



គណបក្ស សម រង្ស៊ី

SAM RAINSY PARTY
PARTI SAM RAINSY

សីលធម៌ សច្ចធម៌ យុត្តិធម៌

February 21, 2007

SRP Asks NEC to Issue Directive Listing Allowable Errors in Voter Registration

On February 19, SRP President Sam Rainsy sent a letter to Im Suosdey, Chairman of the National Election Committee (NEC), requesting that specific instructions be issued to election officials regarding how to manage discrepancies between voter's identification cards and the NEC's official voter lists.

Many citizens discovered differences in data (spelling of their name, gender, age) between their voter ID cards and the official voter list, and submitted these changes to their Commune Election Committee (CEC). However, not all of these changes were rectified on the final official lists. On April 1, therefore, polling station officials will face a large number of discrepancies between the information presented on voter ID cards and the information on the official voters' lists.

On February 9, 2007, NEC attempted to resolve the problem by issuing letter number 089/07, stating that small disagreements between the voter list and the citizen's ID cards should not be cause for turning a voter away from the ballot box. Unfortunately, in this letter NEC did not enumerate precisely what kinds of differences between the voter list and the ID card should be allowable and what kind should not.

A loose directive leaves room for interpretation, which can lead to discretionary decisions. If CPP-related commune officials who are managing the polling stations are given broad discretion in determining how to implement a loose directive, they may apply it differentially – being overly lenient with CPP supporters and overly strict with non-CPP supporters.

It is imperative that the degree of tolerance be the same for every eligible voter, and that this degree of tolerance be made known to all polling station officials and all voters. Because transparency is key to the equal implementation of the law, Sam Rainsy requested that a list of allowable discrepancies and non-allowable discrepancies be posted on the wall of every polling station, so that citizens have recourse to defense in case their voting rights are being violated.

SRP Secretariat
For More Information, Contact: 012 831 040