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General

## NEC Press Release: Immediate Halt of Action against the Election Law

On 6 June 2023, the National Election Committee ("NEC") issued a press release no. 004 calling for the immediate halt of any and all actions that are contrary to the election law. Cambodia is having its general election of members of National Assembly of the 7<sup>th</sup> Legislature (2023) in July 2023.

NEC has noted the actions of certain individuals campaigning by dissemination of leaflets, pictures, or other publications on social media encouraging citizens to cross out the ballot paper or to not participate in the election due to the absence of Candlelight Party. The NEC has thus stated that:

1. The refusal of registration of the Candlelight Party and the Khmer National Unity Party and the candidates thereof is purely an implementation of the law. The NEC is a technical institution charged with implementing the law in conformity with the principle of equality, and non-discrimination of any political party.
2. The above-mentioned campaign is a violation of Article 142 of Law on Election that carries with it a fine of up to 20 million riels, notwithstanding other criminal penalties. Article 142 covers those who have:
  - impeded eligible citizens from going to vote;
  - caused misunderstanding leading to skepticism; or
  - disrupted the election process.

The above-mentioned campaign is in defiance of the Royal Message of **His Majesty, the King of Cambodia** on 8 February 2023 calling on all Cambodians to go to vote.

Pursuant to Article 42 of the Law on the Organization and Functioning of the National Election Committee, NEC must take any and all action to ensure that the election is free, fair, just, and by means of secret ballot. In light of this, NEC has called for:

- an immediate halt for those who intend to commit any activity that violates the election law; and
- all Cambodian citizen to actively participate in the upcoming national election which will take place on 23 July 2023.

NEC has issued a stern warning and will take strict action against any activity that is in violation of the election law, and the rules and regulations of the NEC.

If you have any queries on the above, please feel free to contact our team members below who will be happy to assist.

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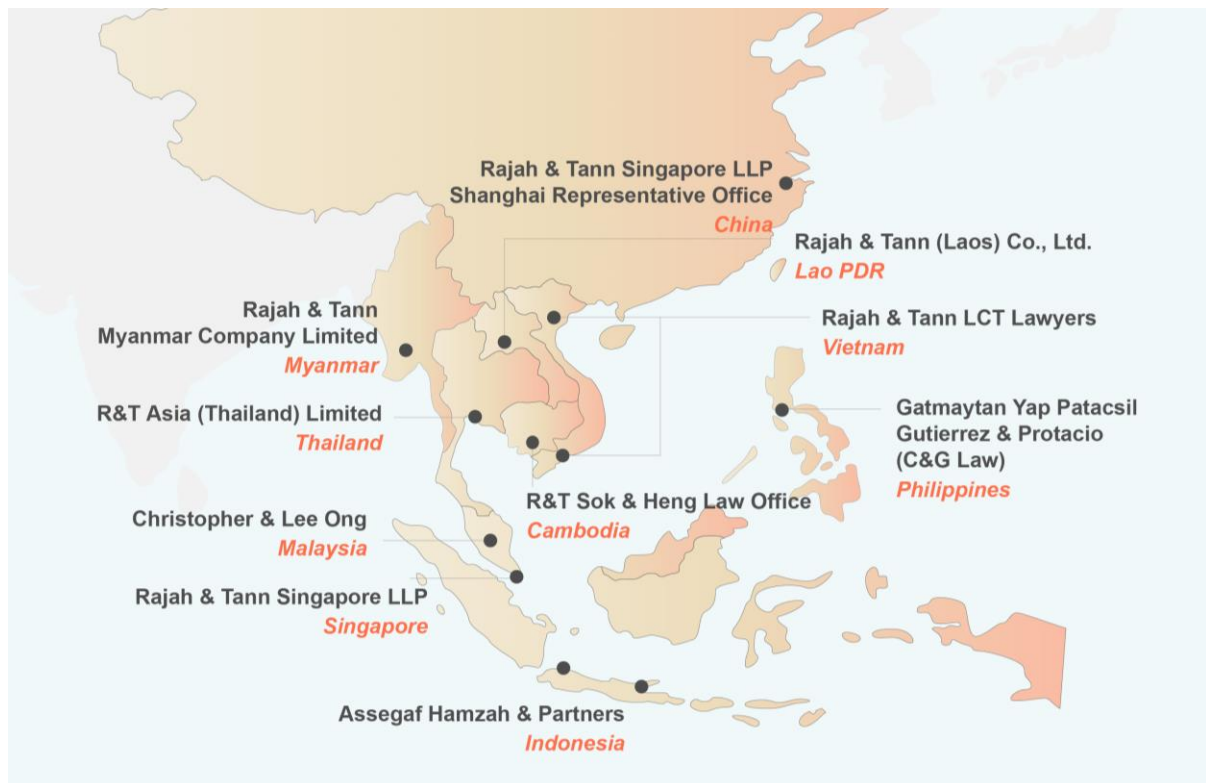
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