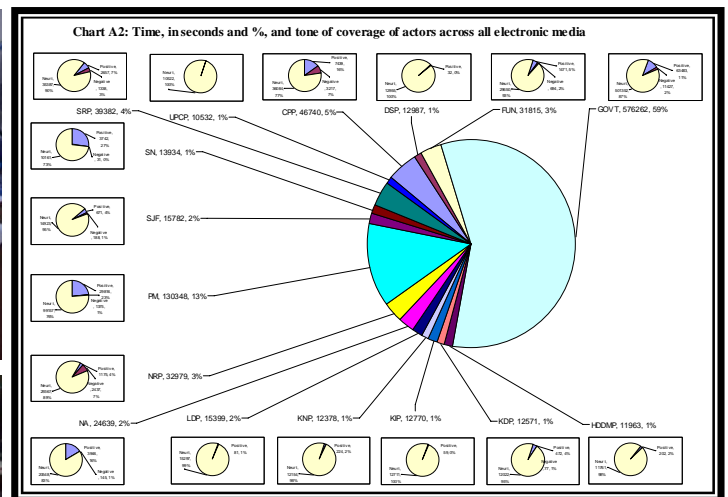




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Final Report of the Media Monitoring



Commune Council Elections April 01, 2007

Period: January 01 - April 01, 2007

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Commune Council Elections

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Table of Contents

Acronyms and Abbreviations	3
Political actors	3
Other abbreviations	3
Introduction	3
Summary of Findings	3
Electronic media	3
Print media	3
Media monitored only for violations	3
State Electronic Media of Cambodia	3
Equity News Program	3
NEC Political Parties' Platforms Program	3
National Television of Kampuchea (TVK)	3
National Radio of Kampuchea FM 96 MHz (NRK FM 96 MHz)	3
National Radio of Kampuchea AM 918 KHz (NRK AM 918 KHz)	3
Private Electronic Media	3
Cambodian Television Network	3
Radio France International	3
Radio Free Asia	3
Voice of America	3
Print Media	3
Raksmey Kampuchea Daily	3
Koh Santepheap Daily	3

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Political actors

CPP	Cambodian People's Party
DSP	Democratic Society Party
FUNCINPEC	Front Uni National pour un Cambodge Indépendant, Neutre, Pacifique, et Coopératif or National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia
HDDMP	Hang Dara Democratic Movement Party
KDP	Khmer Democratic Party
KIP	Khmer Improvement Party
KNP	Khmer National Party
LDP	League for Democracy Party
NRP	Norodom Ranariddh Party
SRP	Sam Rainsy Party
SJFP	Sangkum Jatiniyum Front Party
UPCP	United People of Cambodia Party
NA	National Assembly
PM	Prime Minister
RGC	Royal Government of Cambodia
SN	Senate

The following are considered to be political actors:

- **Political parties:** Including political parties, any party officials, representatives or candidates, and whoever is presented on air as belonging to a party or speaking on behalf of a party.
- **National Assembly:** The National Assembly and members of the National Assembly.
- **Senate:** Senate and members of Senate.
- **Prime Minister:** Samdech HUN Sen, in his capacity as Prime Minister only.
- **Government:** RGC and members. Also considered are: ministries and officials, RGC institutions and members, and regional and local authorities excluding commune councils and members.

Other abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CDC	Council for the Development of Cambodia
COMFREL	Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia
CTN	Cambodian Television Network
ECCC	Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia
EMO	Election Monitoring Organization
NDI	National Democratic Institute
NEC	National Election Committee
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
RFI	Radio France International
RFA	Radio Free Asia
TVK	National Television of Kampuchea
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
VOA	Voice of America

Foreword

Information related to political parties and to candidates standing for election is essential to the electorate being able to make a decision on who to choose as their representatives at both commune and national level. Choice of persons or parties depends heavily on information available on said persons or parties. In this respect, the media, one of the best channels for dissemination of information, has a crucial role in terms of influencing election results.

In recognition of the importance of the media as an election tool, the Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (COMFREL) has undertaken media monitoring during every election since 2002, including the 1st mandate of Commune Council Elections (2002), the 2003 General Elections, and the 2nd mandate of Commune Council Elections (2007).

The 2007 Commune Elections Media Monitoring Report has been compiled through the monitoring and analysis of programs appearing on some of the most popular media, both electronic and print, including state-owned electronic media channels. The team looked at coverage in both quantitative and qualitative terms (the latter regarding tone of coverage towards any given actor) as dedicated by the media to political actors in the run-up to the 2007 Commune Elections.

The working group on this report was made up of the following members: Mr. MAR Sopha, Mr. SOK Pitour, Mr. UM Sakhan, Mr. TAING Sokha, Ms. LACH Srey March, Miss HENG Sokhunthea and Miss LY Malin. The report was edited by Ms. Roo GRIFFITHS.

KOUL Panha

Executive Director

Introduction

- **The COMFREL Media Monitoring Team** undertook a thorough analysis of programs selected from across the most popular electronic and print media (including the state-owned television channel and two state-owned radio channels) in order to look at the access they provided to political parties/actors during the 2007 commune council election process. In addition to monitoring media organizations/companies, the contents and tone of the TVK/UNDP Equity News Program was analyzed separately: this special program was designed to cover the elections and political parties, with support from a neutral institution. Within the monitoring period, COMFREL issued five press releases to interested parties, on a fortnightly basis, regarding media monitoring findings.
- The media play a very important role in the election process, informing the electorate on election events and political parties, and offering education. Additionally, media can influence the results of elections. The NEC sees the media as one of the tools in ensuring free, fair and just elections, having set guidelines to ensure media neutrality in disseminating information related to elections.
- Monitoring the media offers accurate, precise, reliable and indisputable data on what has actually been broadcast or published. In addition to assessing the extent to which an electoral process is being supported by the equal access of parties to the media and balanced reporting, media monitoring enables election monitoring organizations (EMOs) to note the compliance of respective channels with election and media-related laws and to react on time to violations, if any.
- The Media Monitoring Team comprised six Cambodian monitors and used a methodology based on internationally recognized standards which have been employed successfully in many countries. Observers watched for political messages broadcast during the monitoring period, regardless of the type of program in which they were inserted, including newscasts and commercials.
- The methodology was given a quantitative base, in that it measured time in seconds dedicated to activities of political actors involved in the elections. It also considered quality of time (tone) dedicated to political subjects. The tone could be neutral, that is reporting of fact without any opinion from the reporter and/or the source of the story/information; negative, that is reporting that includes, for example, criticism or degrading words/phrases from the reporter and/or source of story/information towards any political actor; or positive, that is reporting with, for example, praise or flattering words/phrases. Each kind of tone was measured in seconds (this could be a very short phrase or a long sentence). Hence, political actors could receive the shortest amount of time of tone in relation to the phrase or sentence used toward them.
- When monitoring television and radio shows, monitors were asked to fill in forms and report on specific points (quantity of time dedicated to political actors, tone of reports dealing with political actors, direct speech opportunities given to politicians, violations of national laws including the election code, clear support or undermining from the media towards one or several parties, instances of insults, appeals to vote, etc.) Political actors were given a count in seconds whenever a related picture or logo or name or coverage was seen or heard.
- COMFREL analyzed and monitored two television and five radio channels as well as two newspapers. Electronic media were monitored seven days a week, six hours a day at prime time (from 17.00 to 23.00). The two newspapers were also monitored daily.

- TV channels included the following:
 - National Television of Kampuchea (TVK)
 - Cambodian Television Network (CTN)
- Radio channels included the following:
 - National Radio of Kampuchea AM 918 KHz (nationwide)
 - National Radio of Kampuchea FM 96 MHz
 - Radio France International (RFI)
 - Radio Free Asia (RFA)
 - Voice of America (VOA)
- Newspapers included the following:
 - Raksmei Kampuchea Daily
 - Koh Santepheap Daily
- COMFREL began its media monitoring activities on February 1, 2007 (except TVK and newspapers, which were monitored and analyzed from January 1, 2007 until April 1, 2007).
- COMFREL also monitored other media, but in this case only for violations of election guidelines.
- Regarding the summary findings, state media are divided into two periods: the period prior to and during the election campaign; and cooling day/the immediate post-election period. This is because of the introduction of two independently sponsored programs – Equity News and Political Parties' Platform Broadcasting Program – which covered and gave voice to all political parties running for the commune council elections on the three state channels. Findings for other media are not divided in relation to time periods, as no such program was broadcast. Findings for each channel are not divided in relation to time period.

Summary of Findings

Electronic media

State media

Pre-election campaign period

Before the start of election campaign period (January 1 – March 15, 2007), the three state channels combined dedicated a vast majority of political coverage to the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) (73%, equal to 119 hours 23 minutes 32 seconds) and the Prime Minister (PM) (about 20%, equal to 31 hours 49 minutes 58 seconds). Most of the coverage related to activities of members of the RGC, including the PM, such as gift giving and country development. Negative aspects of the RGC and the PM were barely heard (much less than 1%). For the legislative bodies, state electronic media allotted around 5%, equal to 8 hours 47 minutes 41 seconds, whereas the 12 political parties were given about 2%, equal to 3 hours 11 minutes 24 seconds.

Regarding political party coverage only, results show that state media were interested in reporting on the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP), dedicating around 83%, equal to 2 hours 39 minutes 6 seconds, of coverage of political parties to this party. For example, on January 7, 2007, TVK covered the CPP for 1 hour 1 minute 40 seconds and broadcast what the CPP representative said regarding the CPP's contribution to peace and national building, etc. FUNCINPEC, a party in the coalition government, received about 7%, equal to 12 minutes 18 seconds. The Sam Rainsy Party (SRP) was allotted around 5%, equal to 9 minutes 38 seconds, and the Norodom Ranariddh Party (NRP) around 3%, equal to 6 minutes 7 seconds. The other eight political parties combined receive 2%, equal to 4 minutes 15 seconds.

During the pre-election campaign period, coverage for most political actors was mainly neutral in tone. Positive coverage was used toward some actors: the Senate (SN) (around 28%, equal to 58 minutes 22 seconds of its total coverage); the PM (about 24%, equal to 7 hours 31 minute 40 seconds); the National Assembly (NA) (around 19%, equal to 1 hour 1 minute 52 seconds); and the RGC (around 13%, equal to 15 hours 5 minutes 9 seconds). Negative coverage toward these actors was at less than 1%.

Of all political parties, the main ruling party (CPP) received positive coverage, at about 24%, equal to 38 minutes 5 seconds, of its total time and FUNCINPEC, at about 3%, equal to 20 seconds. Negative coverage was used toward some political parties: the SJFP received 90%, equal to 2 minutes 33 seconds, of its total time; the NRP around 64%, equal to 3 minutes 55 seconds; the SRP about 41%, equal to 3 minutes 55 seconds; FUNCINPEC around 5%, equal to 38 seconds; and the CPP around 3%, equal to 5 minutes 13 seconds. Other parties received completely neutral coverage.

Election campaign and cooling day/immediate post-election period

During the campaign period (March 16-30, 2007), the political parties combined received much more coverage than other actors (PM, RGC, NA and SN). This owed to the introduction of two programs: the UNDP/TVK Equity News and the National Election Committee (NEC) Political Parties' Platform Broadcasting Program. State channels dedicated less political time to the abovementioned four actors, the RGC and the PM in particular, than in the pre-election campaign period.

Equity News

This joint UNDP-TVK television program was broadcast on all state electronic media (TVK, Radio FM 96 MHz and Radio AM 918 KHz) from March 16 to 30, 2007.

According to COMFREL's observation, the program on TVK more or less kept to the predetermined percentages allotted to political parties: the CPP was given the predetermined 38% (COMFREL observed 35% and UNDP observed 37%), the SRP 21% (COMFREL observed 22% and UNDP observed 20%), FUNCINPEC 20% (COMFREL observed 21% and UNDP observed 19%), the NRP 11% (COMFREL observed 11% and UNDP observed 14%) and other political parties 10% (COMFREL observed 11% and UNDP observed 12%).

However, FM 96 MHz lost its air coverage for four days, which caused actual airtime percentage in terms of covering the political parties hugely to be different from the set percentage, and three political parties were not heard on any show. FUNCINPEC was given around 36%, the CPP around 23%, the NRP and the SRP about 15% each, the other parties 11%. The three political parties not heard were the DSP (Democratic Society Party), the KNP (Khmer National Party) and the UPCP (United People of Cambodia Party).

The tone of the program, however, was in favor of the ruling CPP. Positive words for this party were used by the presenter; no negative coverage was given to the CPP whereas other political parties received negative coverage, such as on the conflict between FUNCINPEC and the NRP, and on SRP members defecting to the CPP.

Political Parties' Platforms Program

This program was produced by the NEC and broadcast on the three state electronic media. It allowed representatives of the 12 political parties to read out their party platform by answering the presenter's questions.

Inside the monitoring time, the program on the three state channels dedicated a total of 37 hours 34 minutes 34 seconds to political parties. The 12 political parties received between 2 hours 29 minutes 1 second and 3 hours 50 minutes 17 seconds.

Other programs

Outside the two program formats mentioned above, the vast majority of political coverage (around 96%, equal to 14 hours 17 minutes 57 seconds) on the three state channels combined was dedicated to covering the activities of the RGC (around 92%, equal to 13 hours 39 minutes 4 seconds) and the PM (around 4%, equal to 38 minutes 53 seconds). The NA was allotted about 2%, equal to 14 minutes 59 seconds and the SN received about 1%, equal to 7 minutes 37 seconds.

Only four political parties were mentioned by the three state channels in programs other than Equity News and the Political Parties' Platform Broadcasting Program. These parties were the NRP (1 minute 52 seconds), the CPP (1 minute 42 seconds), the SRP (1 minute 4 seconds) and FUNCINPEC (24 seconds).

Most of the coverage for all actors during the election campaign period on other programs was neutral. Some positive coverage was used towards FUNCINPEC, the PM, the RGC and the NA; only the NRP received negative coverage.

Private media

Cambodian Television Network (CTN)

The situation on private television channel CTN was not much different from that on the state media, excluding the Equity News Program and the NEC Political Parties' Platform Broadcasting Program. CTN dedicated the vast majority of political time (about 9%, equal to 13 hours 38 minutes 45 seconds) to covering the activities of the RGC (about 83%, equal to 12 hours 21 minutes 11 seconds) and the PM

(about 9%, equal to 1 hour 17 minutes 35 seconds). The activities of the NA and the SN combined were mentioned at around 3%, equal to 28 minutes 25 seconds, leaving around 5%, equal to 50 minutes 4 seconds, to cover political parties.

Only five political parties were mentioned on CTN. Coverage was much the same as on the state media, with 90%, equal to 45 minutes 5 seconds, dedicated to the CPP (most of the coverage was positive in tone). The NRP and FUNCINPEC combined received around 10%, equal to 4 minutes 53 seconds. The names of both the SRP and the KDP (Khmer Democratic Party) were heard only once.

Three international radio channels (RFI, RFA and VOA)

Broadcasting on political actors on these three international radio channels was completely different from that on local media (state channels, except the Equity News Program and the NEC Political Parties' Platform Broadcasting Program, and CTN) in terms of time allocation, reporting format and tone. The three channels combined dedicated around 36%, equal to 15 hours 37 minutes 49 seconds, of political time to the RGC (around 31%, equal to 13 hours 23 minutes) and the PM (around 5%, equal to 2 hours 14 minutes 39 seconds). The channels gave the NA and the SN combined around 2%, equal to 51 minutes 50 seconds. This left more coverage (62%, equal to 26 hours 8 minutes 28 seconds) for political parties competing in the elections. The tone of the coverage was also more mixed (see Annex: Chart A1).

The three international radio channels monitored covered political parties and the election environment in a manner which was more rounded than that of the local media did (state electronic media and CTN). RFA (Radio Free Asia) and VOA (Voice of America) were very active in reporting election news and political party activities. These two radio channels also covered the political parties' platforms and election campaigns. RFA, additionally, broadcast many NGO forums where political party representatives were allowed to debate and answer the questions of citizen participants. These two radio channels also increased their airtime during the election process. RFI (Radio France International), although it did not cover the political parties' platform, covered more election news than local media did. Political parties were also mentioned in its Khmer program.

Even though the three channels appeared to be far more dynamic and open regarding elections and political party coverage, findings showed that coverage of political parties was still dominated by only four political parties: the SRP at around 25%, equal to 6 hours 33 minutes 16 seconds, the CPP at about 20%, equal to 5 hours 8 minutes 23 seconds, the NRP at around 18%, equal to 4 hours 44 minutes 41 seconds and FUNCINPEC at about 16%, equal to 4 hours 7 minutes 37 seconds. The other eight political parties received between 1% and 5% (equal to 20 minutes 44 seconds and 1 hour 14 minutes 1 second, respectively).

All channels

Results from all electronic media monitored show that the RGC, including the PM, was the most covered in all cases, taking up about 71% of coverage, equal to 196 hours 16 minutes 50 seconds (most of it on TVK: 127 hours 30 minutes 41 seconds). The NA received around 2%, equal to 6 hours 50 minutes 39 seconds, and the SN received 1%, equal to 3 hours 52 minutes 14 seconds. Political parties received between around 1% (equal to 2 hours 55 minutes 58 seconds) and 5% (equal to 12 hours 59 minutes). The tone was mainly neutral, although there was some positive and negative (see Annex: Chart A2).

Considering only coverage of political parties across all programs, results show that the media were interested in only the four political parties which had placed candidates in over 1,000 communes. Most coverage of the other parties was on the NEC question-answer program. The CPP still received the most coverage (around 18%, equal to 12 hours 59 minutes of all time dedicated to all political parties). The CPP also received the most both positive coverage (about 16%, equal to 2 hours 3 minutes 59 seconds, mostly

broadcast on state media: 1 hour 28 minute 24 seconds) and negative coverage (around 7%, equal to 53 minutes 37 seconds, mostly on international radio channels: 48 minutes 24 seconds).

The SRP received the second most coverage (15%, equal to 10 hours 56 minutes 22 seconds). FUNCINPEC and the NRP received approximately the same amount (around 12%, equal to 8 hours 50 minutes 15 seconds). Other political parties competing in the elections were mentioned between 4%, equal to 2 hours 55 minutes 32 seconds, and around 6%, equal to 4 hours 23 minutes 2 seconds. Most of this coverage was on the NEC's Political Parties' Platforms Program.

Other issues

Verbal threats and pressure from the PM

Within the monitoring period COMFREL's Media Monitoring Team observed at least two occasions on which the PM used verbal threats or pressure toward voters which were later broadcast on at least TVK and VOA.

One occasion was during the 11th Government-Private Sector Forum at the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) on January 24, 2007, in which PM HUN Sen warned that if the CPP did not win the elections, thousands of projects might vanish. This was then aired on TVK.

The other occasion was during the opening ceremony of a road construction project in Prey Veng on March 15, 2007, in which the PM warned the crowd that if the CPP lost the election, the country would fall into insecurity and instability: "If there are changes, will you be able to have business here again? What will happen to you?" He added that vendors, artisans and industry workers should think about whether or not they would be able to do business as usual. This was later aired at least on VOA and TVK.

Direct speech opportunities

All kinds of political actors had a chance to speak on air. The PM spoke on almost every channel (except RFI), for 25 hours 54 minutes 25 seconds (25 hours 31 minutes 6 seconds on state media). This was followed by the RGC, with 14 hours 43 minutes 30 seconds (12 hours 4 minutes 36 seconds on state media). Parliamentarians were given 2 hours 39 minutes 51 seconds to speak; senators could speak for only 38 seconds.

Although all the political parties had a chance to speak on air, the state media did not provide any chances for representative from FUNCINPEC and non-ruling parties to speak, except on the UNDP-TVK Equity News Program. Most direct speech opportunities for these parties were given by the three international radio channels. In contrast with this, the CPP was able to speak on almost every channel, except Radio AM 918 KHz, which gave the chance only to the RGC including the PM.

Direct speech opportunities for political party representatives were not included in the NEC political parties' platforms program.

Of all political parties, the CPP was granted the most amount of time to speak (4 hours 45 minutes 26 seconds), followed by the SRP (4 hours 10 minutes 28 seconds). FUNCINPEC could speak for 2 hours 46 minutes 15 seconds and the NRP 1 hour 42 minutes and 52 seconds. Other political parties could speak for between 7 minutes 30 seconds and 42 minutes 52 seconds (see Annex: Chart A3).

Political debates

Within the monitoring period, no channel organized a political debate show or program. The National Democratic Institute (NDI), however, organized many election forums, some of which allowed candidates

from political parties running for election to debate their party's political platform. These forums were later broadcast on RFA. In such debates, candidates from the CPP could speak for 18 minutes 58 seconds, from FUNCINPEC for 12 minutes 28 seconds, from the SRP for 12 minutes 34 seconds, from the NRP for 12 minutes 30 seconds and from the Hang Dara Democratic Movement Party (HDDMP) for 2 minutes 1 second.

Although political debate shows/programs were not produced by any channel, observation showed that, two radio channels, RFA and VOA, used their call-in shows, namely RFA's Listeners' Forum and Hello VOA, to interview and/or invite political representatives to be guest speakers. This allowed citizens to question each party's platform and stance.

Direct appeals for votes¹

Direct appeals for votes occurred only on CTN, whose presenter appealed to the electorate to vote for the CPP; only two channels (RFA and VOA) allowed sources or political party representatives to appeal to voters to vote for specific parties: CPP, SRP, NRP and FUNCINPEC, among others.

Within the scope of the media monitored, Comfrel did not observe any defamatory or inflammatory language against any party or politician, or any sexual discrimination. However, degrading words were used indirectly by some channels against some politicians.

Voter education spots

Voter education spots and programs and/or education-related news/information about the elections were broadcast on every form of electronic media for 38 hours 9 minutes 8 seconds. During the election campaign, the NEC and NGOs produced more spots and songs regarding the elections, for example encouraging voters to vote according to their will and informing on the date of the election. During the election campaign, the NEC's voter education spots were also broadcast on CTN. VOA also appealed to voters to vote according to their will. State media also broadcast the speech of King Sihamoni asking all voters to vote according to their own will (see Annex: Chart A4).

Women in politics

Women in politics were mentioned for 5 hours 12 minutes 46 second on all electronic media monitored, except Radio FM 96 MHz (see Annex: Chart A5).

Female incumbent commune chiefs or female candidates for commune councils

Female candidates for the positions of commune councilor or commune chief were given coverage at 4 hours 34 minutes 23 seconds. Such mentions were broadcast only on four channels: Radio AM 918 KHz, RFA, CTN and TVK. An example of this was the broadcast on the work of female commune chiefs, as produced by the Women's Media Center. (Annex: Chart 17)

Other minority groups

No disabled persons in politics were noted during this monitoring period.

Youth in politics were not reported on within the monitoring period.

Indigenous people in politics were also not noted on the electronic media.

Print media

¹ Such appeals on the NEC's Political Parties' Platform Program are not included.

The two newspapers (Raksmey Kampuchea Daily and Koh Santepheap Daily) combined covered only six political parties: CPP, FUNCINPEC, NRP, SRP, SJFP and KNP. The CPP received the most coverage, up to 46%, equal to 103 articles, of all articles on political parties. The SRP received the second highest of coverage (19%, equal to 43 articles) (Annex: Chart A7).

The CPP dominated print media coverage. Most of the articles on the CPP (74 articles) were positive in tone.

Voter education or education-related information on elections, such as press releases from the NEC or NGOs, or information on the activities of the NEC and NGOs working on the elections, was mentioned in 47 articles.

Only the CPP received articles appealing to people for votes (seven articles).

Women in politics were mentioned in only six articles in the three-month monitoring period. Female candidates were covered in only two articles.

No disabled persons in politics were noted during this monitoring period.

Youth in politics were not reported on within the monitoring period.

Indigenous people in politics were also not noted on the electronic media.

Media monitored only for violations

Apart from the media mentioned above, COMFREL's media monitoring team found that, during the election campaign period, some private electronic and print media did not respect regulations, guidelines and codes of conduct for the media, as issued by the NEC and/or the Ministry of Information. These media covered activities or candidates of political parties of which they were in favor. The NEC guideline for the media during the election campaign period had ruled that the media must provide accurate, impartial and balanced information, among other things.

However, below are the names of some of many electronic and print media reporting in a hugely imbalanced way, in favor of only one political party:

- Radio FM 90 MHz, Radio Taprom (FM 90.5 MHz) and Khmer Mekong newspaper programming and reporting, in favor only of FUNCINPEC.
- Radio FM 93.5 MHz, Moneaksekar Khmer and Srolanj Khmer newspapers programming and reporting, in favor only of the SRP.
- Radio Bayon (FM 95 MHz), TV APSARA (Channel 11), TV Bayon (Channel 27), Chakroval and Raksmey Angkor programming and reporting, in favor only of the CPP.
- Voice of Khmer Youth, Reach Siema and Khmer Amatak newspapers, reporting in favor only of the NRP.

Conclusion

If we consider all the electronic media monitored, all kinds of political actors were covered. The RGC including the PM was the main focus, receiving coverage on all channels. Coverage of the election environment, of political parties in particular, in the state media during the second mandate commune council elections of 2007 was better than in the 2002 elections. This owed to the introduction of two programs: Equity News on TVK, funded by UNDP and the NEC's Political Parties' Platforms Broadcasting Program.

However, if we compare current results from COMFREL's media monitoring with results from the 2002 and 2003 elections, with the exception of the Equity News and Political Platform Programs, the situation on state channels has not changed. The vast majority of political coverage (around 93%, equal to 167 hours 15 seconds) is dedicated to covering the activities of the RGC, including the PM. Additionally, disregarding the two said programs, the state media do not appear to be open to parties other than the ruling political party: the great majority of political party airtime is dedicated to the CPP (about 82%). This unbalanced coverage made for an uneven playing field, meaning that other parties found it difficult to compete with the ruling party through the media.

The situation on private channels (RFI, RFA and VOA) was more dynamic and open, with political debates, interviews, public forums, call-in shows, shows on political party platforms and backgrounds, etc. Regarding the three international radio channels (RFI, RFA and VOA), even though they covered many interesting and lively programs, findings showed that coverage of political parties was dominated by only four political parties (the SRP, the CPP, the NRP and FUNCINPEC), leaving around 21% for the other eight political parties.

State Electronic Media of Cambodia

Equity News Program

This joint UNDP-TVK TV program was based on equitable principles in allotting airtime to political parties. It mainly covered the events of the 2007 commune council elections, political party campaigns in particular. The program was broadcast on all state electronic media (TVK, Radio FM 96 MHz and Radio AM 918 KHz) during the election campaign period, from March 16-30, 2007. TVK aired the program daily except Sunday, while Radio FM 96 MHz and AM 918 KHz broadcast the soundtrack of the program aired on TVK on the following day.

Time allocated to each political party was given on an equitable principle, set by UNDP and TVK and endorsed by the NEC. The program aimed to dedicate 38% of political party time to the CPP, 21% to the SRP, 20% to FUNCINPEC, 11% to the NRP, and 10% to other parties.

The program covered relevant stakeholders such as electoral institutions, political parties and the electorate. The format of the program was dynamic and open, including interviews of political party representatives and candidates, members of the electorate and monks. It also mentioned election observers and institutions and campaign activities as well as activities of some political party leaders.

NEC Political Parties' Platforms Program

This program, produced by the NEC and broadcast on the three state electronic media, allowed representatives of the 12 political parties to read out their parties' platform by answering the presenter's questions.

Time was allotted based on the number of communes in which political parties had placed candidates. As such, four political parties (CPP, SRP, FUNCINPEC and NRP), with candidates in over 1,000 communes, were allotted six minutes per show. The other eight parties received five minutes.

It should be noticed that the parties which were allotted five minutes per show felt this to be unjust, demanding the same airtime as the same as the other four political parties. However, according to COMFREL media monitoring, these parties could not make full use of the time dedicated to them: the amount of time they actually used was less than the amount of time given to them.

National Television of Kampuchea (TVK)

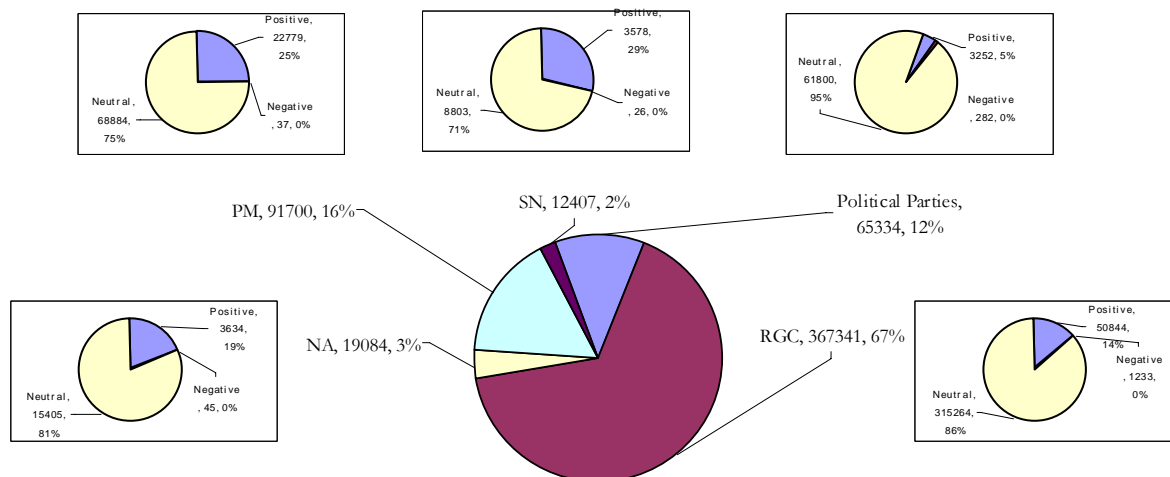
Findings across all programs

The most amount of political time was granted to covering the activities of the RGC (around 66%, equal to 102 hours 2 minutes 21 seconds) and the PM (about 17% equal to 25 hours 28 minutes 20 seconds). Around 3%, equal to 5 hours 18 minutes 4 seconds, of political time was allotted to the NA and around 2%, equal to 3 hours 26 minutes 47 seconds, to the SN. The 12 political parties combined received around 12%, equal to 18 hours 8 minutes 54 seconds.

Most of the coverage was neutral in tone. However, most of the actors saw more or less positive coverage. The SN was mentioned positively in about 29% of its total coverage, equal to 59 minutes 38 seconds. The PM received positive coverage at about 25%, equal to 6 hours 19 minutes 39 seconds. Positive coverage for the NA was heard at 19%, equal to 1 hour 34 seconds, and political parties combined received about

5%, equal to 54 minutes 12 seconds. The actors mentioned earlier also received negative reporting at less than 1% for each (for details, please see Chart 1).

Chart 1: Time, in seconds, and % and tone of coverage of actors across all programs



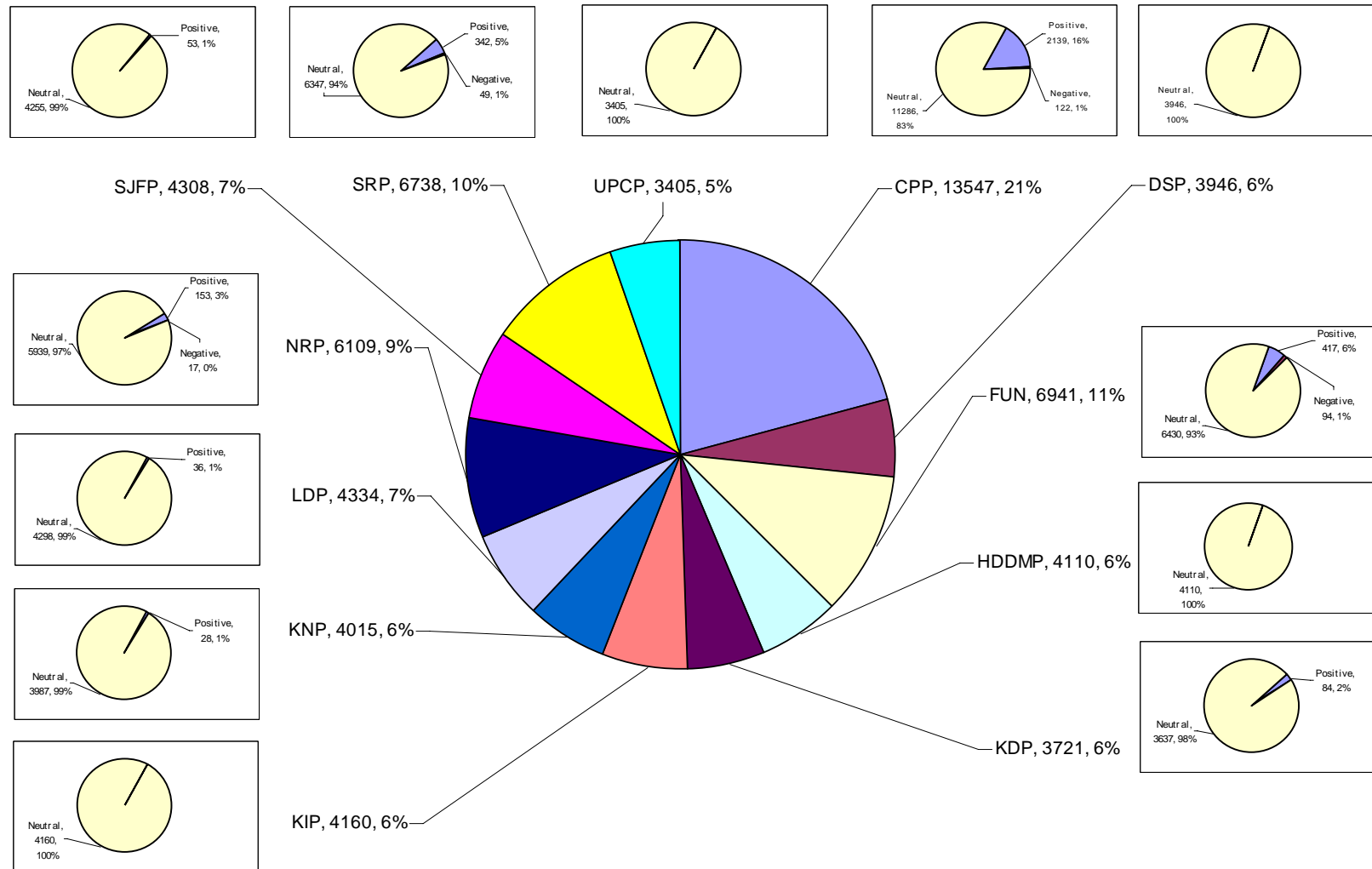
Findings on political parties across all programs

All political parties competing in the 2007 commune council elections were shown on TVK, especially during the election campaign period, March 16-30, 2007. Of the 12 parties, the CPP received the most coverage (about 21%, equal to 3 hours 45 minutes 47 seconds), almost double the amount FUNCINPEC and the SRP received, at around 10%, equal to around 1 hour 55 minute 41 seconds. The NRP was allotted around 9%, equal to 1 hour 41 minutes 49 seconds. Other parties were given between around 5%, equal to 56 minutes 45 seconds, and around 6%, equal to 1 hour 12 minutes 14 seconds.

The huge amount of time dedicated to the CPP owed to the fact that the CPP had been mentioned on TVK since before the election campaign period had started, whereas other parties were mostly covered during the election campaign.

Coverage of political parties was mostly neutral in tone. Some positive broadcasting, however, was used toward some parties: the CPP received the most positive coverage (about 16%, equal to 35 minutes 39 seconds, of the CPP's total coverage). Other parties just received around or less than 6%. Only four political parties received negative coverage: the CPP (2 minutes 2 seconds), FUNCINPEC (1 minute 34 seconds), the SRP (49 seconds) and the NRP (17 seconds) (for details, please see Chart 2).

Chart 2: Time, in seconds and %, and tone of coverage of political parties across all programs



UNDP-TVK Equity News Program

According to COMFREL's media monitoring, TVK closely followed the predetermined percentage allotted to political parties set by UNDP and TVK. During the whole broadcasting period, TVK granted the CPP 35%, 3% less than the predetermined percentage, of political party coverage; the SRP 22%, 1% more than the set percentage; FUNCINPEC 21%, 1% more than the given percentage; the NRP 11%, as promised; and the other parties 11%, 1% more than the predetermined percentage.

TVK at least showed the name or logo of the 12 political parties. Activities of some political parties were also shown. As the program's airtime was allotted to political parties based on equitable principles, as mentioned earlier, the program was mainly dominated by the four political parties: CPP, SRP, FUNCINPEC and NRP.

Only the CPP was mentioned in every show (12 shows) followed by the SRP (11 shows) and the NRP and FUNCINPEC (nine shows each); the rest were heard on between one and six shows.

Most of the political parties received positive coverage. However, the program, in general, appeared to be in favor of the CPP, both in terms of pictures and of the presenter's narration. Examples of this include the presenter commending the CPP, a picture being broadcast of a CPP member showing voters how to tick the CPP on the ballot paper, and reports of the inclusion of new members of the CPP who had defected from the SRP.

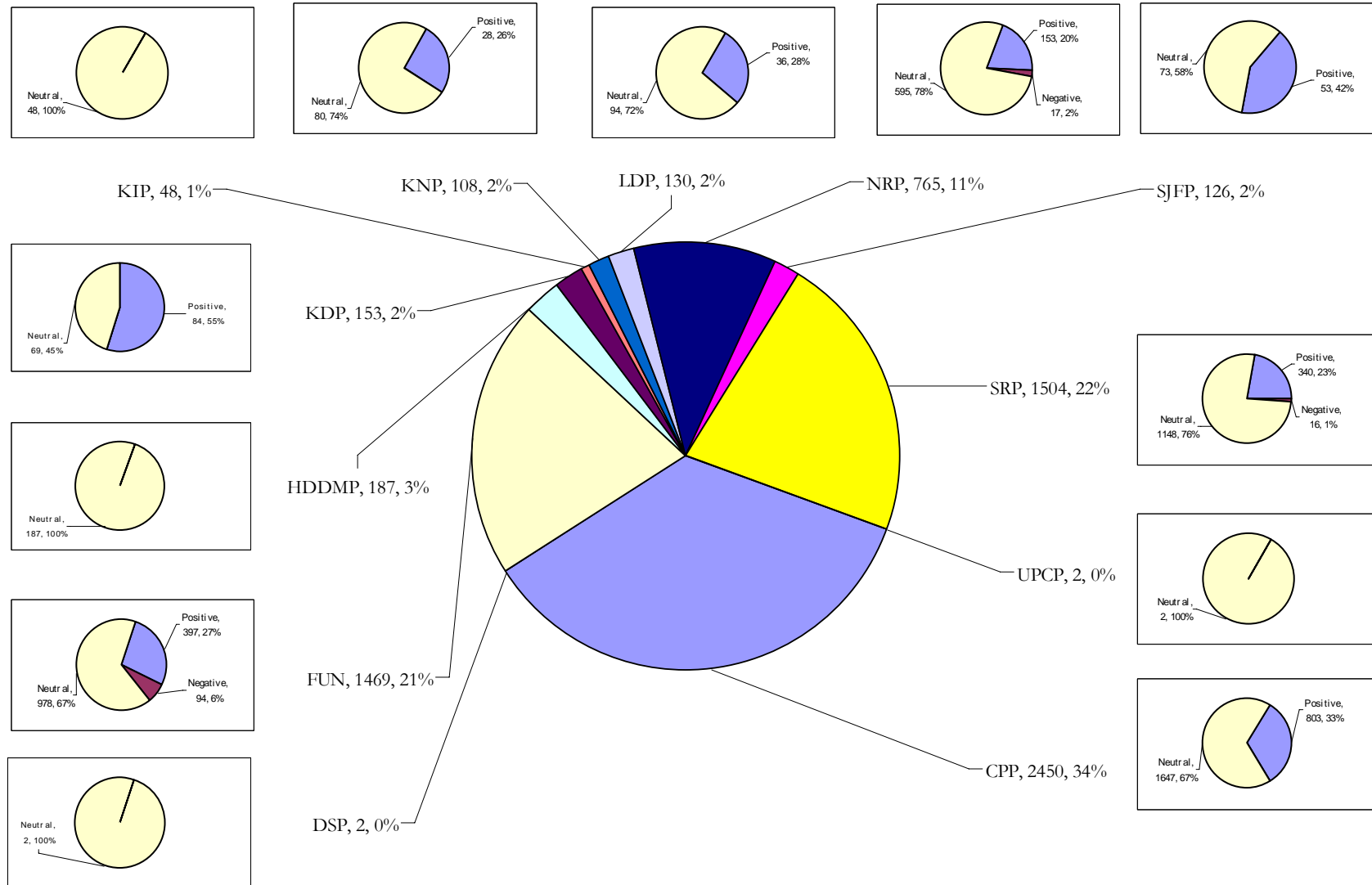
Only three political parties received negative coverage. Problems between FUNCINPEC and the NRP were reported. The sentencing of the NRP's president was also mentioned. The SRP's members defecting to the CPP were aired. (For detail on tone and time dedicated to parties, please see Chart 3)

Eight political party representatives or candidates were given direct speech opportunities. CPP members could speak for 13 minutes 32 seconds. SRP members were given a total of 8 minutes 47 seconds. FUNCINPEC members were allotted 5 minutes 40 seconds. NRP members were given 5 minutes 19 seconds. HDDMP members could speak for 1 minute 33 seconds. Members of the SFJP were granted 1 minute 12 seconds. KDP members received 1 minute 9 seconds and LDP (League for Democracy) member(s) was granted only 8 seconds.

Examples of segments of the Equity News Program included the following:

- An introduction to Equity News 2007, including the format of the program, reactions from the general public and the Minister of Information as well as the background to some communes, such as the population count and a review of the political parties running for election.
- Election campaign methods of the CPP, the SRP, the NRP and FUNCINPEC, including interviews with the parties' representatives or candidates.
- Election campaigns of political parties in various provinces such as Banteay Meanchey, Ratanakiri, Battambang, etc.
- The last day of election campaigning, including an interview with Iraqi observers.

Chart 3: Time, in seconds and %, and tone of coverage of actors in Equity News Program



NEC Political Parties' Platforms Program

TVK aired the Political Parties' Platforms Broadcasting Program twice daily from 10.30 to 11.40 and from 22.00 to 23.10. Not all parties made full use of the time given to them. Additionally, KDP was absent from the programs broadcast on March 18 and 28, 2007.

However, five political parties, in a few shows, spoke a bit longer than the time given by the NEC which was six minutes for CPP, SRP, NRP and FUNCINPEC and five minutes for other parties per show. Those parties were the CPP, FUNCINPEC, the NRP, the SJFP and the LDP.

Inside the monitoring time, COMFREL found a total of 14 hours 15 minutes 30 seconds of airtime was dedicated to political parties.

Table 1 below shows the total amount of time taken by each party within the monitoring time in the program.

Table 1: Amount of time for political parties on TVK in NEC Political Parties' Platform

No	Party	Total duration used (15 days)	Total duration given
1	CPP	1 hour 19 minutes 7 seconds	1 hour 30 minutes
2	DSP	1 hour 5 minute 33 seconds	1 hour 15 minutes
3	FUN	1 hour 23 minutes 6 seconds	1 hour 30 minutes
4	HDDMP	1 hour 5 minutes 10 seconds	1 hour 15 minutes
5	KDP	0 hour 59 minutes 13 seconds (absent in two shows)	1 hour 15 minutes
6	KIP	1 hour 8 minutes 26 seconds	1 hour 15 minutes
7	KNP	1 hour 4 minutes 58 seconds	1 hour 15 minutes
8	LDP	1 hour 9 minutes 52 seconds	1 hour 15 minutes
9	NRP	1 hour 28 minute 29 seconds	1 hour 30 minutes
10	SJFP	1 hour 9 minutes 25 seconds	1 hour 15 minutes
11	SRP	1 hour 25 minutes 47 seconds	1 hour 30 minutes
12	UPCP	0 hour 56 minutes 37 seconds	1 hour 15 minutes

News programs

If we compare media monitoring results with those of the 2002 and 2003 elections, the situation on TVK news programs remained unchanged. The vast majority of political time on newscasts was dedicated to covering the activities of the RGC (around 80%, equal to 51 hours 54 minutes 52 seconds) and the PM (about 10%, equal to 6 hours 13 minutes 6 seconds), followed by the SN (5% equal to 3 hours 14 minutes 4 seconds) and the NA (about 5% equal to 3 hours 5 minutes 19 seconds). This left a very limited amount of time (less than 1%, equal to 15 minutes 53 seconds), for political parties.

Of the political parties, the two ruling parties (CPP and FUNCINPEC) received the most amount of time (6 minutes 57 seconds and 6 minutes 31 seconds, respectively). The other 10 parties combined were briefly heard (2 minutes 25 seconds). In the news, only the logo of the CPP was shown.

Most of the coverage was neutral in tone. Only the PM received positive coverage (3 hours 9 minutes 19 seconds) at more than half of the total time given to him. Most positive coverage was contributed by high-ranking officials, who praised the PM's wise leadership for leading to development in every sector. The SN received positive coverage at around 29%, equal to 57 minutes 9 seconds of its total time. The NA's positive coverage time was around 26%, equal to 48 minutes 18 seconds, and the RGC's was about 20%, equal to 10 hours 8 minutes 22 seconds. Negative coverage of was minimal (far less than 1%).

Most of the news covered activities of the RGC, including the PM, such as meetings with foreign diplomats and representatives of international organizations, attending workshops, signing memoranda or agreements, visiting villagers (including gift giving), and building or repairing infrastructure and other inauguration ceremonies.

Ruling parties received only positive coverage, such as on the CPP and FUNCINPEC's contribution to peace and stability in Cambodia. Negative stories were not broadcast. Negative reporting was heard only for the SRP, for 24 seconds, regarding the murder of a SRP activist in Preah Vihear province.

Inside the news program only the members of RGC was allowed to speak, for 4 minutes 39 seconds.

Examples of coverage on the news included the following.

- H.E. Mr. Im Sou Sdey, the NEC president, had an audience with the King to report on political parties standing for the 2007 commune council elections.
- H.E. Mrs Bun Rany Hun Sen, PM's wife, visited soldiers in Anlong Veng district, Oddar Meanchey province.
- The PM Samdech HUN Sen presided over a loan signing ceremony with the Japanese government.
- H.E. Mr. CHAN Sarun, minister of agriculture, visited Takeo villagers.

Other programs

Outside of the programs mentioned above, TVK still dedicated most of its political coverage to activities of the RGC (around 68%, equal to 50 hours 7 minutes 29 seconds) and the PM (around 26%, equal to 19 hours 15 minutes 14 seconds). The NA was mentioned at 3%, equal to 2 hours 12 minutes 45 seconds, and the SN was heard briefly, at less than 1%, equal to 12 minutes 43 seconds.

Of political parties the CPP was given the biggest amount of time (around 2%, equal to 1 hour 38 minutes 53 seconds) whereas the other 11 parties combined were briefly heard about, for 2 minutes 54 seconds. Broken down, this was: FUNCINPEC (1 minute 35 seconds), the NRP (33 seconds), the SRP (27 seconds) and the SJFP (7 seconds). The other parties received 2 seconds each.

Coverage in other programs was mostly neutral in tone. Some positive coverage was given to the CPP, FUNCINPEC, the RGC, the PM, the SN and the NA. Negative coverage was very shortly heard for some political actors: the CPP, the GOVT, the NA, the PM and the SRP.

Most political coverage in other programs included documentaries on the RGC's achievements, speeches of the PM at inaugurations, graduations, ceremonies and other events, and the announcements by the RGC and ministries, as well as social issues programming on culture, public health and awareness raising on other issues.

Inside other programs, TVK broadcast at least two occasions when the PM used verbal threats or pressure toward voters.

One occasion was during the 11th Government-Private Sector Forum at CDC on January 24, 2007, when the PM warned that if the CPP did not win the elections, thousands of projects might vanish.

The other occasion was during an opening ceremony of a road construction project in Prey Veng on March 15, 2007, in which the PM said: "if there are changes, will you be able to have businesses here again? What will happen to you?" He added that vendors, artisans and industry workers should think about

whether or not they would be able to do business as usual.

Inside other programs, the PM spoke for 19 hours 28 minutes 45 seconds, during inaugurations, ceremonies, graduations, cabinet meetings, etc. Government members spoke for 9 hours 16 minutes 38 seconds. An example of this was an interview with officials from the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction in the Understanding Land Law Program. NA members were granted a total time of 2 hours 23 minutes 2 seconds, and SN member 25 seconds.

Of political parties, only the CPP was given direct speech opportunities. President of the CPP H.E. Chea Sim was granted 1 hour 1 minute 40 seconds on the occasion of the January 7 ceremony at CPP headquarters (marking victory over Pol Pot). During this occasion, the CPP president spoke of many CPP achievements, including peace building.

Other issues

Political debate

No political debate was reported during the monitoring period.

Direct appeals for votes

No appeals for votes by specific parties were mentioned directly. However, TVK broadcast the January 7 ceremony displaying the logo of the CPP.

Voter education spots/information

Within the monitoring period, a total of 24 hours 8 minutes 45 seconds of voter education spots, programs and/or education-related news/information on elections, including the appeal from the King to voters to vote according to their own will, were broadcast on TVK. Most of the time was allotted to the NEC Understanding Elections in Cambodia Program. During the election campaign period, more spots were broadcast.

Women in politics

Women in politics were mentioned for 25 minutes 18 seconds on TVK. One mention covered the occasion of H.E. Men Sam An receiving an honorable doctorate from Chamroeun University of Polytechnology. Men Sam An's achievements in politics were also mentioned and later broadcast on TVK.

Female incumbent commune chiefs or female candidates for commune councils

Female candidates for the positions of councilor or commune chief were mentioned for 14 minutes 13 seconds. One example was a broadcast on the work of female commune chiefs produced by the Women's Media Center.

Youth in politics

Youth in politics were not reported on within the monitoring period.

Disabled persons in politics

No disabled persons in politics were noted during this monitoring period.

Indigenous people in politics

Indigenous people in politics were also not noted on the electronic media.

National Radio of Kampuchea FM 96 MHz (NRK FM 96 MHz)

Findings across all programs

About 35% of political time was allotted to the RGC (about 28%, equal to 5 hours 17 minutes 8 seconds) and the PM (around 17%, equal to 3 hours 17 minutes 31 seconds). The NA and the SN combined were only briefly heard (19 seconds). Political parties competing in the elections received between around 3%, equal to 37 minutes 22 seconds, and 7%, equal to 1 hour 20 minutes 40 seconds.

The vast majority of the coverage was neutral in tone. Some positive coverage was heard toward some political actors. Only two actors received negative coverage: the RGC (about 7%, equal to 21 minutes 23 seconds), and the SRP (16 seconds). An example of this was the broadcast of the PM's speech during the annual review of the Ministry of Interior, in which the PM criticized inaction of government officials who took no initiative, only waiting for his orders, such as in the crackdown on gangsters.

UNDP-TVK Equity News Program

Radio FM 96 MHz broadcast the whole of the Equity News Program already aired on TVK. The show on FM 96 MHz was aired one day behind that aired on TVK.

FM 96 MHz was not on air for four days (March 20-3) which made the actual percentage for political parties hugely different from the predetermined percentages. Three political parties were not heard: the DSP, the KNP and the UPCP.

Within the monitoring period, FUNCINPEC were given around 36%, equal to 25 minutes 23 seconds, of political party coverage. The CPP was given around 23%, equal to 16 minutes 13 seconds. The NRP and the SRP were allotted about 15%, equal to 10 minutes 16 seconds, and 10%, equal to 7 minutes 3 seconds, respectively. The other parties were given between 1 second and 3 minutes 13 seconds.

NEC Political Parties' Platforms Program

This program was the same as that aired on TVK. However, FM 96 MHz went off air for four days (March 20-3), causing the program to be off air for four days, too. Political party representatives could speak between 37 minutes 22 seconds and 55 minutes 10 seconds within the monitoring time.

Table 2: Amount of time for political parties on FM 96 MHz in NEC Political Parties' Platform

No	Party	Duration used	Duration parties should be given
1	CPP	50 minutes 31 seconds	1 hour 30 minutes
2	DSP	43 minutes 47 seconds	1 hour 15 minutes
3	FUN	55 minutes 10 seconds	1 hour 30 minutes
4	HDDMP	38 minutes 44 seconds	1 hour 15 minutes
5	KDP	39 minutes 26 seconds (absent in two shows)	1 hour 15 minutes
6	KIP	49 minutes 41 seconds	1 hour 15 minutes
7	KNP	39 minutes 3 seconds	1 hour 15 minutes
8	LDP	45 minutes 27 seconds	1 hour 15 minutes
9	NRP	53 minutes 53 seconds	1 hour 30 minutes
10	SJFP	49 minutes 11 seconds	1 hour 15 minutes
11	SRP	53 minutes 59 seconds	1 hour 30 minutes
12	UPCP	37 minutes 22 seconds	1 hour 15 minutes

News programs

The RGC (around 88%, equal to 2 hours 16 minutes 19 seconds) and the PM (around 6%, equal to 9 minutes 23 seconds) dominated newscasts on FM 96 MHz, followed by the CPP – the only party mentioned on news programs, at around 5%, equal to 8 minutes 14 seconds. The NA and the SN were

heard for 17 seconds. Coverage was usually neutral. However, actors mentioned earlier also received some positive mentions. An example of these was the broadcast on the support of Dangkor residents for the CPP, who said that the CPP had a good leadership mechanism and had developed the country.

Only two actors were given direct speech opportunities. The RGC spoke for 27 minutes 17 seconds: the Governor of Phnom Penh's speech on International Women's Day at the Municipal Department of Public Works and Transportation. The CPP was given a total amount of 5 minutes 17 seconds: speech of a CPP member during the inclusion of new members in Dangkor district, Phnom Penh.

Other programs

Outside of these programs, around 99% of political time was dedicated to covering the activities of the PM (around 50%, equal to 3 hours 8 minutes 8 seconds) and the RGC (about 49%, equal to 3 hours 49 seconds), followed by the CPP, receiving about 1%: 2 minutes 22 seconds. The NA was mentioned for 17 seconds; the NRP and FUNCINPEC were granted 15 seconds and 7 seconds each.

Inside other programs, only the CPP, the RGC and the PM received positive coverage: the CPP (about 42%, equal to 1 minutes, of CPP's total coverage time), the PM (about 22%, equal to 40 minutes 39 seconds) and the RGC (around 13%, equal to 23 minutes 54 seconds). Some positive coverage included songs comparing the PM to a diamond, saying his hard work had helped people and reduced poverty, and broadcasts on RGC efforts to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development. Inside other programs, only the RGC received negative coverage (about 11%, equal to 19 minutes 15 seconds, of the total amount of time for the RGC). Such negative coverage was usually from the PM, such as that ministries took only easy tasks and that some officials did not work well together. The NA, the SN, the NRP and FUNCINPEC were covered with tone which was 100% neutral.

FM 96 MHz only gave a chance to the PM and the CPP to speak. The PM was allotted 3 hours 31 minutes 29 seconds. One example was during the groundbreaking ceremony for Meanchey University in Banteay Meanchey province, presided over by the PM. The CPP spoke for 2 minutes.

Other issues

Political debate

No political debates were aired during the period monitored on FM 96 MHz.

Direct appeals for votes

No direct appeals for votes by any political party were heard within the monitoring period.

Voter education spots/information

Voter education spots and election-related news were broadcast for 4 hours 38 minutes 27 seconds. Most of the coverage was on the NEC Understanding Elections in Cambodia Program.

Women in politics

No information on women in politics was heard.

Female incumbent commune chiefs or female candidates for commune councils

Coverage of female commune chiefs or female candidates for commune elections was not heard during the monitoring time.

Youth in politics

Youth in politics were not reported on within the monitoring period.

Disabled persons in politics

No disabled persons in politics were noted during this monitoring period.

Indigenous people in politics

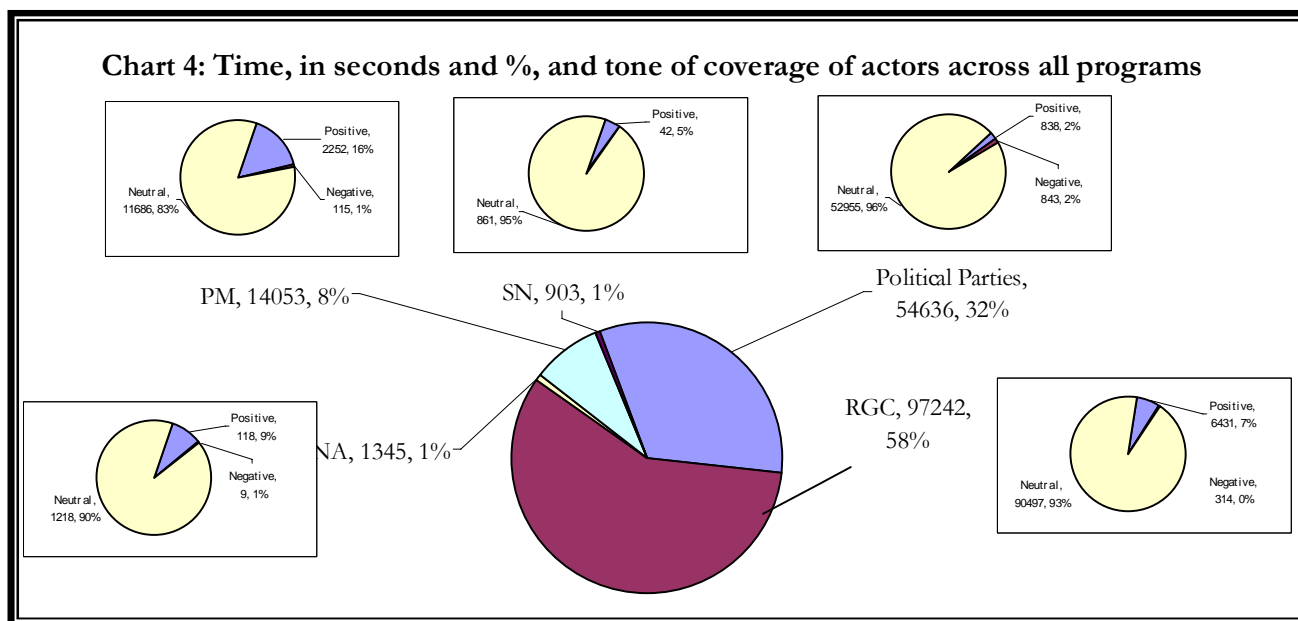
Indigenous people in politics were also not noted on the electronic media.

National Radio of Kampuchea AM 918 KHz (NRK AM 918 KHz)

Findings across all programs

The RGC (about 58%, equal to 27 hours 42 seconds) and the PM (around 8%, equal to 3 hours 54 minutes 13 seconds) led in terms of coverage. The NA and the SN combined received about 2%, equal to 37 minutes 28 seconds. The 12 political parties combined were mentioned at around 32%, equal to 15 hours 10 minutes 36 seconds.

Most of the coverage was neutral in tone. About 7%, equal to 1 hour 47 minutes 11 seconds, of RGC coverage was positive; negative coverage was less than 1%, equal to 5 minutes 14 seconds. The PM was given positive coverage around 16%, equal to 37 minutes 32 seconds of time given to him; negative coverage was about 1%, equal to 1 minute 55 seconds. Positive coverage for the NA was about 9%, equal to 1 minute 58 seconds; negative was less than 1%, equal to 9 seconds. Around 5%, equal to 42 seconds, of SN coverage was positive; there was no negative coverage (see Chart 4).



Findings on political parties across all programs

The 12 political parties were heard on AM 918 KHz mainly as a result of the NEC Political Parties' Platform Program. The CPP received the largest amount of political party coverage (around 13%, equal to 2 hours 2 minutes 23 seconds), followed by the NRP (around 10%, equal to 1 hour 35 minutes 4 seconds), the SRP (about 10%, equal to 1 hour 29 minutes 43 seconds) and FUNCINPEC (around 9%, equal to 1 hour 25 minutes 5 seconds). The other parties were mentioned between 6%, equal to 55 minutes 5 second, and around 8%, equal to 1 hour 16 minutes 52 seconds.

Most of the parties received neutral coverage. Only two parties received positive coverage: the CPP (around 11%, equal to 13 minutes 55 seconds, of the CPP's total coverage) and FUNCINPEC (for only 3

seconds). Negative coverage was used toward the NRP (about 5%, equal to 4 minutes 19 seconds), the SRP (about 4%, equal to 3 minutes 22 seconds), the SJFP (around 3%, equal to 2 minutes 33 seconds), the CPP (about 3%, equal to 3 minutes 11 seconds) and FUNCINPEC (about 1%, equal to 38 seconds). The rest of the parties were mentioned completely neutrally: the DSP (Democratic Society Party), the HDDMP, the KDP, the KIP (Khmer Improvement Party), the KNP, the LDP and the UPCP (United People of Cambodia Party).

NEC Political Parties' Platforms Program

The format of the program was as the same as that aired on TVK.

The program on Radio AM 918 KHz was broadcast twice daily from 13:00 to 14:10 and from 20:00 to 21:10. COMFREL monitored only the latter airtime.

KDP was absent in the program broadcast on March 18 and 28, 2007.

However, five political parties spoke a bit longer than the time given by the NEC in a few programs. Those parties were the CPP, FUNCINPEC, the NRP, the SJFP and the LDP.

Inside the monitoring time, COMFREL found a total of 14 hours 2 minutes 20 seconds of airtime was dedicated to political parties. It should be noted that the amount of time dedicated to political parties was different from that aired on TVK owing to the methodology used. That is, when the logo of the political party is shown on TV, the time is counted for that party. The radio has no such pictures.

Table 3: Amount of time for political parties on AM 918 KHz in NEC Political Parties' Platform

No	Party	Duration the parties used (15 days)	Duration given to parties
1	CPP	1 hour 18 minutes 3 seconds	1 hour 30 minutes
2	DSP	1 hour 5 minute 53 seconds	1 hour 15 minutes
3	FUN	1 hour 20 minutes 29 seconds	1 hour 30 minutes
4	HDDMP	1 hour 2 minutes 56 seconds	1 hour 15 minutes
5	KDP	0 hour 59 minutes 9 seconds (absent in two shows)	1 hour 15 minutes
6	KIP	1 hour 9 minutes 52 seconds	1 hour 15 minutes
7	KNP	1 hour 5 minutes 5 seconds	1 hour 15 minutes
8	LDP	1 hour 3 minutes 26 seconds	1 hour 15 minutes
9	NRP	1 hour 27 minutes 55 seconds	1 hour 30 minutes
10	SJFP	1 hour 14 minutes 19 seconds	1 hour 15 minutes
11	SRP	1 hour 20 minutes 38 seconds	1 hour 30 minutes
12	UPCP	0 hour 55 minutes 5 seconds	1 hour 15 minutes

News programs

Around 91% of political news was dedicated to covering the activities of the RGC (about 71%, equal to 8 hours 5 minutes 46 seconds) and the PM (around 20%, equal to 2 hours 21 minutes 29 seconds). The NA received about 3%, equal to 18 minutes 16 seconds, and the SN was mentioned in about 2%, equal to 11 minutes 41 seconds.

Only four political parties were mentioned in news programs. Of political parties, the CPP received the highest amount of time (about 3%, equal to 18 minutes 31 seconds), followed by the SRP (about 1%, equal to 4 minutes 54 seconds). The NRP was heard for 3 minutes 54 seconds and FUNCINPEC was briefly mentioned (34 seconds).

The tone was mixed. However, the majority of coverage was neutral in tone. Some positive coverage was used toward the RGC (around 14%, equal to 1 hour 8 minutes 46 seconds of the time given to the RGC), for example, commendations and covering of gift giving. The PM received around 19%, equal to 27 minutes 5 seconds. An example of this was a broadcast which noted that Cambodia was well known globally owing to the leadership of the PM. The NA was given around 9%, equal to 2 minutes 2 seconds, and the SN around 5%, equal to 39 seconds.

Of political parties, only the CPP receive positive coverage (around 16%, equal to 3 minutes 4 seconds). An example of this was the broadcast of the CPP's Central Committee Congress, in which the PM was very proud of the CPP contributing to the country's achievements in the year 2006, such as in terms of peace, stability, safety and social security.

Inside the news, all actors, except the SN, received negative coverage. The NRP was mentioned with a negative tone in about 60% of its coverage, equal to 2 minutes 20 seconds. An example of this was the coverage of the conviction of the NRP's president. The SRP received 21%, equal to 1 minute 2 seconds. An example of this was that the SRP was said to have made political use of some violence cases in order to seek more votes from voters. The CPP received around 3%, equal to 39 seconds. The FUNCINPEC was given about 18%, equal to 6 seconds. Negative coverage was also used toward the RGC for 1 minute 28 seconds, the PM for 9 seconds and the NA for 4 seconds.

Inside the news, only the PM and the RGC were given direct speech opportunities. The PM spoke for 43 minutes 16 seconds, during the Ministry of Interior's Annual Meeting to Review 2006 Performance and to Set the Direction for 2007. The RGC was given a total amount of 9 minutes 22 seconds.

Examples of coverage on the news included the following.

- A group of the PM's volunteer health practitioners provided treatment to villagers of Koh Krobei, Kampong Speu province.
- The NEC showed that four political parties had placed candidates in over 1,000 communes.
- The PM met with the vice-president of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- H.E. Bun Rany Hun Sen, PM's wife, visited soldiers and gave them gifts.
- The CPP's Central Committee Congress.

Other programs

Outside of the above-mentioned programs, Radio 918 KHz spent about 90% of political time on the activities of the members of the RGC (about 83%, equal to 17 hours 34 minutes 27 seconds) and the PM (around 7%, equal to 1 hour 32 minutes 44 seconds). The legislative bodies (the NA and the SN) received less than 1%, equal to 7 minutes 31 seconds.

Only six political parties were heard of on this channel. Of political parties, FUNCINPEC received the most coverage, at approximately 7%, equal to 1 hour 24 minutes 31 seconds. The CPP was given around 2%, equal to 25 minutes 49 seconds. The other four parties combined received less than 1%: the SRP for 4 minutes 11 seconds, the NRP for 3 minutes 15 seconds, the SFJP for 2 minutes 33 seconds, and the KDP for 3 seconds.

The tone of the coverage was mixed. Only national institutions/bodies and the ruling parties received positive coverage: the RGC received around 4%, equal to 38 minutes 25 seconds of its time. For example, during the Ministry of Interior's Annual Meeting to Review 2006 Performance and to Set the Direction for 2007, the ministry mentioned its success in solving many national issues, such as border issues. The PM received around 11%, equal to 10 minutes 27 seconds: AM 918 KHz often mentioned the wise leadership

of the PM which has led to peace, political stability and development. The NA received around 6%, equal to 16 seconds, positive coverage, followed by the SN at around 1%, equal to 3 seconds.

The CPP was given around 42% of positive coverage, equal to 10 minutes 51 seconds; for example, commendations: "the CPP is the pillar of the country and is supported by the people. The CPP is very strong and is rich in human resources. The CPP does only good things ... and only the CPP solves the problems for the people, such as providing basic needs". FUNCINPEC received 3 seconds.

Most actors received negative coverage in tone. The SJFP was covered in a completely negative way, including criticism of its political platform. The NRP received around 61%, equal to 1 minute 59 seconds, of the time allotted to it. An example of this was the coverage of the FUNCINPEC lawsuit against the prince, e.g. the broadcasting of the editorial commentary on "Question mark for the Prince: If the prince comes home, the police will bring him to the court to clarify the case of selling FUNCINPEC headquarters". The SRP was given about 56%, equal to 2 minutes 20 seconds. The CPP was allocated about 10%, equal to 2 minutes 32 seconds. Most negative aspects of the CPP were mentioned by the PM. An example of this was the broadcast of the PM's speech regarding CPP government officials being involved in taking the state's and people's land. 2%, equal to 1 minute 51 seconds, of the PM's time was negative in tone. FUNCINPEC received negative coverage at less than 1%, equal to 32 seconds, regarding the party's internal conflicts. The RGC was allocated far less than 1%, equal to 3 minutes 46 seconds. An example was the PM's speech to take action against a general who had grabbed. The program continued that land grabbers were powerful people in the RGC.

Inside other programs, the RGC spoke for 2 hours 10 minutes 40 seconds. An example of this was during the Neary Rattanak program, in which government officials were quoted. The PM spoke for 1 hour 47 minutes 36 seconds during meetings and ceremonies.

It should be noticed that the program called Views from the Newspapers often said good things about the CPP, the PM and the RGC but said bad things about other political parties or politicians.

Other issues

Political debate

No political debate was observed during the period monitored.

Direct appeals for votes

No direct appeals for votes by any political party were aired within the monitoring period.

Voter education spots/information

Voter education spots and election-related news were broadcast for 3 hours 2 minutes 42 seconds.

Women in politics

Women in politics were mentioned for 1 hour 39 minutes 37 seconds. This kind of coverage was often heard in the Neary Rattanak program.

Female incumbent commune chiefs or female candidates for commune councils

Coverage of female commune chiefs or female candidates for the commune elections was heard for 10 minutes 32 seconds.

Youth in politics

Youth in politics were not reported on within the monitoring period.

Disabled persons in politics

No disabled persons in politics were noted during this monitoring period.

Indigenous people in politics

Indigenous people in politics were also not noted on the electronic media.

Private Electronic Media

Cambodian Television Network

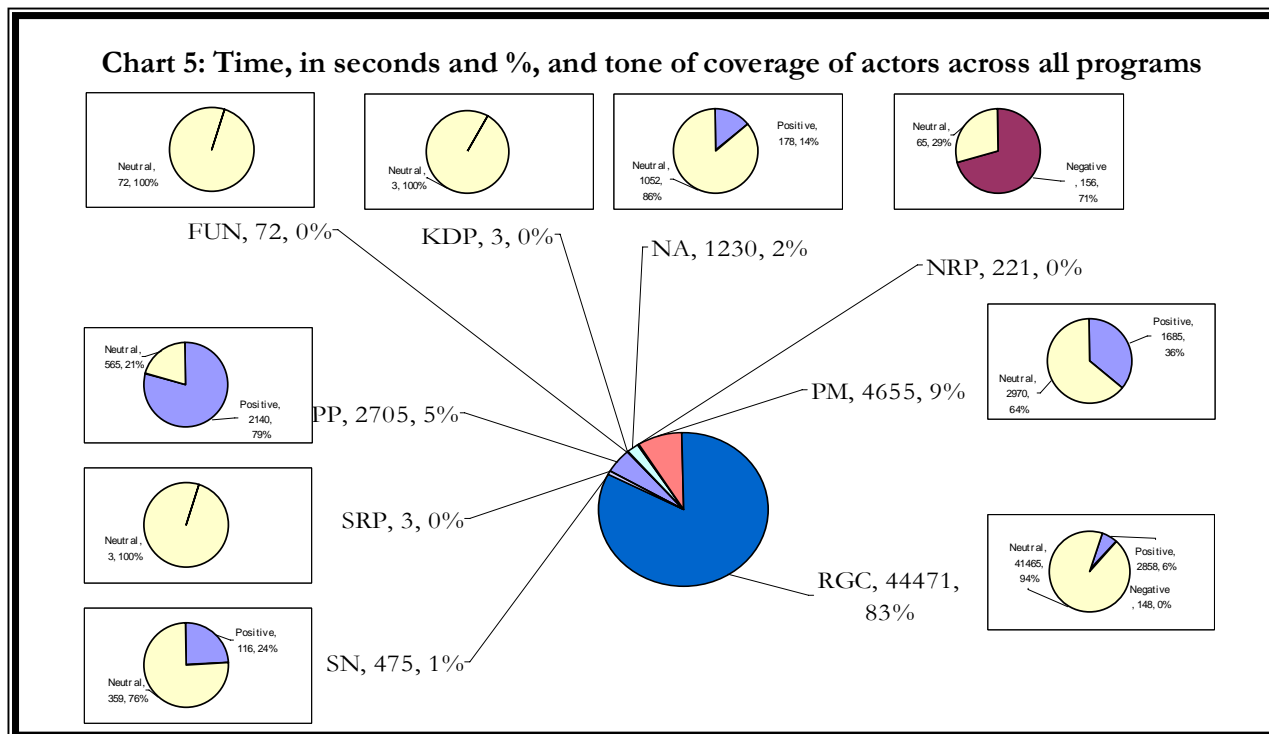
Findings across all programs

The RGC (about 83%, equal to 12 hours 21 minutes 11 seconds) dominated the political coverage of CTN, followed by the PM (about 9%, equal to 1 hour 17 minutes 35 seconds), the NA (around 2%, equal to 20 minutes 30 seconds) and the SN (about 1%, equal to 7 minutes 55 seconds).

Only five political parties were heard about. Of political parties, the CPP was covered extensively (around 5%, equal to 45 minutes 5 seconds, of all political time). The other four political parties combined received less than 1%: the NRP (3 minutes 41 seconds), FUNCINPEC (1 minute 12 seconds), the SRP (3 seconds) and the KDP (3 seconds).

A positive tone was used only towards national institutions and the CPP. The CPP was mentioned positively at around 79%, equal to 35 minutes 40 seconds of its total coverage. The PM was allotted around 36%, equal to 28 minutes 5 seconds, the SN around 24%, equal to 1 minute 56 seconds, and the NA around 14%, equal to 2 minutes 58 seconds. The RGC received around 6%, equal to 47 minutes 38 seconds.

Negative coverage was heard toward the NRP (about 71%, equal to 2 minutes 36 seconds, of its coverage) and the RGC (far less than 1%, equal to 2 minutes 28 seconds). FUNCINPEC, the KDP and the SRP received coverage which was completely neutral in tone (see Chart 5).



News programs

CTN spent most of its political news airtime covering RGC activities (around 78%, equal to 5 hours 37 minutes 25 seconds) and the PM (around 12%, equal to 52 minutes 4 seconds) followed by the NA (about 5%, equal to 20 minutes 20 seconds) and the SN (about 2%, equal to 7 minutes 47 seconds).

Of political parties, CPP was dedicated the most coverage, 2%, equal to 9 minutes 25 seconds. An example of this was the report on the inclusion of new CPP members. Another four political parties combined received around 1%, equal to 4 minutes 59 seconds. These parties were the NRP (7 minutes 55 seconds), for example, regarding convictions of the NRP's president, and FUNCINPEC (1 minute 12 seconds). The KDP and the SRP were mentioned once during a report on the final campaign day.

Inside the news programs, a positive tone was used only towards national institutions and the CPP. About 24%, equal to 1 minute 51 seconds, of SN time was positive in tone. The PM was given around 23%, equal to 12 minutes 13 seconds, and the NA around 14%, equal to 2 minutes 53 seconds. Most positive coverage was related to broadcasts on gift/money giving, ceremonies for infrastructure as well as commendations, such as those regarding donations from the PM and the country's development under the leadership of "the three Samdech" (HUN Sen, CHEA Sim and HENG Samrin). A positive tone was given to the CPP at around 23%, equal to 2 minutes 12 seconds, of its total coverage. An example of this was during the inclusion of new CPP members.

Negative coverage was heard about the NRP (about 71%, equal to 2 minutes 36 seconds of its coverage) and the RGC (far less than 1%, equal to 2 minutes 28 seconds). FUNCINPEC, the KDP and the SRP received coverage which was completely neutral in tone.

Inside the news, the RGC could speak for 8 minutes 36 seconds; for example, the police were quoted regarding a fire in Neak Meas Market's fruit stalls. The PM was quoted for 1 minute 28 seconds regarding the construction of National Road No 8 from Kandal province to Prey Veng province.

Examples of coverage on the news included the following.

- The PM attended the plenary session of the Council of the Ministers.
- H.E. CHAM Prasidh, Minister of Commerce, met with a delegation from China's Jilin province.
- The sentencing of Prince Norodom Ranariddh in absentia.
- H.E. OUN Pon Monirath inaugurated one school building in Kandal province.
- H.E. SAR Kheng visited the residents of Ba Phnom district, Prey Veng province.
- The ceremony of inclusion of new CPP members in Kandal province.

Other programs

Outside the news, CTN covered only national institutions and the CPP. The government was allotted about 87%, equal to 6 hours 43 minutes 46 seconds, followed by the CPP (about 8%, equal to 35 minutes 40 seconds) and the PM (around 5%, equal to 25 minutes 31 seconds). The NA and the SN were briefly mentioned, for 10 seconds and 8 seconds respectively.

Most coverage, more than 50% of the time given to each actor, was positive for all actors, except for the RGC, which received around 6%, equal to 24 minutes 17 seconds. About 94%, equal to 33 minutes 28 seconds, of CPP time was positive. No negative coverage was given to any actor.

It should be noticed that, within the monitoring period, CTN's Genius and Achievements program appeared to cover only the CPP. The format of this one-hour program includes inviting a guest speaker to answer the presenter's questions and talk about their achievements. COMFREL observed that all the guest

speakers within the monitoring period were CPP commune chiefs and CPP government officials, including H.E. KEP Chuktema, Governor of Phnom Penh. The presenter of the program, Chum Kosal, also took the opportunity to praise CPP members: "I notice that CPP officials from the higher to lower levels have no free time [for their family], 365 days a year [they] are busy visiting the localities".

*Other issues***Political debate**

No political debates were broadcast on CTN during the period monitored.

Direct appeals for votes

CTN broadcast CTN presenter Chum Kosal's speech appealing to voters to vote for the CPP to repay the PM who had donated valuable gifts (houses) to residents of Borei Keila.

Voter education spots/information

Voter education spots and election-related news were broadcast for 38 minutes 22 seconds; most of this coverage was during the election campaign period. Before the campaign period, CTN broadcast no voter education spots.

Women in politics

Women in politics were mentioned for 2 minutes 23 seconds. An example of this was the reporting of the PM's speech during the annual meeting of the Ministry of Women's Affair, in which the PM appreciated the increased number of women in politics.

Female incumbent commune chiefs or female candidates for commune councils

Coverage of female commune chiefs or female candidates for the commune council elections was heard for 2 hours 12 minutes 32 seconds; for example, the Chief of Olympic commune was invited to be a guest speaker in the Genius and Achievements program, when she talked about her achievements.

Youth in politics

Youth in politics were not reported on within the monitoring period.

Disabled persons in politics

No disabled persons in politics were noted during this monitoring period.

Indigenous people in politics

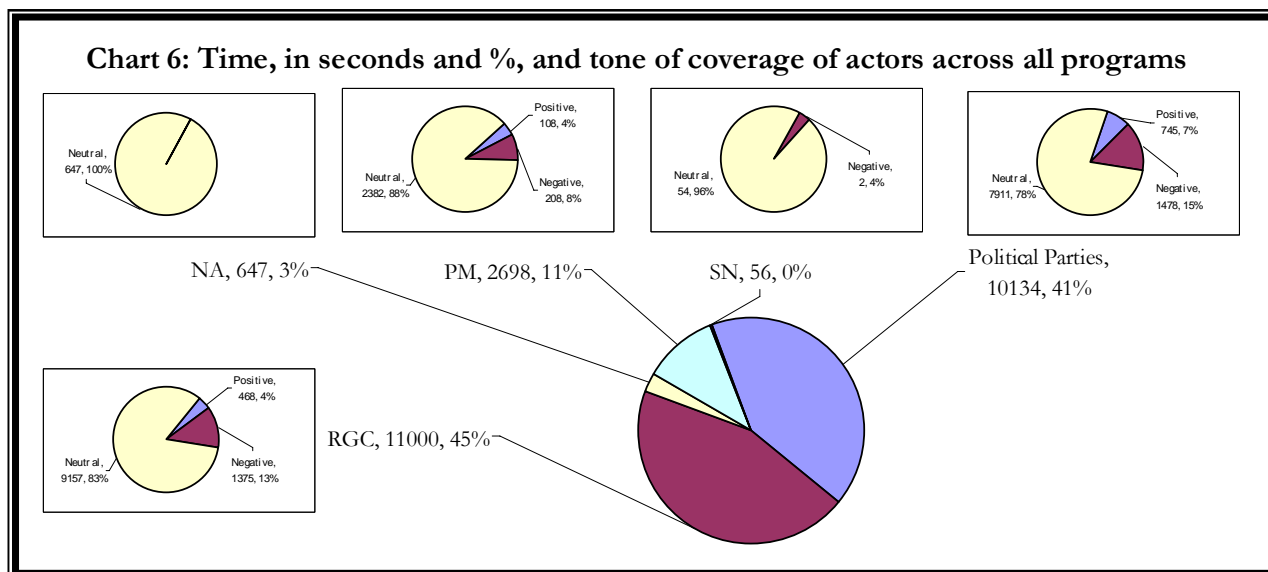
Indigenous people in politics were also not noted on the electronic media.

Radio France International*Findings across all programs*

RFI dedicated a little more political airtime to national institutions, including the PM, than to all the political parties combined. About 56% of political time was given to the RGC (about 45%, equal to 3 hours 3 minutes 20 seconds) and the PM (11%, equal to 44 minutes 58 seconds). The NA was given about 3%, equal to 10 minutes 47 seconds, and the SN just 56 seconds. The rest of the political airtime (41%, equal to 2 hours 48 minutes 54 seconds) was shared between eight political parties.

The tone of the coverage was mixed for both national institutions and political parties. Around 4%, equal to 7 minutes 48 seconds, of RGC time was positive; around 12%, equal to 22 minutes 55 seconds, was negative in tone. Positive coverage for the PM was at 4%, equal to 1 minute 48 seconds, with negative

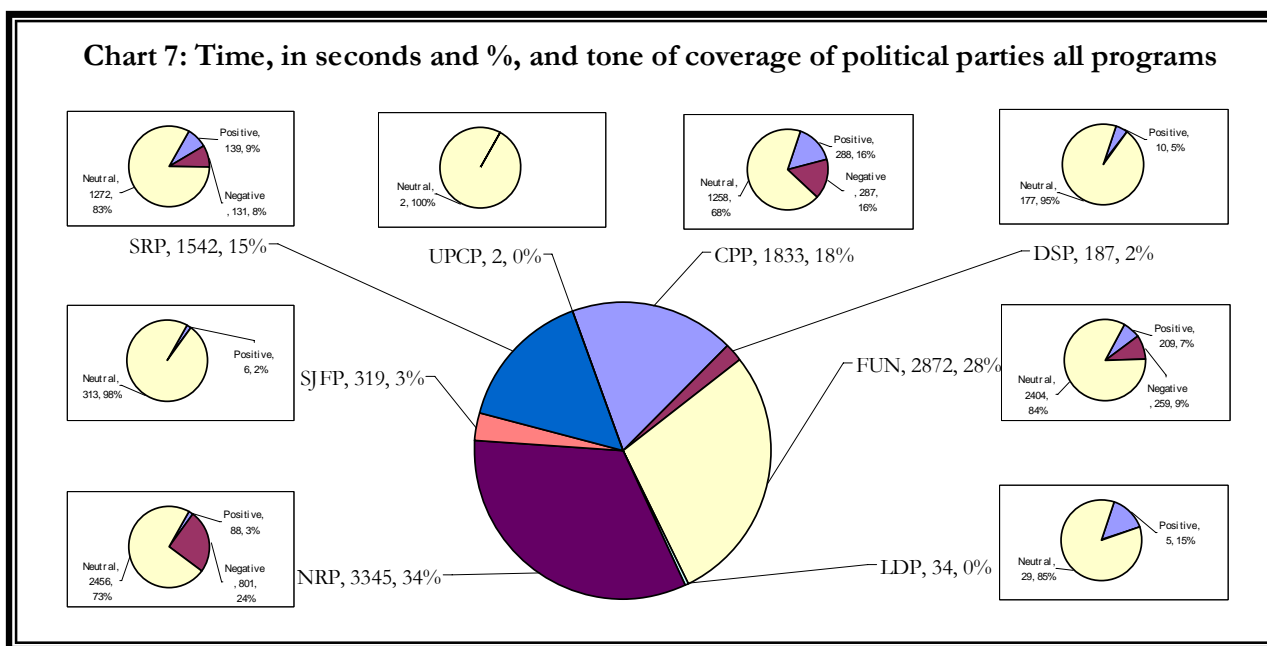
coverage at about 8%, equal to 3 minutes 28 seconds. The NA and the SN received more or less neutral coverage (for details, please see Chart 6.)



Findings on political parties across all programs

Of the time dedicated to political parties, the NRP was given the most amount of time (33%, equal to 55 minutes 45 seconds) followed by FUNCINPEC at around 28%, equal to 47 minutes 52 seconds, the CPP at around 18%, equal to 30 minutes 33 seconds, and the SRP at around 15%, equal to 25 minutes 42 seconds. About 6%, equal to 9 minutes 2 seconds, was given to the rest of the parties: the SJFP around 3%, equal to 5 minutes 19 seconds, the DSP about 2%, equal to 3 minutes 7 seconds, the LDP (34 seconds) and the UPCP (2 seconds).

The tone of the overall coverage was mixed. All parties were given positive coverage except the UPCP, which received 100% neutral coverage. CPP received the highest amount of positive coverage, for 4 minutes 48 seconds, equal to about 16% of the time given to the CPP. Only four parties were given negative coverage. The NRP received about 24%, equal to 13 minutes 21 seconds, of its coverage. The CPP was allotted about 16%, equal to 4 minutes 47 seconds. FUNCINPEC received around 9%, equal to 4 minutes 19 seconds, and the SRP received around 8%, equal to 2 minutes 11 seconds (for details, please see Chart 7).



Examples of coverage on political parties included the following.

- During the CPP Congress, the PM secured the full support of his party to declare a war against land grabbers.
- The courts continue to process the case of the illegal sale of FUNCINPEC headquarters against Prince Norodom Ranariddh.
- A clash of words between political parties prior to the election campaign.
- The environment surrounding the election campaign in Cambodia.

News programs

61% of political news covered the RGC (around 46%, equal to 2 hours 6 minutes 31 seconds) and the PM (around 15%, equal to 41 minutes 51 seconds), followed by the NA (about 4%, equal to 10 minutes 8 seconds) and the SN (less than 1%, equal to 52 seconds).

Of political parties, the NRP received the most time on the news (around 14%, equal to 38 minutes 10 seconds), followed by the CPP at around 7%, equal to 19 minutes 23 seconds, FUNCINPEC at about 7%, equal to 18 minutes 14 seconds, the SRP at around 5%, equal to 41 minutes 51 seconds, and the SJFP at around 1%, equal to 2 minutes 55 seconds.

The tone of the political news was mixed. Only the NA and the SJFP received 100% neutral coverage. FUNCINPEC received about 15% of coverage which was positive in tone, equal to 2 minutes 40 seconds, and around 9%, equal to 1 minute 41 seconds, which was negative in tone. About 10%, equal to 1 minute 56 seconds, of CPP coverage was positive in tone and around 16%, equal to 3 minutes 13 seconds, was negative in tone. The SRP was given positive coverage at around 3%, equal to 28 seconds, and negative coverage at around 5%, equal to 38 seconds.

Examples of such positive and negative coverage included RFI's feature story on Kandal province's communes, in which commune chiefs from the ruling parties – the CPP and FUNCINPEC – were praised for solving the problems of the people and developing the commune, whereas SRP-led communes were not developed.

Positive coverage for the NRP was heard at around 1%, equal to 33 seconds, of its total coverage. About 24%, equal to 9 minutes 7 seconds, was negative in tone. The RGC received about 4%, equal to 4 minutes 43 seconds, of positive coverage and around 14%, equal to 17 minutes 54 seconds, of negative coverage. An example was the disappointment of donors that the RGC had not accomplished projects for the year 2006, particularly the creation of the anti-corruption law, which donors said the RGC was trying to avoid. About 4%, equal to 1 minute 32 seconds, of the PM's time was positive and around 7%, equal to 3 minutes 1 second, was negative in tone. The SN received no positive coverage but about 4%, equal to 2 seconds, was negative in tone.

Inside the news, RGC officials and members were given the most amount of time to speak, at 2 minutes 44 seconds; for example, the Deputy Governor of Ratanakiri province's Voeun Sai district, Heng Savoeun, was quoted by RFI regarding the understanding of indigenous people on hygiene, safe water and use of health centers. The NA spoke for 1 minute 42 seconds, the NRP for 1 minute 28 seconds, the SRP for 42 seconds, the CPP for 16 seconds and FUNCINPEC for 14 seconds.

Other programs

Outside the news programs, 43% of political time was dedicated to the RGC (about 42%, equal to 56 minutes 49 seconds), and the PM (around 2%, equal to 3 minutes 7 seconds). The NA and the SN combined were allotted only 43 seconds.

Outside the news, of political parties, FUNCINPEC led in terms of political coverage (about 22%, equal to 29 minutes 38 seconds), followed by the NRP at about 13%, equal to 17 minutes 35 seconds, the SRP at around 8%, equal to 11 minute 36 seconds, and the CPP at around 8%, equal to 11 minutes 10 seconds. The remaining around 4%, equal to 6 minutes 7 seconds, was shared between four parties: the DSP around 2%, equal to 3 minutes 7 seconds, the SFJP about 2%, equal to 2 minutes 4 seconds, the LDP (34 seconds) and the UPCP (only 2 seconds).

The tone of the coverage was mixed. A positive tone was used toward almost all actors except the NA, the SN and the UPCP, which received only neutral coverage. The CPP received positive coverage at about 26%, equal to 2 minutes 32 seconds, and negative coverage at around 14%, equal to 1 minute 34 seconds; for example, RFI's Views from the Newspapers program suggested that the CPP's resources came from tax embezzlement and selling state property (land, forest).

About 16%, equal to 1 minute 51 seconds, of SRP time was positive in tone and around 13%, equal to 1 minute 33 seconds, was negative in tone. The NRP was given positive coverage of around 5%, equal to 55 seconds; negative coverage was at 24%, equal to 4 minutes 14 seconds. Some examples include when RFI noted that nobody dared to hold a demonstration to help Prince Norodom Ranariddh and reported that Prince Norodom Ranariddh had run out of ideas, which is why he had sued FUNCINPEC in return for FUNCINPEC suing him. RFI also reported that the Prince kept moving down the wrong track and had run into problems owing to his obsession with girls.

Examples of coverage outside news programs included the following.

- The NA postponed its plenary session owing to a lack of members attending the plenary sessions.
- Land issues become very sensitive in Cambodia.
- An interview with H.E. NHIEK Bun Chhay, Secretary General of FUNCINPEC, about the lawsuit against the Prince.
- View from the Newspapers: Log and Drug Transportation.

Outside the news, RFI gave five actors a direct speech opportunity. FUNCINPEC was given the largest amount of time at 14 minutes 53 seconds, an example of which was the interview with the party's secretary general regarding the case against Prince Norodom Ranariddh. The NRP (4 minutes 11 seconds) was next, then the SRP (4 minutes 5 seconds), the CPP (3 minutes 28 seconds) and the SJFP (1 minute 20 seconds). An example was the interview with CPP representative Cheam Yeab, SRP representative MOU Sochou, FUNCINPEC representative NOV Sovathero and NRP representative MUTH Chantha, regarding respective party platforms.

*Other issues***Political debate**

No political debate was reported on RFI during the period monitored.

Direct appeals for votes

No appeals for votes by specific parties were heard.

Voter education spots/information

RFI broadcast no voter education spots. However, education-related news on the elections was heard for 33 minutes 16 seconds.

Women in politics

Women in politics were mentioned for 5 minutes 39 seconds. An example of this was reporting on RGC and civil society efforts to encourage women to participate in the commune elections.

Female incumbent commune chiefs or female candidates for commune councils

Coverage of female commune chiefs or female candidates for the commune elections was not heard.

Youth in politics

Youth in politics were not reported on within the monitoring period.

Disabled persons in politics

No disabled persons in politics were noted during this monitoring period.

Indigenous people in politics

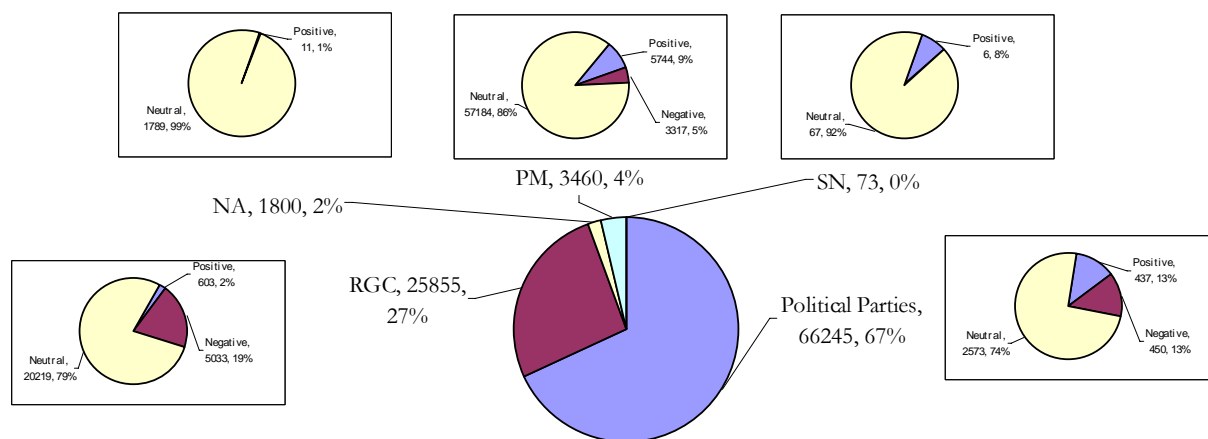
Indigenous people in politics were also not noted on the electronic media.

Radio Free Asia*Findings across all programs*

RFA appeared to be the most dynamic, active and open of the electronic media observed in terms of election and political party coverage. Additionally, RFA increased airtime during the election process, covering most of the election-related news/information and public forums. RFA dedicated 31% of political time to the RGC (about 27%, equal to 7 hours 10 minutes 55 seconds) and the PM (about 4%, equal to 57 minutes 40 seconds), followed by the NA at about 2%, equal to 30 minutes, and the SN (only 1 minute 13 seconds), leaving around 67%, equal to 18 hours 24 minutes 5 seconds for the 12 political parties competing in the elections.

Coverage tone was mixed. All political actors received positive and/or negative coverage. About 13% (7 minutes 17 seconds), of the PM's coverage was positive and around 13% (7 minutes 30 seconds), was negative. The RGC received positive coverage at around 2% (10 minutes 3 seconds), and negative coverage

Chart 8: Time, in seconds and %, and tone of coverage of actors across all programs

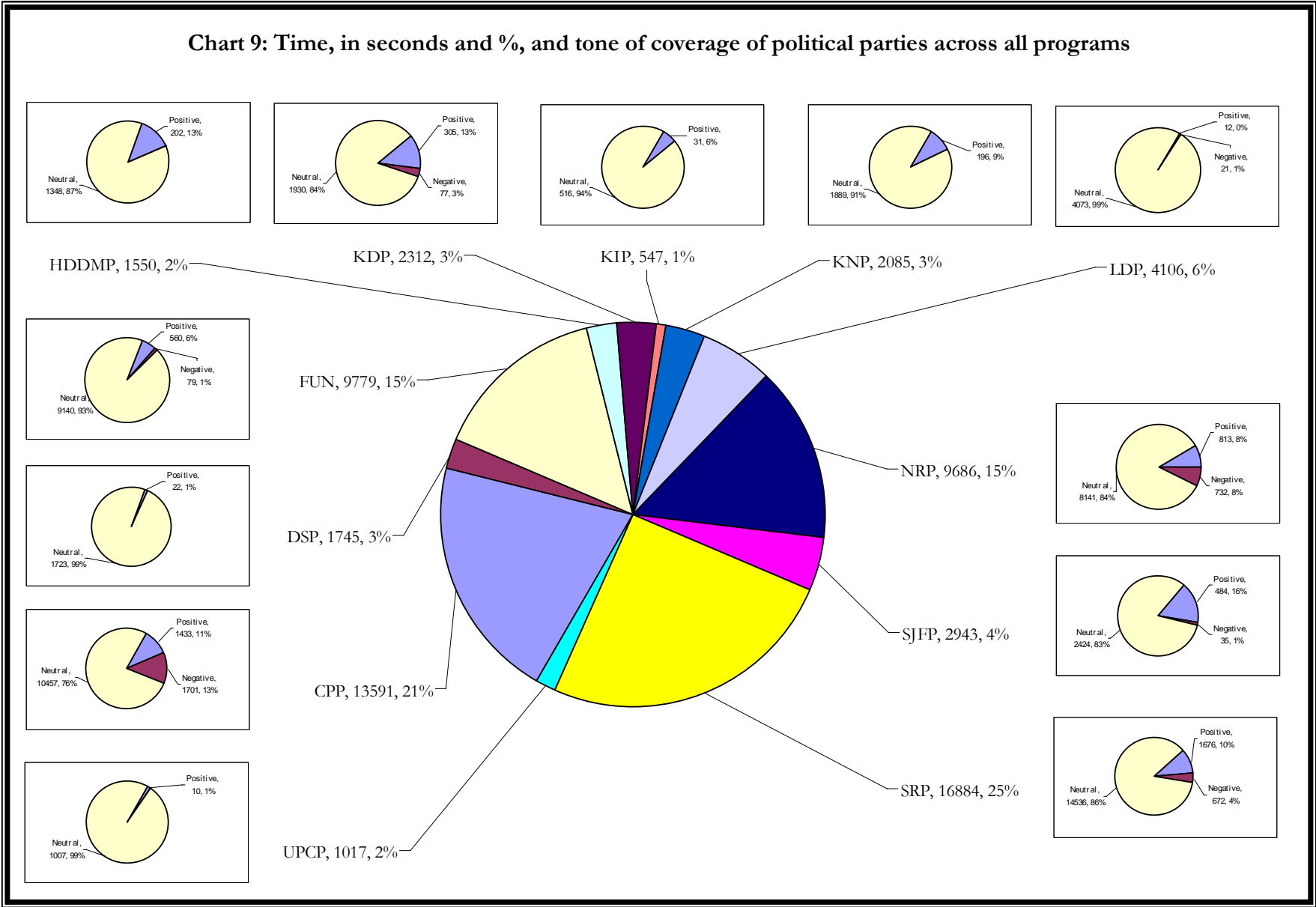


at around 19% (1 hour 23 minutes 53 seconds). The two national legislative bodies combined were mentioned with a positive tone for 17 seconds and received no negative coverage (see Chart 8).

Findings on political parties across all programs

Of time dedicated to political parties, RFA allotted the most to the SRP (around 25%, or 4 hours 41 minutes 24 seconds) followed by the CPP at about 21% (3 hours 46 minutes 31 seconds). FUNCINPEC received about 15% (2 hours 42 minutes 59 seconds); the NRP saw about 15% (2 hours 41 minutes 6 seconds). The remaining around 24% (4 hours 31 minutes 45 seconds) was shared between the other eight political parties: the LDP around 6% (1 hour 8 minutes 26 seconds), the SJFP around 4% (49 minutes 3 seconds), the KDP around 3% (38 minutes 32 seconds), the KNP around 3% (34 minutes 45 seconds), the DSP about 3% (29 minutes 5 seconds), the HDDMP around 2% (25 minutes 50 seconds), the UPCP about 2% (16 minutes 57 seconds), and the KIP about 1% (9 minutes 7 seconds).

All parties received positive coverage. A negative coverage was given to seven parties. The CPP saw the most negative coverage (about 13%, or 28 minutes 21 seconds), then the NRP at 8% (12 minutes 12 seconds). The rest received less than 4% negative coverage (for details, please see Chart 9).



News programs

Around 48%, equal to 5 hours 48 minutes 49 seconds, of time on the news was dedicated to the RGC, about 6%, equal to 42 minutes 9 seconds, to the PM, around 3%, equal to 22 minutes 25 seconds, to the NA and 51 seconds to the SN.

All political parties, except the UCP, were heard about in the news. The SRP was covered extensively (around 16%, equal to 1 hour 57 minutes 50 seconds of all political news), followed by the NRP at about 13%, equal to 1 hour 32 minutes 11 seconds, the CPP at 8%, equal to 57 minutes 43 seconds, and FUNCINPEC at about 3%, equal to 19 minutes 19 seconds. The rest, about 3%, equal to 19 minutes 48 seconds, was shared between seven political parties: the SJFP at around 1% (equal to 10 minutes 34 seconds), the KDP at about 1% (4 minutes 38 seconds), the LDP (2 minutes 52 seconds), the DSP (1 minute 2 seconds), the HDDMP (18 seconds), the KNP (15 seconds) and the KIP (9 seconds).

The tone of the coverage was mixed. Only four actors received only neutral coverage: the DSP, the KIP, the HDDMP and the KNP.

Most actors received more or less positive coverage in the news. About 20%, equal to 1 hour 8 minutes 25 seconds, of RGC time was negative and just about 2%, equal to 6 minutes 42 seconds, was positive. An example of this was a report on illegal logging by government officials and powerful persons. About 8%, equal to 3 minutes 10 seconds, of news on the PM was negative, with about 11% positive, equal to 4 minutes 35 seconds. An example was a report on the PM's achievements regarding building roads connecting Cambodia with Vietnam and Laos and fulfilling teachers' demands for more schools in Ratanakiri, among other things. The two national legislative bodies combined were mentioned positively for 17 seconds, with no negative coverage.

RFA dedicated more negative than positive coverage to political parties. 40%, equal to 22 minutes 51 seconds, of CPP political news time was negative and around 2%, equal to 1 minute 2 seconds, was positive. For example, in a news report on the rural poor under pressure during the commune elections, a rubber plantation worker was quoted as saying: "According to my observation, people hate the CPP because the CPP oppress the people by using their power. Although their actions are unfair and have a negative impact on the people, they keep doing it. I want to tell you that CPP is not democratic."

The KDP received around 28%, equal to 1 minute 17 seconds, of negative coverage and around 15%, equal to 15 seconds, of positive coverage. The NRP received about 13%, equal to 11 minutes 44 seconds, of negative coverage and around 3%, equal to 3 minutes 6 seconds, of positive coverage. This included coverage on the conviction of the NRP's president in absentia over the illegal sale of the FUNCINPEC headquarters.

The LDP received no positive coverage but around 21%, equal to 21 seconds, was negative in tone. About 9%, equal to 10 minutes 2 seconds, of SRP time was negative, with around 1%, equal to 1 minute 33 seconds, was positive in tone; for example, a news report on the pulling down of a party signboard resulting from SRP internal conflicts. The SJFP received about 6%, equal to 35 seconds, of negative coverage but no positive coverage. Around 2%, equal to 25 seconds, of FUNCINPEC coverage was negative; there was no positive coverage toward this party.

Inside the news, RFA provided direct speech opportunities to 12 political actors. The RGC spoke for 1 hour 50 seconds. For example, the Minister of Information was quoted regarding a news report of Srolanh Khmer newspaper's publisher seeking an apology from the former King. The PM was given 14 minutes 18 seconds to speak; the NA was given 12 minutes 2 seconds.

Of political parties, the SRP was given the most amount of time to speak (31 minutes 4 seconds). An example was the SRP's president's speech responding to the PM who had complained about political parties being named after their leaders: the president's response was that he did not need to listen but would serve the people not a foreign country. The NRP was given 19 minutes 3 seconds, the CPP 9 minutes 44 seconds, the SJFP for 5 minutes 41 seconds, FUNCINPEC 4 minutes 35 seconds, the DSP 58 seconds, the LDP 46 seconds, the KDP 43 seconds and the KNP 7 seconds.

Examples of coverage on news programs included the following.

- Reactions to the former King's speech that the royal family should not get involved in politics.
- The NEC's last voter information notice distribution process as very complicated.
- Government officials met with local NGOs on human rights.
- Murder case of the wife of the SRP candidate in Battambang province.
- NEC announcement on the transferring of ballot papers from the printing house.
- A Kampong Thom CPP supporter was killed.
- The residents of Prey Veng province complained about the lack of food.
- The residents of Kampong Thom province were worried about losing their right to vote.
- The residents of Kampong Speu province's Oral district were short of potable water.
- Two environmental officials were injured by illegal loggers with guns.
- SRP signboards were pulled down nationwide.
- The PM's bodyguards confiscated a petition from people seeking help from the PM.
- Gangers fought with each other using knives and swords in schools in Sihanouk Ville.
- The SFJP accused the court of injustice and working for the ruling party.
- Voter information notice distribution would end on March 8, 2007.
- A Phnom Penh municipal judge said that conviction of the Prince had received no pressure from the RGC.

Other programs

Outside the news, all political actors were mentioned and the CPP dominated political coverage (about 19%, equal to 2 hours 48 minutes 48 seconds), followed by the SRP at around 18%, equal to 2 hours 43 minutes 34 seconds, FUNCINPEC at about 16%, equal to 2 hours 23 minutes 40 seconds, the NRP at about 8%, equal to 1 hour 9 minutes 15 seconds, and the LDP at around 7%, equal to 1 hour 5 minutes 34 seconds. The remaining political parties were given between about 1%, equal to 8 minutes 58 seconds, and around 4%, equal to 38 minutes 29 seconds.

The RGC was allotted around 9%, equal to 1 hour 22 minutes 6 seconds, of political time in other programs. The PM was given about 2%, equal to 15 minutes 31 seconds. The NA was given only about 1%, equal to 7 minutes 35 seconds, and the SN was given only 22 seconds. The coverage for the two legislative bodies was completely neutral in tone.

Unlike the coverage in the news, RFA allotted more positive than negative coverage to political actors except the RGC and the PM, which/who received extensive negative coverage. About 28%, equal to 4 minutes 20 seconds, of the PM's time outside the news was negative and around 17%, equal to 2 minutes 42 seconds, was positive. One example of positive coverage was in an interview on the internal rules of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), Dr. Tith Naranhkiri, Professor of John Darwin University, said that the PM followed Vietnamese orders. In addition, during the NDI Public Forum, CPP candidates said that the PM paid high attention to land issues and would punish land grabbers in accordance with the law, and that the PM had established the Rectangular Strategy to eliminate corruption and protect the interests of the people.

The RGC received about 19%, equal to 15 minutes 28 seconds, of negative coverage with around 4%, equal to 3 minutes 21 seconds, of coverage which was positive in tone.

Of political parties, the CPP received the most negative coverage (around 3%, equal to 5 minutes 30 seconds, of its time), with around 13%, equal to 22 minutes 41 seconds, positive in tone. For example CPP officials were given the chance to say that their party was mature and very capable with clear policy. The officials went on to state that the people loved the CPP, which had strengthened the justice system and respected laws and rights; "the CPP is such a good party, that's why it wins all the elections; no party can do like the CPP and the CPP can solve problems such as logging and land issues."

Negative coverage for the SRP, NRP and FUNCINPEC was at less than 1% each, or 1 minute of the time given to each. The SFJP received positive coverage at about 21%, equal to 8 minutes 4 seconds, and the SRP at around 16%, equal to 26 minutes 20 seconds. An example was during the NDI's Public Forum, in which the SRP candidate said that his party would eliminate corruption and dictatorship. The NRP received around 15%, equal to 10 minutes 27 seconds; for example, in an interview, the NRP's president Prince Norodom Ranariddh said that his party was committed to eliminating discrimination, corruption and bureaucracy. The KDP was given around 14%, equal to 4 minutes 50 seconds, of positive coverage and the HDDMP around 13%, equal to 3 minutes 22 seconds. The rest received less than 10% positive coverage.

Outside the news, only the NA was not given a direct speech opportunity. The SRP was given the most amount of time, at 2 hours 37 minutes 15 seconds, followed by the CPP (2 hours 32 minutes 59 seconds), FUNCINPEC (2 hours 8 minutes 35 seconds), the NRP (54 minutes 54 seconds), the SFJP (25 minutes 14 seconds), the HDDMP (19 minutes 53 seconds), the DSP (18 minutes 52 seconds), the LDP (16 minutes 18 seconds), the UCP (10 minutes), the KNP (7 minutes 3 seconds), the KDP (6 minutes 5 seconds) and the KIP (1 minute 26 seconds).

Outside the news, RFA also dedicated its time to covering the political platforms of all political parties, inviting party representatives to be guest speakers on their call-in show Listeners' Forum, and covering the background of political parties competing in the elections. Most direct speech opportunities given to political parties were during the RFA's interview with political party representatives on their respective political platforms. Outside the news, the RGC spoke for 31 minutes 12 seconds. The PM spoke for only 18 seconds and the SN was quoted for 13 seconds.

Some examples of direct speech opportunities are as follows:

- An interview with FUNCINPEC's president Keo Puth Rasmey on the party's platform, in which he detailed his party's contribution to the reconstruction of the country, peace and national stability.
- NDI's Public Forums, where political parties were allowed to speak about their platforms.
- An interview with the NRP's president Prince Norodom Ranariddh about the newly established NRP, where the Prince differentiated the NRP platform from those of other parties.

*Other issues***Political debate**

Within the monitoring period, the NDI's Public Forums allowed political party candidates to challenge one another. In such debates, candidates from the CPP could speak for 18 minutes 58 seconds, from FUNCINPEC for 12 minutes 28 seconds, from the SRP for 12 minutes 34 seconds, from the NRP for 12 minutes 30 seconds and from the HDDMP for 2 minutes 1 second.

Direct appeals for votes

Appeals to vote for specific parties were heard for 4 minutes 48 seconds. At least four party representatives had the chance to appeal to voters to vote for their parties: the CPP, the SRP, FUNCINPEC and the NRP, among others.

Voter education spots/information

Education-related news on elections was heard for 4 hours 15 minutes 4 seconds.

Women in politics

RFA dedicated 2 hours 53 minutes, the most amount of time on all electronic media monitored, to covering women in politics. A large amount of the time was contributed by the NDI's Public Forums; for example, during the Public Forum on Women in Politics, CPP, FUNCINPEC and SRP female parliamentarians spoke about the capacity of women in politics.

Female incumbent commune chiefs or female candidates for commune councils

Coverage of female commune chiefs or female candidates for the commune elections filled 1 hour 57 minutes 37 seconds. An example of this was during the NDI's Public Forum on Women and Leadership, in which the CPP's female candidate talked of the CPP policy to promote women to become development partners and to strengthen good governance, allowing women to hold more positions in government.

Youth in politics

Youth in politics were not reported on within the monitoring period.

Disabled persons in politics

No disabled persons in politics were noted during this monitoring period.

Indigenous people in politics

Indigenous people in politics were also not noted on the electronic media.

Voice of America*Findings across all programs*

About 36%, equal to 3 hours 8 minutes 45 seconds, of political time was dedicated to the RGC, followed by the PM at around 6%, equal to 32 minutes 11 seconds. The NA was given about 2%, equal to 8 minutes 40 seconds, and the SN only 14 seconds.

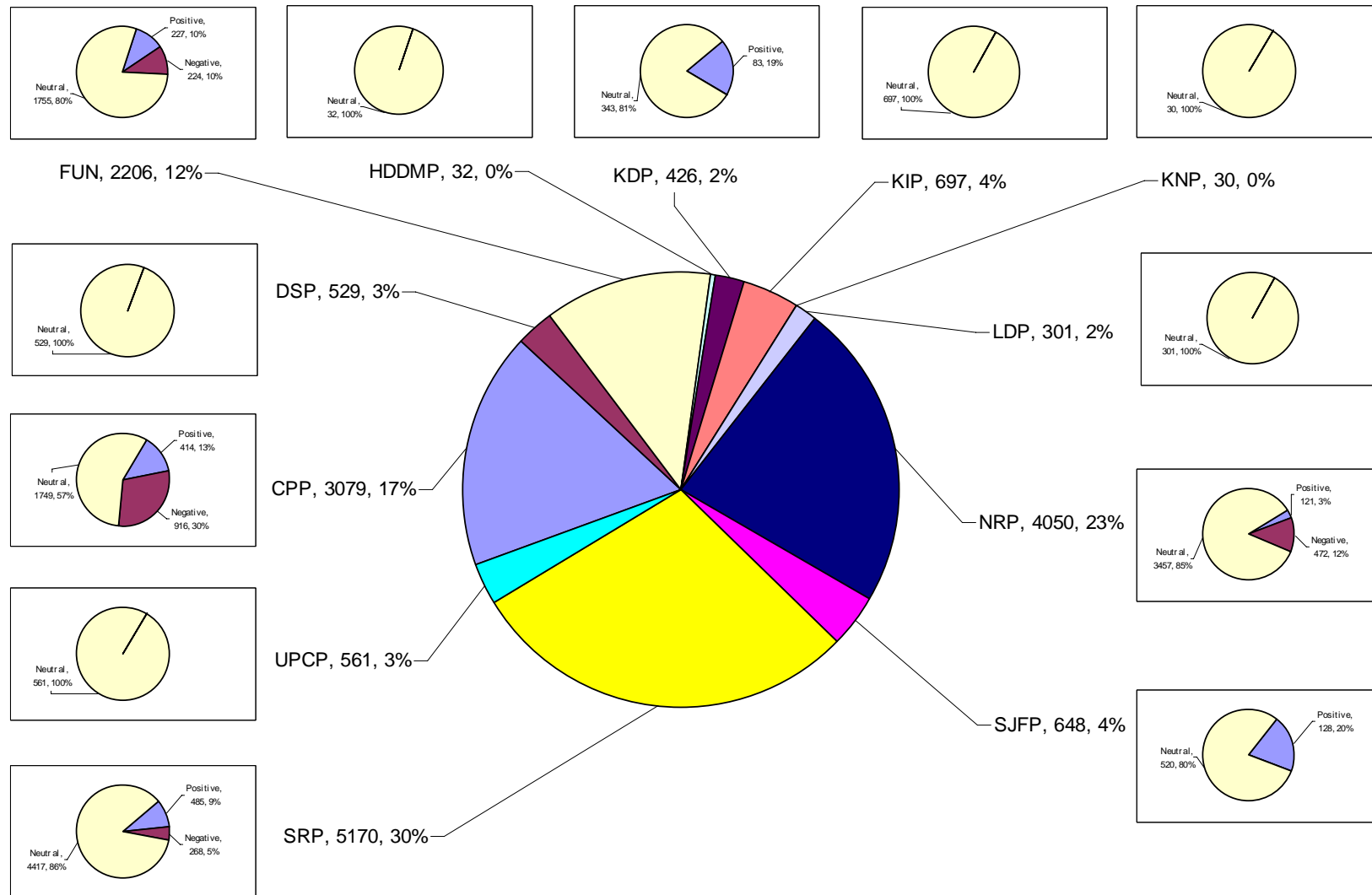
VOA allocated a total of around 56%, equal to 4 hours 55 minutes 29 seconds, to the 12 parties combined. Most of the actors received mixed coverage. The PM was allotted around 29%, equal to 9 minutes 25 seconds, of negative coverage, with around 2%, equal to 40 seconds, of coverage positive in tone. Around 18%, equal to 34 minutes 1 second, of RGC coverage was negative, and around 3%, equal to 6 minutes 22 seconds, was positive. The NA and the SN received negative coverage at around 18%, equal to 1 minute 31 seconds, and around 24%, equal to 3 seconds, respectively. Neither received positive coverage.

Findings on political parties across all programs

The SRP led in terms of VOA political coverage (around 29%, equal to 1 hour 26 minutes 10 seconds of the time given to all political parties), followed by the NRP at about 23%, equal to 1 hour 7 minutes 30 seconds, the CPP at around 17%, equal to 51 minutes 19 seconds and FUNCINPEC at around 12%, equal to 36 minutes 46 seconds. The other eight political parties were given between about 4%, equal to 11 minutes 37 seconds, and far less than 1%, equal to 30 seconds.

Six political parties received only neutral coverage – the DSP, the HDDMP, the KIP, the KNP, the LDP and the UCP. The other parties received mixed coverage. The CPP received the most amount of negative coverage, about 30%, equal to 15 minutes 16 seconds of its time, followed by the NRP at about 12%, equal to 7 minutes 52 seconds, FUNCINPEC at around 10%, equal to 3 minutes 44 seconds, and the SRP at around 5%, equal to 4 minutes 28 seconds. All the parties received positive coverage, except those with only neutral coverage (for more details, please see Chart 10).

Chart 10: Time, in seconds and %, and tone of coverage of political parties across all programs



News programs

46% of political news was dedicated to the RGC (around 38%, equal to 2 hours 38 minutes 3 seconds) and the PM (about 8%, equal to 31 minutes 04 seconds). The NA was given about 2%, equal to 8 minutes 14 seconds, and the SN only 4 seconds.

All political parties competing in the elections were heard on VOA. The SRP was allocated around 17%, equal to 1 hour 11 minutes 34 seconds, followed by the NRP (about 15%, equal to 1 hour 5 seconds), the CPP (about 10%, equal to 40 minutes 28 seconds), and FUNCINPEC (around 5%, equal to 22 minutes 15 seconds).

The other eight parties combined received around 5%, equal to 21 minutes 56 seconds. These parties were: the KIP around 1%, equal to 5 minutes 22 seconds, the SJFP around 1%, equal to 5 minutes 3 seconds, the LDP around 1%, equal to 5 minutes 1 second, the DSP (2 minutes 5 seconds), the UPCP (1 minute 50 seconds), the KDP (1 minute 33 seconds), the HDDMP (32 seconds) and the KNP (30 seconds).

The tone of the coverage was mixed; most actors received far more negative than positive coverage. Around 30%, equal to 9 minutes 25 seconds, of the PM's coverage in the newscast was negative; positive coverage was at around 1%, equal to 25 seconds. An example was that Cambodian watchdog groups said that the PM had taken the opportunity to campaign before the start of the election campaign period. VOA further cited the group as saying that the PM often reiterated his culture of distribution and his achievements, which the group considered lying, cheating and political propaganda.

The RGC received around 17%, equal to 27 minutes 31 seconds, of negative coverage and about 4%, equal to 5 minutes 41 seconds, of positive coverage. For example, in the news report on oil prices in Cambodia, VOA reported Phan Sina, Director of the Agricultural Development Association, denouncing the lack of government will facilitate his initiative to import oil from Russia to bring the price of oil down. The SN received around 21%, equal to 3 seconds, of negative coverage and the NA was given around 18%, equal to 1 minute 31 seconds. There was no positive coverage for these two legislative bodies.

Only the SRP received more positive (around 7%, equal to 5 minutes 19 seconds) than negative coverage (around 6%, equal to 4 minutes 28 seconds). The SFJP received no negative coverage but around 1%, equal to 4 seconds, positive coverage.

About 35%, equal to 14 minutes 4 seconds, of CPP coverage was negative and about 17%, equal to 6 minutes 44 seconds, was positive in tone. An example was the news stating that CPP officials collected ID cards from the people, used money and gifts to attract voters and forced supporters of other political parties to defect to the CPP.

Around 17%, equal to 3 minutes 44 seconds, of FUNCINPEC coverage was negative, with about 3%, equal to 38 seconds, positive in tone. The NRP received about 11%, equal to 6 minutes 26 seconds, of negative coverage and about 3%, equal to 1 minute 34 seconds, of coverage positive in tone.

Only the SN was not given a direct speech opportunity. The SRP was given the longest time to speak (41 minutes 58 seconds); an example was a quote of the SRP's president saying that he did not believe the RGC had the will to push the anti-corruption draft law to the NA.

The NRP was given 16 minutes 16 seconds to speak, followed by the KIP (4 minutes 47 seconds), the LDP (4 minutes 24 seconds), the CPP (4 minutes 7 seconds), FUNCINPEC (3 minutes 52 seconds), the

SJFP (2 minutes 49 seconds), the UPCP (54 seconds), the KDP (20 seconds), the KNP (20 seconds), the HDDMP (12 seconds) and the DSP (8 seconds).

The RGC spoke for 14 minutes 3 seconds, the PM for 7 minutes 15 seconds and the NA for 3 minute 5 seconds.

Some examples of political news on VOA are as follows:

- PM HUN Sen said recent offshore oil discoveries would be a blessing not a curse for the impoverished country.
- Prince Norodom Ranariddh said he had no plans to return to Cambodia to face Phnom Penh Municipal Court charges related to the illegal sale of FUNCINPEC headquarters.
- Kampuchea Krom monks held a demonstration in front of the Vietnamese Embassy in Phnom Penh, coinciding with the official visit of the Vietnamese President to Cambodia.
- The NEC removed a member affiliated with the CPP for misconduct.
- Summary of 15-day election campaign events.
- The SRP denounced violence against its members.

Other programs

Outside the newscast, VOA allotted about 28%, equal to 30 minutes 42 seconds, of political time to the RGC and only 1%, equal to 1 minute 7 seconds, to the PM, followed by the NA (26 seconds). The SN was not heard.

Only nine political parties were covered outside the newscast. The SRP was given the most time (around 13%, equal to 14 minutes 36 seconds) followed by FUNCINPEC at around 13%, equal to 14 minutes 31 seconds, and the CPP at about 10%, equal to 10 minutes 51 seconds. The other six parties were given between about 5%, equal to 5 minutes 33 seconds, and about 7%, equal to 7 minutes 31 seconds. These were the UPCP, the NRP, the FUNCINPEC, the KIP, the DSP and the KDP.

The DSP, the KIP, the NA and the UPCP received only neutral coverage.

The RGC received around 21%, equal to 6 minutes 30 seconds, of negative coverage with around 2% positive. An example was during the Hello VOA program in which Sam Rainsy, SRP president, blamed the government for leasing Boeung Kak Lake to a development company without considering negative impacts on local residents and the environment. The PM received around 22%, equal to 15 seconds, of positive coverage, with no negative coverage.

Around 19%, equal to 1 minute 26 seconds, of NRP coverage was negative and around 6%, equal to 27 seconds, was positive. The last actor receiving negative coverage was the CPP (around 11%, equal to 1 minute 12 seconds). The CPP received about 2%, equal to 10 seconds, positive coverage.

Outside the news, the SJFP was given about 36% positive coverage (equal to 2 minutes 4 seconds of its time), the KDP about 25%, equal to 1 minute 23 seconds, FUNCINPEC about 22%, 3 minutes 9 seconds, the SRP about 19%, equal to 2 minutes 46 seconds. These parties received no negative coverage.

Outside the newscast, VOA also conducted interviews with political party representatives about their respective political platforms.

In other programs, the RGC was given the most amount of time to speak (11 minutes 4 seconds), followed by FUNCINPEC (6 minutes 16 seconds), the UPCP (16 minutes 13 seconds), the DSP (5 minutes 23

seconds), the CPP (5 minutes 08 seconds), the KDP (5 minutes 7 seconds), the KIP (4 minutes 36 seconds), the SJFP (4 minutes 26 seconds), the SRP (4 minutes 22 seconds) and the NRP (1 minute 41 seconds).

VOA broadcast verbal threats or pressure from PM HUN Sen during an opening ceremony of a road construction project in Prey Veng on March 15, 2007, in which he warned the crowd that if the CPP lost the election, the party would fall into insecurity and instability: "if there are changes, will you be able to have business here again? What will happen to you?" asked the Prime Minister, adding that vendors, artisans and industry workers should think about whether or not they would be able to do business as usual.

Other issues

Political debate

VOA broadcast no political debate within the monitoring period.

Direct appeals for votes

Appeal to vote for specific parties were heard for at least 1 minute 30 seconds. At least four parties had the chance to appeal to voters: the CPP, the SRP, FUNCINPEC and the NRP, among others. Examples were H.E. MANN Chhoeun, Deputy Governor of Phnom Penh, who said that he would vote for the CPP in return for the CPP saving him from the Pol Pot regime and the SRP's appeal to voters to change leaders by voting for the SRP.

Voter education spots/information

Education-related news was heard for 52 minutes 32 seconds. VOA also repeatedly appealed to the Cambodian people to do their duty and vote according to their will. VOA also broadcast the King's message to voters, calling on the people not to worry about pressure, threats or intimidation.

Women in politics

Women in politics were mentioned for 6 minutes 31 seconds. An example was an interview with CPP, SRP, FUNCINPEC and NRP female members regarding their participation in the commune elections.

Female incumbent commune chiefs or female candidates for commune councils

Coverage of female commune chiefs or female candidates for the commune elections was not heard during the monitoring period.

Youth in politics

Youth in politics were not reported on within the monitoring period.

Disabled persons in politics

No disabled persons in politics were noted during this monitoring period.

Indigenous people in politics

Indigenous people in politics were also not noted on the electronic media.

Print Media

Only political parties were observed in the print media.

Raksmey Kampuchea Daily

Raksmey Kampuchea covered only six political parties. The CPP was covered extensively (about 54%, equal to 61 articles of all articles dedicated to political parties). The NRP was mentioned in about 19%, equal to 21 articles, followed by the SRP in around 15%, equal to 17 articles, FUNCINPEC in about 9%, equal to 10 articles, the SJFP in about 3%, equal to three articles and the KNP in about 1%, equal to one article.

Only the KNP received neutral coverage. Raksmey Kampuchea mainly mentioned the CPP in a positive way (around 77%, equal to 47 articles of all CPP coverage); there was negative coverage in about 10%, equal to six articles. Most coverage was about the inclusion of new CPP members, CPP achievements, or the CPP's wise leadership, etc.

Around 35%, equal to six articles, of SRP coverage was positive, with around 29%, equal to five articles, negative in tone, for example, coverage of SRP members pulling down the party signboards in many provinces/municipalities. The SJFP received around 33%, equal to 1%, of positive coverage, with about 67%, equal to two articles, negative in tone. The NRP was given about 29%, equal to six articles, of positive coverage; negative coverage was heard in around 52%, equal to 11 articles: coverage of the conviction of the NRP's president over the illegal sale of the FUNCINPEC headquarters is an example. FUNCINPEC received 10%, equal to one article, of positive coverage and 60%, equal to six articles, of negative coverage. An example was the report on FUNCINPEC members defecting to the CPP.

Raksmey Kampuchea published articles appealing to voters to vote for the CPP (two articles). An example was a report on the CPP commune chief in Chbar Ampov I, who hoped to win again in the second mandate commune council elections because many people liked and supported him and because he had many years of experience in leading the commune, according to a survey of voters in the area.

Education-related news/information on the elections was covered in 26 articles, for example coverage of activities and press releases of election monitoring NGOs and the NEC.

Women in politics were covered only in two articles. One article was on the PM's encouragement to women to participate in politics.

Female candidates were mentioned in only one article, regarding the training of the female candidates of four political parties to compete in the elections.

Youth in politics were not reported on within the monitoring period.

No disabled persons in politics were noted during this monitoring period.

Indigenous people in politics were also not noted within the monitoring period.

Koh Santepheap Daily

Only six political parties were mentioned in Koh Santepheap. Around 38%, equal to 42 articles, of political party coverage was given to the CPP, followed by the SRP in about 24%, equal to 26 articles. FUNCINPEC and the NRP received equal coverage (around 17% each, equal to 19 articles). The SJFP was mentioned in about 3%, equal to three articles, and the KNP in about 1%, equal to one article.

The CPP was largely covered in positive way (around 64%, equal to 27 articles of articles on the CPP); there was negative coverage in around 2%, equal to one article. Most coverage related to gift giving or inclusion of new CPP members, who commended the CPP's leadership and achievements, for example on the occasion of the 97th International Women's Day, Vice-president of the CPP Working Group Mrs. Nha Sopheap Tavy gave one sarong and 20,000 Riel to each of 250 CPP members.

The NRP and FUNCINPEC received the same amount of positive coverage (about 16%, equal to three articles). There was negative coverage for FUNCINPEC in about 37%, equal to seven articles, and the NRP in around 32%, equal to six articles. Examples included the conflict between the two parties and the defection of members to the CPP. Around 19%, equal to five articles, of SRP coverage was positive, for example the report on the SRP's campaign as one of the largest; 50%, equal to 13 articles, was negative in tone. Most of the negative coverage covered SRP members pulling down party signboards and defecting to the CPP, at the same time as speaking badly of the SRP leadership.

The SJFP received around 33%, equal to one article, of positive coverage and no negative coverage. KNP coverage was 100% neutral in tone.

Education-related news/information on elections was covered in 21 articles, for example, information on the dates of each stage of the election process, such as the date of polling.

Women in politics were covered only in four articles. One article reviewed the 97th International Women's Day, in which the CPP encouraged its female members to participate in the commune council elections.

Female candidates were mentioned in only one article, regarding the training of the female candidates of four political parties to compete in the elections.

Youth in politics were not reported on within the monitoring period.

No disabled persons in politics were noted during this monitoring period.

Indigenous people in politics were also not noted within the monitoring period.

Annexes

Chart A1: Time, in seconds and %, and tone of coverage of actors in all international radio channels

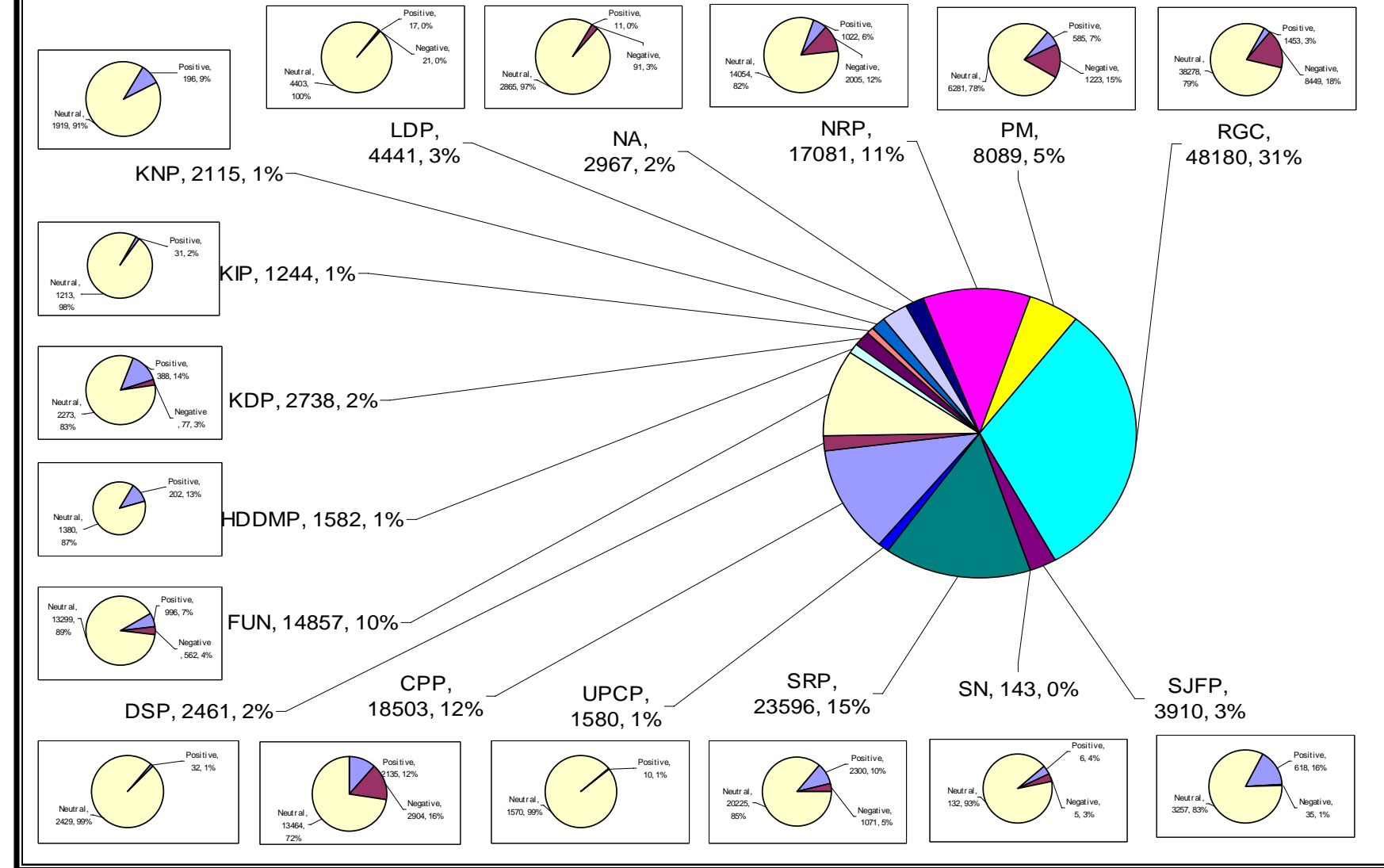


Chart A2: Time, in seconds and %, and tone of coverage of actors across all electronic media

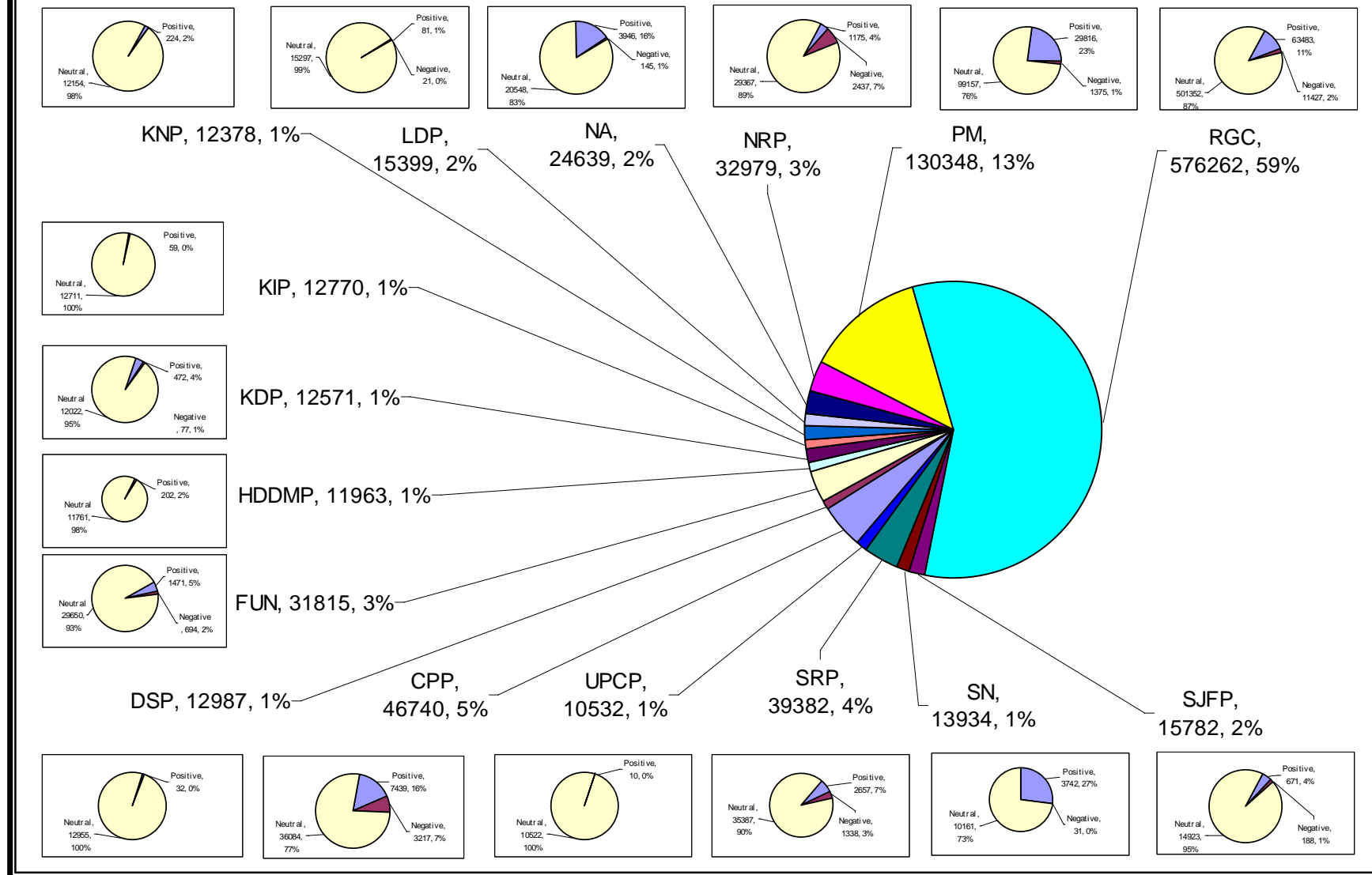


Chart A3: Direct speech opportunities, in seconds, across all channels

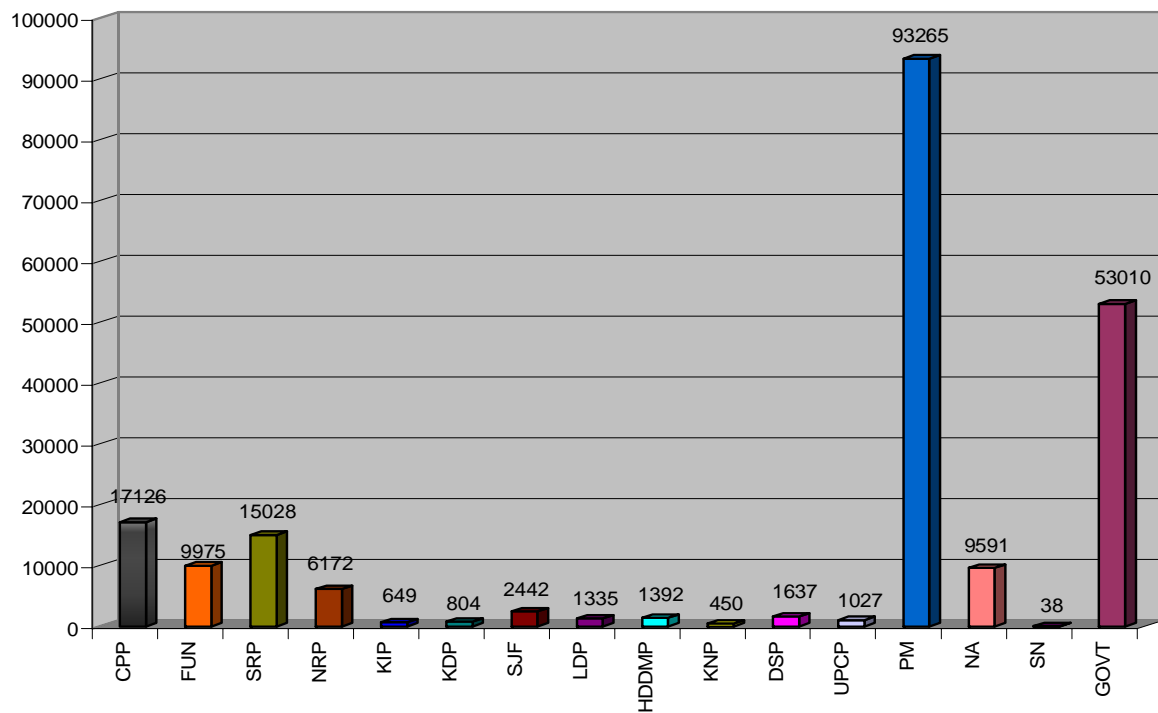


Chart A4: Voter education on all channels (in seconds)

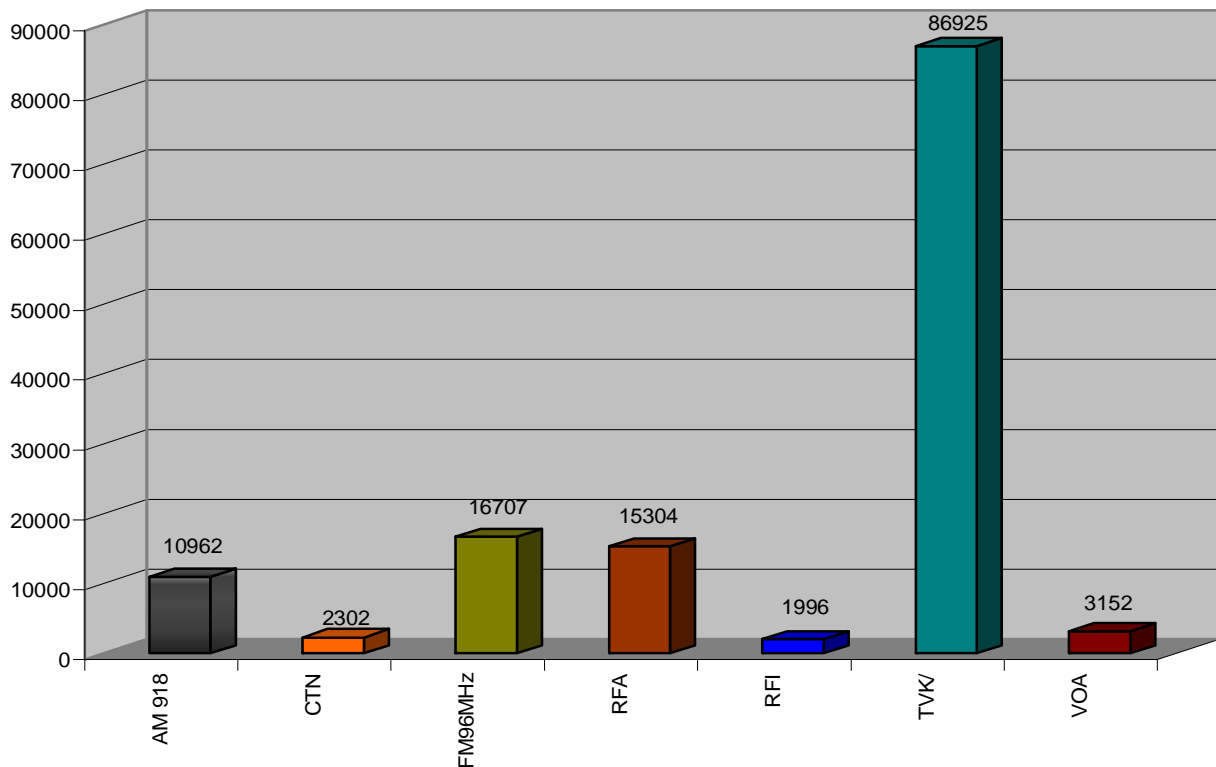


Chart A5: Women in politics on all channels (in seconds)

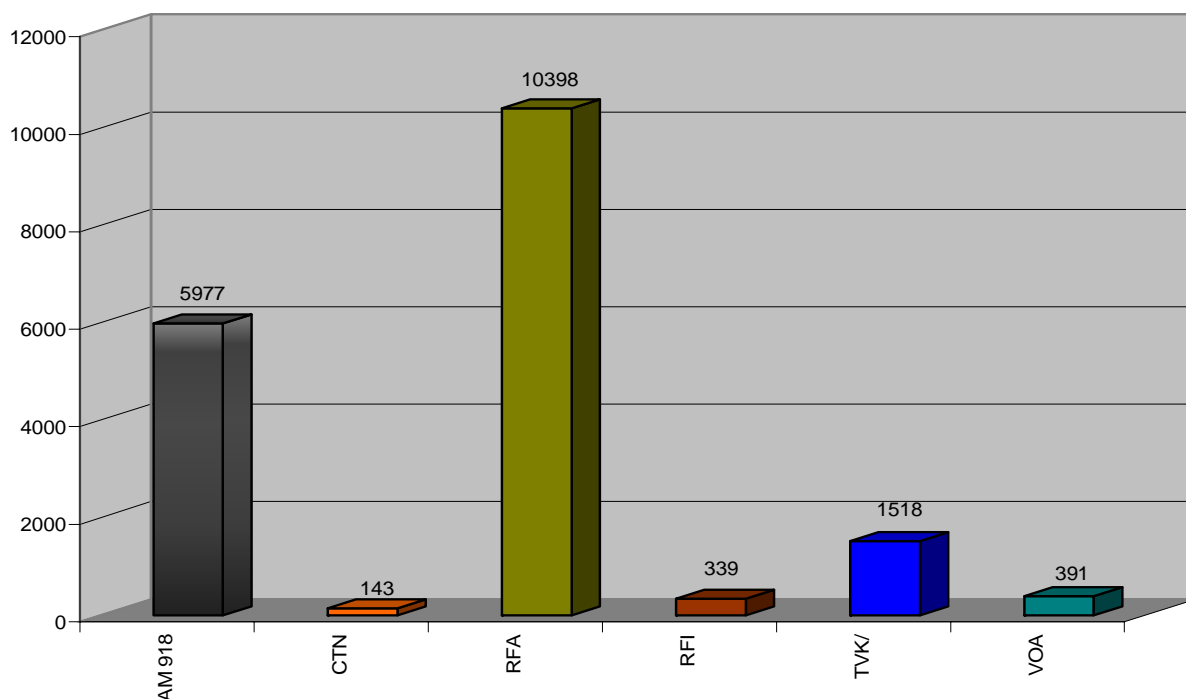


Chart A6: Female candidates for election on all channels (in seconds)

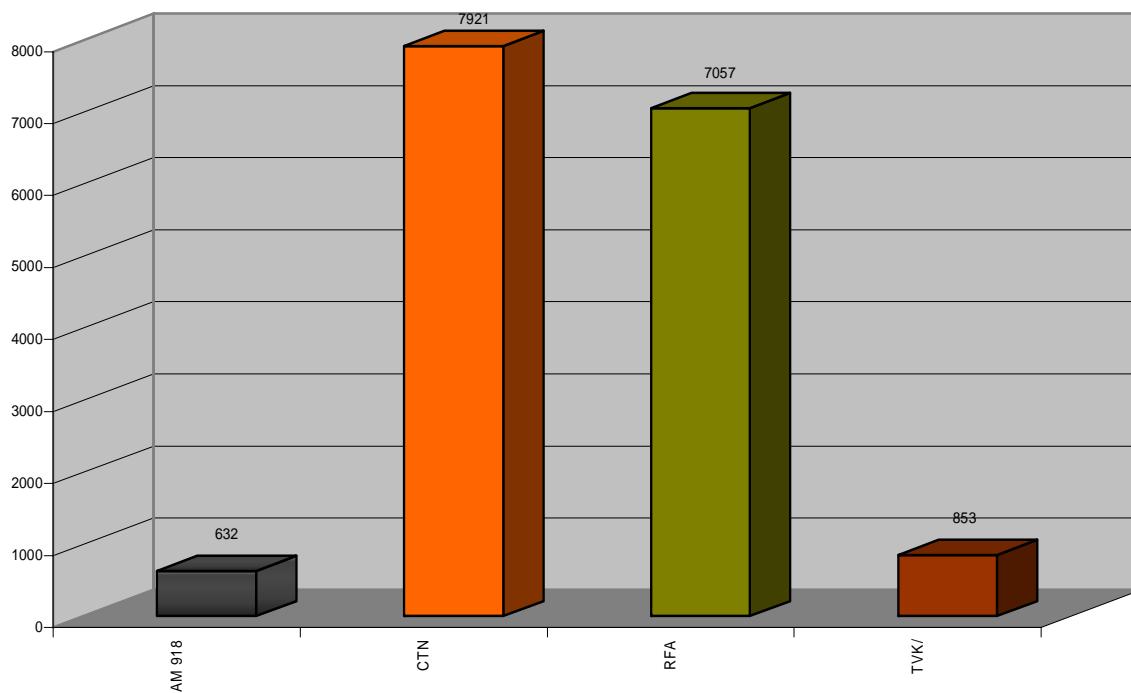


Chart A7: Number of articles and % given to political parties in print media

