

Examination and Verification of the Irregularities Reports of National Assembly Election, 5th Mandate

In reference to the public press release of the National Election Committee (NEC) on July 31st, 2013, the submission and acceptance of the reports on the irregularities during the election time at the NEC and the Provincial/Capital Election Commissions (PECs) should be from August 2nd to August 6th, 2013. The NEC has received a total of 48 reports on the irregularities, from 11 Capital/Provinces: Phnom Penh, Battambang, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Speu, Kandal, Kratie, Preah Vihear, Prey Veng, Pursat, Takeo and Uddor Meanchey. Five (5) stakeholders, including the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), the FUNCIPEC Party, authorities and citizens have submitted the reports.

I. Examination and Verification of the Reports on the Irregularities

The NEC has examined and verified the reports and found as follows.

1. Reports of Cambodia National Rescue Party

The CNRP submitted only a letter describing 3 kinds of irregularities related to issues on the 2012 voters' lists, the certificates of identity and various events taken place on polling day. The party did not submit the report with the evidences to the NEC at the moment; the party will submit them provided a special commission to investigate the irregularities and evaluate their impact on the election would be created. Therefore, the NEC could not examine the irregularities (no report submitted).

2. Reports of Other Stakeholders

The reported irregularities are:

- campaigning on the prohibitive day
- disturbing polling and ballots counting process
- undermining the credibility of the election through informing or showing to people that the indelible ink can be washed out
- threatening and preventing voters from voting
- intimidating voters so that they do not dare to vote
- offering incentives to buy votes
- disturbing the tasks of the electoral officials
- transporting voters
- persuading citizens to lodge their complaints after the polling day.

The reports stated that the cases mostly happened outside of the polling/ballots counting stations, sporadically only in some polling stations. In those places where the incidents happened, despite the voting and ballots counting were sometimes conducted with difficulty, yet generally the electoral tasks have started and finished as schedule.

The above cases were reported by one concerned party. Some of those cases were already hierarchically lodged by stakeholders, and they were examined and resolved as prescribed by the election law, and NEC Regulations and Procedures.

From reviewing the form 1101, the minute report of the election (at the polling stations) at most of the reported cases, there were no such incidents of irregularities recorded in the form; this means that the electoral process has taken place in a normal manner; and importantly, the voters turn-out rate was high, with only two (2) polling stations having 63.59% turn-out rate, while others polling stations had the voters turn-out rate between 75.30% and 82.90%.

Most of the reports on the irregularities were similar to the complaints (lodged at CECs, PECs, and NEC). Most of them were requests to penalize individual who has violated the electoral law, NEC's Regulations and Procedures. These reported cases happened outside of the polling stations which the NEC did not consider them as the irregularities cases to be solved at this time.

II. Conclusion

On the one hand, all the received reports and with the conduct of a thorough examination and verification, the reported irregularities could really happen, disturb, and have affect on voters, on polling and ballot counting only at some extend level, but there was no serious impact. On the other hand, most of these reported cases were already hierarchically lodged by stakeholders at the election commissions at all levels. And the election commissions at all levels had already examined and resolved in accordance to the election law, and NEC Regulations and Procedures. The NEC considered these reports of irregularities as very important and valuable documents for research and as a lesson learnt to improve the future elections.

Phnom Penh, August 11, 2013 On behalf of the National Election Committee Chairman