



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**NATION RELIGION KING**



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**Statement**

of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia

Over the past decades, Cambodia's democracy has become vibrant and strong. The upcoming Commune/Sangkat Council Election, that marks the fourth time such elections have been held to select sub-national governance body, will be conducted with the strong commitment of the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) and the National Election Committee (NEC) for a free and fair condition.

At the NEC's request, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has invited all Diplomatic Missions, International and Foreign Non-Governmental Organizations, among them the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) to send its representatives to observe the Commune/Sangkat Council Election to be held on 04 June 2017.

ICAPP is a global political grouping with 364 membership parties, including ruling, opposition and coalition, from 53 Asian countries. ICAPP members have a long history of democracy, and they have been holding free and fair election on a regular basis. Additionally, ICAPP has broad cooperation with major political groupings in Africa, Europe and Latin America. Therefore, denying the legitimacy of this political grouping in observing election in Cambodia and around the world is tantamount to denying democratic progress in its members and the Asian region as well.

Cambodia highly values the involvement of the international community, including ICAPP in the country's election observation process, with the strong conviction that it will contribute in the election's credibility. The RGC encourages foreign governments and international organizations from around the world to send observers for this election. The RGC requests interested international observers to seek their own funding as the first alternative.

The RGC adheres to the election law and other related laws in order to ensure that the involvement of international observers is within the confine of the country's Constitution. Through these efforts, Cambodia has become a country of the rule of law, which serves as the foundation of democracy, stability, peace and prosperity.

With reference to the Cambodia Daily article titled "Gov't Funds Return of 'Shadow' Election Monitors" issued on 24 May 2017, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation wishes to affirm that no person with the name of Lim Sreynith works in the Ministry.

Phnom Penh, 24 May 2017

