



EU Election Observation Mission

Room #4 & 5, Ground Floor of Hotel Cambodiana, Phnom Penh

Tel: (855) 23 22 09 70/1/2

Fax : (855) 23 22 09 73

Email address : EU.EOM2003@online.com.kh

Press statement from the EU Chief Observer prior to polling day

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Immediate Release

EU Chief Observer urges fair play

Robert Evans MEP, the European Union Chief Election Observer, today issued an appeal to everyone involved in Sunday's parliamentary election urging them to do all they can to create a fair environment for the voters to exercise their democratic rights.

"The Cambodian authorities at every level from ministers to the village chiefs have a special responsibility to create the right conditions for a credible election," said Mr Evans.

"The village chiefs especially must follow closely, the instructions issued by the National Election Committee (NEC) and the Ministry of Interior, to insure complete political neutrality throughout the process."

The Chief Observer who has returned to Cambodia for the period of the election added, "I appeal to all the political parties to respect each other's right to conclude their campaigns peacefully, especially in the hours leading to polling day."

"I also appeal to the election authorities to ensure that the election process is conducted impartially and in a transparent manner, so as to reassure the voters in this democratic exercise. The voter should feel free to vote without intimidation and in absolute secrecy."

Deputy Chief Observer Maria Rosaria Macchiaverna who has been in Cambodia for nearly six weeks said, "The European Union Election Observation Mission (EUEOM) has 37 Long Term Observers (LTOs) who have been following the campaign and maintained close contact with the local election authorities (CEC and PEC), the political parties, NGOs and the public at large. They have gathered a lot of information about the electoral process and are following closely any allegation of irregularities."

"Our assessment of the campaign and of the election process generally, will be made public later in the same week as the count," she added.