



# Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats

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**Hon. Kem Sokha, MP**  
President  
Cambodia National Rescue Party

Dear Mr. Kem Sokha:

Today, we learned that Cambodia's National Election Committee (NEC) already released the official results of the June 4 commune elections that show significant gains for the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP). It is in this light that we, on behalf of the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD), would like to extend our warm congratulations for what CNRP has been able to achieve despite the odds stacked against you.

The NEC results showed that your party was able to secure 489 out of the 1,646 commune chiefs (29.7%) and 5007 out of 11,572 commune councilors (43.3%). These are definitely a significant improvement from the 40 commune chiefs and 2955 commune councilors you won in the last 2012 commune elections. Moreover, your share of popular votes these elections is at 43.8% (versus 50.8% of the ruling Cambodia People's Party or CPP), showing a swing of around 13% to the opposition.

While we recognize the opposition gains these elections, together with the significant improvements in the conduct of the electoral process, we are also aware that irregularities and issues occurred prior to the election which might have affected the fairness of the vote. A group of independent election watchdogs, for example, cited political suppression, the amendments to the political parties law, opaque campaign finances, biased courts, the intimidation of NGOs and military officials who openly campaigned for the CPP as issues that hindered them from calling the recent elections, "free and fair".

Much more needs to be done in this regard, but the fact that the Cambodian people showed overwhelming support to the CNRP despite these issues gives us reason to hope for a more democratic Cambodia in the future. You may remember that a delegation from CALD was in Phnom Penh during the recent elections, and the delegates were able to witness, firsthand, the enthusiasm and fervor of your people for democracy. They went back to their respective countries deeply inspired and moved by their experience in Cambodia. They also appreciated your graciousness for receiving them in the CNRP headquarters last 4 June despite the many things you had to attend to that election day.

Again, we send our sincerest congratulations. We expect great things for CNRP come the national elections next year. Long live the CNRP and Cambodian democracy!

Sincerely yours,

**Abhisit Vejjajiva**  
CALD Chairperson  
Former Prime Minister of Thailand

**Kiat Sittheeamorn**  
CALD Secretary General  
Deputy Leader, Democrat Party of Thailand