



# KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

## NATION RELIGION KING



### NATIONAL ELECTION COMMITTEE

#### NEC SPOKESMAN

Nº 042 NEC

Phnom Penh 30 June 2023

#### Press Release

#### On

#### The Commencements of Electoral Campaign from July 1 to 21, 2023

On the morning of Friday, June 30, 2023, at 10:00 AM, at the NEC Conference Hall, there was a meeting with the stakeholders pertinent to the election chaired by **H.E Dim Sovannarom**, a member of the NEC and Chairman of the NEC Information Reaction Team and Chaired a meeting to promote the commencement of electoral campaign and security, safety and public order during the electoral campaign of the election of Members of National Assembly in the 7<sup>th</sup> legislature, 2023.

**His Excellency Dim Sovannarom** stated, “The electoral campaign will have run from the July 1<sup>st</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 with a total number of 21 days. Eighteen political parties officially recognized by the National Election Committee (NEC) have the right to campaign for votes in accordance with the laws, regulations and procedures for the election, the instructions on the electoral campaign in a mutually responsible, forbearing and tolerant manner. **His Excellency** informed about the electoral activities that are deemed as electoral campaign such as public meetings held by political parties or candidates, marches or rallies organized by groups of pedestrians or vehicles of all kinds in the capital, provinces, municipalities, districts, and Khan, door-to-door meetings/visits or campaign, leaflet distribution activities of political parties and so on.”

Regarding the electoral campaign marches, **H.E. Dim Sovannarom** said, the marches or rallies organized by groups of pedestrians or vehicles of all kinds must be done at least four times within the border of the capital and provinces capital where the concerned political party has a list of candidates standing for the election. The form and scope of the marches or rallies organized by groups of pedestrians or vehicles of all kinds shall be defined as follows:

- Organizing the marches, banners and/or slogans and/or other political messages are normally attached to cars and/or motorcycles and/or tri-wheel vehicles or boats of all kinds and broadcasted on air or propaganda on loudspeakers;
- 20 or more participants are created by groups of pedestrians and/or vehicles of any or all kinds used in the electoral campaign:
  - o 2 or more vehicles accompanied by 10 or more motorcycles and tri-wheel vehicles






- 20 or more motorcycles and tri-wheel vehicles
- 5 or more boats of all kinds

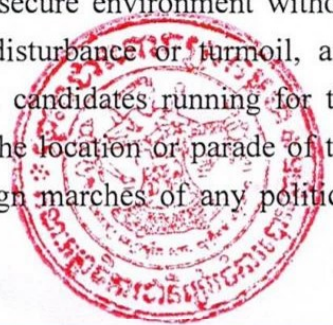
**H.E Dim Sovannarom** further stated that political parties wishing to organize marches or rallies during the electoral campaign shall notify in writing to the Provincial/Capital Election Commissions (PEC) at least three days before the electoral campaign marches/rallies. This notice shall specify the date, time of the marches, the places of gatherings, the routes to be marched, the released location, numbers of participants and numbers of vehicles for each category.

Overall, the electoral campaigns of political parties shall be held in compliance with the procedures and instructions pertinent to the electoral campaign.

**H.E Dim Sovannarom** further stated that the electoral campaigns shall maintain security, safety and public order. To participate in the protection of the conduct of the election of Members of National Assembly in the 7<sup>th</sup> legislature, 2023, which will be held on July 23, 2023 running in a secure, well-organized and safe, threat-free and non-violent manner, Permanent Security Command For the election, the National Election Committee (NEC) has issued Joint Instruction No. 01, dated 31 January 2023, on "Activities and Organization of Electoral Security Agencies during the Campaign to Protect the Electoral Process of the Election of Members of the National Assembly in the 7<sup>th</sup> legislature, 2023 " in order to determine the mechanism /structure of election security at all levels, ministries/institutions and relevant units, especially the Provincial/Capital Unified Administration Command Commissions, Provincial/Capital Election Commissions (PECs) as well as all election security agencies to pay attention to cooperation and implementation in a highly effective manner and has also organized the security forces to protect the electoral campaign. His Excellency continued that the targets to protect the electoral campaign are located across all 1,652 communes/Sangkat starting from 1<sup>st</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023 and the security forces who will be used together:

- Commune/Sangkat Administration Police Posts
- Police Inspectorates of Communities/Districts/Khan, the Royal Gendarmerie Bases of Municipalities/Districts and Khan
- Military Division of Municipalities/ Districts/Khan who have total 19,724 armed forces

Concerning the procedures to defend the electoral security during the electoral campaign, **H.E Dim Sovannarom** informed that the electoral security agents were assigned to safeguard the marches or rallies organized by groups of pedestrians or vehicles of all kinds and positioned around the premises of public gatherings or campaigns by maintaining a safe and secure environment without intimidation and threats and with any non-violence or provocation, disturbance or turmoil, and organization of good order or arrangements for all political parties and candidates running for the election. Electoral security agents shall not stand near or walk close to the location or parade of the electoral campaign or stay within the precincts of the electoral campaign marches of any political parties. 



Concerning the observance of the traffic law, **H.E Dim Sovannarom** confirmed, “The National Election Committee (NEC) has also laid out Instruction No. 037/NEC, dated 15 May 2023 on the electoral campaign marches and leaflet distribution activities of political parties in the markets for the election of Members of National Assembly in the 7<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 2023 in order to determine the forms and scopes of the electoral campaign marches aimed at ensuring that political parties pay more attention, respect for and maintain good order on the streets, towns, in the public places, and pay more attention to obeying road traffic laws.”

During the meeting, there were more interests and questions raised by stakeholders focusing mainly on the protection of security and safety for the electoral campaign of political parties, of how are the techniques and procedures for that protection done?

NEC representatives clarified the procedures and highlighted the Joint Instruction between the National Election Committee (NEC) and the Ministry of Interior No. 01 dated 31 January 2023 on the activities and organization of the electoral security agencies during the electoral campaign to protect preparation process for the election of Members of National Assembly in the 7<sup>th</sup> legislature, 2023. At the same time, the National Election Committee (NEC) would like to urge political parties to communicate directly with the Provincial/Capital Election Commissions (PEC) and Commune/Sangkat Election Commissions (CEC) related to the security and order protection during the electoral campaign activities.

The stakeholders meeting was participated by representatives of the Constitutional Council, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of National Defense, political parties, representatives of associations and non-governmental organizations, Australian embassy officials, Japanese embassy officials, Russian embassy officials and others journalists, totally 70 participants. *EA*

