



**PRESS STATEMENT
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
June 13, 2008**

Voters List Improved but Many Voters Incorrectly Deleted

A Voter Registration Audit (VRA) of Cambodia's voters list has found that most eligible voters in Cambodia are registered and that the voters list is more up-to-date and accurate compared to its state in August 2007. The audit further revealed that the list clean-up conducted by the National Election Committee (NEC) correctly removed more than 500,000 invalid names. However, more than 57,000 voters (0.7% of the list) were incorrectly removed from the voters list.

The audit finds that 87.9% of eligible voters are registered. It also found that the list is more up-to-date with 84.1% of the names on the list verified as valid – an improvement of 6.8% since August 2007. The accuracy of the information on the final voters list, such as names and addresses, also improved. However, 0.7% of the voters list (or 9.8% of the Deletion List) was incorrectly deleted and were found to be valid registered voters.

The VRA group recommends the NEC take the necessary measures possible to restore those voters to the voters list so that they may vote on July 27, 2008. It is NEC's responsibility to safeguard the right to vote of every elector, including those whose names have been incorrectly deleted from the voters list.

The VRA is a systematic and scientific evaluation of the quality of the voters list. In August 2007, NICFEC and COMFREL, Cambodia's leading election observation organizations, with the technical assistance of the Center for Advanced Studies (CAS) and US-based National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), conducted a VRA prior to the NEC voter registration period (Sept-Oct 2007).

From May 24 to June 3, 2008, the same groups conducted a second VRA of the final voter's list which will be used in the upcoming National Assembly Elections in July 2008. Volunteer observers were deployed to 400 communes in every province of Cambodia to check the registration of 4,742 eligible voters. Both communes and eligible voters were selected using statistical methods. The margin of error was $\pm 3.5\%$ with a level of confidence of 95%.

This VRA contained three tests. In a "List-to-People Test", observers statistically select names from the final voters list and made contact with the voter to check the accuracy of the information. In a "People-to-List Test", eligible voters were chosen randomly from the population and their registration information was checked against the final voters list. Finally, observers also checked a statistical sample taken from the NEC Deletion List (Form 1025) to verify that the names were properly deleted from the voters list.

Neutral and Impartial Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (NICFEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1998 which works to strengthen democracy in Cambodia. NICFEC has monitored two national elections and two commune elections in Cambodia. NICFEC deployed both short-term and long-term observers to observe the 2007 Commune Council Election.

Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (COMFREL) is an independent, non-partisan domestic monitoring organization first established for the May 1993 UNTAC elections. COMFREL has worked in close collaboration with the international organisations throughout Cambodia in order to monitor the electoral process, before, during and after election day. COMFREL monitored the 1998, 2002, 2003 and 2007 elections by deploying short-term and long-term observers.

Center for Advanced Study (CAS) was founded in 1996 as an independent, non-political Cambodian institution devoted to research, education and public debate on issues affecting the development of the Cambodian society. CAS has conducted research for different national and international organizations on various subjects including health care (such as HIV/AIDS), civil society, voter awareness, conflict resolution, legal and judicial awareness, gender issues, and trafficking of women and children.

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) is an international non-profit and non-partisan organization working to strengthen and expand democracy worldwide. NDI has successfully pioneered the VRA technique around the world. NDI is supported by generous assistance of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

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