



## **AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH**

11 October 2017

### **STATEMENT ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN CAMBODIA**

Australia is firmly committed to democracy in Cambodia and has expressed concerns about recent political developments to the Cambodian Government.

The most recent actions seeking to dissolve the Cambodian National Rescue Party continue to raise concerns. Removal of the main opposition party would be a significant setback to democracy and would undermine a free, fair and transparent national election in 2018.

The Cambodian people's resolute commitment to multiparty democracy was demonstrated by the high turnout and results of the June 2017 commune elections.

Australia urges Cambodia to provide a safe and enabling environment for Cambodians to practise their rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association. A vibrant media sector, active civil society and credible opposition are all features of democratic societies.

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