



Press Release
Summary Report on First Year Observation on Sixth Mandate Parliament and Its Members of the Parliament

The sixth mandate National Assembly (NA) is formed by only the ruling Cambodian People’s Party. According to COMFREL’s observation, MPs’ filed visits for greeting people, strengthening party network and accompanying its leaders’ visits were very dynamic; however, MPs were not found to visit and solve people ‘s issues including land conflict. During the first year of it sixth legislation, the NA also held its plenary ordinary / extraordinary sessions mostly to pass the draft law. COMFREL also noted that the most of MPs had expressed their opinions during those sessions only to compliment and appreciate government’s effort while they were observed not to criticize or thoroughly debate about the draft laws. Furthermore, there has been more activities of NA’s expert commissions but for their first year mandate, there was only one hearing with the government’s cabinet, a minister of Justice Ministry. The MPs during the hearing, instead of asking the minister for more clarification over the national or international implication of injustice in Cambodia, allowed the minister to update the achievement and to present its future activities. Moreover, it is noted that as people’s representative, MPs are expected actually to care for their people’s interests. However, COMFREL observed that in the first year of their mandate, none of MPs has issued his/her intervention letter responding to people’s call.

In conclusion, COMFREL observed that in the first year of the sixth Legislature, the NA which is formed from only the ruling party, has decreased its effectiveness if compared to the NA consisting from multi-parties before. This decline of its effectiveness resulted from the absences of PMs issuing intervention letters, MPs constructively criticizing about government’s passive performance and MPs challenging or debating about law enforcement and adoption.

The NA sessions: The NA in the first year of the sixth mandate convened eleven sessions with 29 agendas. 14 of them were discussed to pass the draft laws including law on the National Assembly’s General Budget Settlements for Management 2017 and approval of the law on National Budget for Management 2019. The single-party NA also approved amendments to three major laws, including the law on Political Party and two election related laws.

During the single-party NA’s sessions in the first year of its mandate, COMFREL found that only 12 MPs expressed their opinions for 38 times, lasting 209 minutes. Compared to the same period of the fifth mandate, it has decreased in number of MPs and durations.

MPs’ Field Visits: In the first year of the sixth legislature, out of 125, only 55 (44%) lawmakers conducted their field visits. In total there were 1,041 filed visits which can be presumed that one MPs averagely conducts 19 field visits. To compared with the same period of the fifth legislature, there is a decrease in percentage of the number of MPs conducting the field visit.

COMFREL categorizes objective of MPs’ field visits into five majors. Of those 1,041 field visits, 68% were a visit for greeting and expressing appreciation to the local authorities. COMFREL, However, found that there were also interventions conducted by MPs but they were not found to participate in forums. the MPs conducted field visits through all 25 provinces and capital, 450 visits were conducted out of their constituencies while 591 visits in their constituency.

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

ទស្សនៈវិស័យ ៖ ដើម្បីឱ្យការបោះឆ្នោតតាមបែបប្រជាធិបតេយ្យ និងប្រកួតប្រជែងគ្នា ត្រូវបានលើកកម្ពស់ និងគាំទ្រដើម្បីនាំមកនូវផលប្រយោជន៍ដល់ប្រជាជនកម្ពុជា។

The NA’s Expert Commissions: According to COMFREL’s observation, out of the 10 expert commissions in the NA, only eight commissions were found to conduct their activities while the fifth and tenth commission not to do so. The expert commissions have conducted their activities for 98 times and four commissions conducted more filed missions; they include the 3rd, 7th, 8th, and 9th commissions.

There were 88 field visits that the expert commissions conducted to meet the people and local authorities in order to learn about people’s issues such as law enforcement and authorities' slow response to people’s needs.

COMFREL also observed that in the first year of the sixth mandate, the expert commission, summoned the Minister of Justice for questioning, but not focusing on the injustice in society while it is importantly noted that injustice has happened to people suffered from land losing, deforestation and excessive forces to implement the court decision.

Analysis of MP’s Activities: COMFREL selected 10 MPs who conducted the most field visits and were active in the parliamentary session to analyze. As a result, MPs who are also belonged to government cabinet or in charge of others state institutions beyond parliament, conducted the most field visits if compared to others. However, they were observed to less debate or express their opinions during the parliamentary sessions. Samdech Kralahom Sar Kheng, MP from Battambang province is served as a Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Samdech Pichey Sena Tea Banh, MP from Siem Reap, is a Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense and H.E Ke Kim Yan MP from Banteay Meanchey Province is a Deputy Prime Minister and the president of the National Authority for Combating Drugs.

For further information

- Mr. Kim Chhorn Executive Director 012 942 019
- Mr. Korn Savang Coordinator of Monitoring and Advocacy Unit 011 884 840