

11% of Eligible Voters Still Not Registered: Audit

BY SUZY KIHMM
AND PIN SISOVANN
THE CAMBODIA DAILY

More than 11 percent of the country's eligible voters remain unregistered, and an increasingly mobile workforce could increase that number, according to an audit of the 2006 national voter list released Thursday.

Polling a randomly selected sample of 3,796 voters from 380 communes, the voter registration audit determined that 88.8 percent of the respondents were registered and 11.2 percent were unregistered.

The audit was jointly conducted by the US-based National Democratic Institute, the Neutral and Impartial Committee for Free Elections, the Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia, and the Center for Advanced Study.

Men and urban citizens were more likely to be unregistered, as a

greater percentage were mobile workers who could miss parts of the voter registration process, Nicfec Executive Director Puthea Hang said.

Voters under 19 years old were among the least likely to be registered and only 56.6 percent had national ID cards, according to the audit. The monitoring groups urged the government to complete the distribution of ID cards by Sept 15 to facilitate the voter registration process.

The audit also found that 10.5 percent of already registered voters may have relocated to other parts of the country since their last registration. That could put them at risk of being deleted from the voter list, which is currently being cleaned up and updated ahead of the next national election in July 2008.

"I urge caution in the clean-up of the list...since it seems a significant

proportion of voters permanently or temporarily reside outside their communes and may or may not return to vote," NDI Resident Country Director Jerome Cheung said in a statement Thursday.

Puthea Hang also said the registration of eligible voters was more important than the process of removing ineligible "ghost names" from the voter lists. He urged the NEC to provide "concrete evidence" before striking a voter's name from the list.

NEC Secretary-General Tep Nytha said that he did not dispute the results of the audit, and asked that all information be passed to the NEC.

Tep Nytha said the NEC was updating the voter list according to "accurate documents and fact," adding that the NEC had verified that commune councilors were 91 percent accurate in listing voter names for deletion.

Translated from Moneasekar Khmer (09/07/07) (below article)

11.2 % of Eligible Voters Still Not Registered

On Thursday, September 6, 2007 four NGOs, NICFEC, COMFREL, CAS and NDI, conducted a press conference on Voter Registration findings at Le Royal Hotel, Phnom Penh. The conference not only announced the findings of the voter registration audit but also provided recommendations to NEC and the government, Hun Sen, to pay attention on the eligible voters who still not registered.

(The rest of this article is the same as our press release September 6, 2007.)

ប្រជាពលរដ្ឋខ្មែរ១១, ២ភាគរយមិន ទាន់ធានាចុះឈ្មោះបោះឆ្នោតនៅឡើយ

ដោយ : សុភាព

អង្គការក្រៅរដ្ឋាភិបាលចំនួន ៤ គឺអង្គការនិចហ្វិក, ខុមហ្វ្រែល, មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលសម្រាប់ការសិក្សាស្រាវជ្រាវ ជាន់ខ្ពស់ និង NDI ធ្វើសន្និសីទកាសែត កាលពីរសៀល ថ្ងៃព្រហស្បតិ៍ ទី៦ ខែកញ្ញា ឆ្នាំ២០០៧ នៅ ភ្នំពេញ ទំព័រ ៤ " យ"



សន្និសីទកាសែតរបស់អង្គការក្រៅរដ្ឋាភិបាលកាលពីថ្ងៃម្សិលមិញ