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Press Release
Assessment on Fulfillment of Good Governance at Local Communes

The sixth legislature Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) was formed from the results of the National Assembly election in 2018. By August 2020, the RGC has 47 members of it cabinet. Further there are at least 901 high ranking officials of the RGC, including 260 Secretaries of State, 415 Undersecretaries of State, 19 Ministers of Prime Ministers delegation, and 207 government advisers.

The Supreme Advisory Council which newly established to promote further inputs from political parties instead of the National Assembly, is not able to perform independently as the parliamentarians have done. Some of them were reported to misuse of their power and they were fired.

To compare to the percentage in 2019, the government has allocated less national budget to social and economic sectors. In contrast from previous times, RGC allocated 27% of its budget which has not demonstrated yet it expenditure while in 2019 there was only 19%.

At local community, COMFREL organized a People Forum on Dissemination and Evaluation of Good Governance Process at local Commune/Sangkat. The forum is aimed to 1) promote and raise awareness among the people about good governance principles, 2) to make possibility for people and their authority to discuss and address their common issues and 3) to provide opportunity to have a score card on principles implementation. The People's Forums have been organized in 6 communes/Sangkats of 6 provinces with 180 people of almost villages from those communes/Sangkats. In the forum, they could learn more about the principles of good governance at the commune/Sangkat. Following the forum, People and Commune / Sangkat Councilors applauded the importance of their further understanding and; urging more engagement in monitoring the Commune/Sangkat development process.

In the forum, there was a discussion between the people and the Commune/Sangkat Councilors. COMFREL consequently identified four major challenges/ issues that were raised and needed to be addressed for them as following:

• More engagement of people participation, especially of young generation in the process of development planning of communes/Sangkats
• Maintaining public order, traffic safety and safety accordingly to the policy of safe commune/village
• Asking the authorities to pay more attention to local issues such as schools, markets and children’s rights
• Motivating the authority to minimize the passive response/interventions in providing services to the people

Promptly response to people’s issue, The Commune/Sangkat Councilors also requested the cooperation from people to address the issue raised above of children’s rights and schools and the issue of safe villages and communes in the commune/Sangkat. While for some proposals in accordance with development, they needed
further considerations and discussions. Establishing markets or road infrastructure must be studied and considered in the annual commune/Sangkat development plan.

People who participated in the forum also conducted the scorecard on their satisfaction with the implementation of the eight principles of good governance, such as: the principle of citizen participation, the rule of law in the commune, transparency, consensus, equitability, high efficiency, accountability and response principles. The implementation of these principles for the development of their commune/Sangkat was assessed by the people who participated. Consequently, about 89% of them are satisfied with the outcome of implementation (30% were completely satisfied; about 34% were highly/strongly satisfied; and 25% moderately satisfied). At the same time, the number of people who have expressed dissatisfaction and less satisfaction is about 11%.

For an average score, it is 3.8 out of 5 points. Therefore, according to the result, the commune/Sangkat authorities must continue their efforts to implement the eight principles of good governance in the commune/Sangkat with higher efficiency in order to get more satisfaction from the people. A full report is available at COMFEL’s website: www.comfrel.org

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