



គណៈកម្មាធិការដើម្បីការបោះឆ្នោតដោយសេរី និងយុត្តិធម៌ នៅកម្ពុជា

Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia

ខ្មែរឡែង COMFREL

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Press Release

On

Assessment on the First Year Fulfillment of the Political Platform of the Sixth Mandate Government

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) was formed following the outcome of the Sixth Mandate National Assembly Election in 2018. The members of the National Assembly (NA) voted for its leadership and voted of confidence in the proposed government cabinet. Both the National Assembly leadership and government cabinet, although could be voted separately in accordance with the Constitution, were voted with package.

The RGC and the NA are absolutely led by the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) resulting from its 125 seats victory in the national election. The RGC consists of 28 ministries and one secretary of state to implement its political platforms. At the beginning of its mandate, the RGC ran its cabinet with only 46 members allocated to 57 offices. They include a Prime Minister, 10 deputy prime ministers, 17 senior ministers and 29 ministers. However, the RGC also has at least 858 other high-ranking officials including 241 state secretariats, 391 understa secretariats, 19 ministers for prime minister delegation, and 207 government's advisors. A rise in the number of high-ranking officials also results to increase the national budget needed by the RGC.

The RGC initiatively and newly established the Supreme Advisory Council to promote pluralism in Cambodia. 16 contesting political parties including the ruling party CPP became a delegate ranking as senior minister and minister, of the council. It is considered as an optional mechanism collecting inputs from others political parties since the NA consists of members from only single ruling party. The council has no autonomy in budget expenditure and its routine tasks are under management of a secretary controlled by leaderships of executive. Consequently, it is believed that the delegates of political party in the council are not able to perform independently. Furthermore, the new mechanism receiving inputs from political parties to replace the role of the NA are not legally legitimized because those political parties and its delegates are not elected by people during the election.

The RGC was to spend about USD 6,441 million to implement its policies and priorities in the first year of the sixth mandate. In contrast to the fifth mandate, the government has allocated more budget to economic sectors at the beginning of the mandate. In 2019, the RGC was to load about 1,400 SDR equals about USD 2,000 million from foreign development partners according to 2019 national budget law.

The RGC in its Rectangular Strategy Phase IV has declared its political promises/platform and priority activities; Furthermore, through submitting promises/platform to the NA, the RGC highlighted to ensure: 1) peace, stability and local safety, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, 2) a continued socio-economic development in all areas, 3) a continued promotion and improvement of people's lives and 4) a social security and livelihood stability in present and future time.

RGC's political platform/promises and priority activities stated in its Rectangular Strategy Phase IV are categorized in six main parts including a core of strategy-foster governance reform, an enabling environment for entire strategy implementation, human resource development, economic diversification,

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

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private sector and employment development and sustainable and inclusive development. It is also noted that political promises/platform and priority activities were stated without a precise indicator to measure their implementations. The political platform/ promises and the priority activities are also entirely stipulated in the National Strategic Development Plan (2019-2023).

Over the first year of its mandate, the government has partially implemented its policies/promises. The government's efforts to implement them have been faced with major challenges related to economic, social and political issues.

The report on an Assessment on the First Year Fulfillment of the Political Platform of the sixth Mandate Government compiled by Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (COMFREL) bases on the analysis of existing primary data or report from none governmental and foreign/ international organizations, press agency and national institutions for making an assessment on the fulfillment of political platform/promises.

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