



*News in Cambodia*

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**POLITICS**

**ICAPP, CAPDI: Cambodian Elections Are Free, Fair and Transparent**

The International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) and the Centrist Asia Pacific Democrats International (CAPDI) have issued a statement, stressing that Cambodia's general elections held on Sunday were "free, fair and transparent, and, above all, peaceful, non-violent and smooth."

The full statement released at noon reads as follows:

**Statement of ICAPP and CAPDI on the Cambodian Elections**  
 By: Dr. Heng Samrin, President of ICAPP  
 Secretary General, CAPDI  
 Special Representative, ICAPP

The members of the National Election Committee (NEC) of Cambodia, a joint representative delegation of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) and the Centrist Asia Pacific Democrats International (CAPDI), led by their President, Hon. Heng Samrin, & Secretary General of the Philippines, and CAPDI Chairman Josef Sualta, former Vice President of Indonesia, arrived in Cambodia for the purpose of observing elections and receiving the necessary information.

During its stay in Cambodia, the delegation met leaders of the three major political parties, the Cambodian People's Party, the Cambodian National Rescue Party and Funcinpec. The delegation also received a detailed briefing from the NEC on its functioning, powers and role as best as best to organize a transparent election.

On Saturday 28th, the delegation visited over a dozen polling stations, where pre-arranged visits and state neutrality, unlike Phnom Penh and provinces on its outskirts, both before and during the polling process, as well as observing the counting of ballots after the polls closed.

The ICAPP/CAPDI considers the situation in Cambodia as a territory of freedom will lead a victory of the Cambodian people if they spend to build a better future based on the integrity and quality of the ballot. Thus the election was free, fair and transparent, and allowed all political, non-violent and smooth the outcome to the fact that Cambodian democracy has not only restored, but some of age perfectly. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the people, political parties, leaders, media, civil society and the NEC of Cambodia for the successful and orderly conduct of the general election.

It was an election without any violence or any manipulation, rather, democracy triumphed, with the quiet and calm public feeling and conviction of the people, especially the youth, proving that democracy is, in fact, Cambodia's choice.

In this spirit, we welcome the genuine call of the leader of the National Rescue Party, Mr. Sam Rainsy, the "peace and reconciliation" and open it as soon as possible and the need of the hour. ICAPP and CAPDI, representing over 140 political parties from all over Asia and civil society and opinion leaders of various parts of the world, urge all the political parties of Cambodia to ensure the continued growth by the Cambodian people, and rise to the occasion and meet the expectations of their citizens by giving Cambodia a leading growth through progress to National United Government, which would be a better alternative for all Cambodians.

Cambodia is rich in a glorious civilization and its history has witnessed a glorious and brilliant past which the people of Cambodia are deeply proud of. The spirit of Cambodia should be well spread by such an historic opportunity, thus it requires tolerance, honesty and progress, peaceful coexistence. The ICAPP and CAPDI are sure they will continue to support the growth of growing peace, reconciliation and inclusive democracy in Cambodia.

**CPP Claims Victory in Sunday's National Election**

The ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) has claimed to win a majority vote in the general elections of July 28.

According to the preliminary results, CPP won absolute majority seats in the elections, which is enough for the CPP to form the government for the new legislature of the National Assembly, stressed the CPP in a statement issued yesterday late evening.

CPP also expressed its gratitude to all compatriots for their support to the party so that it can lead the country for another five-year term.

"CPP would like to appeal to all compatriots to remain calm and contribute to maintaining stability, security, and social order," said the statement, underlining the CPP's strong stance to protect the people's and

nation's interests in all situations and circumstances.

The preliminary results posted on the CPP's website showed that CPP won 55.28 percent of the total votes, or 68 seats of the 123-seat National Assembly, while the main opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) got the remaining 55 seats, or 44.72 percent of the votes.

Eight political parties, including CPP, CNRP, the royalist FUNCINPEC Party, the League for Democracy Party, the Cambodian Nationality Party; the Democratic Republic Party; the Khmer Anti-Poverty Party; and the Khmer Economic Development Party, contested yesterday's general elections.

**CPP Rejects Rumors over PM Hun Sen's Resignation**

The Cambodian People's Party (CPP) has announced to the

public that Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen is still in the country fulfilling his function as the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia as usual.

The CPP made the announcement rejecting the recent rumors that Samdech Techo Hun Sen, CPP Vice President and Prime Minister of the 4th Legislature, had left Cambodia to a foreign country and that he had resigned from his post as the prime minister.

“This is a psychological warfare cooked up by the unfair groups to poison the social environment,” the CPP’s announcement pointed out.

The announcement further says, “Once again, the Cambodian People’s Party wishes to deeply thank the citizens for their support and votes for the CPP to win by gaining an absolute majority of parliamentary seats, therefore enabling the CPP to form a new government in line with the Constitution, and Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen will continue to be the Prime Minister of the Royal Government, the 5th Legislature.”

“CPP continues to further strengthen the solidarity and internal unity to protect the supreme interests of the nation and people in every situation and circumstance”.

### **Russian Observers Appreciate the Sunday’s Elections**

The Russian observer team has valued that the Cambodian national election on July 28 was

conducted in a free and fair manner.

Ms. Elena Dubrovina, member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation (CECRF), and her team member, Mr. Vsevolod Perevozchikov, a senior admin officer of CECRF, told reporters at a press conference held here on Monday that their team had visited some polling stations in five districts in Phnom Penh, and a district in Kandal province, and they noted that the Sunday’s elections were free and fair in conformity with democratic process.

Ms. Elena Dubrovina also expressed her surprise when the team saw many Cambodian youths went to vote, which is different from the youths in Russia who are interesting only in entertainments.

### **International Observer Teams Speak Highly of Cambodian National Election Process**

Observer teams from China, the Republic of Korea and Hungary have lauded the process of the recent parliamentary elections in Cambodia.

In their separate statements released yesterday, the observer teams noted that the Sunday’s elections were competitive, free, fair, transparent, peaceful and acceptable.

“Hundreds of foreign diplomats, local and international observers and journalists witnessed this historic event, and were able to travel freely to perform their observation activities,” said the Chinese observer delegation led by

Mr. Zhao Shitong, Deputy Director of Bureau No.2, International Department, Central Committee, Communist Party of China.

For its part, the South Korean observer delegation, composed of members of the Korean National Assembly, underlined that Cambodian politics had been on the right toward democracy.

Furthermore, Hungarian observer team headed by Ambassador H.E. Dr. Georges Sutha, Secretary General of the Hungarian Social Democratic Party, emphasized that overall impression [of Cambodian national election] was positive. It also congratulated the people of Cambodia on the success of the elections.

The international observer teams further noted an enormously active participation of youth. This brightens the democracy in Cambodia, they said.

In addition, they called on all political parties to closely cooperate with one another so that the Kingdom may achieve democracy and inclusive social and economic development through national unity after the national election.

Moreover, they encouraged the international community to cooperate closely and constructively with the elected Royal Government of Cambodia in order for the latter to continue to strengthen the rule of law, to promote human rights, good governance and economic development, and to work in collaboration with its ASEAN Members States toward realizing the ASEAN Community.

## **Cambodian Ruling Party Welcomes Negotiations with Opposition Party**

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia and Vice President of the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP), said CPP welcomed the negotiations with the main opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) for the nation's benefit.

On July 29, 2013, CPP held its steering committee meeting and commissioned H.E. Say Chhum, CPP Secretary General, H.E. Sar Kheng and H.E. Sok An, both Deputy Prime Ministers and CPP senior members, to negotiate with other party, Samdech Techo Hun Sen said during his visit to the construction site of Stung Meanchey Flyover this afternoon.

The prime minister added that if necessary, he will sit down and negotiate with Mr. Sam Rainsy, President of the CNRP.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen also welcomed the request to have international involvement in the investigation of irregularities in Sunday's national election.

In addition, the Cambodian premier called on people to remain calm, stressing, "Who wins or loses is not important, but do not let an election becomes a national division."

According to the preliminary results posted on the CPP's website, the CPP won 55.28 percent of the total votes, or 68 seats of the 123-seat National Assembly, while the CNRP got the remaining 55 seats, or 44.72 percent of the votes.

## **Cambodia Reminds Foreign Diplomatic Missions Not to Interfere in Its Internal Affairs**

The Spokesperson of Cambodia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFA-IC) has issued a statement, urging foreign diplomatic missions not to play a role to support the opposition party.

According to the statement dated July 31, foreign diplomatic missions accredited to Cambodia have the obligation to fully respect the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, particularly paragraph 1 of Article 41, which states, "Without prejudice to their privileges and immunities, it is the duty of all persons enjoying such privileges and immunities to respect the law and regulations of the receiving State. They also have a duty not to interfere in the internal affairs of that State."

The Spokesperson of the MFA-IC also wishes to remind foreign diplomatic missions that Cambodia is a sovereign, democratic country, with the rule of law, and have to respect its Constitution and the electoral law, said the statement.

## **PM Hun Sen: Cambodia Has No More Political Deadlock**

Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen said Cambodia will have no more political deadlock for the establishment of a new parliament and government.

Since 2008, Cambodia has no political deadlock thanks to the amendment of Constitution in 2006, said this morning Samdech Techo

Hun Sen during his inspection tour of rice farming to Sanlong commune, Ksach Kandal district, Kandal province.

According to the amended Constitution, a new government can be formed by a 50-percent plus one majority, or 63 lawmakers in the new National Assembly (NA), he added.

The Cambodian premier further explained that the NA needs two-third majority, or 83 lawmakers, only for the amendment of Constitution, the approval of financial law or concessional loans, etc.

The new NA can hold its first session even without the presence of the opposition party, underlined Samdech Techo Hun Sen. "The Constitution states that the new NA will be convened by His Majesty the King no later than 60 days after the election. Therefore, it means that any political parties that boycott the opening session of the new NA are against the King and the people's will, and abandon their parliamentary seats. The seats will be then given to other parties that have seats in the NA," he said.

On the occasion, Samdech Techo Hun Sen also pledged to increase the salary of workers and civil servants in the fifth mandate.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen also called for unity and solidarity among the Cambodian people after the elections by asking them to work together for more prosperity and to think about the impacts first before they decide to join any demonstration.

In addition, Samdech Techo Hun Sen appealed to people and local authorities to keep high vigilance of possible floods along

the Mekong, Bassac and Tonle Sap rivers.

**EU Ambassador Lauds Cambodia's Election Process**

EU Ambassador to Cambodia H.E. Jean-Francois Cautai on Thursday spoke highly of the election process in Cambodia, stressing that the recent parliamentary elections were held in a peaceful and non violent manner.

"This reflects Cambodia's political maturity and its efforts in national development in a democratic process," H.E. Jean-Francois Cautain was quoted as saying by H.E. Ouch Borith,

Secretary of State for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFA-IC) after the meeting between Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of MFA-IC H.E. Hor Namhong and the EU ambassador.

Through his observation during the election campaign and on the polling day, H.E. Jean-Francois Cautain noted the active participation from Cambodian youths, said H.E. Ouch Borith.

Some problems, especially the technical ones, exist inevitably during the elections, said the EU ambassador who used to join national election in many countries which have similar election system as in Cambodia. He therefore

called on all political parties to resolve the problems peacefully through negotiations so as to maintain the country's stability.

According to H.E. Ouch Borith, H.E. Jean-Francois Cautain also informed the Cambodian deputy prime minister of the preparations of the General Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization to be held in September in Montreal, Canada, which will focus on the reduction of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from aircraft.