Political deadlock after the National Assembly election becomes culture of political games in Cambodia. The recent barbarous crackdown on factory workers and removal of people on protest from the Freedom Park in Phnom Penh have caused serious concerns among the international communities, condemning such deadly crackdown and removals in general and in fact they are, among others, part of the political deadlocks after the election in July 2013. To address such problems, it is vital to look at the root causes of the problems. If [the concerned actors and the world] wait and lay blame and condemnation on emerged problems without examining their root causes, they cannot effectively and sufficiently address them. In addition, they contribute to widespread prevalence of the problems as their blames and condemnations without understanding the root causes of the problems can be treated as irresponsible work, stemming from ignorance of the blame layers and condemners. In such context, the deadlock is still a problem and cannot be solved. Although we are young party with young politicians, we also see problems, their roots and potential solution. This paper is addresses our position.

League for Democracy Party has carefully and critically studied the root causes of the problems, leading to the political deadlocks after the general elections and recent crackdowns on the factory demonstrators. It proves that less-informed workers in the garment industry sector are easily cheated and incited. Their ignorance and passiveness to following social development in the country is a root cause of the problem. The opposition party always looks for opportunity to take advantage from them. Apart from this, the current power system is centralized and concentrated in the hand of one person. Such practice creates Cambodia a country of impunity when top leaders in association with the strong man commits crime or abuse of power. Countless evidence can be collected to support this argument. Advantage-taking of the trade unions is also part of the problems. Last but not least, financial exploitation of the factory employers over the workers cannot be left unsaid. For instances, the root causes of the recent crackdowns over the factory workers are as follows:

1. Factory workers have reasonable grounds to protest after they are badly exploited and their salary rate is insufficient to live a decent life. It is believed that their salary is cut short due exploitation of the employers, corruptions of the government, lack of transparency in the garment industry etc.

2. Seeing that it is a good opportunity to take political advantages over situations, the opposition party encourages the factory workers to demand double monthly salary increasing from USD 80.00 to USD 160.00, the condition which is clear to the opposition party that the employers cannot be fulfilled although they are willing to do so from financial perspective. In this case, appealing to and encouraging the workers to protest for such double salary increase without negotiations is an action whose result is in thin air. In this regard, if the government does not take any measures to stop the demonstrations, it is, then, unavoidable for the investors to
move to other countries or stop their production in Cambodia. This is the consequence to which the opposition party is looking forward. It is totally impossible to double monthly salary at one point of time but the opposition leaders use words from moods of provoking and incitements such as “We must struggle to effectively remove the dictator to recue our nation!”, “All nephews and nieces just work hard this time to finally ouster the dictator and our country, then, will have peace forever!” etc. But after the violence was committed as a result that the pieces of stones and bricks were thrown at the police by the workers who were badly and cruelly suppressed, the opposition party reported the violations were not committed by the real workers but by the hidden forces of the Cambodian People’s Party (CPP) among the workers, saying that Prime Minister Hun Sen just learned the new strategies from his mind master of Yuon (Vietnam) after he paid his recent visits to Vietnam. These are the insulting and inciting words and acts with consciousness, which are the nature of the opposition party, causing the non-stop political deadlocks in Cambodia. The opposition party says that the demonstrators who committed the violence and violation are the hidden forces of the CPP among the workers but after the workers were violently suppressed, leading to death, injury and detention of demonstrators, the opposition party honors these people as the heroes. These are the political-exploited attitudes of the opposition party. Such a practice is their habit and strategy.

3. Like the opposition party, the trade unions of the factory workers are very well aware that it is impossible to double monthly salary at one point of time, they still encourage the workers to protest as they are usually at the side of the opposition party;

4. As the majority of factory workers are non or little educated, their critical thinking on the events they face is not deep and comprehensive and eventually they are easily convinced and exploited;

5. With the concentrated power system, powers of the leaders are above the laws and they, therefore, are the root causes of the barbarous acts. To crackdown protest is a culture of the system with the concentrated power. Although it was reported that the violence was committed by the factory workers who threw the pieces of stones and bricks to the police, the violent crackdowns orchestrated by the police are not proportional with the forces of the workers. The policemen dared to commit barbarous crackdowns as they are fully aware by experience that they just carried out the order from the top and that the laws will not be reinforced to publish them. They do not feel that they are under the laws. Such feelings are the results of concentrated power system. Complying with the law or not depends entirely on the will of the country leaders. The laws, in this case, do not have binding powers, which force the country leaders to be equal before the laws. This is the crisis of the government system without checks and balances.

With its firm understanding that the political deadlocks after the general elections always take place in Cambodia such as political violence and/or abuse of power, LDP is confident that the only solution to the problems is to explain the people about the risks and dangers of the concentrated power system and proposes the concepts to remove it, namely the 8 mechanisms as follows:

1. Premiership shall be limited to two terms in office ONLY;
2. Prime minister shall not be allowed to establish his/her own bodyguard unit;
3. Prime minister shall be required to live in a State residence;
4. Administrative court shall be established;
5. Nomination of police and military generals shall be validated by the National Assembly;
6. Civil servants shall be banned from political affiliations;
7. Direct voting system shall be applied to elect or remove representatives at all levels (Commune/Sangkat, District/Khan/Town and Province/Capital);
8. Uninominal system of election shall applied to elect members of Parliaments

After being very well absorbed with these 8 mechanisms, the citizens will join the movement of LDP to make them into laws.

To change their current mindsets and to build their mental capacity to analyze the exploiting words and attitudes of the opposition party with concrete samples to ensure that when the people will not move from one current dictatorship regime to another new dictatorship one.

To reach its end with knowledge building and critical thinking in mind, LDP has been active in conducting public forums for its supporters and sympathizers, roundtable discussions, workshops, live shows and talkbacks on radios since 2006. As a result, more 2,000-hour vocal messages are posted in its websites (www.camldp.org) and sold in its offices in the form of CDs, memory sticks, and VCDs. In addition, the selected and newly-produced vocal messages are played back 6 hours per day on 6 radio stations: Beehive Radio FM105.0 MHz in Phnom Penh, MohavnorkorKhemra FM88.25 MHz in Siem Reap province, Sangkae FM104.5 MHz in Battambang province, Sovann Angkor FM106.0 in Battambang province, MY FM99.5 MHz in Banteaymeanchey province and Kiridongrek FM90.20 MHz in Ordornanceay province.

Phnom Penh, 16 January 2014
League for Democracy Party