



Press Release

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

With the outcome of the fifth mandate of the National Assembly Election, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC), led by the Cambodian People’s Party (CPP), established its political platform which were categorize into four main sectors. They were implemented with the Rectangular Strategy Phase 3 which mainly focuses on employment growth, equity and efficiency in Cambodia. COMFREL conducted an observation on the fulfillment of political platform promises. The political platform was differentiated into political platform goals with precise indicators and those with imprecise indicators. The implementation of platform goals with precise indicators was assessed as fully fulfilled, partly fulfilled and not fulfilled while the implementation of imprecise indicators was scored by people as satisfied, partly satisfied or not satisfied.

The RGC has fulfilled eight 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, 70% land title registration, design a national housing policy, create a city transportation policy, village electricity supplies and develop a national policy related to jobs and careers.

Another six political platforms including one million tons of rice exports, water for family fishing, annual 300km to 400km of rural roads improvement, people’s access to running water, a target for the number of foreign tourists by 2018 and secondary school construction in all communes, have only been partly fulfilled and/or implemented by the RGC.

Two political platform promises have been implemented, but when considering their targets, the RGC is unlikely to fulfill them. They are maintenance of existing forest cover and the implementation of a retirement allowance in the private sector.

The RGC’s fulfillment of political platform promises with imprecise indicators, has been scored by about 2060 people in voter forums at capital/provinces. Imprecise indicator platform promises are categorized into four main sectors: 1) national defence, security and public order; 2) improvement of public administration, decentralization and de-concentration, law and justice, and anti-corruption activities, 3) development of economics; 4) and development of education, health, labor, culture and social affairs. It shows result that the implementation of them was satisfied by only around one-four participants but it is noted for the fifth mandate government’s fulfillment, the score indicated that people, though slowly, are becoming more satisfied. Over the period of the last 5 years, the number of people who are dissatisfied and somewhat satisfied with the fulfillment of platform goals has steadily decreased, and the number who are satisfied has continuously increased.

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

ទស្សនៈវិស័យ ៖ ដើម្បីឱ្យការបោះឆ្នោតមានគុណភាព ដែលប្រកបដោយលទ្ធភាព ប្រជាធិបតេយ្យ។

The number of people who were satisfied the government’s fulfillment was 23% in 2018 while it was only 7% in 2014. The number of people who are partly satisfied continuously increased from 30% in 2014 to 50% in 2017 but then slightly decreased to 45% in 2018. It is also remarkable that the number of people who are dissatisfied has decreased from 46% in 2014 to 14% in 2018.

In the fifth mandate, the government lacked transparency in the management of national expenditure. A lot of national budget was allocated to unmarked expenditure field. One of the major obstacles to good governance in Cambodia is misuse of state resources resulting from corruption of state institutions. However, the clearance of national expenditure budget, compared to before, is improved since the 2014, 2015 and 2016 national expenditure budget have been cleared within the fifth mandate.

In 2016, the RGC restructured its cabinet members but it was found those members only changed their position as minister for the ministry. The RGC was also found every year to increase the number of undersecretaries of state and its advisors, ranked as members of the cabinet.

To ensure the effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and transparency in the fulfillment of its mandate and to increase confidence from the public, the RGC should make improvements such as:

- Establishing political platform goals with precise and measurable indicators.
- Promotion of transparency and accountability in national budget management by minimizing budget allocated to unknown field and speeding up the clearance process.
- Reducing the number of political officers /advisors ranked as cabinet member in the government.
- Continuing an effort to achieve its political promises to voters.
- Enabling a favorable environment for stakeholders to monitor and assess its performance.

For further inquiry, please 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.