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ជ្រើសរើសតំណាងរាស្ត្រ ឆ្នាំ២០០៨

European Union Election Observation Mission  
National Assembly Elections 2008



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**Cambodian elections 2008 fell short of key international standards but show some progress**

**Phnom Penh, 29 July 2008** – The 2008 National Assembly Election took place in an atmosphere which was an improvement on previous elections, with less violence and fewer complaints. However, the election has fallen short of a number of key international standards for democratic elections. The campaign was dominated by the ruling Cambodian People’s Party (CPP). The CPP made consistent use of state resources and there was a pattern of defections of large numbers of opposition political leaders and key activists to its ranks. The distribution of money and gifts by candidates and party officials was widely reported.

The National Election Committee (NEC) proved its ability to organise technically good elections with the planning and execution of the recruitment and training of election administration staff and other important electoral activities being timely and well conducted. Despite improvements in transparency, there was a lack of confidence in the impartiality of the NEC among election stakeholders.

*“The Cambodian people are to be congratulated for the peaceful and orderly way in which they turned out to vote on 27 July. This was a clear demonstration of the genuine commitment of the Cambodian people to democracy,”* said Martin Callanan, Chief Observer of the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM). *“It is disappointing that this commitment was not reflected in the overall electoral process, which fell short of a number of key international standards.”*

On election day, EU observers found that polling and counting were generally well administered. The widespread presence of political party agents and domestic observers was a positive factor, contributing to transparency and confidence in the voting process.

The CPP dominated media coverage of the elections to a degree which was not consistent with international standards on free and equal access to the media. Nevertheless, all opposition parties received access to state television TVK and state radio RNK according to election regulations, as well as time on a small number of private radio stations.

*“Despite some problems during the campaign period, as someone who was here in 2003, I feel that the election environment has improved a great deal, with less violent incidents and less complaints than in previous elections in Cambodia,”* said Glyn Ford, the head of a delegation from the European Parliament, which is part of the EU observation mission. *“Nevertheless, there were some issues that caused concern, and I urge all the election stakeholders to combine their efforts in order to resolve these problems.”*

The EU EOM will continue to observe the rest of the election process closely, including the count, consolidation and announcement of results, the response of the election administration to complaints and the adherence of

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political parties to the principles of the code of conduct. A more comprehensive, final report including recommendations for future elections will be published in two months.

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