



គណបក្ស សម រង្ស៊ី

SAM RAINSY PARTY  
PARTI SAM RAINSY  
សមរង្ស៊ី សម្បជ័យ យុត្តិធម៌

STATEMENT

January 20, 1999

**OPPOSITION BACKS KING'S VIEW ON SENATE**

The Sam Rainsy Party supports the clear position of King Norodom Sihanouk, expressed on December 26, 1998 and January 19, 1999, that all but six Senators should be elected from the ranks of various sectors ("corps de métiers") of society including the NGOs and human rights organizations, farmers, military, artisans, teachers, religious groups, overseas Cambodians, and others.

This system of universal indirect suffrage is in contrast to the draft Senate amendment proposed by the Government and passed by the Assembly's Legislative Commission. It would require a Law on Associations to define these groups and to specify their rights under the freedom of association guaranteed by the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The SRP expresses its gratitude for the King's wise statement that the Senate should take a leading role in defending human rights, the state of law, and the environment; in protecting the rights of poor people and workers; and in supporting social justice, the independence of the judiciary and real democracy in Cambodia.

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