



Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats

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Son Chhay

Vice President

Candlelight Party, Cambodia

Mardi Seng

Treasurer

Candlelight Party, Cambodia

Dear Messrs. Son and Mardi:

On behalf of the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD), I would like to congratulate the Candlelight Party (CLP) for winning 4 commune chiefs and 2,176 council members based on unofficial results of the recently concluded 2022 Commune Elections.

The Party's 22% share of popular vote is also no mean feat considering the persecution and oppression of the members of the political opposition. We commend the CLP for rising up to the challenge - for working hard and bravely getting back into the political field to once again fight for the Cambodian people who have been denied real democratic choices in recent years.

We have been monitoring the situation of Cambodia even after the arbitrary dissolution of the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) in 2017. We share your hopes and aspirations to offer an alternative voice for Cambodia and to fight for meaningful reforms based on the Paris Peace Accords - including the release of all political prisoners, a free and fair electoral body that rightly enforces election laws, and a venue for peaceful dialogue with the ruling party to seek national reconciliation.

We believe that the gains you garnered in this election is just the start. We trust that with your leadership and guidance, the people of Cambodia will see through the struggles and rise above the fears and threats. We are optimistic that the CLP will not only offer a platform geared towards addressing the immediate needs of the people, but also establish a culture and movement that emboldens courage and hope for the future of democracy in the country.

Again, on behalf of the CALD family, our sincerest salutations. CALD is always ready to extend a helping hand to reinforce what your party has started. We are ready to work with you and fight with you to realize a more democratic future for the Cambodian people.

Sincerely,

Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan

CALD Chairperson

Senator, Republic of the Philippines