



## NATIONAL ELECTION COMMITTEE PUBLIC INFORMATION BUREAU

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### NEC TRIES TO RESOLVE OBSERVER ISSUE

HE Im Suosdei, General Secretary and Spokesman for the National Election Committee, said the NEC is trying to control the release of identity cards to national observers to ensure that only people who are trained and neutral can observe the 26 July election. The NEC has told election officials to be very careful before issuing observer cards. The officials must see that observers fulfill NEC conditions having training and being neutral and independent. And any person whose name on the observer card is not the same as on other ID cards will have the observer card withdrawn.

The spokesman said more than 60,000 names have been registered for national observers, but that only some ID cards have been issued. He did not have a number for how many have already been given to observers.

The polling station Chairman will draw up a timetable for observers to enter the station. Only four observers are allowed inside at one time, but of the four, two must be international. If there no international observers at that station, then four national observers can enter.

HE Im Suosdei said he is responsible for the national observer process, and he is very sorry the problem has arisen. "It is very strange that Cambodia has more observers than other people of the world," he said.

The spokesman also said that the NEC has the final list of registered voters. The total is 5,395,024 voters. A journalist asked how the NEC made its estimate of eligible voters before registration.

The spokesman said he worked on this process for two years and it was very difficult to make the estimate. For example, he went to see a village chief and there were no written documents. The chief had the number of people who died, or who were born, or who moved in his head. So the chief told HE Im Suosdei the numbers and he wrote them down. "So it could be 90 per cent true," he said. That is why the NEC estimate was not as good as a census, but was a basis for making an estimate.

Leng Sochea

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For more information please contact the NEC Media Centre at 208A Norodom Boulevard.

Tel: 023-982-674 Fax: 023-982-673 or E-mail: necmedia@forum.org.kh

Mr Leng Sochea, is at the NEC Public Information Bureau, Tel: 018-811-257 Fax: 023-217-350