

Report on the 2007 Commune Council Elections in Cambodia



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Cambodia

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CAMBODIA: THE 24 PROVINCES



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List of Acronyms

CCE	Commune Council Elections
CDRI	Cambodia Development Resource Institute
CEC	Commune Election Commission
COMFREL	Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia
COPCEL	Conflict Prevention in Cambodian Elections
CPP	Cambodian People's Party
CWLHRD	Cambodian Women League of Human Right for Development
EU	European Union
FUNCINPEC	United National Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia
LECASTINCOCO	League of Cambodian Students and Intellectuals Coordination Committee
LECC	Law on Election of Commune Councils
LEMNA	Law on the Election of Members of the National Assembly
MOI	Ministry of Interior
NDI	National Democratic Institute
NEC	National Election Committee
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NICFEC	Neutral and Impartial Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia
PEC	Provincial Election Commission
PIB	Public Information Bureau (NEC)
PSC	Polling Station Commission
RGC	Royal Government of Cambodia
SRP	Sam Rainsy Party
TVK	Television Kampuchea (Cambodia State Television)
UNCOHCHR	United Nations Cambodia Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WAHIAD	Women Association for Human Right, Industry, Agriculture and Development

2007 Commune Council Elections Fact Sheet

- 2007 Commune Council Elections held on 1st April, was the 2nd mandate of the Councils.
- Commune Council Elections are conducted under a List - Proportional Representation system
- In October 2006, the NEC registered 1,245,752 million Cambodians and 2 million requested correction of their voter registration details
- Voter Registration and Update of Voters' List was from 1st - 24th October 2006
- Total registered voters for the 2007 Commune Council Elections = 7,799,371
(Women - 4,195,438 and Men - 3,603,933)
- The RGC has amended the LEMNA to increase voter registration by an additional 15 days
- 12 Political parties contested the 2007 Commune Council Elections
- Political party candidates list submitted to the CEC from 1st - 3rd January 2007
- 102,266 Candidates contested the 2007 Commune Council Elections.
- 21,840 (21.36 percent) women registered as candidates for the Commune Council Elections, which is five percent higher than 2002 Elections.
- In Phnom Penh, 35.08 percent women registered as candidates
- 11,353 seats were contested in 1,621 Communes/Sangkats
- 1,662 seats (14.6 percent of total seats) in the Commune Council Elections were won by women
- Total polling stations in Commune Council Elections = 14,428
- Temporary poll workers for Commune Council Elections = 86,568
- Total electoral staff = 97,522 (from PEC, CEC, NECC Data Entry Staff, Registration Staff and PSC)
- A total of 28,940 women (29.7 percent of workforce) were recruited as electoral staff
- Form 1018 was issued to voters lacking ID documents to be used for registration and voting
- Electoral campaign was conducted from 16 - 30 March 2007
- NDI organized 31 candidate debates in 30 Communes across 10 Provinces during the elections campaign
- 96 reports were made to the NEC during the campaign period
- Total Complaints and Appeals reported to the NEC during the 2007 Commune Council Elections = 326 in 2007 (745 in the 2003 election)
- Voter turn-out was 5,293,327 which is 67.8 percent (87.5 percent in 2002 Commune Council Elections)
- Total Invalid votes = 116,458 which is 2.2 percent (2002 it was 3.8 percent)
- National Election Committee consists of 9 members
- National Observers in the 2007 Commune Council Elections = 19,121
- International Observers in the 2007 Commune Council Elections = 254
- Political party agents for the 2007 Commune Council Elections = 103,536
- Equity News Elections Bulletin provided the main access to TV and Radio news for political parties during the 2007 Commune Council Elections
- Equity program website is: www.equitycam.tv
- Total budget for Commune Council Elections = US\$ 13 million
- Election Results and Seats Allocation

Party	Total Votes	% of votes	Seats Won	% of Seats
CPP	3,148,533	60.82	7,993	70.4
FUNCINPEC	277,545	5.36	274	2.41
NRP	419,791	8.11	425	3.74
SRP	1,303,906	25.19	2,660	23.42
OTHERS	27,094	0.52	1	0.01
TOTAL	5,176,869		11,353	

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2007 Commune Council Elections have been generally acknowledged as a significant step forward in strengthening the democratic process in Cambodia. There is a seeming general consensus among national and international observers that the elections were conducted in a peaceful atmosphere and were largely free and fair, particularly when compared to previous elections in Cambodia.

Given the complexities involved in the conduct of Commune Council Elections coupled with an increase in the number of parties and candidates that contested the elections, the National Election Committee (NEC) was deemed to have made some improvements in the management and administration of the electoral process. Notwithstanding these advances made in the electoral framework and other operational imperatives, observers have pointed out a number of further areas that the NEC should improve in order to enhance the transparency and credibility of the electoral process in Cambodia. It is anticipated that most of these steps would be taken before the 2008 National Elections.

Legal Framework: The NEC demonstrated increased technical capacity in the conduct of the 2007 elections. The administrative organization and composition of the NEC was revised through an amendment of the Law on the Election of Members of the National Assembly (LEMNA) in 2006. This amendment resulted in an increased membership of the NEC from five to nine. One of the guiding principles in this amendment was the preservation of the concept that members should not represent any political party and are bound to be neutral and impartial. This has helped in building public confidence and perception of the NEC.

The legal basis for the conduct of the Commune Council Elections was the Law on the Election of Commune Councils (LECC). However, important provisions from the LEMNA were used as supplementary legal instruments in the conduct of the 2007 Commune Council Elections. For example, reform of the registration process was adopted through an amendment of the LEMNA. It is therefore logical to conclude that the LECC needs to be amended to make it a comprehensive legal instrument for the conduct of future Commune Council Elections.

Voter Registration and Revision of Voters' List:

The decision by the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) in November 2002 to move to a permanent voter registry required the NEC to annually update its voters' register. Hence in October 2006, the NEC registered a total of 1.2 million Cambodians bringing the total registered voters to 7,799,371 and had two million registered voters requesting some form of correction in their voter registration details. Observers and political parties raised concerns that an extension of the registration period would be required. Consequently, the LEMNA was amended in January 2007 by the RGC to increase the registration period by an additional 15 days. This has been perceived as a positive move designed to enfranchise all eligible Cambodian citizens.

A major change in the 2006 registration was the elimination of all previous voter identity cards. Valid documents used for registration included: national ID cards, passport, ID as civil servant, police, military and Monk (from both Sects) and family book with photos. If an individual lacked all of these documents, he/she was to be certified by their Commune/Sangkat Chief through the issuance of Form 1018.



Voter Registration and Update of Voters List

Candidates Registration: The 2007 Commune Council Elections witnessed a significant increase in the number of candidates and political parties competing. Registration of candidates was conducted from 1-3 January 2007. At the end of the process, a total of 12 political parties registered 102,266 candidates in all 1,621 Communes/Sangkats. Another positive development in the registration of candidates was a five percent increase in the number of women

candidates in comparison to 2002. Out of the 102,266 candidates registered, 21,840 were women, which is 21.36 percent.

Election Campaign: Electoral campaigns are an important yardstick in any democratic electoral process. Compared to previous elections in Cambodia, the 2007 elections campaign was characterised by less violence and intimidation. The campaigns, which took place from 15-30 March 2007, were relatively peaceful and political parties were given the opportunity to disseminate their political platforms freely within the ambits of the electoral code of conduct. Despite the peaceful nature of the campaigns, a total of 96 complaints involving violence and intimidation of political opponents were reported to the NEC. Many of the complaints related to incidents of vandalism against party signs, quarrels over distribution of leaflets, scuffles between partisans, disagreements over party rallies, verbal threats and intimidation. However, findings from these complaints revealed that in the 2007 elections, there was no systematic persecution/intimidation of the opposition.

Access to Media: Access to media is internationally recognized as a prerequisite for free and fair elections. Access to media was a key concern among political parties in the 2002 elections. However in 2007, equitable media access was granted to all political parties in disseminating their political platforms. The Equity News Programme, a joint United Nations Development Programme-National Television of Cambodia (UNDP-TVK) project, provided equitable access to all political parties on the national television channel TVK. This programme ensured balanced and impartial coverage of the election campaign. A percentage formula was adopted in allocating airtime for the coverage of the various political parties. This strategy has inspired public confidence in the electoral process and further enhanced the transparency of the process. Apart from Equity programme, very limited access to other TV channels was provided to political parties for campaign purposes. The broadcast of candidate debates on national radio also strengthened the principle of equitable access to media for all parties in their campaign activities.

Civic/Voter Education: The NEC in its national strategy was very conscious of the importance of an effective civic/voter education to the overall success of the process. Right from the initial stages of the process, the NEC embarked on nationwide sensitization with a view toward

maximizing turnout for both registration and polling itself. The NEC, in its traditional approach, developed radio messages and video clips that were used to sensitize voters about upcoming events. UNDP complemented this approach by producing a ten-minute voter education video that had a huge impact on the electorate in terms of its level of penetration. Although voter turnout (67.8 percent) was reported to be lower than in the previous elections, the number of spoilt and invalid ballots was reduced from 3.8 percent in 2002 to 2.2 percent in 2007.

The shift to a permanent voter register necessitated the distribution of voter information notices that give clear information to voters. This initiative was piloted for the first time in Cambodia during the 2007 Commune Council Elections. Despite the genuine intentions of the NEC to improve the efficacy of the voting process, the implementation of the voter information notices at local levels attracted much criticisms particularly the role played by the Village Chiefs.



NEC Master Trainers, Political Parties and NGOs Training

Training of Electoral Officials: Most observer reports have commended the poll workers of the 2007 elections as being competent and knowledgeable in implementing the electoral procedures. This was largely due to an effective training mechanism that was adopted by the NEC. The introduction of a novel initiative in training poll workers was also a contributing factor. For the first time in Cambodia's electoral history, UNDP supported the production of a training video that complemented the normal training offered to staff. This approach has been recommended as an integral part of future NEC training programmes. During the 2007 elections, it was observed that the technical capacity of the NEC Training Department has been greatly enhanced compared to 2002.

Resource Mobilization: The cost for the 2007 Commune Elections was shared between the RGC and the international community. A Call for Funding meeting was held in June 2006 in which the RGC requested that the international development partners fund 50 percent of the cost of 2007 Commune Council Elections. The international donors expected the RGC to pick up a slightly larger share given the level of economic development since the first Commune Council Elections of 2002. Given the local nature of Commune Council Elections, few traditional donors contributed towards the cost of the elections. The major international donors who contributed through the UNDP pool were Canada, Sweden and Australia. Japan and China opted for direct contributions to the RGC.

Election Day and Counting: The NEC made a policy decision to increase the number of election officials in every polling station from five to six with a view to improving the quality and efficiency of the voting process. They also issued a directive encouraging the recruitment of women candidates and people from minority groups. These were all regarded as positive moves by the NEC. On polling day, however, the presence of Village Chiefs or Commune Council officials generated criticism from political parties and observer groups. Ballot counting was conducted at the polling station level in the presence of party agents and observers.



Election Day

Election Observation: There was a reduction in the number of national and international observers to cover the 2007 elections. In total, 19,121 national observers and 254 international observers were deployed on Election Day. The NEC did not utilize the services of a non-governmental organization (NGO) coordinating committee, as was the case in 2002, but rather groups were

required to deal directly with the NEC. The NEC provided a common training avenue for its officials, representatives of political parties and local NGOs. UNDP, on the other hand, provided technical support to members of the diplomatic corps that formed the bulk of the international observers. Reports from observer groups indicate that the process was generally peaceful, free and fair. However, they also pointed out some shortcomings that require the attention of the NEC.

Complaints and Appeals: The 2007 Commune Council Elections witnessed a reduction in the number of complaints filed with the NEC. A total of 326 complaints were received. Based on technical advice given to the NEC, a four-pronged strategy had been espoused in a bid to educate stakeholders, and this subsequently reduced the number of complaints lodged by them. While it is clear that the NEC had incorporated some recommendations from previous reports on complaint mediation, there is still a growing need to simplify the complaints process to enable all complaints to be accepted and documented at the entry point.

During the 2002 Commune Council Elections, the NEC was criticized for the manner in which complaints were handled. Hence, there was a need to train political parties on complaints procedures as one of the confidence building measures of the NEC. The training, which took place on 26 March 2007, meticulously expounded the complaints process to participants from political parties and local observer groups. Furthermore, the role of Village Chiefs in Cambodian politics has always been regarded as partisan in nature; as such the introduction of the "Information Booklet for Village Chiefs" was a development welcomed by both political parties and observers.

Post-Election Activities: At the end of the 2007 elections, there was an appraisal of the electoral process to identify best practices, shortcomings and lessons learned. The Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI), supported by UNDP, held two meetings on 20 April and 17 May 2007 inviting political parties, NGOs, the international community and local electoral officials. All of these meetings provided an opportunity for stakeholders to exchange views and insights on the Commune Council Elections, and they also made substantial recommendations on the way forward.

NEC Staff Breakdown for 2007

CLASSIFICATION	STAFF	WOMEN	% WOMEN
Appointed Members	9	2	22.2
National Election Committee	324	48	14.8
NECC Data Entry Operators	119	32	26.9
Provincial Election Committees	763	77	10.1
Commune Election Committees	8,120	1,056	13.0
Registration Station Staff	1,952	174	8.9
Polling Station Staff	86,568	27,601	31.9
TOTAL	97,855	28,990	29.6

2. BACKGROUND

The 1 April 2007 Commune Council Elections were the second elections for members of the Commune Councils in the history of Cambodia. The first elections, held in February 2002, witnessed the establishment of 1,621 Commune Councils. The 2007 elections are also seen as an effort to strengthen the process of decentralization in Cambodia.

Since the signing of the Paris Agreement, the United Nations has been closely involved in the democratic development of Cambodia. Particularly in the past seven years, the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations together with UNDP has contributed significantly to the development of the electoral infrastructure currently in place to manage both National and Commune Council Elections. Through that collaboration, a number of recommendations were made to the RGC as well as the NEC to improve the overall electoral framework for future Commune Council Elections.

For the 2007 Commune Council Elections, UNDP provided technical and logistical support to the NEC mainly in the areas of training, civic/voter education, legal services and media. UNDP support to the NEC was provided under the auspices of the project "Strengthening Democracy and Electoral Processes in Cambodia".

3. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Membership of the NEC

The administrative organization and composition of the NEC was completely revised after the 2002 elections. This was done through an amendment to the LEMNA, which included a reform of the voter registration system as well as a reduction of NEC members from eleven to five. Unlike the previous composition of the NEC, in which members represented the vested interest of their political party, the newly established NEC membership was required to maintain independence and impartiality. The number of NEC departments was drastically reduced from fifteen to five under the direction of a Secretariat General. New internal regulations reflecting best practices in international electoral management bodies were prepared (with technical assistance) and adopted by the NEC. The above reforms had been strongly advocated by UNDP, the European Union and many other stakeholders.

In 2006, the RGC further amended the LEMNA by increasing the membership of the NEC from five to nine. The enlarged membership of the NEC was adopted as a confidence-building measure designed to achieve a better political consensus on the NEC's neutrality. The amendment preserved the concept that members of the NEC must not represent any political party and are bound to be neutral and impartial. They should resign from any political party they may have belonged to before taking office.

The incorporation of a broader spectrum of members on the NEC was welcomed as a positive development since it has facilitated communication, access to information and trust building with political parties for the 2007 Commune Council Elections. The current NEC membership is expected to remain in place until after the 2008 National Elections.

NEC Appointed Members

NAME	POSITION
H.E. IM SUOSDEY	Chairperson of the NEC
DR. SIN CHUM BO	Vice Chairperson of the NEC
Mrs. KOY VETH	NEC Member
H.E. KLOK BUDDHI	NEC Member
H.E. HAVAN SIVILAY	NEC Member
H.E. MEAN SATIK	NEC Member
H.E. EM SOPHATH	NEC Member
H.E. SOM CHANDYNA	NEC Member
H.E. MAO SOPHIRITH	NEC Member

Regulatory Framework

When it comes to analyzing the Cambodian electoral framework, it is crucial to distinguish between the LECC and the LEMNA. The two laws were drafted at a five-year interval and are very different in their legal approaches. Nevertheless, some electoral procedures (especially the voting process) are very similar due to the harmonization brought about by the regulatory powers of the NEC. However, important differences remain in many areas, such as candidate registration, media access, campaign period, sanctions regime, and others.

The LECC was initially adopted by the National Assembly in January 2001. However, reform of the voter registration process was adopted through an amendment to the LEMNA. This left the LECC outdated compared to the National Election law. Yet, this was not the only reason why the LECC needed to be amended. A number of legal issues had arisen during the 2002 elections that needed to be addressed. For instance:

Difficulties regarding candidate registration had aroused much discontent among political parties in 2002. Some complaints were even brought up to the level of the Constitutional Council. One issue was that candidates could be rejected because they allegedly could not read or write the Khmer language. Provisional solutions suggested by UNDP were implemented at that time to resolve the crisis. Clear recommendations were later made to solve this issue and were adopted by the NEC and integrated into the 2007 regulations.

Even more sensitive was the issue of the then article 121 of the LECC forcing the rejection of the whole list of candidates if one of the candidates was found to be ineligible. UNDP made specific recommendations to correct the situation.

Following up on UNDP's presentation to the NEC and the Ministry of Interior (MoI) prior to the legislative amendment of June 2006, the LECC was amended and the system of candidate registration was made more flexible in accordance with those recommendations.

The amendments to the LECC were adopted after consideration of two of the three suggested options. One of the options envisaged merging the two electoral laws (for the sake of simplification and homogeneity) with a separate chapter dealing with the specificities of the Commune Council Elections. Draft laws were prepared for each option, each one taking into account recommendations arising from UNDP, civil society, political parties and observation missions. Finally, the most conventional version was retained, maintaining two separate electoral laws.

4. VOTER REGISTRATION AND REVISION OF VOTERS' LIST

Based on the decision of the RGC in November 2002 to move to a permanent voter registry, it became the responsibility of the NEC to annually update its voters' register. Consequently, in compliance with article 49 of the LEMNA and article 10 of the LECC, the NEC carried out voter registration and revision of the voters' list from 1-20 October 2006. This period provided an opportunity for all Cambodians who had turned 18 years of age to be registered as voters and also to invite registered voters to check their details and make necessary changes based on change of residence, incorrect details, and so on. The exercise also facilitated the removal of the deceased and those who had left the Commune/Sangkat. At the end of this period (1-20 October), Commune Councils, NGO observers and political parties stated that there were still many more people to be registered. In response, the NEC decided to extend the registration period for another four days (21-24 October).

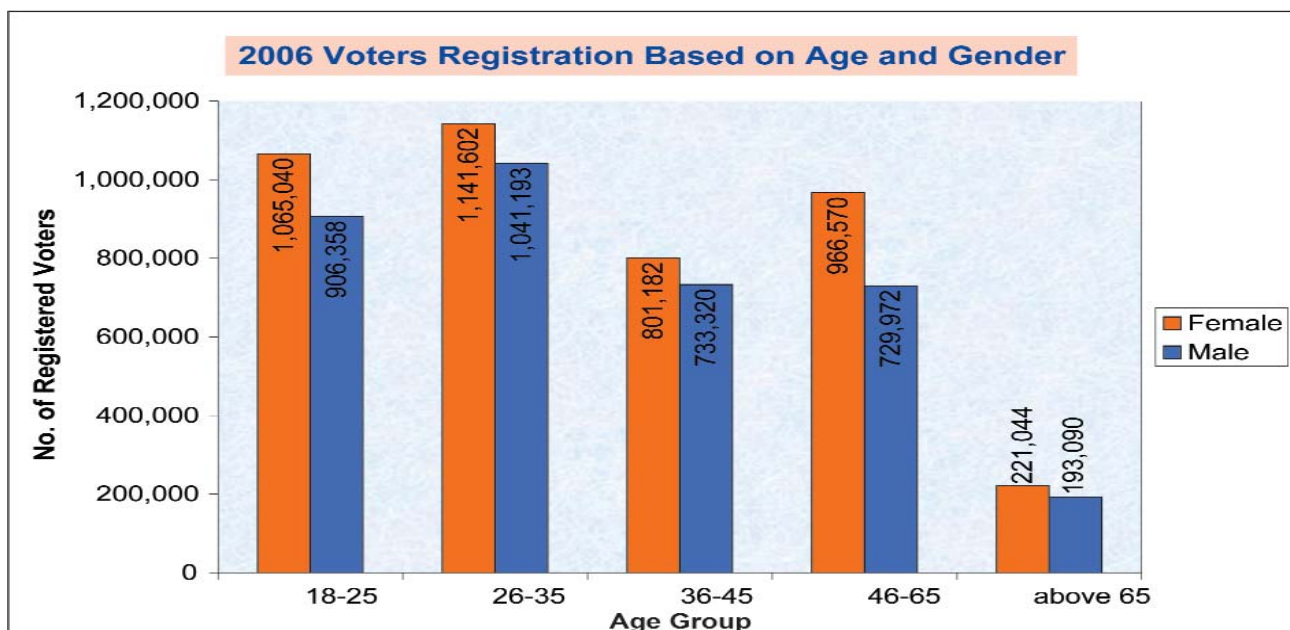
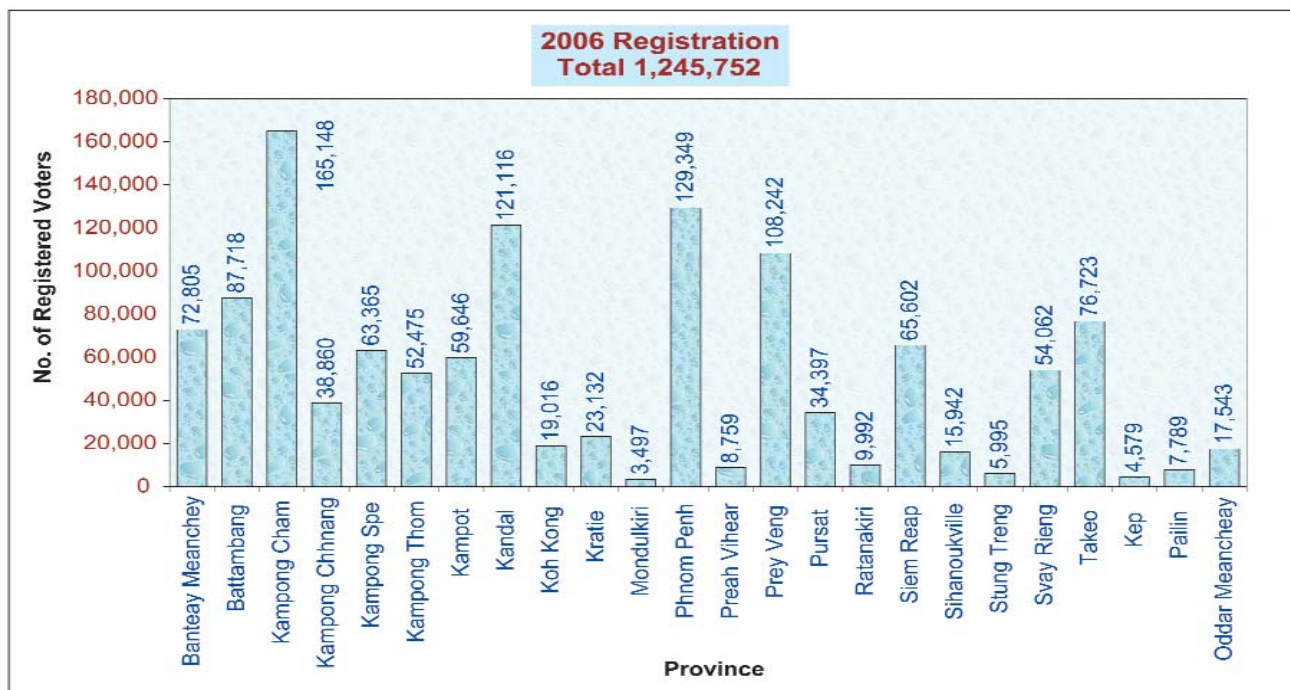
Based on the above circumstances, the RGC on 31 January 2007 further amended the LEMNA to extend the standard registration period by an additional 15 days. This amendment will be implemented in the next registration exercise, hopefully before the 2008 National Elections. Although this amendment is a much desired improvement, it still falls short of previous recommendations from UNDP to make the

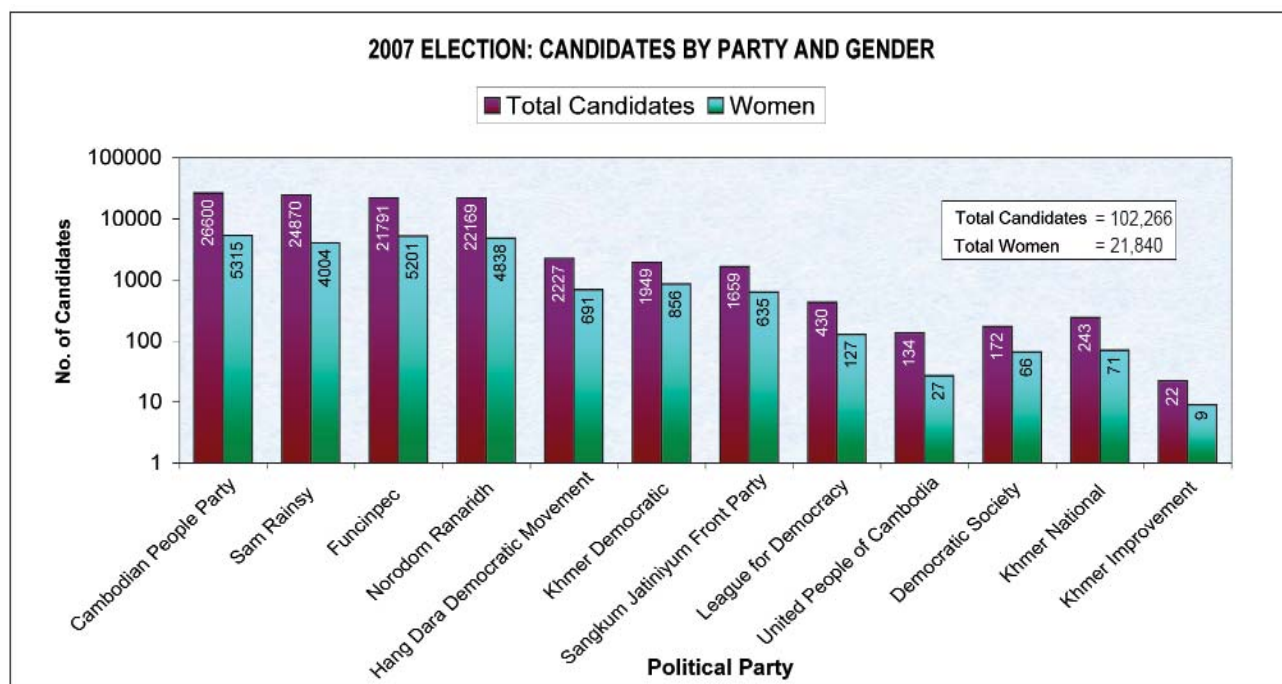
registration process a year-long continuous exercise, fully integrated with the administrative tasks of the Commune Council, as is the case for the civil registry (birth/death/wedding certificates).

documents, he/she was to get a certified identification document issued by his/her Commune/Sangkat Chief (Form 1018) by producing two witnesses and bringing two photos.

A significant change in the 2006 registration process was the elimination of all previous voter identity cards. This decision was in adherence to a previous National Assembly amendment to the LEMNA that terminated the use of voters' cards. During the registration period in October 2006, the only documents accepted to register as voter and to vote on Election Day were: national ID card, passport, civil servant ID, police ID, military ID, monk ID (from both sects), or family book with photo. If an eligible citizen had none of these

During the October 2006 voter registration, over 1.2 million voters registered, bringing the total number of voters to 7,799,371. This was an increase of 50 percent over the number of registered voters in 2002 (5,190,307). During this period, a total of two million people showed up to correct their voter registration details. This figure illustrates the discrepancies between national ID documents and the voters' registry. Below is a comprehensive breakdown of the voter registration figures by province, age and gender:





5. CANDIDATES' REGISTRATION

The Commune Council Elections are conducted under a system of proportional representation in which political parties are required to submit a list of candidates ranked in order of priority. Parties submitting lists must be registered at MoI in accordance with the Law on Political Parties. As a result, independent individuals cannot become candidates for the Commune Council Elections. Similarly, a political party created locally at the Commune level with the objective of presenting candidates in that specific Commune is only possible if it meets the requirements to register as a party (considered to be "national") at MoI. However, the 2007 Commune Council Elections witnessed small political parties duly registered as national parties presenting candidates in only one Commune, while others presented candidates in only nine, eleven and twelve Communes.

Earlier suggestions to change the electoral system of Commune Council Elections for a mixed one (partly proportional, partly uninominal) or to an open list system were briefly considered by the NEC, but were perceived as being too complex to be implemented in time for the 2007 elections.

In accordance with the electoral calendar, the lists of candidates were submitted at the office of the Commune Election Commission (CEC) from 1-3 January 2007. This short period is prescribed by law. To stand as a candidate, the person must be a Cambodian citizen by birth, at least 25-years-old,

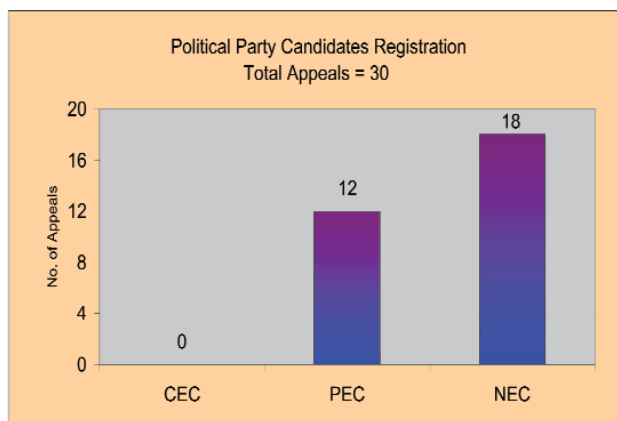
registered in the voting list of the Commune where he/she intends to stand as a candidate and know how to read and write in Khmer.

The list of candidates submitted by political parties must comprise twice the number of seats to be filled in any particular Commune/Sangkat. The lists of candidates submitted to the Commune Election Commission were posted for public scrutiny from 7 - 9 January 2007. Once the objection process was over, the results showed that 12 political parties had registered a total of 102,266 candidates in all 1,621 Communes/Sangkats.

The process went relatively well, in spite of the short time allowed to register. There was a great deal of tolerance among electoral officials to accept at the entry stage lists that were incomplete and without all required documents (especially photos), due to the fact that the regulations allowed these requirements to be fulfilled in the following days as long as everything was complete for the final acceptance date (in time to be publicly posted on 7 January). In addition, the NEC, supported by UNDP, had conducted an active information campaign in conjunction with the political parties and in the media to ensure that everyone was well aware of the procedure and the deadlines.

More Women Candidates Registered

It is significant to note that more women candidates registered for the 2007 Commune Council Elections than in 2002. Of the 102,266 registered candidates, 21,840 were women, which is 21.36 percent. This is an increase of five percent compared to the 2002 elections. In urban areas and especially in Phnom Penh, the number of female candidates was much higher: up to 35.08 percent in Phnom Penh.



6. ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Electoral campaigns are vital in any free and fair democratic electoral process. During this period, political parties and candidates canvassed to disseminate their political platforms. From observations and reports received so far, the 2007 Commune Council Election campaign was characterised by less violence and intimidation than previous elections in Cambodia.

The electoral campaign lasted for 15 days from 16 to 30 March 2007. Political parties were given the opportunity to disseminate their platforms, primarily at the grassroots level. Various mechanisms such as public meetings, speeches, parades, door-to-door visits, messages delivered through loudspeakers, signs, banners and posters were used by the political parties to convey messages to the electorate.

During that 15-day period, the NEC reported having received 96 reports of incidents of which 31 complaints were actually generated (see table below). These were resolved according to the procedure, either through conciliation at the CEC/Provincial Election Commission (PEC) level or through a hearing at the PEC and NEC levels. Only one case was appealed to the NEC and it was rejected. Many of the complaints related to instances of vandalism against party signs, quarrels over distribution of leaflets, scuffles between



Cambodia People's Party Campaign



FUNCINPEC Party Campaign



Norodom Rannariddh Party Campaign



Sam Rainsy Party Campaign

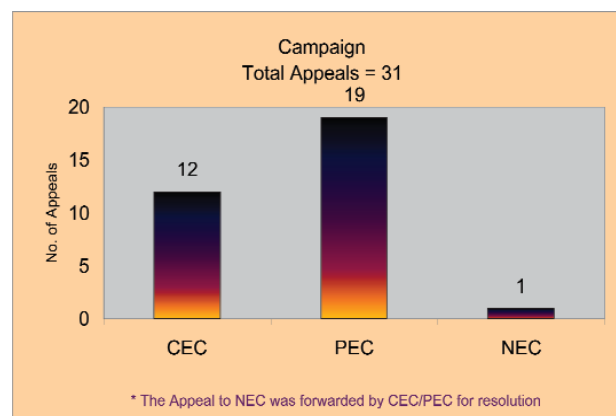
partisans, disagreement over parades, verbal threats and intimidation, etc. Putting the number of incidents and complaints in perspective, given that the number of candidates exceeded 102,000 throughout Cambodia, it would seem that freedom of campaigning had improved in comparison to previous elections.

The campaign period is still perceived as too short and many political parties (and even some electoral monitoring organizations) would like to see a complete ban on political activities before the campaign period. The NEC received some complaints of "campaigning before the scheduled date". What constitutes campaigning is clearly defined in the regulations. The NEC has expressed the view that it has no jurisdiction to limit or restrict freedom of political speech outside the campaign period. The NEC is, therefore, extremely reluctant to intervene to sanction political activities taking place before the official campaign period due to the fact that it would be perceived as an undue limitation on freedom of speech, which conflicts with legitimate political activities allowed by the Law on Political Parties (right to recruit members, right to hold assemblies, etc). However, clear breaches of the regulations relating to qualified campaigning activities taking place before the official start date should be investigated and cautiously sanctioned according to law.

Another issue is that of campaign finance. Looking forward to upcoming elections, therefore, UNDP proposes a debate to give all stakeholders the opportunity to discuss this issue. One possible outcome of such discussions might be that political parties disclose publicly their source of funding as well as all expenditures for electoral purposes. In a second step, control of political parties' expenditures for campaign could be envisaged in a future reform of the electoral framework.

Intimidation and Violence

In comparison to the 2002 Commune Council Elections, there was a decrease in the level of violence and intimidation. However a number of cases of such acts were reported. According to some human rights groups that monitored the electoral process, most of the cases that were investigated were not perceived as politically motivated. The reports noted that intimidation did happen, but in a very subtle way that was difficult to investigate. Most of these cases were said to have happened at the local/village level. They, however, ruled out any systematic persecution of the opposition during the Commune Council Elections.



7. ACCESS TO MEDIA

The principle of media access for political parties and candidates is recognized internationally as a prerequisite for free and fair elections. Voters need to be aware of their choices before casting their ballots. As such, freedom of expression and equitable media access were viewed as integral to the conduct of the 2007 Commune Council Elections. Unlike the 2002 Commune Council Elections, in which opposition parties were denied access to official media during the campaign period, the 2007 Commune Council Elections provided media coverage to all political parties on an equitable basis.

The Equity News Elections Bulletin provided the main access to television and radio news for political parties campaigning in the run-up to the Commune Council Elections. The Bulletin was the only programme covering the election campaign for TVK and the only television outlet in the country to broadcast election news daily.

The Equity News Elections Bulletin, which made its first appearance on TVK for the 2003 National Assembly Elections, was seen at the time as a breakthrough in Cambodian election broadcasting and set a number of precedents. It was the first time that all main political parties received balanced and impartial coverage on television and radio. It was the first time that opposition leaders were both seen and heard on the news explaining their platforms. It was the first time that the concept of equity was employed as a system of allocating airtime for political parties in the electronic media.

The Equity Programme is a UNDP-TVK media initiative providing independent and balanced news coverage on state-owned television channel TVK. The initiative includes:

- I. Equity News - an elections bulletin covering the 2007 Commune Council Elections and the forthcoming 2008 National Assembly Elections campaigns.
- II. Equity Weekly - a programme designed to educate citizens about current affairs that started broadcasting on 20 May 2007

The purpose of Equity News

The purpose of this project is to help develop a culture of democracy in Cambodia. The free flow of information between the public and government, the electorate and political parties, the viewer and television is at the heart of efforts to strengthen democratic values. Elections come under particular public scrutiny and require an obligation from state media channels to be more than usually sensitive to balanced and fair coverage. Equity Elections News makes clear its public service commitment in providing voters and political parties with appropriate election coverage. Its modus operandi is open and transparent and encourages greater interaction.



MoU being signed between UNDP and Ministry of Information

Preparation Stage

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the MoI and UNDP on 26 February 2007 to mark the resumption of Equity News and the launch of Equity Weekly. Equity News staff consists of 16 TVK staff members (journalists, cameramen, editors, and presenters); and four experts (a UNDP media adviser and project manager, a production manager and a journalist coordinator). The EU supplemented the project by providing a TV journalism trainer.

A seven-day training course took place for the entire staff, in which core journalism and production skills were discussed, including technical aspects, interview techniques and media ethics. The rest of the time was spent on intensive preparation of the election newscasts, scheduling, coordinating

production during the election campaign, and organization of travel destinations and topics. A fair representation was made of the 1,621 Communes, which clearly reflected the landscape of the country.

Elections News Coverage

The Equity News Programme was already familiar to electoral stakeholders monitoring the results of its coverage and to the audience, many of whom had provided positive feedback.

According to all available sources, Equity News was widely watched during the Commune Council Elections campaign. Equity News produced 12 shows that aired at 7:30 PM, after TVK's local news, during the campaign period from 16-30 March 2007. Each show lasted between 15 and 23 minutes. Taking into account that Equity News was rebroadcast on TVK in the mornings as well, the election news received a total of seven hours 33 minutes (453 minutes) airtime. The soundtrack of Equity News was also aired by state radio channels RNK and FM96 and was repeated, adding an extra six hours and eight minutes of coverage. In total over 13 hours of election news were broadcast in the run-up to voting day. This gave Cambodian voters wide opportunity to view and listen to the campaign and to receive information about political parties and their activities.

The Test of Impartiality

The distinctive feature of Equity News is to provide percentages of airtime on an equitable basis to all political parties, ensuring balanced and impartial coverage of the election campaign.

The formula used to determine percentage of airtime to be allotted to each party is made public to ensure transparency and to inspire confidence in the impartiality of the programme. Electoral stakeholders and ordinary people can monitor the airtimes and ascertain for themselves whether the programme's formula is upheld.

For the 2007 Commune Council Elections, the Equity News formula took into account the number of valid votes and seats won in the 2002 Commune Council Elections and the number of Communes where party lists had been submitted in the 2007 elections. Factors such as the advantages of incumbency and the need to encourage opposition and emerging parties were also considered. The full calculation of the formula was posted on the programme's website: www.equitycam.tv.

The airtime percentages proposed by UNDP and TVK were endorsed by the NEC. A comparison between the set formula and the actual results achieved after the 15-day campaign period shows an internationally acceptable tolerance, within a 2-3 percent +/- margin of error.

Political Party	Set % of Air Time	Actual % of Broadcast Air Time
CPP	38	36.19
FUNCINPEC	20	18.65
SRP	21	19.46
NRP	11	13.72
Other Parties	10	12
Total	100	102

For a number of reasons, the NRP benefited from a number of newsworthy events that tipped their percentage of airtime too high.

However, the loss of airtime percentage for the other three main parties was minimal.

Smaller parties were given additional airtime and all received adequate coverage in accordance with their actual size. In total, smaller parties received an extra two percent of total airtime.

Production of the Election Dailies

Four TV crews travelled throughout the country following the political parties' campaign trail, sometimes in remote communities in Rattanakiri and Mondulkiri.

In the 12 shows, over 50 TV magazine pieces were produced, each between two and seven minutes, covering at least one Commune in every province of the country.

The programmes were divided into political and non-political airtime. Out of the total of about eight hours, at least four and a half hours were devoted to purely political broadcasting consisting of campaign rallies, meetings and speeches, as well as interviews with leaders, candidates and voters on platforms and activities.

Numerous themes were developed using citizen interest as the main focus of the magazine pieces. The coverage put Commune interests to the fore and since the Equity News teams were able to travel and cover the entire nation they were able to raise issues specific to different regions.

The rest of the time went to election-related news and issues pertinent to the elections, including the problem of illiteracy, the specific interests of Muslim voters, the impact of decentralization on Communes five years after implementation, the difficulties for the NRP of campaigning with a leader in absentia and so on.



Equity Staff and other Members of the Press

Vox pops was encouraged - interviews with ordinary citizens on the streets or in rural environments - as was feedback from the audience through SMS, email and the website.

A clip from the NEC with public service tips aimed at informing voters about election procedures was a daily feature.

A new face to the initiative: the Equity Website

As interaction with the audience was essential, the project also developed a website where images from the shows could be seen. Each show received its own web page

The website is in both Khmer and English and will be built up further in the coming months with the uploading of the Equity Weekly shows.

The website acts as a learning tool as well as an archive documenting newsworthy events. It contains the Equity Programme's Code of Conduct, relevant Cambodian laws and guidelines, descriptions and clarifications of the programme's principles. Electoral stakeholders and interested parties could also be informed of the progress of the programmes. For instance, the percentage formula achieved and expected was updated daily, revealing the evolution of the airtime allotment and increasing the credibility of the equity concept. More information about the programme can be found in its website: www.equitycam.tv.

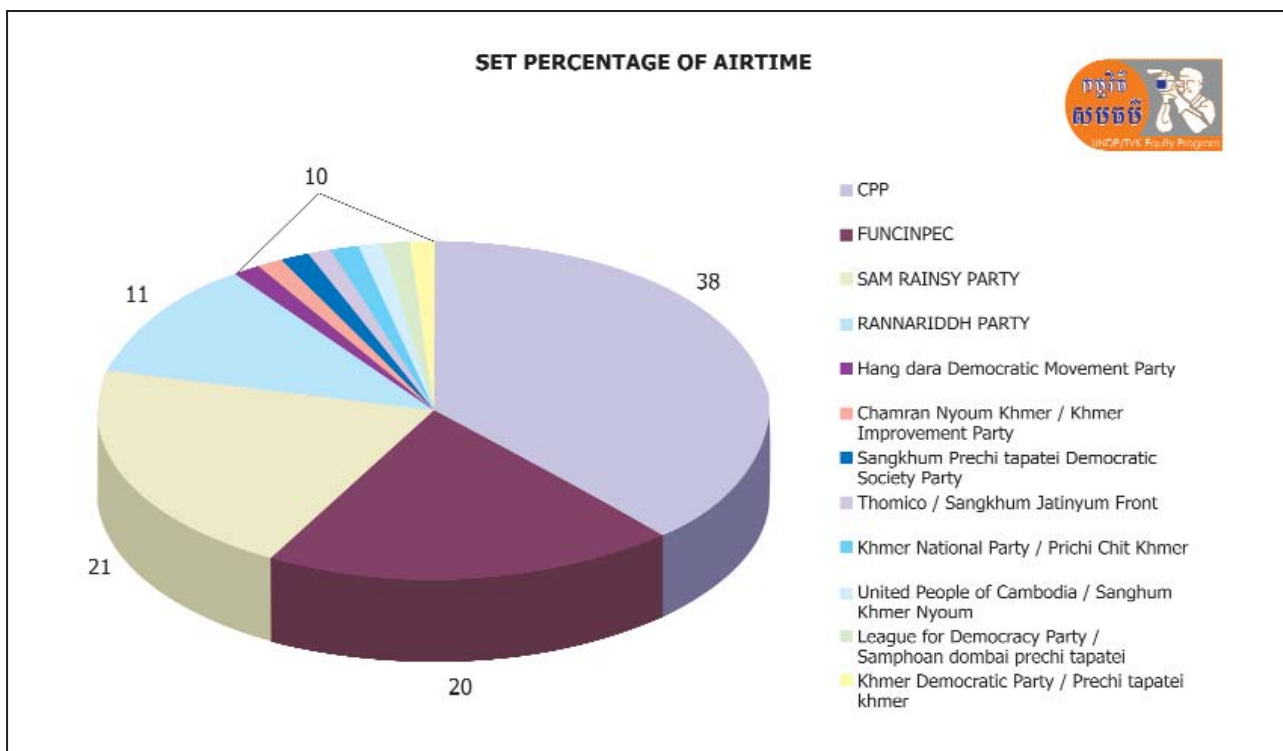
Radio Broadcast of Candidate Debates

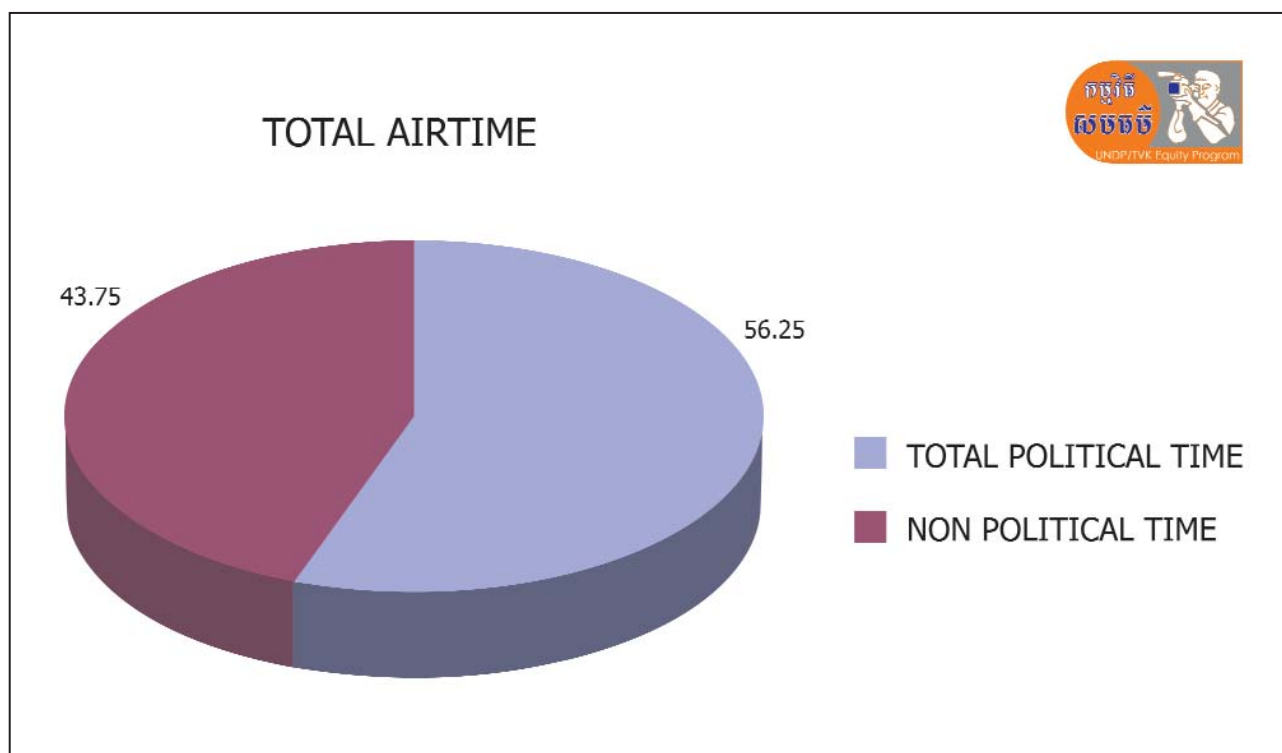
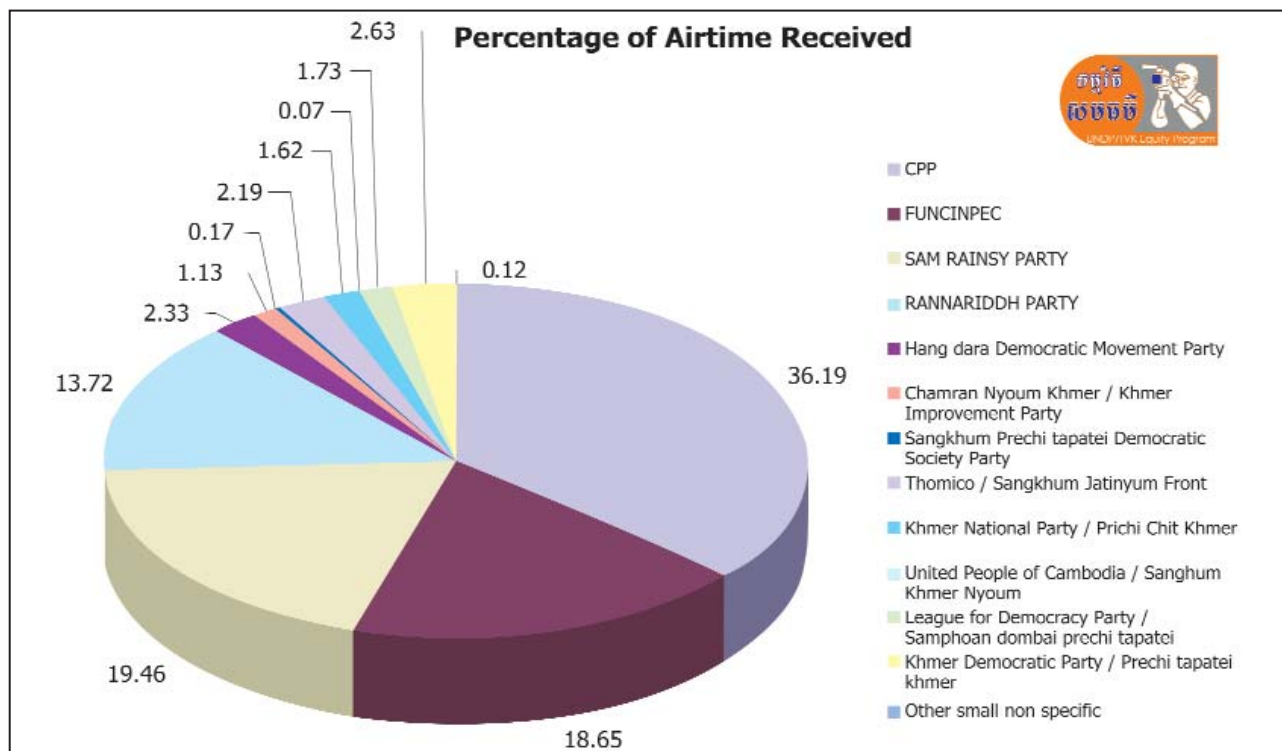
During the Commune Council Elections, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) organized and provided coverage of 31 candidate debates in 30 Communes spread across ten Provinces. The selection of Communes was done in compliance with the directive of the NEC to ensure the inclusion of all 12 political parties running for the 2007 Commune Council Elections. All 12 parties were invited to participate in the candidate debates programme in an equitable and proportional manner consistent with the percentage of the number of Communes in which each party ran. Another key consideration was to target Communes where political parties ranked women candidates on top of their list in order to provide the women candidates with more opportunities to expose themselves to the public in the political arena.

During the 15-day campaign period, the candidate debates were broadcast on three national radio stations, namely Beehive FM 105, FM 93.5 and

Angkor Ratha FM 95.5 in Siem Reap, and one international (Washington based) radio station, Radio Free Asia (RFA), reaching a wide audience throughout the country and RFA's coverage also brought the debates to Khmer citizens who live abroad. In addition, other local radio stations and Washington based Voice of America (VOA) and many local and international newspapers such as the Cambodia Daily, Phnom Penh Post, Cambodge Soir, Koh Santepheap Daily, the Voice of Khmer Youth, Reach Seima and Rasmey Kampuchea Daily reported on the candidate debate programmes.

The broadcast of these debates on national radio helped to foster the concept of equitable access to the media by political parties. It also provided a fair opportunity to candidates/parties to share their political platforms with the public, thus assisting the electorate to make an informed decision on polling day.





8. CIVIC/VOTER EDUCATION

Effective civic/voter education is another critical election component enabling voters to exercise their franchise in an electoral process. Right from the initial stages of the 2007 Commune Council Election, the NEC embarked on a vigorous civic/voter education campaign in order to get

maximum participation from the citizens. Owing to the fact that the NEC has different target groups, the NEC adopted diversified strategies to reach these groups. Below is a summary of those strategies and how they were utilized during the various activities of the electoral programme.

Checking Name List and Voter Registration

A number of programmes were designed to motivate Cambodians to participate in this important exercise. Five action songs, five video spots and four radio spots were produced. The core theme in all of these initiatives was the need and importance of people verifying their voter information and they also encouraged those who have reached the age of 18 to register. The video spots were broadcast on five TV stations including:

- TVK
- Bayon Television
- Municipal TV Station
- CTN
- Apsara

The radio spots and songs were aired on six radio stations including:

- National Radio Station
- FM 95 MHz
- FM 96 MHz
- FM 97 MHz
- FM 99 MHz
- FM 103 MHz

Additionally, the NEC distributed cassettes of radio spots to all Provinces and Municipalities for broadcasting, and issued instructions to all Communes/Sangkats to broadcast the cassettes through mobile loudspeakers from 30 September-7 October 2006.



A Motorbike Carrying Voter Education Messages

To complement this exercise, a total of 4,867 banners of two different sizes were produced and distributed across the 24 Provinces to educate people and invite them to check their names or to register from 1-20 October 2006. 164,000 posters of two different sizes were also printed. One was

an invitation to registered voters to check their details and encouraged eligible Cambodians to register. The other poster clearly specified the documents which could be used for registration. 163,000 leaflets with similar messages were printed and distributed. A mobile team was hired for three days in all 1,621 Communes/Sangkats and were provided with loudspeakers to disseminate the message.

Polling and Counting

Experience in the Cambodian democratic system has shown that it is easy to convey electoral messages through video and radio spots. In view of this, the NEC produced three short video spots, three short radio spots and four dynamic songs that significantly appealed to the electorate. All of these spots were broadcast on six TV stations and nine radio stations at pre-arranged dates and times. Peak periods in both radio and TV programming were taken into account.

In addition, the NEC distributed these spots to each Province for radio and TV broadcast at the local level. The spots were broadcast from 12 March-1 April 2007. Furthermore, like during the registration period, mobile teams with loudspeakers were hired for three days (30 March-1 April) in each Commune/Sangkat to disseminate the messages.



A Selection of NEC Posters

A total of 3,490 colourful banners were also distributed across the country for public display. The core message on these banners was an invitation to all eligible Cambodians to come out and vote on 1 April 2007. 32,500 posters showing valid identity documents that could be used on polling day were produced and distributed. A clear understanding of which documents were valid on polling day was critical to the voting process due to the cancellation of all previous

voter identity cards by the NEC. 32,500 anti-violence posters were produced and 163,000 leaflets containing basic facts about polling and counting were distributed to all Provinces and Communes. Political parties and NGOs also served as channels to disseminate vital civic/voter information.

Realizing the importance of disseminating core electoral messages to every part of the country, the multi-donor project supported and produced 30,000 copies of large and small posters on identification documents and anti-violence; 68,550 copies of leaflets and 28,900 copies of posters on Invalid ballot samples were also produced.


UNDP through the project also funded the production of a ten-minute video spot titled **"Vote? Me!"** to educate the electorate on the need to vote on Election Day. The video spot was given to five TV stations for regular broadcast. Although there was a drop in voter turnout (67.8 percent) compared to 2002 (87.5 percent), it is worth noting that there was a reduction in the number of ballots declared invalid compared to 2002 (3.8 percent in 2002 and 2.2 percent in 2007). This may largely be a result of the effective voter education campaign undertaken for the 2007 Commune Council Elections.



Additionally, in view of the requests received from both the NEC and from one political party, UNDP agreed, on an ad hoc basis, to support the process of information dissemination to political parties. Funding was provided for the printing of additional NEC manuals to be distributed to political parties (in particular, over 14,000 copies of the Polling Station Commission (PSC) Manual and lesser number of the CEC and PEC Manuals). Furthermore, copies of the Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Candidates, Party Agents and Election Officials were printed and distributed by NEC to all political parties.

Voter Information Notice

During the 2007 Commune Council Elections, the NEC undertook two distributions of voter information notices. The first was conducted in August and September 2006, prior to the voter registration period. The notice contained relevant personal information and voters were required to check for accuracy. The notice also emphasized the crucial message that previous voters' cards would no longer be accepted for registering voters.

 National Election Committee		Voter Information Notice	
<i>This slip cannot be used to substitute your own identity document. The Commune Council Election will be on April 1st, 2006.</i>			
Name:			Sex:
Address:			Serial No. on List:
Date of Birth:			Station Code:
Location of Station:			Province/Municipality:
Commune/Sangkat:			
<i>Please check your name and data on the other side of this slip to ensure that they are the same as your name and detail written on the identity document to vote on the polling day.</i>			
Please bring any valid identity document to vote in the coming election such as:			
- Khmer Citizenship ID Card	- Civil Servant ID Card		
- National Police ID Card	- RCAF ID Card		
- ID Card Issued by Ministry	- Family Book with Photo	- Passport	
- Monk ID for Moha Sect	- Monk ID for Dharma Yutikak Sect		
Document Certifying Identity, Age, and Residence in the Commune Sangkat with photo (Form 1018)			
Note: Voter cards for 1993, 1998 and 2002 elections are no longer allowed for voting.			
Front and Back of Voter Information Notice			

Despite the positive impact of the voter information campaign on the registration process, it raised several issues among the political parties and local observer groups. Entrusting the distribution of voter information notices solely to Village Chiefs and their subordinates, even if supervised by their Commune Councils, proved to be controversial and led to numerous allegations that the Village Chiefs did not distribute the voter information notices fairly, omitting citizens from other parties as Village Chiefs are mostly members of the ruling party.

The NEC, learning from this experience, looked at ways to improve the second distribution of voter information notices prior to polling. In a bid to ensure transparency, the NEC secured the participation of NGOs as partners in a broader distribution team (NEC/NGO/Village Chief) with much clearer terms of reference. The improved notice showed the number and location of the voter's polling station, the day and time of voting and the ID documents required on Election Day.

In spite of the advances made in the second distribution, it still created confusion at certain levels. Some voters believed that without the voter information notice, they were not entitled to vote, while others saw the notice as a replacement for a valid ID document to be used on Election Day. It was also reported that in some polling

stations the information on the notice did not correspond with the details on the voters' register, mainly because some voters mistook the first voter information notice for registration to vote as both notices were of the same colour.

As a result, if the NEC undertakes a similar exercise, a proper information campaign using both the traditional vehicles and electronic media should support the dissemination of such information to voters.

9. TRAINING OF ELECTORAL OFFICIALS

An effective training programme has always been a vital component for the successful conduct of any electoral process. The NEC has experimented with various training options in the conduct of previous elections. The outcome has been the choice of a cascaded format in the implementation of its training programmes for officials of the 2007 Commune Council Elections. It is worth mentioning that this approach proved very effective, as was reflected in the post-election observers' statements. Most of these report/statements highly commended the polling officials as being competent and knowledgeable in implementing the electoral procedures.

The Training Department of the NEC consisted of a Director and 12 other staff members. Realizing the enormity of the task in relation to their staff strength, the department decided to recruit 24 Master Trainers who played a vital role in the implementation of the cascaded training format. The overall strategy of the department was to train these Master Trainers in every phase of the electoral process, and they in turn trained the PEC



NEC Training Programme

members who then trained the CEC. The CEC eventually trained officials at the lower cadre for any specific activity. For a consolidated summary of training programmes implemented by the department see annex 13 at the end of the report.

Training Materials produced by the department include:

- Manuals for Provincial Election Commission
- Manuals for Commune Election Commission
- Manuals for Polling Station and Ballot Counting Commissions
- Aide-memoir for Polling Station and Ballot Counting Commissions
- Code of Conduct for Election Observers
- Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Candidates and Political Party Agents
- Code of Conduct for Security personnel
- Manual on Complaint Resolution
- Directive on confirmation of Candidate Name in Election List

It was realized that the capacity of the department has been greatly enhanced compared to 2002. Unlike 2002 when most of the posters, banners and manuals were developed with much international assistance, in 2007 there was a significant shift which saw the NEC training department taking the lead in most of these initiatives. This proved that given the right environment and technical support geared towards effective capacity building, the NEC should be able to conduct its own affairs in subsequent elections.

It is worth mentioning that for the first time in Cambodia, a video-based training was implemented to complement the general training being administered to election officials. This initiative was funded and supported by UNDP and it proved very useful in ensuring consistency in adhering to the procedures/guidelines on polling day. The DVDs/VCDs entitled "**Free, Fair and Transparent Elections**" were distributed to every level of electoral official including the polling station personnel. A clear reflection of the impact of this was seen in the accuracy of the results computed from polling station level and fewer challenges resulting from procedural errors emerging after the polls. The fact that this training video was shown on national TV stations not only helped the polling officials, but also promoted public understanding of the voting process. This approach further enhanced the transparency of the process and built public confidence in the elections.



Training Video for Electoral Staff

The NEC Training Department and their counterparts from UNDP effectively monitored every phase of the training programme. Monitoring was carried out from the PEC level down to the training of registration and polling officials. It was generally observed that during this monitoring, officials conducting the training were well prepared and the venues well suited to the purpose. Training teams were centrally determined by the department and kept at a number that would ensure an effective learning process.

Based on feedback received during monitoring of election officials training, it is recommended that the NEC continue to use the video-based training approach to complement the general training, particularly for poll workers. It is anticipated that during the NEC post-election assessment workshop, the Training department received inputs from members in the field on how to further improve this initiative.

10. LEGAL ISSUES

UNDP, through the Elections Project, provided legal assistance to the NEC. This support was mainly geared towards strengthening the capacity of the NEC Legal Department in managing the Complaints and Appeals process and also in the development of essential legal documents. These documents formed the basis for writing electoral procedures and guidelines for the Commune Council Elections.

Training on Complaints and Appeals

Training on the Complaints and Appeals process designed for political parties was conducted on 26 March 2007. This half-day seminar focused

specifically on the complaint process for polling day and the counting process. Documents and materials such as the NEC's "Manual on Complaint Procedure for the 2007 Elections", the NEC produced video on the complaint process, complaints forms and posters showing invalid ballots were distributed. 36 participants from nine political parties attended the training. The electoral monitoring organizations the Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (COMFREL) and the Neutral and Impartial Committee for Elections in Cambodia (NICFEC) also participated. To a very large extent, this seminar elucidated the process of lodging complaints that had presumably been misunderstood by parties and observers.

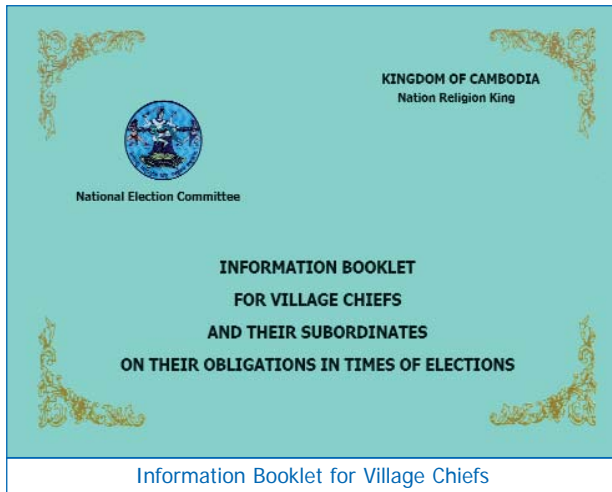
Information Booklet for Village Chiefs

In previous Cambodian elections, there has been controversy over the role of Village Chiefs. The problem has been documented in UNDP's previous reports and raised by most election observation missions, both national and international. UNDP had attempted both in 2002 and 2003 to have a Code of Conduct enacted by the RGC to compel Village Chiefs to maintain some political neutrality in political matters, especially at the time of elections. These efforts failed in both previous elections. A joint directive from MOI/NEC to that effect was nevertheless adopted in June 2003, but late timing, poor distribution and the complexity of its administrative language made it practically ineffective.

Cognizant of the above, the NEC, with guidance and support from UNDP, undertook the production of an "Information Booklet" that detailed the duties and obligations of Village Chiefs and their subordinates insofar as the electoral process was concerned. This booklet was written in very simple terms with appropriate illustrations. Binding principles and sanctions were nonetheless clearly pointed out in this booklet. Notably, the NEC adopted this document without the involvement of the Mol that would have otherwise complicated the process.

This NEC/UNDP Booklet was welcomed by political parties and electoral monitoring organizations. It helped to tackle the tendency of Village Chiefs toward obvious partisanship and managed to "neutralize" most of the misconduct they were associated with in previous elections. Notwithstanding this improvement, there is still a lot to be done to address the partisan behaviour of Village Chiefs and their Subordinates.

The "Information Booklet for Village Chiefs on Obligations in Times of Elections" is regarded as a breakthrough in its main objective to achieve a more neutral stance from these important local actors. The efficacy of the booklet is due not only to the fact that it may have reached those to whom it was directed, but more so because it became a very public document shared by everyone, especially the political parties and local observers. This notoriety has put compelling pressure on the Village Chiefs to behave accordingly.



MOI/NEC Directive to Village Chiefs

A factor that compounded the difficulty of the role of Village Chiefs in the 2007 Commune Council Elections was an unexpected joint directive from the MoI and the NEC which may have created the impression that Village Chiefs or their subordinates were completely released from their duties and obligations if they were "on leave". This directive generated much discontent among political stakeholders because it had the potential to legally reinstate Village Chiefs as political activists. (and ignore the prescriptions of the booklet) simply by obtaining an "authorized leave" from their Commune Council. This joint directive will certainly have to be revisited before the 2008 elections to avoid damaging the NEC's image and to further improve the climate of peace and freedom around polling stations on Election Day.

Notes on Access to Media

Realizing the lack of clarity in the LECC on access to media, the NEC with support from UNDP embarked on the development of some explicit notes that would clarify the NEC's limitations on the above subject as contained in the LECC. This document was also prepared against the backdrop of criticisms received from political parties on the limitations on their access to the

media during the 2002 Commune Council Elections.

To address some of these concerns, UNDP proffered a three-pronged approach similar to that adopted during the 2003 National Elections. They included:

1. giving equal access to political parties on state media,
2. allowing debates on state or private media, and
3. launching a public affairs programme inspired by Equity News.

Despite the advances made in access to media during the 2007 Commune Council Elections, it should be recognized that it was based on the goodwill of the State media. There is no guarantee that they will extent the same media access to future Commune Council Elections.

For this reason it is recommended that such equal access programmes be enshrined in the legislation through an amendment of the LECC. It would be appropriate that free and equal access to the media for the Commune Council Elections be similar to that granted for the National Elections. This addition to the LECC would have to match the terminology of art. 75 of the LEMNA. It is, therefore, suggested that the LECC be amended by adding the following paragraph to article 82:

"The NEC shall direct proper measures to publicize political messages at the request of political parties having candidates in the election, based on equal and orderly access to the media".

11. PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Public Information Bureau (PIB) of the NEC is a sub-department belonging to the wider Training and Public Information department and is officially in charge of public information dissemination regarding the election process as well as media monitoring, especially during the campaign period. The PIB's tasks consist mainly in publicizing official statements through press releases and writing reports on official activities to be inserted in a 16-page fortnightly Bulletin. This publication is distributed mainly to election offices around the country rather than to a general audience. The PIB also produced a weekly programme that was broadcast on national radio and TV and a daily free access programme for political parties during the electoral campaign.

Most of the press releases produced by the PIB report simply factual information without trying to provide analysis, perspective or even comments. When covering NEC press conferences, PIB tend to pay little attention to issues raised by independent journalists. Interviews were also infrequent, but that's common for all Khmer-language newspapers. Another factor that has slowed down the productivity of the PIB is the excessive bureaucracy in approving publications. There is a definite need to review the approval process. The reporting line should be clarified with a view of simplifying it. A review of the Bulletin's usefulness should also be conducted. A large amount of the PIB's budget is devoted to this publication, both for printing expenses and staff salaries. In its current configuration, the Bulletin appears largely institutional, targeting only election staff rather than a general audience. It would be useful to revamp its content in order to enlarge its audience.

Information Sharing with Political Parties and other Stakeholders

Another mechanism utilized by the NEC as a tool for public information and consultation was the Conflict Prevention in Cambodian elections (COPCEL) meetings organized by CDRI and funded by UNDP multi-donor support project. These monthly meetings became a platform for participants to exchange views, discuss problems, disseminate information and provide first-hand answers on a regular basis.



NEC Meeting with Political Parties and other Stakeholders

These meeting also provided a neutral space and healthy forum in the wake of the 2007 Elections. This forum was used by NEC to conduct its consultation process on the renewed electoral regulations, allowing stakeholders to make useful contributions to the draft regulations. Many comments and recommendations were taken into account by the NEC and integrated into the final

text of the regulations before their adoption by the NEC. This is a tangible improvement over 2002 when NEC regulations were adopted without consultation. These meetings were also replicated at the provincial level and contributed to a climate of exchange and mutual understanding between actors who rarely meet at that level.

12. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

In May 2006, the NEC completed a Master Plan for the Commune Council Elections 2007 which was submitted to the RGC to solicit funding. In response, the RGC held a high-level Donors Conference in June 2006 requesting that the international donor community support the 2007 Commune Council Elections by providing 50 percent of the cost. In that same meeting, RGC asked UNDP to coordinate resource mobilization for the 2007 Commune Council Elections.

As a follow-up to the above, UNDP initiated monthly donor information sharing meetings, jointly chaired by NEC/UNDP. During these meetings, NEC provided updates and donor partners indicated their interest in funding the Commune Council Elections. This platform also served as forum in which the development partners requested additional information/clarification from the NEC. As a demonstration of their commitment, the countries listed in the table below made the following contributions as indicated.

The total budget amounted to US\$13 million, which was US\$2 million lower than the 2002 budget. As stated earlier, it was envisaged that the RGC and the international donors would share the budget on a 50/50 basis. However, the RGC had to step in to cover a budgetary shortfall of US\$1 million in order to allow the NEC to fully implement its plans for the 2007 elections. The financial commitment demonstrated by the RGC to ensure that the 2007 elections would take place was very encouraging. It is indicative that the RGC is gradually departing from donor dependence in the conduct of its elections.

UNDP being the custodian of the funds provided by the international donors (Canada, Sweden and Australia) ensured that funds remitted to the NEC complied with international financial standards and regulations. This approach ensured transparency and accountability in the management and disbursement of funds. UNDP, in agreement with the contributing countries, channelled donor funds to specific activities

associated with the actual conduct of the Commune Council Elections. For instance, during the registration phase, funds were disbursed to the NEC to support training, civic education/public information, and the registration and revision of voters' lists. Financial support was also given in areas such as legal services and dispute

resolution training, civic education/public information, training and office supplies/operations during the election phase.

Comprehensive financial reports reflecting income and expenditures for the 2007 Commune Council Elections have been prepared for UNDP by the NEC to be shared with contributing countries.

2007 Commune Council Elections Funding			
Country	Amount Contributed	Equivalent in USD	Funds transferred to NEC for 2007 CCE
Canada	CDN \$ 1,000,000	862,068.97	Through UNDP
Sweden	SEK 4,000,000	573,888.00	Through UNDP
Australia	AUS \$ 500,000	387,596.90	Through UNDP
Japan	—————	2,964,989.35	Direct to NEC
China	—————	667,445.00	Direct to NEC (In kind)
TOTAL		5,455,988	

Calendar of the Commune Council Elections 2007

Tasks to Perform	Date
Posting of list of locations of polling stations and registration stations	21-Sep-06
Posting of last voter list (2005 voter list)	29-Sep-06
Start of voter list revision and voter registration	1-Oct-06
End of voter list revision and voter registration	20-Oct-06
Posting of temporary list if no complaint- or after resolving complaints	24 Oct - 27 Nov 06
Validation and announcement of official voter list	31-Dec-06
Posting of locations of polling stations at Commune Election Commissions (CEC)	31-Dec-06
Receipt of applications to register political parties ' candidates	1-3 January 07
CECs' decision on applications to register political parties' candidates	10 January 07
Posting of temporary list of candidates at CECs	4 February 07
Posting of official candidate list at CECs	13 February 07
Electoral campaign	16-30 March 07
Posting of voter list at polling stations and at CECs	31-Mar-07
Polling and Ballot Counting	1-Apr-07
Check and consolidate temporary results for 3 days at CECs	2-4 April 07
3 days to make objections against temporary results at CECs to PECs	7 April 07
Provincial Election Commissions' decisions on objections -5 days	12 April 07
Appeals against PECs' decision lodged to NEC- 4 days	19 April 07
NECs' decision on appeals -4 days	23 April 07
Announcement of official results of election	24 April 07
Re-election	23 April 07

13. ELECTION DAY AND COUNTING

Reports from both national and international observers have indicated that the 2007 Commune Council Elections were orderly and were conducted in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity. According to the NEC, all 14,428 polling stations opened in 1,621 Communes. They were opened and operated uninterrupted until the close of polls at 3:00 PM, which was an indication of the peaceful nature of the polls. The NEC put in place specific measures in the run-up to the 1 April elections to make this happen.



A Monk being Issued a Ballot Paper

For instance, the NEC took a decision to increase the number of poll officials from five in 2002 to six in 2007. This had a direct impact on the quality and efficiency of the voting process. As a consequence of this increase, 86,568 temporary poll workers were recruited to administer the polls in 14,428 polling stations. Cardinal to the recruitment process was an element of gender balance which was initiated by an instruction from the NEC to recruit women candidates as well as people from ethnic minorities. As a result, 28,738 women were recruited as electoral staff from a total of 95,451 (PEC, CEC and PSC). This represents 30 percent of the electoral workforce on polling day and a significant improvement on the 2002 figures.

Unlike 2002, polling was said to have been conducted in a smooth and orderly fashion without having voters stand in queues for a very long time. However, two major concerns that emerged from the voting process were the misunderstanding by some voters about the voter information notice and the presence of Village Chiefs in the vicinity of the polling station.

While some voters took the old registration notice instead of the new one, others interpreted the voter information notice as a substitute for a valid identity document. Additionally, some observer groups have asserted that a number of voters who did not receive their information notices concluded that they were not eligible to vote and, therefore, stayed home.

There were a number of complaints from many sources regarding the unjustified presence of Village Chiefs or Commune Council officials in the vicinity of polling stations. Sensitivities run high in Cambodia when it comes to the influence of Village Chiefs and their subordinates. Often perceived as agents of the ruling party by many, it is likely that their uncontrolled ubiquitous presence on polling day created undeniable discontent for opposition candidates and observers alike.

In an attempt to improve on the above, it is suggested to further refine the guidelines addressed to Village Chiefs through the information booklet. Indeed, the current booklet did not provide any guidelines to Village Chiefs or their subordinates regarding polling day, which was an oversight.

At the close of the polls on 1 April, ballot counting took place at the polling station level and this enhanced the transparency of the process. Results declared at each polling station were displayed for public viewing and copies were taken to the respective CEC offices for a review and computation of preliminary results for each Commune. The compiled results were then moved to the PEC offices for the allocation of preliminary seats. Final seat allocations to political parties were certified by the NEC.



Vote Counting Keenly Followed by Party Agents & Observers

Voter turnout in the 2007 Commune Council Elections tend to be lower than for previous elections. NEC has mainly attributed this low turnout to duplicate names in the voters' register, which they intend to tackle in a proposed cleaning of the voters' register before the end of the year. Observers have also quoted the misconception of the voter information notice and the complex NEC procedures as reasons for the low turnout. In the midst of the low voter turnout, it is worth noting that in the 2007 elections, there was a reduction in the number of invalid ballots - 2.2 percent (representing 116,458 ballots) compared to 2002 when it was 3.8 percent (representing 171,125 ballots). Various arguments have been advanced to explain the reasons for this reduction in invalid ballots. They range from effective training and administration of the polls by election officials, intense civic/voter education and the decision by the NEC to simplify the design of the ballot paper.



Voters in Queue on Election Day



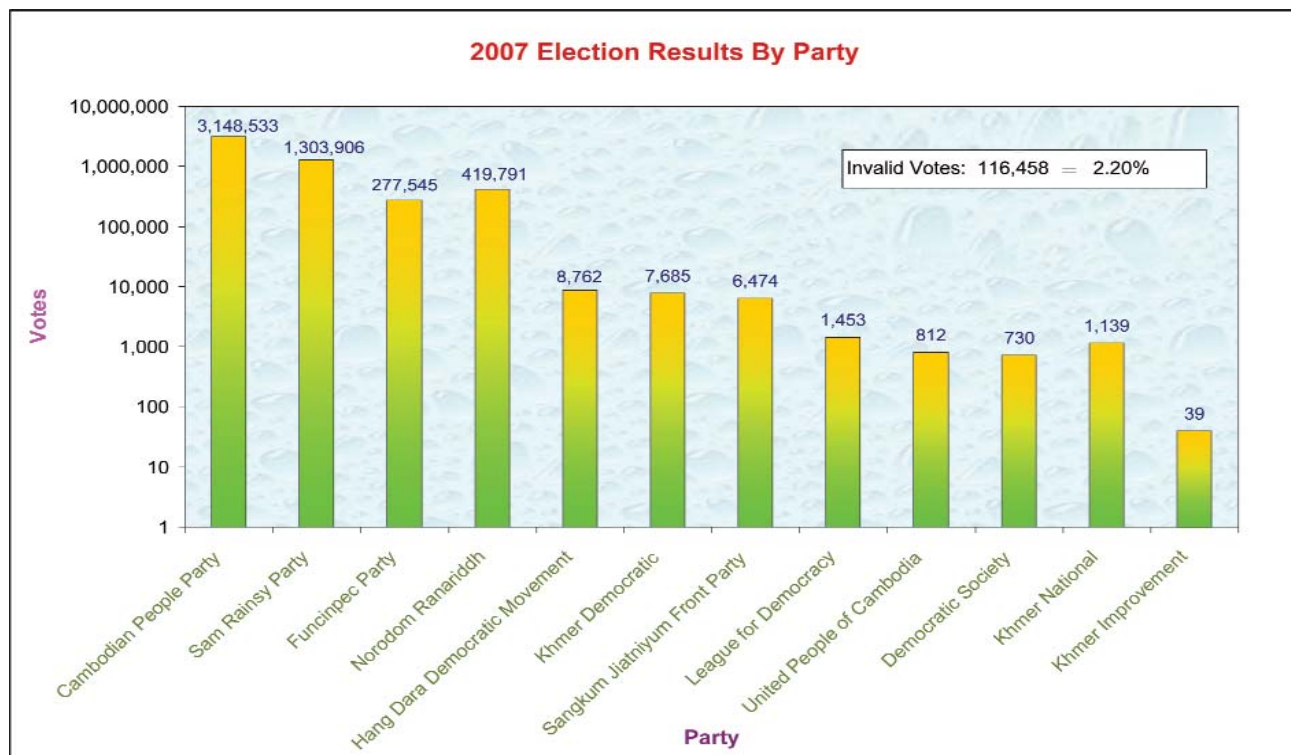
Casting Vote

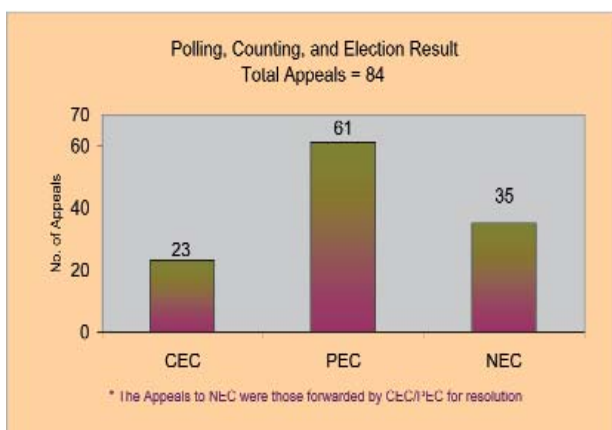
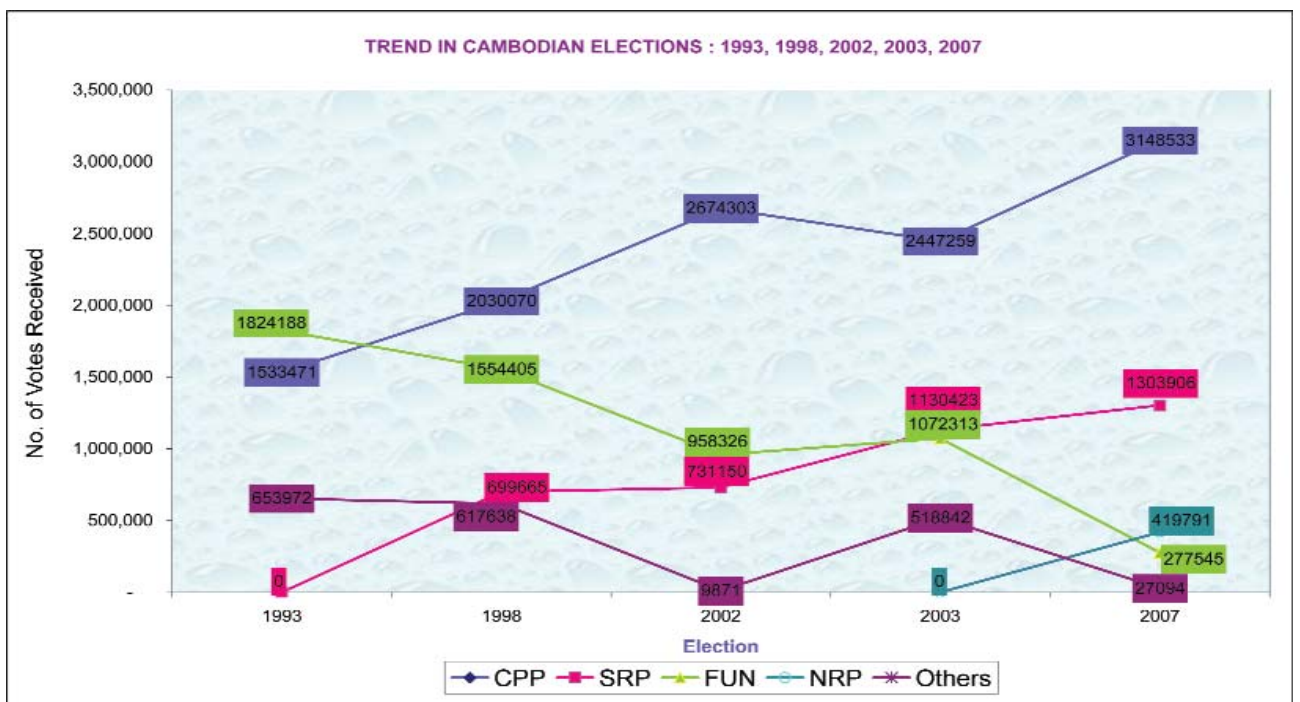
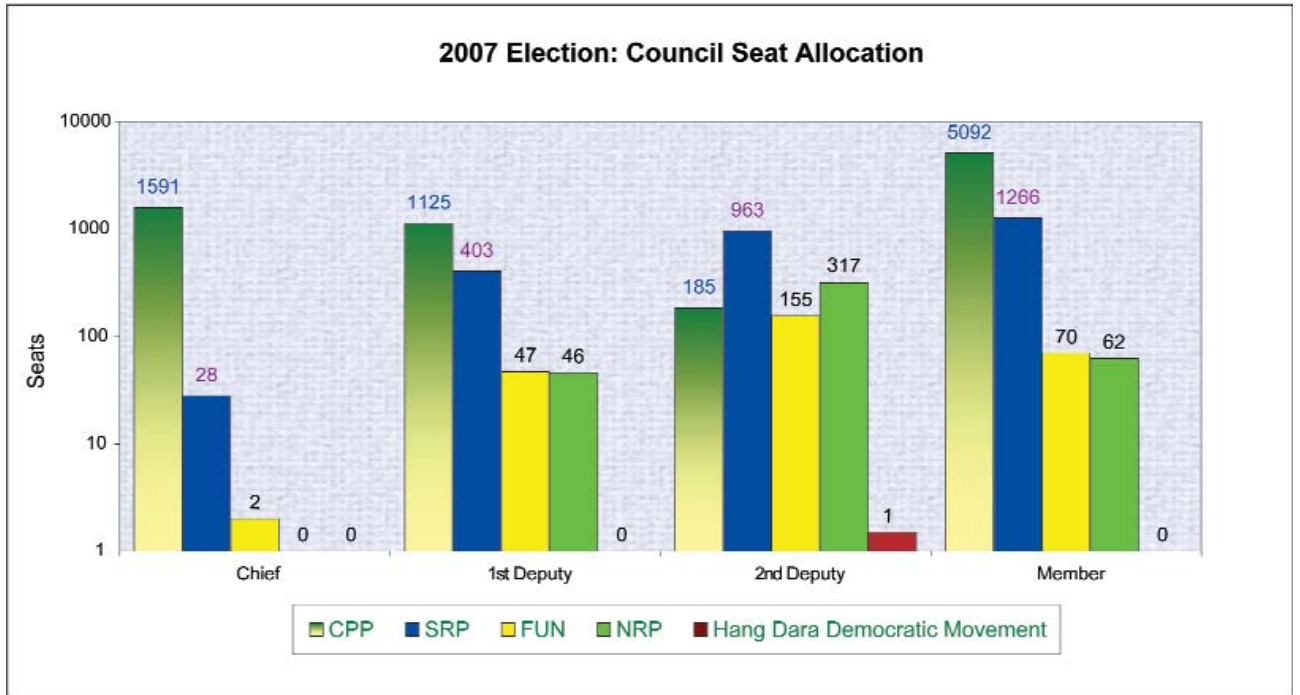
14. ELECTION RESULTS

The NEC was able to declare the final results of the Commune Council Elections on 24 April 2007, as stipulated in its electoral calendar. Below are the official results followed by some analytical tables and charts.

From a gender perspective, it is important to note that the 2007 Commune Council Election results

reflect a significant increase in the number of elected women. Of the total of 11,353 seats contested, 1,662 seats were won by women. This represents 14.6 percent of the total seats in Commune Councils, which is a substantial increase over 2002 when only 8.7 percent of the seats were won by women.





15. ELECTION OBSERVATION

The number of domestic and international observers in 2007 declined in comparison to the 2002 Commune Council Elections. 19,121 national observers were deployed on Election Day and 254 international observers from 13 embassies, 12 NGOs and the UNCOHCHR. All of these observers went through an NEC accreditation process. Unlike 2002 when there was an NGO Coordinating Committee, in 2007 each NGO was required to deal directly with the NEC. COMFREL and

NICFEC, being bigger and stronger NGOs, had some smaller organizations registered under their umbrella.

It is also encouraging to note that during the 2007 Commune Council Elections, the NEC received observation missions from both Iraq and Nepal. This was an indication that the Cambodian electoral process is gradually improving and other Asian nations are looking forward to adopting some positive attributes from the system.

Coordination for the diplomatic corps that formed the bulk of the international observers was jointly undertaken by the Japanese and Swedish embassies. Technical and logistical support was provided by UNDP through its elections project. A comprehensive briefing package was prepared by the project's training team that subsequently organized briefing programmes on 28 and 30 March 2007 for observers from the diplomatic corps.

The NEC further accredited 103,536 political party agents for the 2007 Commune Council Elections. This figure exceeds the 2002 number by 34,601, which translates to an increase of 50 percent. After the accreditation process, the NEC provided training for representatives of local NGOs and political parties who were expected to provide further training to the rest of their party agents. This initiative of inviting political parties, electoral monitoring organizations and NGOs to attend the full training given to its electoral staff at the national, provincial, commune and even at the polling station levels was an unprecedented step in Cambodian elections. Common training with common manuals enhanced better understanding of the election procedures. It is even believed that this all-inclusive approach reduced the number of complaints registered against the 2007 election results due to a better understanding of the rules and the process.

The political parties endeavour to deploy two agents for each party at every polling station was highly commendable. One agent was to observe activities inside the polling station while the other observed outside the polling station and the two agents rotated at intervals. The presence of two agents for each political party at the polling stations largely contributed to ensuring that the process was conducted in an open and transparent manner.

Furthermore, the coordination activities for international observers ensured that observers

were evenly distributed to cover the entire country. Though limited in their number, the presence of the international observers was critical for an international perspective on the entire process. Reports from these observers indicate that the process was generally peaceful, free and fair. However, a few irregularities were reported and it is hoped that these anomalies will be corrected before the 2008 National Elections.



Diplomatic Corps Observers in Post-Election Experience-sharing



Party Agents Following the Voting Process



COMFREL Observers at a Polling Station on Election Day

NATIONAL OBSERVERS FOR 2007 ELECTION

No.	NAME	Provinces/ Municipality Covered	Numbers Of National Observers				
			Requested		Accredited		
			Total	Rejected	Total	Female	Mobile
1	COMFREL	24	11347	117	11230	3748	11
2	Youth Council of Cambodia (YCC)	9	1152		1152	394	4
3	NICFEC	14	5566	140	5426	1790	6
4	Save the Future Children Khmer (SFCK)	2	236	2	234	69	1
5	Intergrate Health Poor People Organization (IHPPPO)	11	29		29	10	2
6	Widow 's Association for Development in Cambodia	8	18		18	6	2
7	WAHIAD	13	41		41	23	2
8	CWLHRD	15	40		40	21	2
9	Family Agricultural Development Community (FADE)	8	37		37	11	2
10	Light Development Organization for Miserable people	6	20		20	5	2
11	Democratic Service Organization	13	46	2	44	11	2
12	ARUN REAH	6	16		16	10	2
13	Cambodia Border Development Foundation (CBDF)	7	41	1	40	3	2
14	Women Cambodian for Development Organization	6	35		35	11	2
15	Future Light Organization of Women (FLOW)	12	26		26	15	2
16	Cambodian Women Development Federation (CWDF)	7	16		16	8	2
17	Social Development in Rural (SDR)	7	16		16	7	2
18	Border's Development Orgarnization	18	81		81	16	3
19	Mlup Prum viheathor Center (MPC)	1	6	1	5	2	
20	Institute of Human Resource Development (IHRD)	5	22		22		2
21	Cambodia Federation of Human Rights and Development	4	67		67	12	3
22	Khmer Youth Association of Development farmer and Human	5	79		79	6	
23	League for Youth Development of Cambodia (LYDC)	5	22		22		2
24	LECASTINCOCO	5	53		53	13	3
25	Vocation Occupation and Employment Association (VOEA)	5	17		17	1	2
26	Mother's Love and Non Violence	7	51		51	24	2
27	Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI)	3	14		14	7	1
28	Center For Social Development	15	106		106	28	5
29	Cambodian Organization For Veteran Economic Development	7	37		37	13	2
30	Women For Prosperity	6	15		15	9	2
31	Cambodian Light Children Association (CLCA)	7	44	1	43	16	2
32	Farmer Light Association Organization (FLAO)	7	43		43	25	2
33	Cambodian Coordination Committee	2	46		46	13	4
Grand Total			19385	264	19121	6327	83

INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS FOR 2007 ELECTION

No.	Organization	Number of International Observers		
		Requested	Accredited	
		Total	Total	Female
1	National Democratic Institute (NDI)	34	34	12
2	People's Forum on Cambodia, Japan (PEFOC,J)	12	12	6
3	United Nations Cambodia Office of the High Commission for Human Rights (UNCOHCHR)	17	17	6
4	British Embassy	13	13	5
5	Oxfam	1	1	
6	US Embassy	82	82	24
7	Russian Embassy	4	4	
8	Canadian Embassy	4	4	2
9	Royal Thai Embassy	2	2	
10	Swedish Embassy	13	13	5
11	International Republic Institute (IRI)	21	21	4
12	Save the Children Norway	1	1	
13	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	3	3	1
14	National Election Commission of the Republic of Korea	4	4	
15	Japanese Embassy	8	8	3
16	Swiss Embassy	2	2	
17	Australian Embassy	5	5	2
18	The Asia Foundation (TAF)	16	16	3
19	Canadian-Cambodian Rural Association	1	1	
20	French Senate Delegation	9	9	4
21	Japan Team of Young Human Power	2	2	2
Grand Total		254	254	79

16. COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

The statistics compiled on complaints and appeals by the Legal Department of the NEC revealed that for the four phases of the 2007 Commune Council Elections, the total number of complaints was 326. This figure represents an improvement on the figure of the previous elections (for example, a total of 745 complaints in 2003). This was a consequence of the four-pronged strategy embarked upon by the NEC and UNDP's technical assistance aiming to tackle the root causes of complaints, based on experiences gained from previous elections. The strategy includes the following components:

- first, by addressing the problem of intimidation by Village Chiefs by issuing the Information Booklet (discussed in Section 10, Legal Issues) and addressing other common causes of discontent;
- second, by providing a better understanding

of the electoral procedure to political parties, observers and to the general public through an increased dissemination of documentation, posters, manuals and TV videos clearly explaining the voting process;

- third, through a conflict prevention strategy involving weekly meetings between all stakeholders at NEC, PEC and CEC levels to tackle and solve problems, discontent and misunderstandings as they occur, and finally;
- by achieving better training of their own staff working at lower levels (PEC and CEC), party agents and the grassroots-level voters.

Nevertheless, the complaint and appeal process remains one of the main points of dissatisfaction for political parties and electoral monitoring organizations alike. The issue of complaints and appeals in Cambodian elections has been the subject of serious concern among members of the

international community. Various attempts have been made by the EU and UNDP to strengthen the capacity of the NEC to process complaints and appeals in a credible and transparent manner. Despite the reduction in the number of complaints and appeals received in 2007, stakeholders remain concerned about the NEC's performance in this area.

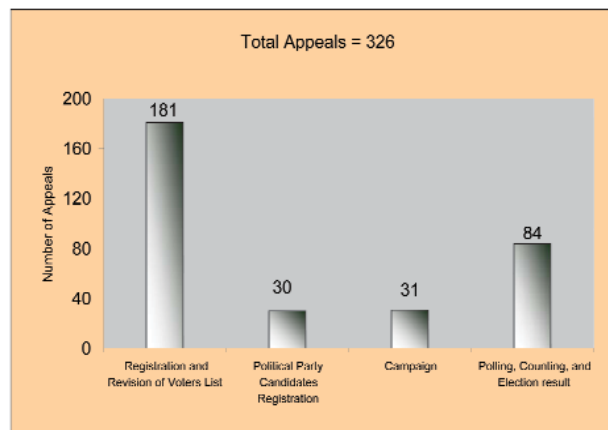
For the 2007 Commune Council Elections, the NEC had revised its regulatory framework for complaints and appeals and produced a manual on "Complaint Procedure for the 2007 Elections". Many of the recommendations made in the 2002 and 2003 UNDP reports were considered in developing this document. This move was geared towards improving the NEC's image as a neutral and independent body capable of handling complaints and appeals fairly and equitably.

Despite the above initiative, criticisms were still generated on the following grounds:

- NEC being perceived as judge and jury when complaints were brought against their own staff (that is, the absence of an "electoral court" outside the NEC).
- Numerous complaints being rejected at the entry point, without being investigated on the basis that there was no evidence, or they were hearsay. It should be noted that these complaints were not counted in the NEC statistics.
- The question as to whether the "conciliation" system used to deal with minor electoral offences at the lower level was being abused and/or imposed upon the parties to a dispute.
- The absence of a clear statutory definition of "vote buying" making it virtually impossible for complaints on this issue to succeed.

Acknowledging the pitfalls and specific weaknesses of the current complaints framework, the NEC, in cooperation with UNDP, has already undertaken, and is ready to continue, the necessary reforms to improve or rebuild a complaint system that will yield higher satisfaction. This does not preclude the examination of new avenues for solutions, such as the creation of a new and separate body to decide on electoral matters. It should be stressed that, by definition, wherever elections take place, complaints and appeals on electoral matters are always contentious and are rarely resolved to the unreserved satisfaction of protagonists.

One of the strong recommendations emerging from the post-Commune Council Election assessments is a process whereby all grievances/complaints are accepted, documented and given a fair chance to prove their merits. If the NEC adopts this approach, it will mark a possible improvement and will satisfy one of the expectations of the stakeholders.



17. POST-ELECTION ACTIVITIES

CDRI/UNDP Post-Election Meetings

CDRI, as part of its COPCEL programme, in collaboration with UNDP, organised two meetings to review the electoral process and technical issues at all stages of the elections following their completion. The first meeting took place on 20 April 2007 and targeted high-level stakeholders in the electoral process. About 40 participants attended this meeting and were drawn from members of the diplomatic corps, the NEC, political parties, local and international civil society organizations involved in elections and the media. This was probably the first time in Cambodian elections that members of the diplomatic corps were invited to a post-election assessment meeting to share their experiences and perspectives on the process.

The main focus of this high-level meeting was to evaluate the entire process and the resolutions reached formed the basis of focused group discussions for the subsequent meeting on 17 May 2007. While the conduct of the election was viewed as peaceful and NEC's technical capacity well appreciated, a number of issues were brought to the attention of the NEC. These issues included: the voter registration period, voters' card and Form 1018, low voter turnout, offices of political parties opened on Election Day, the presence of local authorities inside polling stations, voter information notices, ballot printing,

media coverage, the blocking of SMS on voting day, financing by political parties, electoral courts and election observation.



High Level Stakeholders Post-Election Meeting

As a consequence of the above, CDRI with support from UNDP organized a national conference under the theme "Experiences, Challenges and Ways Forward". The conference attendees were divided into several groups and each made in-depth analyses on their topics. The key issues raised which require urgent attention from the government, the NEC, political parties and other stakeholders in order to make changes and improvements were as follows:

- Voters List: It was acknowledged that the list is bloated and inaccurate and, therefore, requires some cleaning and a validation process.
- Form 1018: While it was recognized that the form is useful in the current electoral process, its issuance should be transparent and acceptable to all stakeholders.
- National ID Cards: Speed up the distribution process and this will help solve the problem of double registration as it provides for thumbprint identification.
- Voter Information Notices: This initiative should be continued but, the distribution should be transparent and allow the participation of other electoral stakeholders.
- Campaign Media: The radio was regarded as the most effective media outlet and should be utilized since its coverage is widest. The NEC should endeavour to control commercial media during the campaign.
- Security: It was observed that security for the election process has improved considerably and this should be encouraged.
- Disabled Persons: The NEC should encourage the recruitment of the disabled.

- Budgets and Expenses of Political Parties: The NEC should amend the regulations and law to tightly control and monitor the budgets and expenses of political parties.



NEC Vice Chairperson delivering an Opening Statement at the NEC Post-Election Conference

NEC Post-Election Conference

In a similar move, the NEC, as the entity responsible for the administration and management of elections in Cambodia, held a post-election conference on 20-21 May 2007. The main focus of the conference was to consolidate the 2007 Commune Council Elections results and conduct a comprehensive review of the elections through the involvement of staff of the NEC, political parties, local and international NGOs, UNDP and other civil society groups involved in the electoral process. The inclusion of these organizations and institutions in this conference was seen as a confidence-building measure and made the process more participatory.

In its review, the NEC acknowledged the advances made in its legal and technical framework based on corrective lessons learned from previous experiences. The NEC also showed much appreciation for the strong cooperation of relevant ministries, institutions and the international community. According to the Deputy Chair of the NEC in a speech made to this conference "the success of the 2007 elections mirrors the very solid foundation of democracy in Cambodia and this is the pride of our nation in strengthening the decentralization policy implementation which is key to nation building".

The NEC identified potential issues in the electoral process for discussion in various sub-groups during this conference. The outcome of these focused group discussions and the recommendations reached can be summed up in the following points.

- Prior to the conference, and even during the discussions, the uppermost concern facing the NEC was an attempt to clean up the voters' list, which was believed to be bloated and inaccurate. After various considerations, the NEC came up with a detailed approach on how to proceed with the cleaning of the voters' list. This exercise was regarded as one of the urgent priorities of the NEC leading up to the 2008 National Elections.
- The NEC recognized the importance of drawing an early master plan, action plan, election calendar and an estimated budget plan for funding. They also underscored the need to recruit competent, experienced and neutral electoral officials.
- The regulations and procedures on voter registration and voters' list revision need to be improved. Additionally, the groups pointed out the need for more effective training of Commune Clerks on the procedures and regulations.
- Improve on the complaints procedures and mediation. In this vein, the NEC was urged to simplify the complaints procedures.
- Strengthen voter education and the dissemination of election-related information as widely as possible and focus on the production and improvement of electoral materials.
- Increase cooperation with domestic and international NGOs in educating voters.
- Continue and improve on the distribution of voter information notices.
- Continue to build good relationships with relevant institutions for their cooperation and support in the implementation of the NEC's duties and responsibilities.
- Encourage the active participation of political parties, communities, domestic and international NGOs, and the media in the electoral process.



CDRI/UNDP Post-Election Conference



Group Discussion at the NEC Post-Election Conference

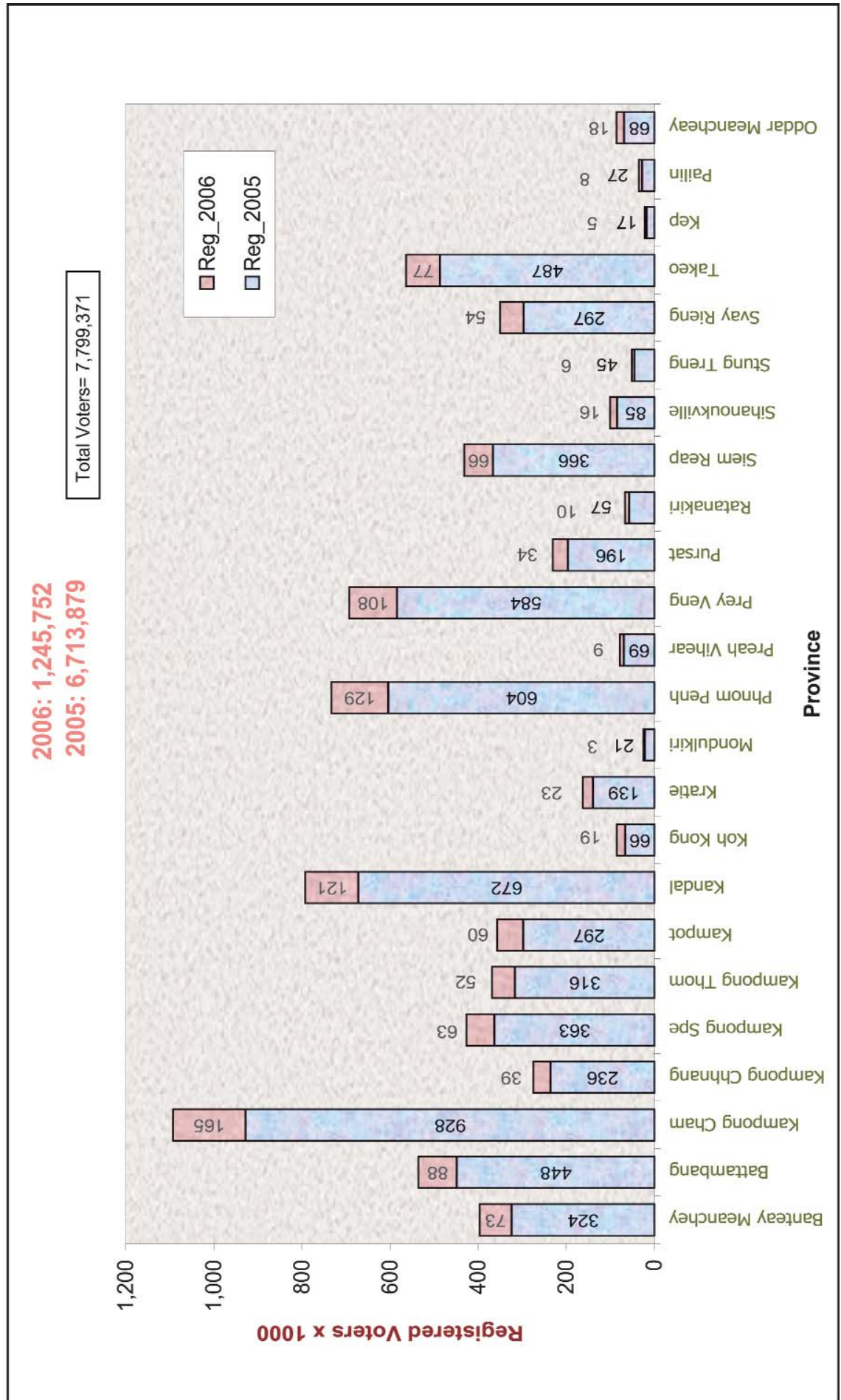


BBC Trust Crew Producing a Training and Voter Education Video

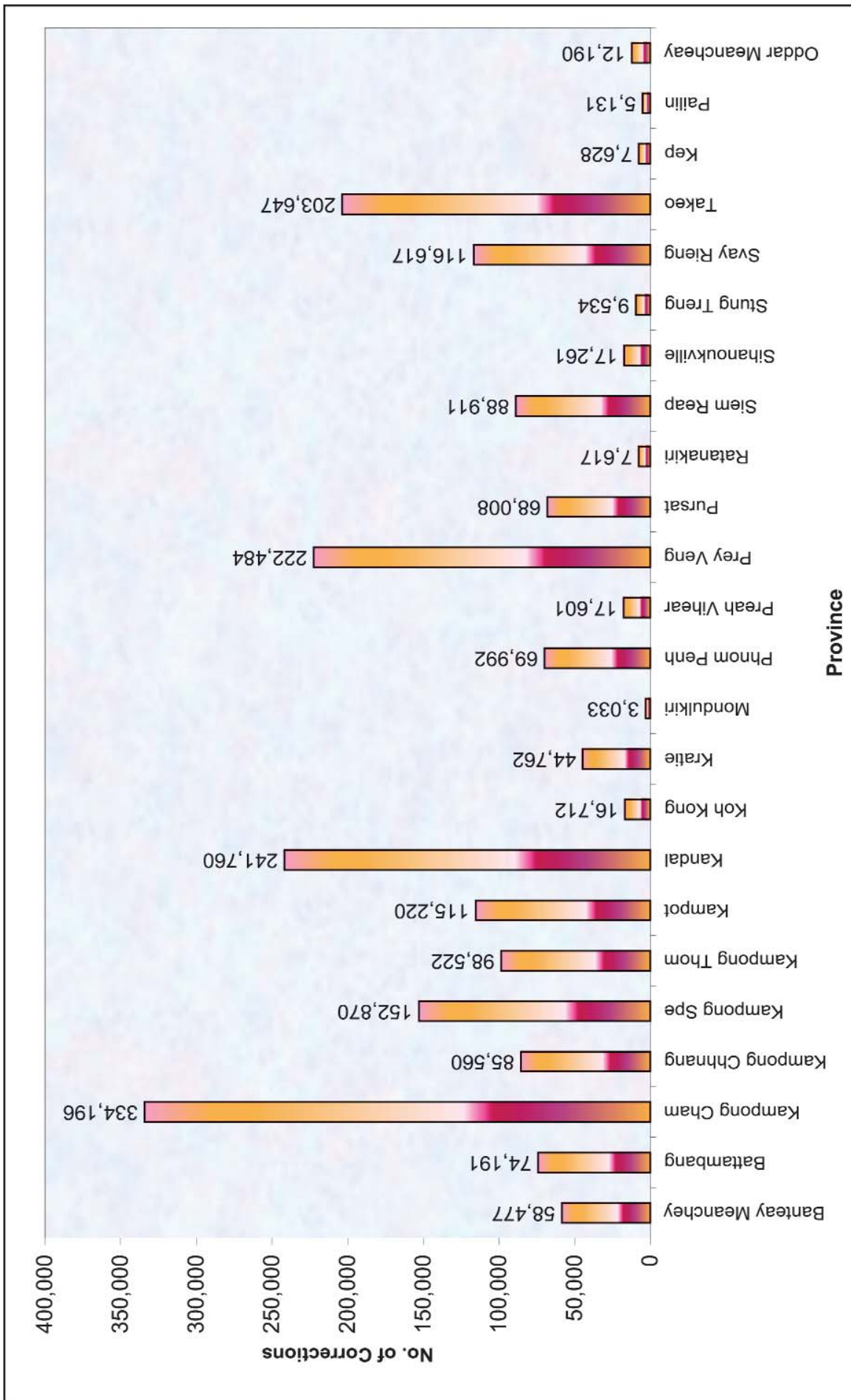
Annex 1: 2006 VOTER REGISTRATION RESULTS

No.	Province/Cities	Total	Total		Age 18-25		Age 26-35		Age 36-45		Age 46-65		Age above 65	
			Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	Banteay Meanchey	386,524	185,451	201,073	42,127	47,411	52,742	53,852	42,883	43,406	40,635	48,775	7,064	7,629
2	Battambang	523,549	248,965	274,584	60,187	66,251	66,940	68,602	51,136	55,722	57,807	70,401	12,895	13,608
3	Kampong Cham	1,072,229	493,695	578,534	116,430	138,358	148,278	166,241	98,772	108,513	97,604	131,288	32,611	34,134
4	Kampong Chhnang	269,607	121,139	148,468	32,660	39,897	32,459	35,948	24,099	27,420	24,860	36,563	7,061	8,640
5	Kampong Spe	415,790	186,348	229,442	52,119	69,110	53,181	59,875	36,085	41,125	35,799	48,778	9,164	10,554
6	Kampong Thom	362,451	163,676	198,775	40,320	50,505	49,263	56,424	33,989	38,254	31,027	43,751	9,077	9,841
7	Kampot	344,950	159,966	184,984	43,427	47,428	43,124	47,897	33,587	37,016	31,276	42,915	8,552	9,728
8	Kandal	780,299	357,742	422,557	99,511	113,573	101,973	112,182	62,980	71,200	70,109	97,151	23,169	28,451
9	Koh Kong	83,673	41,711	41,962	8,195	9,008	11,777	11,494	11,159	10,148	9,112	9,809	1,468	1,503
10	Kratie	160,208	78,010	82,198	14,710	16,343	24,175	24,717	17,517	16,910	16,786	19,550	4,822	4,678
11	Mondulkiri	24,571	12,489	12,082	2,646	2,711	3,692	3,577	3,211	2,990	2,472	2,476	468	328
12	Phnom Penh	723,241	339,175	384,066	76,208	86,919	103,645	112,980	71,295	72,365	73,731	93,971	14,296	17,831
13	Preah Vihear	75,613	36,345	39,268	7,282	7,931	11,300	12,445	8,525	8,370	7,422	8,514	1,816	2,008
14	Prey Veng	683,991	302,098	381,893	80,973	105,445	90,522	107,462	57,210	67,755	55,481	81,001	17,912	20,230
15	Pursat	223,732	102,809	120,923	28,807	32,710	25,549	27,342	21,023	23,456	22,538	30,798	4,892	6,617
16	Ratanakiri	64,924	32,934	31,990	7,199	7,393	9,633	9,493	7,329	7,231	7,086	6,798	1,687	1,075
17	Siem Reap	421,255	194,769	226,486	43,994	50,879	60,627	65,676	42,763	48,583	39,957	52,296	7,428	9,052
18	Sihanoukville	96,610	46,594	50,016	10,243	11,279	13,102	13,928	11,197	10,617	10,236	12,130	1,816	2,062
19	Stung Treng	50,057	24,761	25,296	5,275	5,682	7,040	7,168	5,749	5,437	5,326	5,712	1,371	1,297
20	Svay Rieng	343,623	153,699	189,924	47,465	57,158	41,330	47,760	29,880	34,408	27,099	40,735	7,925	9,863
21	Takeo	554,085	252,920	301,165	71,555	81,981	71,174	77,708	45,954	53,831	48,467	67,853	15,770	19,792
22	Kep	21,392	10,238	11,154	2,632	2,677	2,898	3,015	2,189	2,145	2,001	2,528	518	789
23	Pailin	32,547	16,982	15,565	3,188	3,394	5,001	4,442	4,363	3,866	4,086	3,596	344	267
24	Oddar Meanchey	84,450	41,417	43,033	9,205	10,997	11,768	11,374	10,425	10,414	9,055	9,181	964	1,067
Total		7,799,371	3,603,933	4,195,438	906,358	1,065,040	1,041,193	1,141,602	733,320	801,182	729,972	966,570	193,090	221,044
Percentage		100%	46.21%	53.79%	11.62%	13.66%	13.35%	14.64%	9.40%	10.27%	9.36%	12.39%	2.48%	2.83%

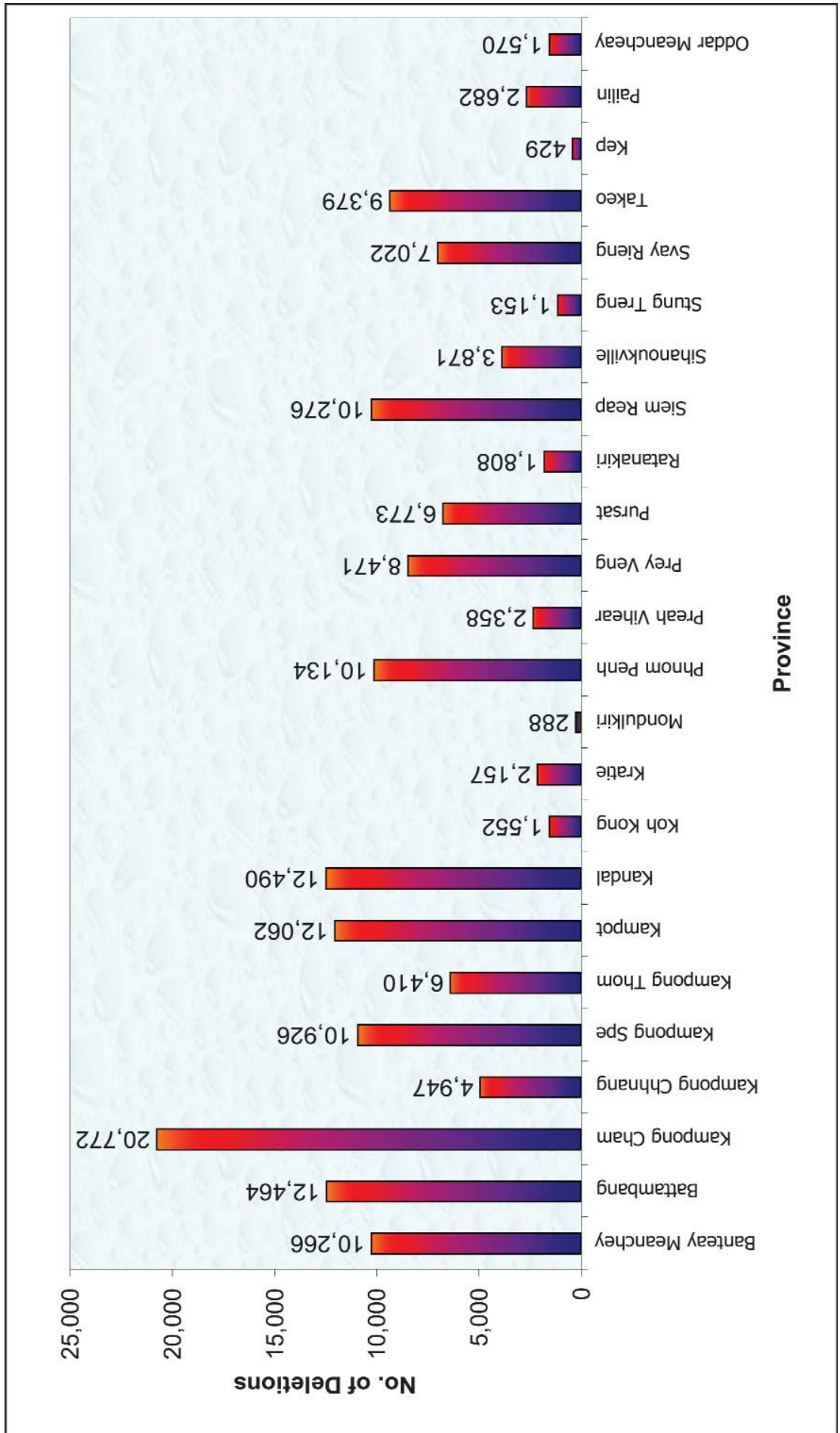
Annex 2: REGISTRATION STATISTICS COMPARED: 2005 AND 2006



Annex 3: REGISTRATION 2006: Corrections By Province
Total Corrections = 2,071,924



Annex 4: REGISTRATION 2006: Deletions By Province
Total Deletions = 160,260



Annex 5: CANDIDATES PER PROVINCE IN 2007 ELECTIONS

No.	Province	Seats	Candidates		Women Candidates Per Party											
			Total Candidates	Women	CPP		FUN		SRP		NRP		Others			
					Total Candidates	Women	Total Candidates	Women	Total Candidates	Women	Total Candidates	Women	Total Candidates	Women		
1	Banteay Meanchey	504	4426	782	1172	242	981	144	1108	159	1083	207	82	30		
2	Battambang	760	7058	1912	1994	471	1645	353	1866	398	1190	544	363	146		
3	Kampong Cham	1353	11951	2400	2795	439	1685	514	2808	405	2811	419	1852	623		
4	Kampong Chhnang	419	3794	731	928	164	800	188	959	139	894	171	213	69		
5	Kampong Speu	609	5512	853	1372	250	1314	231	1359	155	1351	175	116	42		
6	Kampong Thom	577	5369	1170	1352	270	1331	260	1268	229	1209	322	209	89		
7	Kampot	548	5280	870	1274	171	1138	229	1392	169	1290	226	186	75		
8	Kandal	1061	10001	2194	2622	540	1664	424	2350	352	2299	481	1066	397		
9	Koh Kong	187	1464	351	442	80	395	128	358	74	269	69				
10	Kratie	282	2711	709	787	201	652	231	610	105	650	169	12	3		
11	Mondulkiri	107	732	157	254	51	190	40	246	52	42	14				
12	Phnom Penh	664	6151	2158	1480	398	1170	550	1539	402	1339	483	623	325		
13	Preah Vihear	317	2711	593	778	184	698	105	684	99	315	115	236	90		
14	Prey Veng	892	9348	1887	2344	505	1762	480	1868	234	1869	223	1505	445		
15	Pursat	343	2938	661	782	165	717	195	694	149	723	136	22	16		
16	Ratanakiri	253	1438	300	511	87	451	100	421	89	55	24				
17	Siem Reap	668	5561	1165	1538	290	1401	219	1355	230	1207	391	60	35		
18	Sihanoukville	144	1291	257	358	66	313	52	308	34	268	85	44	20		
19	Stung Treng	176	1446	349	419	97	388	103	396	79	243	70				
20	Svay Rieng	518	4559	922	1196	229	1062	261	1181	191	1004	201	14	40		
21	Takeo	736	6544	967	1665	301	1556	288	1619	183	1611	179	93	16		
22	Kep	31	296	65	72	11	62	13	62	4	62	16	38	21		
23	Pailin	52	446	124	112	30	110	20	111	22	113	52				
24	Oddar Meanchey	152	1239	263	353	73	306	73	308	51	272	66				
	Total	11353	102266	21840	26600	5315	21791	5201	24870	4004	22169	4838	6734	2482		
	Percentage		100%	21.36%	26.01%	5.20%	21.31%	5.09%	24.32%	3.92%	21.68%	4.73%	6.58%	2.43%		

Annex 6: 2007 COMMUNE ELECTIONS RESULTS WITH SEAT ALLOCATIONS

No.	Province	Votes Cast	Votes and Seats for Each Party												RANKING OF PARTY			
			CPP		SRP		FUN		NRP		OTHERS		CPP	SRP	FUN	NRP		
			Votes	Seats	Votes	Seats	Votes	Seats	Votes	Seats	Votes	Seats						
1	Banteay Meanchey	225,259	125,051	332	47,757	103	23,574	36	23,147	33	439	0	1	2	3	4		
2	Battambang	322,560	193,811	530	85,880	208	20,199	16	14,244	6	1,505	0	1	2	3	4		
3	Kampong Cham	702,357	392,141	867	200,675	394	17,512	9	68,257	83	8,738	0	1	2	4	3		
4	Kampong Chhnang	197,139	113,614	287	40,099	87	13,187	13	24,433	32	1,044	0	1	2	4	3		
5	Kampong Speu	308,243	176,992	415	71,974	146	18,955	12	32,653	36	427	0	1	2	4	3		
6	Kampong Thom	230,351	116,201	346	56,938	149	28,541	54	21,501	28	683	0	1	2	3	4		
7	Kampot	250,470	143,818	379	56,185	121	14,107	7	28,788	41	766	0	1	2	4	3		
8	Kandal	600,963	383,653	781	156,514	269	14,233	1	33,110	9	3,997	1	1	2	4	3		
9	Koh Kong	47,393	31,482	155	9,434	27	2,468	3	2,873	2	0	0	1	2	4	3		
10	Kratie	102,819	54,180	179	27,061	72	7,167	8	12,157	23	54	0	1	2	4	3		
11	Mondulkiri	14,911	10,896	98	2,183	8	979	0	179	1	0	0	1	2	4	3		
12	Phnom Penh	430,084	228,051	394	166,613	266	8,285	0	19,191	4	1,757	0	1	2	4	3		
13	Preak Vihear	54,102	30,515	221	12,005	74	5,445	17	2,026	5	706	0	1	2	3	4		
14	Prey Veng	468,598	285,833	633	105,251	200	14,724	2	47,664	57	5,670	0	1	2	4	3		
15	Pursat	150,129	101,383	278	26,132	49	6,863	2	12,922	14	63	0	1	2	3	4		
16	Ratanakiri	37,552	26,528	219	4,733	21	3,653	13	285	0	0	0	1	2	3	4		
17	Siem Reap	293,816	174,166	474	64,292	141	27,115	31	21,007	22	191	0	1	2	3	4		
18	Sihanoukville	58,633	35,716	103	14,266	36	4,281	5	3,186	0	171	0	1	2	3	4		
19	Stung Treng	35,955	22,340	139	6,592	25	3,744	9	2,155	3	0	0	1	2	3	4		
20	Svay Rieng	242,052	163,806	420	44,482	85	11,720	6	14,428	7	487	0	1	2	4	3		
21	Takeo	434,781	285,076	566	92,419	148	19,148	6	30,178	16	285	0	1	2	4	3		
22	Kep	15,837	12,281	30	1,408	0	761	1	883	0	107	0	1	2	4	3		
23	Pailin	16,468	9,676	36	4,423	14	1,178	2	784	0	0	0	1	2	3	4		
24	Oddar Meanchey	52,855	31,323	111	6,590	17	9,706	21	3,740	3	0	0	1	3	2	4		
	Total	5,293,327	3,148,533	7,993	1,303,906	2,660	277,545	274	419,791	425	27,090	1						
	Percentage		60.82%	70.40%	25.19%	23.42%	5.36%	2.41%	8.11%	3.74%	0.52%	0.01%						

Annex 7: WOMEN ELECTED AS COMMUNE COUNCILS' MEMBERS FOR THE 2007 ELECTIONS

N°	Province / Municipality	Number of Communes / Sangkat	Number of Commune Councils Members		Cambodian People's Party		Sam Rainsy Party		Norodom Ranariddh Party		Funicpec Party		Hang Dara Democratic Movement Party		Number of Women elected as Commune Councils members %	
			Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Total	%
1	Banteay Meanchey	64	280	52	90	13	33	00	35	01			66	13.10 %		
2	Battambang	96	417	113	178	30	06		16				143	18.82 %		
3	Kampong Cham	173	755	112	362	32	79	04	09	00			148	10.94 %		
4	Kampong Chhnang	69	250	37	77	10	31	01	13		00		48	11.46 %		
5	Kampong Speu	87	367	48	138	08	36	00	11	01			57	9.36 %		
6	Kampong Thom	81	286	60	132	17	27	01	53	01			79	13.69 %		
7	Kampot	92	287	92	119	02	39	02	07				96	17.52 %		
8	Kandal	147	630	151	241	28	08	01	01		01		180	16.97 %		
9	Koh Kong	33	122	33	24	03	02		03				36	19.25 %		
10	Kratie	46	140	39	62	10	23		08				49	17.38 %		
11	Mondulkiri	21	81	17	08	00	01	00	00		00		17	15.89 %		
12	Phnom Penh	76	297	97	217	49	04		00				146	21.99 %		
13	Preah Vihear	49	175	46	69	05	05		17				51	16.09 %		
14	Prey Veng	116	537	96	191	09	56	01	02				106	11.88 %		
15	Pursat	49	228	50	43	06	14		02				56	16.33 %		
16	Ratanakiri	49	185	34	20	01	00	00	12	01			36	14.23 %		
17	Siem Reap	100	405	69	126	15	21	01	29	02			87	13.02 %		
18	Sihanouk Ville	22	84	19	35	01	00		05	00			20	13.89 %		
19	Stung Treng	34	113	26	24	01	03		07	02			29	16.48 %		
20	Svay Rieng	80	331	89	79	06	07		06				95	18.34 %		
21	Takeo	100	490	76	146	02	16	00	06	00			78	10.60 %		
22	Kep	05	26	04	00	00	00		01				04	12.90 %		
23	Pailin	08	26	10	13	01	00		02				11	21.15 %		
24	Oddar Meanchey	24	88	23	17	00	03		20	01			24	15.79 %		
Total		1,621	6,600	1,393	2,411	249	414	11	265	09	01	00	1,662	14.64 %		
Grand Total			7,993		2,660		425		274		01					

Annex 8: NUMBER OF WOMEN ELECTED AS COMMUNE COUNCILS' CHIEFS, FIRST DEPUTIES, SECOND DEPUTIES AND MEMBERS FOR THE 2007 ELECTIONS

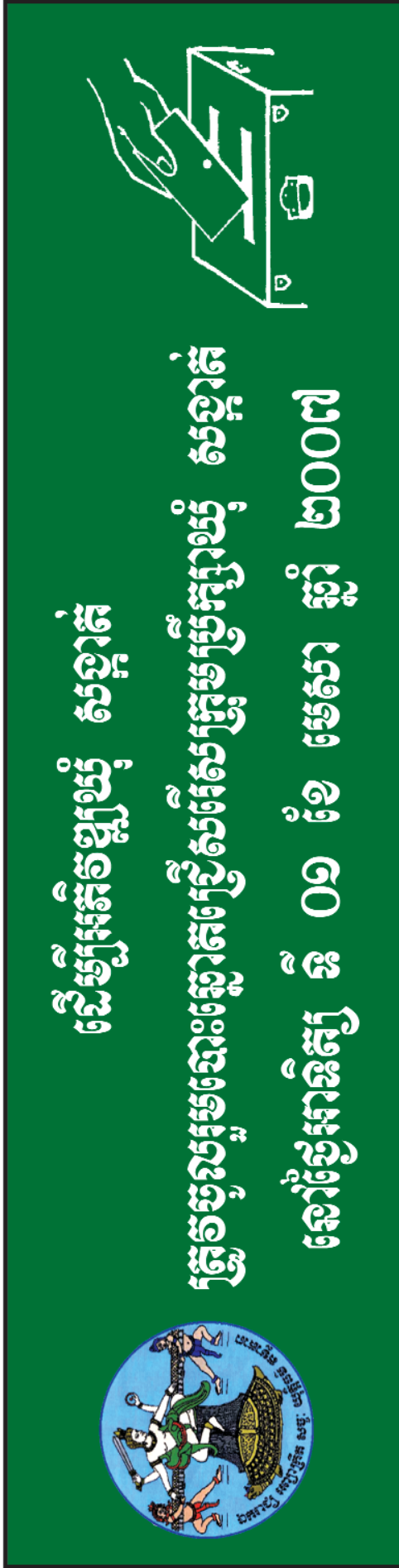
N°	Province/ Municipality	Commune Councils Members	Cambodian People's Party			Sam Rainsy Party			Funcinpec Party			Norodom Ranariddh Party			Total at each province/ municipality
			Chief	1 st deputy	2 nd deputy	Members	Chief	1 st deputy	2 nd deputy	Chief	1 st deputy	2 nd deputy	Chief	1 st deputy	
1	Banteay Meanchey	504	01			01	03	09			01				66
2	Battambang	760	04	08	03	03	09	18							143
3	Kampong Cham	1,353	06	08		05	05	22				04			148
4	Kampong Chhnang	419	02	03		01	04	05					01		48
5	Kampong Speu	609	03	03	01		01	07		01					57
6	Kampong Thom	577		03	01	01	06	10			01		01		79
7	Kampot	548	03	07			01	01					01		96
8	Kandal	1,061	15	22	02	01	11	16					01		180
9	Koh Kong	187	03	05	02		01	02							36
10	Kratie	282	01	05	01	03	02	05							49
11	Monduliri	107		01	03										17
12	Phnom Penh	664	08	15	01	01	10	38							146
13	Preah Vihear	317	01	08	01	01	01	03							51
14	Prey Veng	892	02	02	01	01	02	06					01		106
15	Pursat	343	03	05	06		04	02							56
16	Ratanakiri	253		04	08			01		01					36
17	Siem Reap	668	04	06	01	02	03	10		02			01		87
18	Sihanouk Ville	144	01	02		01									20
19	Stung Treng	176	01	04	01		01			01					29
20	Svay Rieng	518	02	09	03		02	04							95
21	Takeo	736	03	04	02		01	01							78
22	Kep	31		02											04
23	Pailin	52		02			01								11
24	Oddar Meachey	152		02	01						01				24
Total			63	130	38	17	68	160	01	05	03	01	09	01	1,662
Grand Total			1,393			249			09			11			1,662



Annex 9: SEAT ALLOCATIONS IN 2007 COMMUNE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

No.	Province	Total Seats	CPP				SRP				FUN				NRP				Others								
			Chief	1st Deputy	2nd	Member	Total	Chief	1st	2nd	Member	Total	Chief	1st	2nd	Member	Total	Chief	1st	2nd	Member	Total					
1	Banteay Meanchey	504	63	29	2	238	332	1	21	33	48	103	0	10	15	11	36	0	4	14	15	33	0	0	0	0	0
2	Battambang	760	96	77	4	353	530	0	18	73	117	208	0	1	14	1	16	0	0	5	1	6	0	0	0	0	0
3	Kampong Chhnang	1353	166	95	9	597	867	7	76	85	226	394	0	1	7	1	9	0	0	1	72	10	83	0	0	0	0
4	Kampong Chhnang	419	68	37	2	180	287	1	21	38	27	87	0	4	6	3	13	0	7	23	2	32	0	0	0	0	0
5	Kampong Speu	609	87	52	4	272	415	0	30	48	68	146	0	0	9	3	12	0	5	26	5	36	0	0	0	0	0
6	Kampong Thom	577	75	39	7	225	346	6	24	50	69	149	0	16	11	27	54	0	2	13	13	28	0	0	0	0	0
7	Kampot	548	92	54	2	231	379	0	28	57	36	121	0	0	6	1	7	0	10	27	4	41	0	0	0	0	0
8	Kandal	1061	146	138	7	490	781	1	8	130	130	269	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	8	0	9	0	0	1	0	1
9	Koh Kong	187	33	31	13	78	155	0	2	15	10	27	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
10	Kratie	282	42	22	4	111	179	4	21	17	30	72	0	0	7	1	8	0	3	18	2	23	0	0	0	0	0
11	Mondulkiri	107	21	20	14	43	98	0	1	6	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
12	Phnom Penh	664	73	69	5	247	394	3	7	67	189	266	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
13	Preah Vihear	317	47	31	5	138	221	2	16	27	29	74	0	2	12	3	17	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
14	Prey Veng	892	116	64	5	448	633	0	43	64	93	200	0	1	1	0	2	0	8	46	3	57	0	0	0	0	0
15	Pursat	343	49	35	16	178	278	0	13	19	17	49	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	12	1	14	0	0	0	0	0
16	Ratanakiri	253	48	45	28	98	219	1	4	10	6	21	0	0	11	2	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Stem Reap	668	99	61	10	304	474	1	30	53	57	141	0	7	21	3	31	0	2	16	4	22	0	0	0	0	0
18	Sihanoukville	144	21	19	1	62	103	1	3	17	15	36	0	0	4	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Stung Treng	176	33	29	10	67	139	0	3	17	5	25	1	1	5	2	9	0	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
20	Svay Rieng	518	80	71	20	249	420	0	7	50	28	85	0	1	5	0	6	0	1	5	1	7	0	0	0	0	0
21	Takeo	736	100	80	9	377	566	0	20	71	57	148	0	0	4	2	6	0	0	16	0	16	0	0	0	0	0
22	Kep	31	5	5	4	16	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Pailin	52	8	6	0	22	36	0	2	6	6	14	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Oddar Meanchey	152	23	16	4	68	111	0	5	10	2	17	1	3	8	9	21	0	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
Total		11353	1591	1125	185	5092	7993	28	403	963	1266	2660	2	47	155	70	274	0	46	317	62	425	0	1	0	1	1

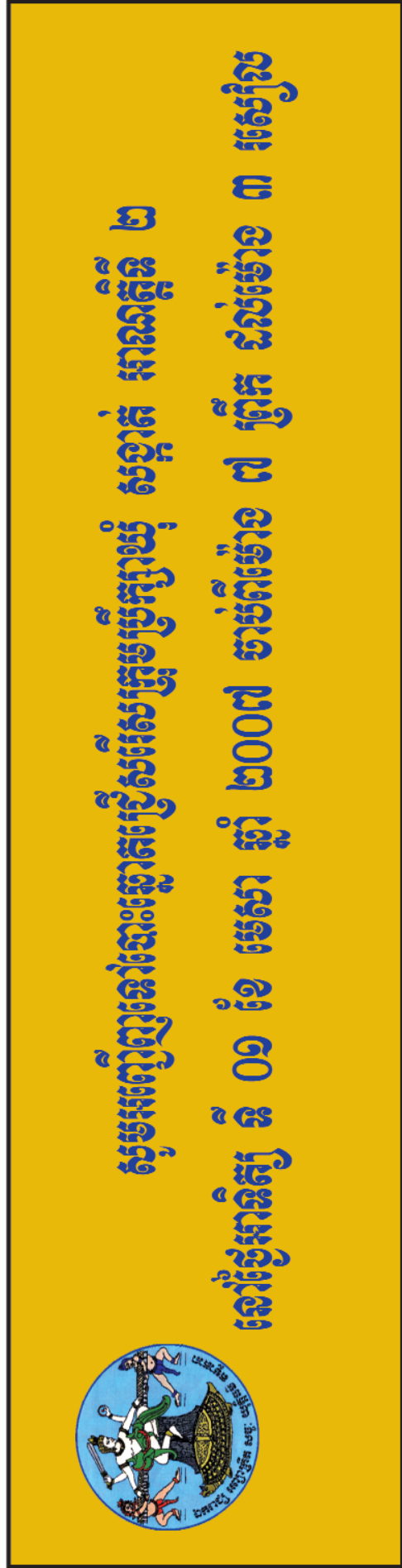
Note: 1st refers to 1st Deputy
2nd refers to 2nd Deputy


Annex 10: 2007 COMMUNE COUNCIL ELECTION BANNERS




ដើម្បីអភិវឌ្ឍន៍ សង្កាត់
គ្រួសារប្រជាជនឆ្នោតជ្រើសរើសក្រុមប្រឹក្សាឃុំ សង្កាត់
នៅថ្ងៃអាទិត្យ ទី ០១ ខែ មេសា ឆ្នាំ ២០០៧


Words in Banner: In order to improve the Commune,
Participate in Commune Council Election
on 1 April 2007




សូមអញ្ជើញទេវតាជ្រើសរើសក្រុមប្រឹក្សាឃុំ សង្កាត់ អាណត្តិទី ២
នៅថ្ងៃអាទិត្យ ទី ០១ ខែ មេសា ឆ្នាំ ២០០៧ ចាប់ពីម៉ោង ៧ ព្រឹក ដល់ម៉ោង ៣ ប្រហែល

Words in Banner: Please Go to Vote during the Commune Council Election
on Sunday 1 April 2007 from 7:00 am - 3:00 pm

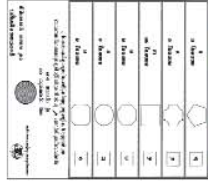
Annex 11: SAMPLE INVALID BALLOTS POSTER



គំរូសន្លឹកឆ្នោតមិនចាត់ទុក



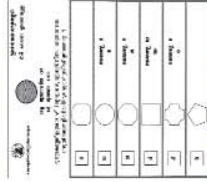
គំរូសន្លឹកឆ្នោតមិនចាត់ទុក



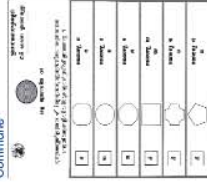
A ballot without any mark



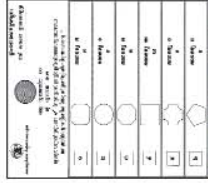
A ballot which is smaller than the official ballot of the NEC



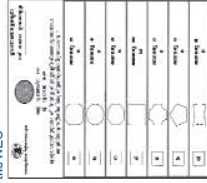
A ballot without one or more names of political parties standing for the Election in that Commune



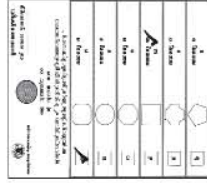
A forged or fake ballot without sufficient, correct and/or different content



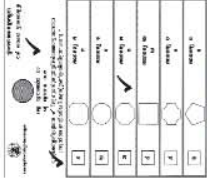
A ballot which is printed on a different type of paper (thicker paper) from official ballot of the NEC



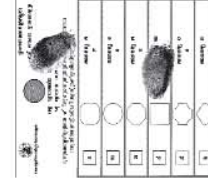
A ballot with more names of political parties stand for the Election in that Commune



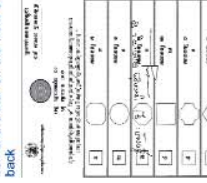
A ballot with marks for two political parties



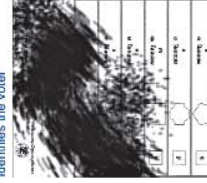
A ballot with one or more marks outside the square box



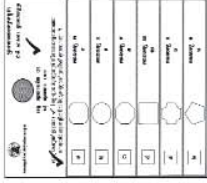
A ballot with ink smudges either inside or outside the square box and either on the front or back



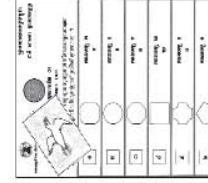
A ballot with the name, signature or sign which identifies the voter



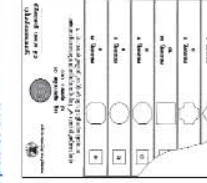
A ballot stained with ink which cannot identify a vote



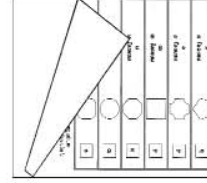
A ballot with stamp stickers or paper with any writing or pictures on it



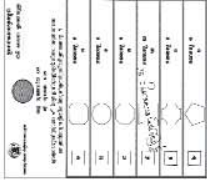
A torn ballot without serial number or square box



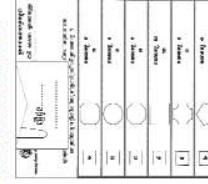
A ballot without an official confidential stamp of the relevant polling station



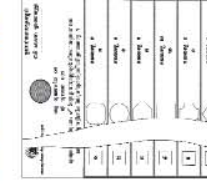
A ballot with an official stamp which is not the official stamp of the relevant polling station



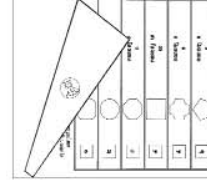
A ballot with written words, description and phrases inside or outside the square box either on the front or back.



A ballot with which other document is stuck or clipped



A completely torn ballot



A ballot with an official stamp which is not the official stamp of the relevant polling station

Annex 12: POLLING STATION SET-UP



Annex 13: IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAINING PROGRAM: 2007 ELECTION

Phase	CASCADE TRAINING ON → ↓	Step One			Step Two		Step Three		Total Trained
		Date / Participants at NEC HQ	Date / Participants at Provincial Level	Date / Participants at Commune Level					
Registration and Revision of Voters List	Election Laws NEC Regulations Registration Procedures Revision Procedures Resolving Complaints	15-16 September 2006 (2 days) 8 Master Trainers 32 NEC officials 19-20 September 2006 (2 days) 108 Provincial Officials 13 Political Party Representatives 26 September 2006 (1 day) 9 Political Party Representatives 14 NGO Representatives	24-25 September 2006 (2 days) 824 of PEC officials, Political Party Representatives, and NGO Representatives	29 September 2006 (1 day) 2,572 Commune Councils Member 1,621 Commune Clerks 331 Assistants to Commune Clerk	5,532				
Political Party Candidates Registration and Campaign	Election Laws NEC by-Laws Election Campaign Security Arrangement Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Military, and Police Resolving Complaints	5-6 December 2006 (2 days) 24 Master Trainers 12 NEC Officials 20-21 December 2006 (2 days) 234 members of PEC i.e. Deputy Chiefs, members responsible for training and public information, and Treasurer member for training. 12 Political Party Representatives 18 NGO Representatives	23-24 December 2006 (2 days) 950 of PEC Officials, Political Party Representatives, and NGO Representatives	27 December 2006 (1 day) 8,105 CEC members 15 CEC Assistants	9,370				
Polling and Counting	Polling Day Procedures Counting Procedures Complaint Procedures Election Day Logistics Security Procedures	26-28 February 2007 (3 days) 24 Master Trainers 30 NEC Officials 5-7 March 2007 (3 days) 234 Members of PEC i.e. Chiefs, members responsible for training and public information, treasurer member for training. 15 Political Party Representatives 15 NGO Representatives	12-13 March 2007 (2 days) 950 of PEC Officials, Political Party Representatives, and NGO Representatives	15-16 March 2007 (2 days) 6 x 14,428 polling stations = 86,568 Members of PSC	87,836				
Grand Total					102,738				

Annex 14: NEC DIRECTIVES

Unofficial Translation by UNDP

Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation Religion King

National Election Committee

No. 355/06

Directive**On****The Correction of Voters' Names in The Last Voter Lists****Reference:**

- Referring to articles 53 and 54 (new) of the Law on Amendment on the Law on Election of Members of National Assembly.
- Referring to sub-decree No. 22 dated March 25, 2002 on the Decentralization of Power, Roles and Duties to Commune/Sangkat.

National Election Committee

would like chairmen and chairwomen of the Provincial/Municipal Election Secretariats to implement the followings:

- I. Inform communes' clerks about how to correct voters' names on voter lists as follows:
 1. If a voter has slightly different spellings and sounds in their name or date of birth, the commune clerks shall suggest the voter to show proper ID documents and then make corrections by drawing circle over the name with red pen on relevant voter lists and write the correct name nearby as appeared on his ID document(s) which would be used to vote.
 2. In case the spellings or sound are completely different, communes' clerks shall:
 - i. ask the voter to show evidences such as ID documents or other documents which can prove that he had used the wrong name.
 - ii. ask the voter to show proper ID documents and then make corrections by drawing circle over the name with red pen on relevant voter lists and write the correct name nearby as appeared on his ID document(s) which would be used to vote.
 - iii. ask the voter to thumbprint at the beginning of the line with the corrected name.
 - iv. ask one commune council member who is supervising commune clerks at the polling station to sign and stamp the polling station seal at the end of the line with the corrected name.
- II. Provide guidelines to the member of commune council in charge of supervising commune clerks to correct seriously-incorrect names of voters as below:
 - i. check commune clerks in correcting the voters' names to make sure that the corrected one is correct.
 - ii. sign and stamp the polling station seal at the end of the line with the corrected name.
- III- Thumbprint of voter who has asked for correction (point C), signature of commune / sangkat members and stamp (point D) have to be made in only one voter list which is kept at the commune.

As mentioned above, chairmen and chairwomen of the Provincial/Municipal Election Secretariats please kindly pay attention to efficiently implement.

Phnom Penh, October 02, 2006
 National Election Committee
 Chairman
H.E. Im Suosdey

Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation Religion King

National Election Committee

No. 10-124/06 NEC

Phnom Penh, October 03, 2006

NEC Directs
the Commune/Sangkat Councils and Clerks on
The Correction of Voters' Names

NEC has issued a directive No. 355/06 dated October 02, 2006 to direct Commune/Sangkat Councils and Clerks through the Provincial/Municipal Election Secretariats on the correction of voters' names in the last voters' lists.

The directive determines that the Commune/Sangkat Members, who permanently chair up the commune clerks, have to check with Commune/Sangkat clerks in correcting the voters' names in order to make sure that the names corrected by the commune/sangkat clerks are properly corrected.

The directive said in case the voters' names in the last voters' lists are slimly wrongly written and the voters ask for the correction, the commune clerks have to implement as below:

Commune clerks have to request to the applicants to show document which proves proper identity, then commune clerks have to correct by circling the wrong names with a red pen on the relevant voter's lists and write the correct names near that space.

For those who have the names in the last voters' lists are seriously written and voters ask for the correction, the commune clerks have to implement as below:

Commune clerks have to request to the applicants to show document which proves identity or other documents to claim that the wrong name is the used name in the past, then the commune/sangkat clerks have to correct by circling the wrong names with a red pen in the relevant lists and write the correct ones near that space, and the applicants have to thumbprint at the beginning of the line with their corrected name. After that commune/sangkat members have to sign and stamp the polling station seal at the end of the line with the corrected name. The corrected voters' lists with the signature of commune/sangkat members are kept in the commune/sangkat.

For more information, please contact 023 214 374
 012 855 018

Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation Religion King

National Election Committee
No. 09-125/06 NEC

Phnom Penh, October 05, 2006

**Ministry of Labor Provides Directive
to All Enterprises and Institutions to Allow Days off for Voters' List Revision
and Voter Registration**

At the request of the NEC, the Ministry of Labor, Vocational Training and Youth has issued a directive (No. 702) dated October 04, 2006 to instruct managers of factories and institutions to permit employees to take days off for voter registration

Institutions and Enterprises Located in Phnom Penh

- a- Employees who are working in Phnom Penh and have to verify their names on the voters' lists or register in Kandal, Kompong Speu, Kompong Chhnang, Kompong Cham, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng, Kompong Thom, Takeo and Kampot Provinces, Kep (Krong Keb) and Sihanoukville are allowed to take leave for two days on October 14th and 15th, 2006.
- b- Employees who are working in Phnom Penh and have to verify their names on the voters' lists or register in or register in Banteay MeanChey, Battambang, Koh Kong, Kratie, Mondolkiri, Preah Vihear, Pursat, Ratanakiri, Siem Reap, Strung Treng and Oddar MeanChey provinces and Pailin City (Krong Pailin) are allowed to take leave for three days on October 14th, 15th, and 16th, 2006.

Managers of institutions and enterprises located in other provinces or cities (not Phnom Penh) should allow as mentioned above according to province or city concerned.

Managers of institutions and enterprises have to maintain wages and bonus.

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Ministry of Interior

National Election Committee

Joint Directive
On the Distribution of Voter Information Notices

According to the Law on Amendment on the Law on Election of Members of the National Assembly, Law on Commune Council Election, sub-decree No. 22 dated March 25th, 2002 on the Decentralization of Power, Roles and Duties to the Commune Council and Decision No. 12-096/02 on Delegation of Power to the Commune Councils to revise voter list and voter registration, the Ministry of Interior and National Election Committee (NEC) would like to inform provincial/municipal governors, Provincial/Municipal Election Commissions (PEC), District/Khan Governors, Commune Election Commission (CEC), Commune Councils and Village chiefs shall cooperate or/and manage to do their work in accordance with their hierarchy and duties to ensure the process of distributing the voter information notices before upcoming elections as determined by law is smooth and effective as the following:

I. Purpose:

The purposes of distributing the voter information notices are:

- 1- help inform the voters whose names already existed in the official voter list about their serial number, relevant personal information in the voter list, code number, location of polling station, date and time of polling and types of officially certified documents to bring to vote.
- 2- help voters easily find location of their polling station.
- 3- help the polling station commissions easily find the name of each voter in the voter list quickly so as to facilitate the electoral cooperation and voters would not have to wait for long.

II. Content of the Voter Information Notice:

The production of voter information notices has exploited computer technology in transferring names and data of voters from official voter lists of the relevant polling stations. The voter information notice is printed on both sides of the normal paper and contains the following information:

- NEC logo with phrase saying National Election Committee
- date and time of relevant general elections
- Name, sex, date of birth, and address of the voters, serial number of voters in voter list, code number, and location of the relevant polling stations, name of commune/Sangkat and province/municipality.
- Remark: "this voter information notice can not be used as document to certify identity of voter to vote.
- kinds of valid ID document that voters can use to vote on voting day.
- symbols and other information.

III. Implementation of distribution of voter information notices:

When receiving information notices, authorized officials concerned have to perform their roles and have the following responsibility:

- 1- PEC shall perform the following duties:
 - liaison with governors of relevant province/municipality and district/sub district in support of the commune/Sangkat council and village chief to cooperate with the CEC in distributing the voter information notice.

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- liaison with relevant NGOs in order to second their own representatives to work in team of distributing the voter information notices at each commune/Sangkat.
- manage to publication of the joint directive on issuance of the voter information notices and technical specification of distributing the voter information notice within commune/Sangkat to the CEC, commune councils, representatives of political parties, NGOs, and village chiefs concerned.
- give the voter information notice books of all political parties within commune/Sangkat to the CEC generally in charge of distributing the voter information notice.
- monitor all activities of the team in charge of distributing voter information notice and help solve all possible problems.

2- CEC shall perform the following duties:

- appoint the team to work on the distribution of voter information notice. Its members are as followed:
 - A. one member of the CEC as the team leader
 - B. one or more member of commune councils as team's member
 - C. one or more(if available) representative of NGO as team's member
 - D. and village chief as the team members.
- keep the team in charge of distributing the voter information notice informed
- cooperate with the commune council to determine the calendar for distributing the voter information notice at each village of the commune/Sangkat.
- provide weekly updates to the PEC on possibility of distributing the voter information notice and possible events to be solved.
- hold a meeting to check and decide on the report of the team distributing the voter information notice after the work done in order to report to the NEC through PECs.
- keep all the voter information notices remained undistributed in order to distribute to voters later.
- make a report at each station and commune/Sangkat on the result of distributing the voter information notices after election.
- provide the remaining voter information notice books to the commune councils for archives and this would serve the purpose of updating the voter lists more accurately the following year.

3- The composition of the team distributing the voter information notice is CEC, Commune council, representative of NGO and relevant village chiefs. They all help manage and implement the following:

- write the name of village regarding with the address of voters in each polling station and then take note on the cover of the voter information notice book in order to make it easy for distributing the notice in each village or commune.
- distribute the information notices to voters in each village according to the set calendar with voter information notice books of all polling stations.
- They shall cooperate with the relevant village chiefs—members of the team—to review names of voters in voter information notice book to make sure if they know the names of those voters or not, where they reside and in which group, whether they stay at their residence so it would be easy to distribute the information notice.
- They shall cooperate with village chiefs to gather the registered voters at an arranged place the notice distribution purpose. If possible, they should go to each house or each village in the commune with village chiefs' assistance to circulate the voter information notice to each individual electorate or electorate's representatives

Unofficial Translation by UNDP

based on the amount and names on the voter lists of the polling stations of the commune/Sangkat.

- They shall tear the voter information notice with the correct name, age, and other data of individual voter and give to him/her.
- They shall report at each office and commune/Sangkat at the end of the distribution.
- hand in the report and remaining voter information notice to the CECs for filing in order to continue the distribution until the polling day.

4. Village Chiefs shall perform the following duties:

- Inform villagers about the benefits of the voter information notices, about place, date and time of receiving the information notice.
- streamline the process of distributing the voter information notices in the village
- mark the name of voter who does not receive the information notice yet and inform him/her to get his/her information notice at the office of CEC where the distribution will be continued till the polling day.
- help the voters who already get the voter information notices about code number and location of the polling stations as stated in the voter information notice.

IV. Time period of implementing the distribution of Voter Information Notices

The implementation of distributing Voter Information Notices must comply with the working calendar set by NEC.

V. Controlling the output of distributing Voter Information Notices

1. Regarding the control and assessment of Voter Information Notices distribution's output, CEC must:
 - Control and advice distributing team regularly.
 - Directly visit and interview several villagers in some villages in the commune in order to evaluate the effectiveness of Voter Information Notices distribution.
 - Summarize reports to PEC when the distribution ends as directed.
2. Regarding the control and assessment of Voter Information Notices distribution's output, PEC must
 - Have a visit to some communes in the province to supervise the output of Voter Information Notices distribution and must find out the number of distributed Voter Information Notices and the remaining ones(if there are).
 - have a direct interview with some people in some villages in the commune in order to evaluate the effectiveness of Voter Information Notices distribution.
 - Summarize output reports of the Voter Information Notice distribution in the province/municipality to NEC through General Secretariat of NEC.
3. General Secretariat of NEC must summarize the results of distributing Voter Information Notices to all over the country in order to report to NEC and make a copy for MOI.

This joint directive must be implemented in replace of the joint directive numbered 005 dated 19/July/2006 about the distribution of Voter Information Notices of MOI and National Election Committee.

Having received this joint directive, Secretariat General and Administrative General of MOI, Secretariat General of NEC, provincial/municipal governor, CEC, PEC, commune councils, commune clerks, village chief and parties concerned must be cautious and effectively implement it.

Phnom Penh, 08 December 2006

Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister

National Election Committee
Chairman

Sar Kheng

Im Suosdey

Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation Religion King

National Election Committee

N° 089/07 NEC

Directive

**On the distribution of voter information notices and the verification of
Document certifying identity with the voter list**

References: - Law on Election of Members of Commune Councils and its amendment.
- Regulations, Procedures of National Election Committee for 2007 Commune Council Election.
- 2007 Commune Council Election Calendar.

The National Election Committee

is requesting the chiefs of PEC to manage and implement the following tasks:

- I. To instruct the teams distributing the voter information notice to do as follow and to inform the public accordingly:
 1. Before distributing the voter information notices, the distributors shall clearly check whether the name is the same or similar to the name of recipient, and that other data shall be verified to ensure that the notice belongs to the right person.
 2. Inform people to verify that their voter information notice with their ID documents which are to be used for voting and ask them to bring along the voter information notices when voting.
 3. Minor spelling mistakes or data inaccuracies on the information notice of a voter when compared to his/her ID document will not prevent him/her from voting.
- II. To instruct CECs and PSCs to clearly verify the names of the voters with the documents certifying identity when voting.
 1. If there are similar names in the voter list, the name of the voter shall be verified with other data (age, sex address) in order to be certain to identify the right voter on the voters' list.
 2. Minor spelling mistakes or data inaccuracies on the information notice of a voter when compared to his/her ID document will not prevent him/her from voting.

Upon the receipt of this directive, chiefs of PEC and voter information notice teams of CEC and PSC must attentively implement it with effectiveness.

Phnom Penh, dated 09 February 2007
On behalf of National Election Committee

Chairman

Sign and Seal

Im Suosdey

Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation Religion King

National Election Committee

N° 113/07 NEC

Principle
For Non-Governmental Organization and Media
On the Preparation of Question and Answer Program or the Discussion
about Policy of Political Party during Election Campaign

- Pursuant to the Law on the Election of the Commune Councils and the its Amended Law.
- Pursuant to the Regulations and Procedures of Commune Council Election Chapter 5 about the Election Campaign.
- The meeting report of NEC with the representatives from political parties dated 31st January 2007.

The National Election Committee issues principle for National and International Non-Government Organizations and Media (or **Program Manager**) wishing to prepare the **Question and Answer Program or Discussion** about the policy of the political party to be broadcasted during the Election Campaign of the 2nd Mandate Election of Commune Council year 2007, to implement the principles as follows:

I. Cooperation with NEC

1. Consultation

International and National Non-Governmental Organizations and Media wishing to prepare the Question and Answer Program can share the consultation with the Program Coordination Commission of the NEC before the start of the program with the issues as follows:

- Technical preparation.
- Topics or questions set for political parties.
- Coordination of meeting location, security and safety.

2. Responsibility

The concerned organizations and media to prepare the program shall be responsible for the content of their broadcasting policy, and the Program Manager shall be responsible for all expenses.

II. The Program Process

The Question and Answer Program or Discussion shall be held with the political parties whose candidates are running for the 2nd Mandate Commune Council Election year 2007. The program can be conducted at public or private places of communes/Sangkats provinces/ municipalities and via radio and television channels. To ensure a fair process of **Question and Answer Program or Discussion** for political parties running for the 2nd Mandate of Commune Council Election, all Program Managers shall implements the principles as follows:

1. Preparation before the Program Process

- The Program Managers shall make a written statement to officially invite representatives of the political parties running for the 2nd Mandate Commune Council Election year 2007 in order for them to assign their members to attend the **Question and Answer Program or Discussion**.
- Based on the commune/Sangkat or provincial/municipal or national level of preparation, the invitation shall be extended to all political parties running for the 2nd Mandate Commune Council Election year 2007.
- In case organizations and media prepare many programs in communes/Sangkat or province/municipality, the attention must be paid in order for all the political

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parties running for election in commune/Sangkat or province/municipality or nationwide, to attend.

- The Manager of the **Question and Answer Program or Discussion** shall set the topics and questions in the program for political parties at the least period of 7 days before the start of the program.
- In case the invitation is extended to political party who fails to send his/her representative to attend the program as scheduled, it is taken to mean that that political party gives up his/her time and the program shall still run normally as scheduled.

2. The Location of the Program Process and the Composition

- The **Question and Answer Program or Discussion** can be conducted at public or private places of the commune/Sangkat or province/municipality.
- The **Question and Answer Program or Discussion** can be directly conducted via radio and television channels.
- The **Question and Answer Program or Discussion** can invite the public to listen and ask the questions if desired by the Program Manager.

3. Program Coordinator

The Coordinator of the **Question and Answer Program or Discussion** shall keep the stance of neutrality and fairness and shall have the capacity to manage a good and safe process of the program.

4. The Broadcasting of Question and Answer Program or Discussion Program via Radio and Television

The **Question and Answer Program or Discussion** about the policy of political parties which is to be broadcasted via radio and television shall implement as follows:

- The **Question and Answer Program or Discussion** conducted at any commune/Sangkat can be broadcasted via radio and television channels in that commune/Sangkat or province/municipality.
- The **Question and Answer Program or Discussion** can be broadcasted via state radio and television as long as it is participated by all the political parties officially running for election in the province/municipality or nationwide.

III. Principle of Law

- The Manager of the **Question and Answer Program or Discussion** can provide hour(s) to political parties in order to answer the questions based on two principles:
 1. On the equal principle
 2. 10% additional duration principle of the total hour(s) of each political party based on the equal principle of the party running for election, which is more than 2/3 (two-third) commune/Sangkat of province/municipality or more than 1000 communes/Sangkats nationwide.
- The Manager of the **Question and Answer Program or Discussion** about the policy of the political party shall be neutral and impartial.
- The Broadcasting of **Question and Answer Program or Discussion** about the policy of the political party shall not require the letter of approval from the NEC. However, the Program Manager shall be responsible before the Law of Election in case there is any mistake during the process of the broadcasting program.
- All the processes of the Non-Governmental Organization and Media shall abide by the Law on the Commune Council Election and its Amended Law and Rules and Regulations of the NEC.

Phnom Penh, dated 16 February 2007
On behalf of National Election Committee
Chairman
 Signed and Sealed
Im Suosdey

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**Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation Religion King**

**Ministry of Interior
and
National Election Committee**

No

**Joint Directive
On
Ensuring Continuity of Work of Commune/Sangkat Administration
During the Campaign of Commune Council Election
2nd Mandate**

- Pursuant to the Amendment on the Law of Election of Commune Councils promulgated by Royal Kram (Royal Order) No. NS/RKM/0606/02 dated on 27 June 2006;
- Pursuant to the Law on the Commune/Sangkat Administrative Management promulgated by Royal Kram (Royal Order) No. NS/RKM/0301/05 dated on 19 March 2001;
- Pursuant to Sub-decree No. 22 GNRKBK dated on 25 March 2005 on the Decentralization of Power, Duties and Responsibilities to Commune/Sangkat Councils; and
- Pursuant to the Regulations and Procedures of National Election Committee for the 2007 Commune Council Election

To correctly implement, in compliance with the Laws, Regulations and Procedures for the Commune Councils Election and to ensure the normal continuity of work of Communes/Sangkats during the 2nd Mandate of Commune Councils Election, the Ministry of Interior and National Election Committee, to instruct as follows:

A. For commune/sangkat council members, commune/sangkat chiefs, deputy and clerks

In order to ensure the continuity of communes/sangkats from the launching of election campaign until the announcement of election result, commune/sangkat council members, commune/sangkat chiefs, deputy chiefs and clerks shall strengthen solidarity and cooperation with each other in order to correctly perform the task based on legal term and shall be neutral and impartial.

For commune/sangkat council members, commune/sangkat chiefs, deputy chiefs and clerks running for election, they have the same right to launch the election campaign as the other candidates. They however shall not make use of their influences as commune/sangkat councils and as commune/sangkat administration, and they shall not use communes/sangkats transportation means, materials and budgets to serve the activity of any political party or to serve any election campaign activity of political party.

During election campaign, in order to ensure the continuity of work of communes/sangkats, commune/sangkat chiefs and deputy chiefs shall discuss to equally divide between the commune/sangkat chiefs, deputy chiefs and other commune councils' members to safeguard in the commune/sangkat offices each day in order to ensure that there is at least 01 person to be on guard each day. 01 copy of guarding appointment letter shall be made to the CEC, 01 copy to the relevant PEC and 01 copy to be posted in commune/sangkat office. Commune/Sangkats members appointed to safeguard shall coordinate the daily administrative task, development, requests or other assistances from the people in the communes/sangkats in

compliance with the legal term of reference and other commune/sangkat standard management documents. Commune councils' members appointed to be on guard shall not engage in any election campaign of political parties on the day they are on guard. When being on guard, in case there are tasks to be approved and signed by the commune/sangkat chiefs, the commune council members on guard shall urgently contact with the commune/sangkat chiefs to deal with the tasks based on legal term.

Commune/Sangkat clerks as the civil servants shall be regularly present at the communes/sangkats on working day. Like other civil servants, commune/sangkat clerks shall behave and work in compliance with legal term of reference of civil servant; electoral laws, regulations and procedures related to political parties and election.

B. For village chiefs, deputy and members

Village chiefs, deputy village chiefs and members shall strictly implement in compliance with the NEC's booklet on the duties and responsibilities of village chiefs, deputy and their members in the electoral process.

Village chiefs or deputy village chiefs or their members wishing to engage in any election campaign of political parties or to be the candidates shall submit leave form to the relevant commune/sangkat in order for them to engage in any election campaign activity of political parties (attachment of sample leave form). However, in each village, village chiefs, deputy chiefs and their members shall not submit leave form on the same day, leaving no one to be on guard and to deal with public work in the village. One copy of the leave form shall be made to the CEC.

While being on leave to engage in election campaign activity, village chiefs or deputy chiefs or their members are no longer the leaders in the village.

Other leaders who do not ask for leave from the village are the leaders based on their ranks, serving public work in the village with senses of transparency, neutrality and impartiality in election, and these officials shall not engage in any election campaign of political parties if they are not on leave.

Upon the receipt of this directive, each provincial/municipal governor shall disseminate, instruct and implement urgently to all relevant communes/sangkats in provinces/municipalities and to related stakeholders to implement and manage it with high effectiveness. The PEC shall disseminate this directive to the CEC and to all levels of electoral officials and to also follow the strict implementation of this directive with high effectiveness.

Phnom Penh, dated March 2007

**Deputy Prime Minister
Minister of Ministry of Interior**

**On Behalf of National Election Committee
Chairman**

CC:

- Ministry of Royal Palace
- Secretary General of Constitution Council
- Secretary General of Senate
- Secretary General of Parliament
- Office of Council Ministers
- All levels of government institutions
"to be informed"
- PEC
- All provincial/municipal halls
"to implement"
- Archives

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**Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation Religion King**

Commune/Sangkat Office.....

**Leave Form
For Engaging in Election Campaign**

I title

To

Commune/Sangkat Chief

Objective: Request for leaving from leading the task in the village for days from day of.....month of.....year.....until day of.....month of.....year.....

Reference: Directive of Ministry of Interior and National Election Committee on the Continuity of Work of Commune/Sangkat Administration during the Campaign of 2nd Mandate of Commune Council Election.

With the above objective and reference, I will engage in election campaign activity fordays, form day of.....month of..... year until day of.....month of.....year.....

Therefore, please commune/sangkat chief grant me the leave from leading the task in the village.

Village..... dated on month.....year.....

Signature

**Seen and Approved
Commune/Sangkat Chief**

Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation Religion King

National Election Committee

N° 131/07 NEC

Directive
on the Verification of Voters' ID document with Voters' List
at the Polling Station on Voting Day

References: - The Law on the Amendment of the LECC;
- NEC Regulations and Procedures of the for 2007 Commune Council Election;
- The 2007 Commune Council Calendar.

In order to facilitate voting operations on voting day, the NEC instructs and reminds the Chiefs of the PEC, CEC and PSC to carefully check the identity of voters by looking at their photo on their ID document and verify that their name correspond to the name appearing on the list of voters according to the following guidelines:

- 1) If the name corresponds, the persons can vote.
- 2) If the spelling of the names differs but the name sounds the same when spoken, the person can vote.
- 3) If the spelling of the names differs, in such a way that the name does not sound exactly the same, the person can vote as long as the name sounds comparable.
- 4) In case the spelling of the names differs with spelling mistakes such as addition or lack of vowels, consonants, punctuations, which makes it sound different when spoken, the additional verification of the following data shall apply:
 - If the sex, age and address are the same, the person can vote;
 - If there are two same data among the three data (sex, age, and address), the person can vote;
 - If the three data (sex, age, and address) completely differ, the person cannot vote.
- 5) If there are two or more same or similar names on the voters list, the electoral official shall verify other data to ensure that the right person is allowed to vote.

Upon the receipt of this directive, chiefs of PEC, CEC and PSC must attentively disseminate and implement it with effectiveness.

Phnom Penh, dated 27 February 2007
On behalf of National Election Committee

Chairman

Signed and Sealed

Im Suosdey

UNDP Support Provided through Multi-Donor Supported Project:





BBC Trust Crew Producing a Training and Voter Education Video



Australian Government

AusAID



Canadian International
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de
développement international