monitoring data to enable an objective, non-partisan assessment of the election process, and 2)- for meaningfulness of post elections through education and public forums to encourage citizens to participate in politics and decision-making, advocacy/lobby for electoral reforms that increase accountability of elected officials and provide comprehensive monitoring data to enable an objective, non-partisan assessment of the fulfillment of political platform and performance of elected officials.