



MEDIA RELEASE

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MAJOR PARTIES OUTLINE ELECTION POLICIES



Phnom Penh 6 June: Today over 350 representatives of communities, civil society, and political parties gathered to hear representatives of major political parties outline their policies in the run up to the Cambodian National Election on 28 July 2013.



Organised by a group of NGOs, the Political Forum was designed to provide an opportunity for citizens to hear the policies of the key parties contesting the Election.



Those parties who presented policies were the Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP) and Funcinpec. The Cambodian People's Party declined to participate.



The candidates were asked to outline their policies under four key headings: **Economic and Land Reform; The Environment, Forestry and Climate Change; Social and Human Development; and Rule of Law, Good Governance and Access to Information.**



“It is a fundamental principal of a democratic society that citizens have the right to hear the policies that political parties will take to the Election”, said Mr Chhith Sam Ath, Executive Director of the NGO Forum.

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CAMBODIANS FOR RESOURCE REVENUE TRANSPARENCY

“We are holding this Forum today so that citizens can hear the parties’ policies and raise questions on matters of concern to them. We hope that this Forum will help ensure that Cambodians are more informed as they prepare to make choices about who they will select for the next Government”, he said.



Under each of the key headings, questions explored fully the major issues facing Cambodians today.



Under the heading of **Economic and Land Reform**, each candidate was asked how they would ensure accountability and transparency in the management of the national budget and extractive industry revenues; how they would promote equitable development of public services to meet the needs of men and women; and how they would ensure public participation in the process of national planning.



In regard to the **Environment, Forest Management and Climate Change**, candidates were asked how they would mainstream policies on climate change; how they would manage trans-boundary issues on such matters as hydropower development; how they will ensure Cambodia benefits from the Carbon Market; and how they would ensure access to information for men and women on all these issues.



Under the heading of **Social and Human Development Issues**, candidates outlined their policies on priority issues for social development in Cambodia; how they would ensure the quality of education and health services in Cambodia; whether they would introduce a social safety net; and how they would ensure that all Cambodians can share equally in these services.



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Organizing Committee



In the final session on **Rule of Law, Good Governance and Access to information**, candidates were asked how they would ensure the courts are independent and impartial; what strategies they would use to fight corruption; and how they will proceed to passing laws on access to information.

The Forum drew participation from many community representatives, CSOs, political representatives, and the donor and diplomatic communities.

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