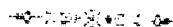


## Kingdom of Cambodia

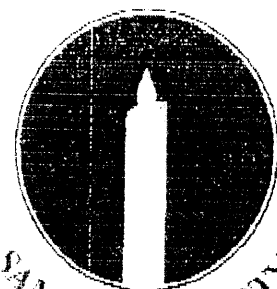
Nation Religion King



THE ALLIANCE OF DEMOCRATS



FUNCINPEC PARTY



SAM RAINSY PARTY

## PUBLIC STATEMENT

20 November 2003

## FOR A BETTER GOVERNMENT

The Alliance of Democrats would like to clarify that it is ready to go to the negotiation table as soon as the defamation lawsuits against Prince Norodom Ranariddh filed by Prime Minister Hun Sen, the Cambodian People's Party, and the Royal Government of Cambodia are dropped. It would be most inappropriate to negotiate anything with any lawsuit hanging over one's head. It is most regrettable that the lawsuits have effectively prevented the scheduled meeting this morning of the Working Group on National Assembly matters.

The Alliance is ready to negotiate the formation of a government that will be committed to serving the interest of the nation. Such attempt to build a new type of government will necessarily require some genuine efforts and time as "Rome is not built in a day". Again and again has the current type of government, which is based on authoritarianism, corruption, lawlessness, and impunity failed to reduce poverty and defend the country's interest. It will only lead to further misery, human right abuse, destruction of national resources, and loss of national territory. Cambodia currently has a set of the worst human development indicators in the world. And these cannot be rectified with the current type of government, which only requires, first and foremost, selfish agreement on position sharing.

To ensure that the new government will implement what the three parties will have agreed upon to address problems facing Cambodia, the Alliance welcomes a request by the civil society to take part in the meetings of the two Working Groups, and invites the Cambodian People's Party to approve it as well. The Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (Comfrel), representing a body of the civil society, has formally requested that they be allowed to observe these crucial meetings. They will be "witnesses" of any agreement reached by the three major parties while unofficially providing the latter with some valuable inputs. We are, in effect, upholding principles of good governance – rule of law, transparency, accountability, and participation of citizens in decision making process.

General Secretariat