

PRESS RELEASE OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

Yesterday, 29 March 2017 at 2:30 pm, the representative of the Ministry of Interior (MOI), up on the request of the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), agreed to meet with the CNRP representative on the issue regarding the extraordinary congress of CNRP held on 02 March 2017. After the meeting, an attempt was made to interpret differently from outcome of this meeting. In order to avoid confusion and misinterpretation of the fact, the MOI has the honor to inform the national and international public as follow:

- **First:** The above-mentioned meeting was a technical meeting on the enforcement of the law, and was not meant to seek any political coronation;
- **Second:** With reference to the statute of the CNRP registered with MOI on 10 May 2013, the MOI observed that:
 - The CNRP's extraordinary congress held on 02 March 2017 complied with the statute of the CNRP.
 - The amendments to the articles 45 and 47 made at the congress complied with the CNRP statute.
 - However, the appointment of Mr. Kem Sokha as the new party leader and other 3 deputies namely Mr. Pol Ham, Ms. Mu Sochau and Mr. Eng Chai Eang were made in violation of the article 47 of the CNRP's statute which is the highest regulation of this party.

The article 47 of the CNRP's statute submitted to the MOI stated that:

“In case the party leader is unable to lead as confirmed by the board of directors if”:

- The remaining mandate is less than 18 months, the deputy leader of the party shall perform as acting leader and the board of directors shall select a new deputy leader within 30 days with an absolute majority vote (50%+1) of the board of directors in order to assist the acting leader of the party until the mandate ends.
- The remaining mandate is more than 18 months, the permanent committee shall organize an extraordinary congress to select a new leader and deputies of party within 30 days to lead the party until the end of the mandate.
- **Third:** The Ministry of Interior observed that after the resignation of Mr. Sam Rainsy as the leader of CNRP on 11 February 2017, the remaining mandate is less than 18 months. The board of directors of CNRP held a meeting on 12 February 2017, in accordance with the article 47, first paragraph (first dash) of the CNRP's statute, and endorsed Mr. Kem Sokha as acting leader of party to lead the party. The extraordinary congress to select the new leader and the 3 deputies of CNRP party violated the article 47 in both first paragraph and second paragraph of the CNRP statute.
- **Fourth:** The extraordinary congress of CNRP held on 02 March 2017 amended the article 47 of the CNRP's statute with a full meaning as follow:

“In case the party leader dies, resigns, loses the membership or is unable to lead the party as confirmed by the board of directors if”:

- The remaining mandate is less than 18 months, a most senior deputy leader of the party shall be assigned as the leader of the party. In case there is no deputy leader of the party, the board of directors shall select at least one party deputy leader within 30 days from their members, in an absolute majority vote (50%+1), as a new deputy leader of the party to assist the party leader until the mandate ends.

- The remaining mandate is more than 18 months, the permanent committee shall organize an extraordinary congress to select a new leader and deputies of the party within 30 days to lead the party until the end of the mandate.

In general, the Ministry of Interior observed that the extraordinary congress of the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) held on 02 March 2017 to select the new party leader and 3 deputies of CNRP mentioned above was made in violation to both the new article 47 and old article 47 of the CNRP's statute which is the highest regulation of this party.

Please, national and international public, kindly be informed of the above-mentioned information.

Phnom Penh, 30 March 2017