

22 and 26 May 2006 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Conferring the Rank of the Buddhist Patriarchs



Samdech Hun Sen and Madame Bun Rany Hun Sen at the Bathing Ceremony for the Great Supreme Patriarch—Samdech Tep Vong

... My wife and I, together with officials and Buddhist followers who are present here have a great pleasure to join with all of our Buddhist monks in giving a bath to Samdech Tep Vong, the Great Supreme Patriarch in this moment. On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia and all of our Buddhist followers, I wish to express my sincere and deep gratitude to Samdech Tep Vong, the Great Supreme Patriarch, for his devotion in his life for Buddhism. In this token of expression, I would like to also express my sincere gratitude for HM the King Samdech Preah Borom Neat Norodom Sihamoni for his appointment by the Royal Decree of Samdech Tep Vong as the Great Supreme Patriarch of Buddhist monks in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Reviewing the history of the past 27 years, we have now reached a time when we have about 4000 Buddhist pagodas

through the Kingdom and about 60,000 Buddhist monks – a development that is beyond belief after the devastation under the genocide regime. When I was 27 years, as a leader among many in the former PRK and SOC, I contributed a great deal, together with Samdech Chea Sim and Samdech Heng Samrin, with Samdech Tep Vong, the Great Supreme Patriarch in his central leading role, to the cause of development of Buddhism in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Under the genocide regime, the Buddhist pagodas were destroyed while the Buddhist monks were disrobed and/or killed. There were only a few monks after the regime's fall. Samdech Tep Vong, the Great Supreme Patriarch, as well as those of the Buddhist monks throughout the country have made every effort and deci-

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29 May 2006 (With Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Affairs of Parliament, Senate & Inspection Building

..., I am greatly delighted to preside over the inauguration ceremony of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Inspection's Office Building, here at Tonle Basac district, Khan Chamkarmon, Phnom Penh, which is being held with the participation from Your Venerable Buddhist Monks, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Teachers, Students whose participation make this occasion the most glorious and auspicious one. Your par-

ticipation clearly reflects a sense of solidarity, unity and high determination in congratulating the new achievement made by the Royal Government.

In this joyful gathering, on behalf of the Royal Government and myself, I would like to express my brotherhood sentiment toward Your Venerable Monks, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Teach-

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11 May 2006 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Graduation of Batches of Judges

Let me add further (to what I had to say in my prepared text). In just a week we have three jobs to do with the French assistance – the French Ambassador and I were here to preside over the graduation of the trainees from the Royal School of Administration, at the Cambodian National Institute of Technology and today at the SRA once again to preside over the graduation of judges and court officials, which is partly funded by the French assistance. Not long after this we will have a three-floor building, built with the assistance of Japan, to inaugurate.

brought to court would be judged to be justice or injustice. A win-win situation could be achieved only through reconciling outside the courtroom. The one judged to lose the case would never accept to have committed guilt and tend to conclude the court decision is unjust to them. Whereas those who win the case would indeed conclude the court decision a just one. But what is important here as I am speaking to you is to base your judgment on law. What I want to say here is that you all must be aware of possible unconstructive criticism on your works and you all must be strong and basing your judg-

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Please allow me to give some comments on the fact that being a judge, a prosecutor is not a simple matter because his judgment of what is wrong and right is indeed separated by a thin line. Any issue

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sion to stay in monk-hood since his young age up to now has been a remarkable devotion. The Polpotists destroyed Buddhism in form, but they never could remove its soul from the people's hearts and minds. After January 7, under the wise leadership of Samdech the Great Supreme Patriarch, Buddhism in the Kingdom of Cambodia evolved step by step until it has come to the present day's development.

Buddhism's development has a close relationship with that of the secular world. Please allow me to say a few words about how the progress is made in Buddhism from scratch, from no monks and from no pagodas. The Buddhist development in the Kingdom of Cambodia could be compared indeed to the strength of belief in Buddhism prevails in the Cambodian society. If it were not of such a strong belief, Buddhism would not overcome such a great trial. Development of Buddhism, in short, reflects development in the secular society. The two is a mutual complement. The fall of Buddhism in the genocide regime witnessed the failure of the then secular world.

As of now we can see and conclude that Buddhism development could not be separated from progress in the secular medium where its basic elements are to improve the economic and social life of the people. I wish to take this opportunity to reaffirm that the rank of the Great Supreme Patriarch does exist in the Cambodian history. It certainly rules out the idea that the promotion of this rank is of ulterior purpose. About 149 years ago, about the year

1857, HM the King Preah Baat Ang Duong appointed Venerable Moeun Tien as Samdech the Great Supreme Patriarch of the Kingdom. The rank existed through the reigns of Preah Baat Ang Duong, Preah Baat Norodom and Preah Baat Sisovat. It came to a break in 1913, and 149 years later Samdech Tep Vong is again taking the continuity of the rank of the Great Supreme Patriarch for the Kingdom of Cambodia to reflect indeed the rapid progress made in Buddhism, which demands a complete structural management consideration.

In addition to appointing this rank, HM the King has also appointed a group of Patriarchs for the Kingdom of Cambodia, where Samdech Sumethea Thibbadei Nuon Nget is the Head, Samdech Preah Dhamma Likheth Luos Lay is the First Deputy Patriarch, Samdech Praeh Purdhivang is the Second Deputy Patriarch and Samdech Preah Voanradh as the Third Deputy Patriarch of the Group. Today the ceremony is to bestow Samdech Tep Vong with the Great Supreme Patriarch and on May 26 we will do it for the four members of the Group of the Head Monks for the Kingdom.

The appointment is indeed the implementation towards strengthening the leadership Buddhist structure, especially in the country where Buddhism is claimed to be the religion of the state. The structure will help us when there would be a gap between the Mohanikay and Dhammayuth – the two Buddhist sects in Cambodia. There needs to be a unity in the leadership of the country's Buddhist sector. I wish for a better coordination and collaboration so that more progress will be reached in

Buddhism as well as in secularism in the Kingdom of Cambodia. What we are fulfilling today is indeed adding further belief to the strength of Buddhism in Cambodia. In the name of the Royal Government of Cambodia and in my name as a boy brought up by Buddhist pagoda, I wish to declare that I have the duty to support the Great Supreme Patriarch in all spheres of activities...■

Bathing Ceremony for Four Buddhist Patriarchs

... Once again today my wife and I have a great pleasure to join with all of our Buddhist monks and our people in conferring the rank of Patriarch to the four chief monks of Cambodia – Samdech Moha Somethea Thibbadei Nuon Nget, the Chief monk of Cambodia, Samdech Preah Dhammalikhith Luos Lay, the first deputy chief monk of Cambodia, Samdech Preah Budhivong Am Limheng, the second Chief monk of Cambodia and Samdech Preah Voanroat Nay Chroek, the third chief monk of Cambodia. I wish to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the four chief monks who have devoted in developing Buddhism through various fields in close relation with the general development of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

I have a great pleasure and honor to extend my sincere congratulations to the four chief monks for being conferred the rank of patriarch, which would in fact be a contribution to the strengthening of management and leadership in the field of Buddhism in the Kingdom of Cambodia. We have fulfilled numerous tasks for the development of Buddhism as well as secularism in the country. Actions taken for the betterment of Buddhism in

this country would be a necessary contribution for the overall development of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Throughout the country we have about 4000 pagodas whereas in secular term we have only about 1600 communes. This makes me think that if we were to have further contribution from those pagodas, it would be speedy for us to fight against poverty. You may remember what I said in the district of Punnhealoeu - if a pagoda could help three families out of poverty we then could do to help in all 12,000 families throughout the country.

What also impresses me here has been the fact that the Buddhism and secular leadership have been acting with one another in the field of state management. Last Friday I led the delegation of the Ministry of Cult to see HM the King, and in our synthesis all religions never instruct people or their followers to commit guilt but to seek merit in their performances. This I see is a positive interaction with great impact on the management of the state. If we were to strengthen our education in the Buddhist teaching of virtue and morality, we could then bring down guilty acts and crimes. We would have less to worry about in court, in prison or in general administrative affairs.

It is indeed a good thing that we have this program on every Buddhist fast day of Buddhist teaching on air from all TV and radio stations for general audiences – old and young alike. Our senior citizens have been able to practice their Buddhist teaching every one week. I must say I have gratitude to the complementary action between the

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ers, Students and my Dear Compatriots and to sincerely praise the leaders of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Inspection that have worked hard with high responsibility to greatly fulfill their duties in enhancing the ministry's works in accordance with the Royal Government's political platform.

The Royal Government in the third term of the National Assembly has laid out the Rectangular Strategy which clearly stated the importance of "Promoting Economic Growth" "Generating Employment for Workers" "Promoting Social Equity" as well as "Strengthening the Public Sector's Capacity". Indeed, this strategy has played an important role as a tool in supporting the implementation of the Royal Government's political platform toward vastly achieving the poverty reduction, promoting development, progress, prosperity, harmony and happiness for every Cambodian citizen all over the country. At the same time, the Royal Government has also adopted the notion of Good Governance as the core of the Rectangular Strategy which is based on 4 elements including: "Combating Corruption" "Law and Judicial System Reform" "Public Administration Reform" and "Armed Force Reform".

Without any doubt, the crucial policies above require all ministries, institutions, municipal and provincial authorities, government officials at all levels, and all citizens to jointly promote and implement the Royal Government's political platform with high responsibility. However, along with the joint efforts to actively implement the policies

above, there must be a comprehensive review which enables us to realize whether what have been done was appropriate or not. Therefore, inspection is the necessary factor used to strengthen good governance, to promote the respect for and implementation of the law, especially, it aims firstly at combating corruption because it could affect the business environment and the daily social interactions. Corruption is a major barrier for national development. Corruption derives from opportunity, attitude, and various types of risk that resulted in a loss in the public confidence on the leadership of the Royal Government. In this sense, combating against corruption must focus on three essential factors including the prevention, enhancing the implementation of the law and people participation. By looking at the first two factors we can see that the inspection's works or enhancing the implementation of the law can not be separated from the education about the law because in order to fight as well as preventing corruption there must be participation from the people, and the participation itself requires the prior understanding of the law which in turns requires education and information regarding the law.

In this regard, the Royal Government has decided to establish the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Inspection as a mechanism to expand and strengthen the understanding of the law for every citizen as well as monitoring and controlling the implementation of the law and the Royal Government's political platform, ensuring good governance, promoting the respect for and implementation of the law aiming at improving the capacity to fight against corrup-

tion, to eradicate bureaucracy and to reduce poverty. In this auspicious event, which I have the honor to preside over in the inauguration ceremony of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Inspection's Office Building, I would like to raise some common views regarding the works of the parliamentary affairs and inspection as follows:

First, Works Related to the Parliamentary Affairs and Inspection: this sector has greatly and actively contributed in the Royal Government's political platform by coordinating and facilitating the works between the local level and the Royal Government and between the Royal Government and the two legislative institutions through the preparation, facilitation and enhancement of drafting the law and other legal document in accordance with the Kingdom of Cambodia's constitution so that it can be used with efficiency, perfection and without any flaw. For instance, the Royal Government has assigned the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Inspection with the role to review and amend the draft law on Anti-Corruption in order to add more legal framework. The ministry has recently sent the amended draft laws to the Council of Ministers. Moreover, the ministry has actively disseminated the information regarding the law and legal documents to the people all over the country to enhance the implementation and the respect of law, to reduce corruption and offences, to promote morality and social justice to create a peaceful and non-violence culture, and to strengthen the state law and democracy.

Second, Inspection's Works: As I have mentioned earlier, if

we want every activity regarding the proper implementation of the ministry, institution and agency's works, we must have a comprehensive and thorough review. The word Inspection means: reviewing, monitoring, and investigating on the action and progress of the works being implemented in order to assess and identify the advantages and disadvantages. In this sense, inspection means the contribution to prevent, reduce and eventually eradicate corruption which is proved to be a destructive factor in the implementation of the Royal Government's development policy.

Within this framework, inspection is an important work because regardless the types of institution, once they have prepared and adopted certain strategies or policies they must implement them. Along with the implementation, there must be regular review and inspections. Hence, inspection is a mechanism connecting leaders with the people, in the other word, "Inspection Are the Eyes and Ears of High Level Officials While They Are Close Friends to the Low Level Official". Inspection is a necessary and sufficient work in which the Royal Government requires all institutions from the middle to the local levels to conduct good inspections, to prepare and set up inspections in order to be their eyes and ears so that they can see further and hear clearer and make better decisions, to set as role model for the broad development at any institution, which has properly implemented, understood the source of difficulties and mistakes, and helped to improve and direct other institutions that have made mistakes and performed poorly.

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In this regard, in order to conduct a good inspection leaders must not only read the reports made by inspectors, but must perform a thorough review whether or not what have been reported were actually implemented. Any complaint or accusation from the people must be carefully and timely investigated from the start to the end and should not have any delay for months or years. All inspectors must be fully capable and possess high education, good moral and appropriate skills.

The inspection requires active participation from Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen who are the heads of institutions, local authorities and departments from all fields and levels for an effective and smooth implementation of the inspection. At the same time, inspection requires the participation from all citizens, because sometimes people know better and can be our eyes and ears. In summary, in order to have a fruitful inspection with transparency and high efficiency, leaders must create favorable environment for inspectors to effectively carry out their works and inspectors themselves must be capable and have good cooperation with the ministry, institution, department, local authority as well as with every ordinary people.

With the magnitude of the work, difficulty, responsibility as well as the huge demand from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Inspection, the Royal Government decided to offer the ministry with this brand-new office building which is sufficiently equipped to respond to every important mission of the ministry as mentioned earlier... Before coming to the end, I would like to mention some of

the important works that need to be addressed as follows:

First, Leaders and officials at the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Inspection must help to maintain and protect this newly built office building to always be in good condition. Furthermore, they must strive to better fulfill their duties in order to ensure the improvement in providing law education to every citizen at the local level as well as helping the Royal Government to identify, suppress and prevent corruption, to eradicate bureaucracy within ministries, institutions, enterprises, public foundations with the aim of strengthening public administration reform and good governance.

Second, All ministries, institutions, departments, provincial and municipal authorities and citizens must cooperate with and make it easy for the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Inspection regarding the legislation and education about the law by linking it with education on ethics.

Third, all ministries, institutions, provincial and municipal authorities, public foundations and public enterprises must cooperate with and make it easy for the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Inspection regarding the inspection on all fields and sectors without any barrier or difficulty.

Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments

... Today I have a great pleasure to participate with our monks, people and officials in putting into use the new office of the Ministry of Relations with Parliament, the Senate and Inspection among various other achievements through-

out the Kingdom of Cambodia. HE Men Sam An Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Senate and Inspection has reported about the process involved in the construction of the building already and I would like to express my sincere thanks to the municipality of Phnom Penh for its efforts in making this lot of land available for the construction of the Ministry.

Many new office buildings have grown up in this area along the river and we have already the building of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the National Assembly, which according to HE Cheam Yiep, would complete in 2007. On the contrary, as the office of the Council of Ministers which has not been a target for expense so far, and now our Chinese friends have offered to help. If it were not to be helped by the Chinese friends, I would proudly sit in it rather than spending more money on it. I told foreign friends that because I sit in the old office, the Cambodian People's Party with me as its Prime Minister has brought the vote of support to 60% in the parliament. But to leave the building in collapse causing casualties on our Government officials is also not a good thing.

The Ministry of Relations with Parliament, the Senate and Inspections is the one of the latest Ministries. If we were to leave aside the relations with the Parliament and the Senate, in the former People's Republic of Kampuchea and the State of Cambodia, there was this Ministry of State Inspections that helped a lot with the negative actions of the Government officials. The building was then taken over by the Ministry of Environ-

ment because, in the first term Government, we did not have the Ministry for Relations with the Parliament and the Senate and Inspection. After the construction, three buildings on loan from the Municipality of Phnom Penh must be returned to the original holders. What remains to be seen is if the Ministry is going to be a stronghold for fight against corruption or not. We could not afford to have just officials in air condition at all.

Its principal mission is to enforce the law against corruption, power abuse and other negative phenomena in public as well as in private sector. Fighting against corruption and law enforcement are important factors in the rectangular strategy for growth, employment, equity and efficiency, which is to 1) fight against corruption, 2) undergo legal and judicial reforms, 3) carry out public reform, and 4) reform of the armed forces. We have to concentrate our efforts in fighting at corruption that is on rampage. We should not wait for the approval of anti-corruption law to act but we have capable mechanism to start with already. It should be complementary by the forthcoming law as to how to punish those involved in different stages of a corruption. With the current mechanism of the Royal Government, actions could be taken effectively.

We have made efforts to increase economic growth and we have said to be achieving 12% while we actually thought we did 7% only. IMF re-adjusted its calculation of the Cambodian economic growth from 9.5% to 13.8%, excluding that of agriculture. It is projected, again excluding

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state/secular and the Buddhist worlds - the result of which has brought about a good balance in the state affairs. More and more guilty persons reform themselves according to the Buddhist teaching and refrain themselves, at least, from committing further crimes or guiltiness.

Human resources should have not only knowledge and know-how but also virtue and morale. Take for instance development of nuclear capability – this is not action taken by the illiterate but those with vast knowledge and know-how. The virtue and morale in doing so is the question. In Cambodia we also had gone through this non virtue and immorality of the genocide of Pol Pot. I have a strong hope that the Buddhist pagoda would become a chief support in the period of globalization. Take for instance the Cambodian culture – how do we measure in on stage or on TV? In face of this development no tradition symphony or traditional drum beat (Cha Yam) or boat race is on TV show, whereas the Buddhist pagoda has become a significant place in keeping cultural heritage that is under constant attacks from modern culture in this process of globalization.

On May 25 I have found on my desk a pile of letters demanding the ban of 3G telecommunication. It is a new technology and it allows downloading pictures – porno included – from internet. I remember that actions have been taken against this technology in the Philippines and Thailand, and also in Singapore, quelling actions have been taken on the spot. I instruct actions to be taken to HE Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the Council of Min-

isters and also called HE Minister So Khun for Telecommunication to find out from his side. I told him the international telecommunication norm could be put on waiting list for some years and let us first strengthen our social morality.

It is indeed a new and latest technology used in public project as in computerized land planning, car registration population census, etc. could continue. Judging from its negative effect, we should leave this 3G technology on phone aside for the time being. We halt this project and allow the system to be used in audio and message only. I hope that with the help of the Buddhism, in this instance, we all will be able to move towards national development with virtue. We need both knowledge and virtue to manage a society...■

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part of the profit aside for the construction of such a facility – a strategy of using existing port for the expansion of other port facilities. The number of ship calling in the port has increased and more will come when we have the Kong Keng airport upgraded. What we want to do now is to get the paper work system working 24 hours upon 24 hours. Some politicians have sought for the reduction of working hour in the factory, but some of the workers would like to work more in order to get more money.

It is worth recalling that airport and seaport are like a throat to feed the body and that is why I am taking this time to expand the seaport service facility. As we have the lowest interest rate now, it would be a plus that we could ask for more. It

is indeed important to see that the number of ship calling in the seaport of Sihanoukville has gone down, but taking the upturn again in the first three months of 2006. It has reflected a general development where there is fierce competition among local ports and a regulatory mechanism for an appropriate strategy for ports in Cambodia should be considered.

If we were to maintain the status of one port only, we would not be able to facilitate the economic flow for the country. One example in point - why the discharge of goods in cement and steel has gone down here? It has been less because it is cheaper to transport on land from the border with Thailand to Siemreap. It is not economically right to ban the port at Poi Pet just to let the number of goods increase at the seaport. We are keeping strive for economic competition. The same is true for the Royal Air Cambodge – whose operation ceased but does not result in reduction of flights. We also have the same policy for the seaport of Sihanoukville. It is the only blue water seaport in the country, so we have to see that it is equipped with all the facilities needed.

Sooner we will have more ports and exits along the border. What is important for us would be to place one tax system for all ports and exits and they should compete with one another by reputation of their customer service. We should think of competitive strategy not only for the seaport of Sihanoukville but for the whole country, as special economic zone will not be only in Sihanoukville. We have SEZ in Bavet of Svay Rieng province, and there will be in Takeo's Phnom Den, Koh

Kong, Pailin and Stoeung-treng. Production will be right at the doorstep for export and that will be a competitive chance and challenge for enterprises.

If it were not because of my strictness and commitment to keeping this seaport, in 1994, 1995 and 1996, it could have been privatized already. I was determined to not let that happen. The state's capital reserve for the port of Sihanoukville is huge and now we have to administer self-management, like what HE Sun Chanthol said – a state enterprise, but a private management system. Any move for investment project would have to take into consideration all related matters. Profits generated by the ports have also been used in building the national 21 and the road to Kompong Kantuot.

Take this opportunity I wish to thank the Governor and Deputy Governors for their efforts to provide safety and security for our people from all over the country to enjoy the Khmer New Year. I would urge the Sihanoukville's leaders to consider allowing our people to let out their spare rooms to guests and that has been a policy we implemented elsewhere since the time of the former State of Cambodia. This is indeed a practical policy which helps our people increase their income. Attention should be paid in protecting the beach and coastal areas, while keeping them clean. The country is at peace now. We have to make the country developed by using this chance. We have to seek all means to let our people benefit from peace and development. Efforts must be made in providing safety and security for tourists, while overcoming problems of gangsters...■

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ment on law. What concerns me most though has been the fact that the poor could not afford a good lawyer, and for that matter they tend to lose the case very often. We should be aware and ready to cope with the issue of negligence. Blame was put on lack of proper building for the slow speed of processing the cases. An order was issued to allow renting private buildings so as to speed up the processing of the case. Then, there arises this problem of lacking lawyer. I wish you all take note on this.

I have one more thing to recall here that the completion of training today is another new progress in addition to progress made earlier. I am saying this because the process does not start right here in 2006, but from the time when Cambodia was liberated from the genocide. Yesterday there was a meeting to brief the diplomatic corps in relation to the trial of the Khmer Rouge. According to the report I have here from HE Deputy Prime Minister Sok An, some people have called themselves lawyers while acting as if they are the ones to control the Supreme Council of Magistracy by rights. In relation to this, we should look into the source of power in Cambodia. It comes from the people who cast their votes. It is the power from the people. It is ridiculous that some people who designate themselves a non-governmental organization while displaying their intention to control the power of the Supreme Council of Magistracy, the National Assembly, the Royal Government...etc.

One should not confuse between monitoring and controlling – so to speak. I have written a letter to HE Kofi Annan and we have come to an un-

derstanding that we have to give the process more time so that foreign judges could recruit their assistants and so any further delay should not be blamed on Royal Government of Cambodia.

In the process of integrating areas formerly under the control of the Khmer Rouge, some people were shocked with what I did. My mother and father were stung that I decided to go the strongholds of Khmer Rouge in Pailin. I told my mother and father that if I were to die only some people of my entourage were to die with me but if I were to succeed, the whole country will be at peace. If I did not go, it would have been a difficult moment of distrust and war would have continued to today. It was a total risk. According to materials left from the Cambodian history, Cambodia used to be divided into three or more parts. After the French colony, Khmers were grouped into Blue, Red or White.

In between 1979 and 1993, Cambodia was ruled by four groups and between the Royal Government in Phnom Penh and the Khmer Rouge on the border. The win-win solution in 1996 expanded from Oral Mountain of Kompong Speu to Anlong Veng in Preah Vihear province. The three elements of the win-win solution have been 1) guarantee to their lives, while Chhouk Rin, Ta Mok and Sam Bit have been a different case, 2) guarantee for their positions and functions, and 3) guarantee for their properties. In all, we have come to a unity.

As we are to try the Khmer Rouge, again some people are making outcry on issue of guaranteeing justice. As I said the trial has been a new pro-

gress on the foundation achieved from the previous stage - the source of the current achievement. If one neglects its source one would not be any different from animals that do not know where they are from and where they are going. This comment is probably hard to take but I am saying this to keep the honor of the people – who have survived destruction, death etc. from being under-estimated or devalued. The same is true that before trying to control the Supreme Council of Magistracy one should know from where the power of the Council is coming.

I wish to give my comments here that whether the Rectangular Strategy will be successful or unsuccessful depends on good governance which is the backbone of the strategy – 1) counter-corruption 2) legal reform 3) public reform and 4) the armed forces reform. Last week we have adopted a policy on public service which will be incorporated into the curriculum of the Royal School of Administration in consideration of services to be performed. With regards to the legal system we have more to do for instance the civil procedural code.

Cambodians have to know their own history, if not from long before, at least from the 1970s. We have to be our own selves. Take for instance, in my meeting with the IMF delegation, I disagree with them on the prediction of the economic growth of Cambodia and I noted that when agriculture had a bad problem, they would pick up issue of governance as a causing factor, and when we have a good harvest - as this year - they tend to say it was because of good weather condition...■

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1991. My declaration of imposing no tax on farmers after ten or fifteen years has already come to an end. But it is not time yet for us to get our farmers to help the state.

For the moment farmers need the state to build schools, roads, water canals which are parts of my strategy on water, electricity, roads and human resources. If I were to be re-elected in 2008, I would continue my policy of imposing no tax on our farmers and I would accept to act on those people's behalf in the parliament. A few days ago some people went to the front of my house in Phnom Penh demanded reduction of oil price, while in oil producing countries prices of oil also fluctuate. We demand reduction of oil prices but we need more cars, motor bikes and other means. Those people should know that it is not true to say that the Government is not taking this matter seriously. It has not increased tax on oil is a measure that they should be informed.

The construction of various bridges in the country, including those in Stuong, has a wide ranging repercussion in the people's living condition. As far as rice cultivation is concerned I urge our people to grow short-term rice because we have predicted drought in midst of the season. More works need to be done as to reserve water in higher land so that people can make use of it for rice cultivation.

On that occasion Samdech Hun Sen offers to build two school building of 12 classrooms and some consumer food for the military engineering team working on the projects...■

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agriculture, 9% growth for 2006. Cambodia should not be overjoyed because we in fact have to seek for real income – which is smaller compared to the size of growth. This is indeed a serious matter that we have to find out what has been our shortcoming. To make our Government officials to be sincere from the beginning is a good thing. We have just discovered a mean to avoid tax of import of oil by ferry boat of containers, under which they have the load full of tax-avoided oil.

This is an international issue now. Look we have this problem of oil for food in Iraq, in which many countries have become involved. Corruption plagues not only Cambodia but many country in the world, and that would include also the mechanism of the United Nations. We should look into this issue so as to gain insight into the process to fight effectively against corruption. What is better here is perhaps to educate our staff to refrain from doing it rather than fighting it when it starts already. The same is true for those crimes in chopping down trees and land grabbing issues. It is important to fight against illegal activities in this area, but it would be the most important thing is not to allow those crimes happening.

Land conflict has become a hot issue and a battlefield for the Ministries of Land Management, Agriculture, Environment and the local authorities to become a mechanism of conflict resolution. From where should we start and where do we place our punch on? I have discussed this issue with HE Chan Sarun, Minister for Agriculture, on how to go about doing it. Some actions have been taken against only

small crimes at the village level but not with the powerful. This is the point that attention should be garnered. We have a bitter experience in mapping a concession forest. The forest of the whole country was mapped as concession forest. Before 1998, when I was not yet co-chairman of the Cambodia Development Council (CDC) a company with a concession of one million hectare forest swallowed the provincial town of Ratanakiri, etc. We had confiscated about three million hectares and frozen completely the forest concession.

We should base ourselves on the master plan of 2002 and visit the actual place. In some cases people lived and voted more than one time already and sometimes it was said to be a forest site in the map but in actuality there were no forest at all. The forest administration the other day sued in general on a place without making a delineation of where is forest and where is non forest area. Seeing that I told them if all the land belongs to the state, and if the land is stationed by the soldiers, the land should rest under the control of the soldiers and the same is to be done for the people living around. Where there are no people living there, we have to confiscate them back. We should do the right punishment in matter of land grabbing matter. Company whose concession given by the state covers an area of two thousand hectares but exploits an area of more than the stated size must be fined and their concession should be taken back.

As for land belongs to the people it is important to give a clear criterion as to whether there is any tree giving fruit already, whether there is a

solid home. All the criterion set should be taken into consideration. All confiscated land could later be given to farmers who have no land which is based on a clear and proper judgment. As in the case happens for the map of Daun Sam printed in 1993, after the integration in 1996-1998, the one who mapped lived in Phnom Penh, while the land had already been transformed for production years already. If it was approved by the Royal Decree, one should issue another that annuls the effect of the previous one, for example. HE Minister Chan Sarun said that he is afraid that the foreign friends would make an outcry on our action. I told him no matter what they cry they could not deny the reality, only that we have to ensure a proper solution that benefits the poor.

HE Men Sam An is a female Minister and whether she could resolve this matter or not remains to be seen. It is time to use the power vested by the Royal Government and we could not afford anymore excuses. I have recently used the domino form of making decision. The court decides the case matter according to the decision made by the Deputy Governor of the province of Pursath for instance to give land to some one whose residence is in Phnom Penh. I issued a decision that revokes and annuls the decision of the Deputy Governor. I warn any Governor and Deputy Governor for issuing improper decisions that their decision could face invalidation by the Prime Minister. The Ministry of Relations with the Parliament, the Senate and Inspection has the duty to collaborate with the Ministry of Land Management, Urbanization and Construction to investigate the

case.

The Ministry of Justice also should reserve a group of law officials to set up a working group with HE Minister as its chairperson to oversee the court decision – if it is injustice, why? If the injustice comes from the provincial authority, the Prime Minister will have to annul the decision issued by the provincial authority. The same is to apply to various levels downwards by the Ministry of Interior. I have said that our primary need is to give land of two hectares for each of the 5000 families in need. We would need only ten thousand hectares and we still have another 100,000 hectares. Some people tricked the local people to clear the forest and they bought the cleared land later. This sort of land should not be given titles. There are ways to prohibit this but inspectors should not corrupt themselves. I used to see two examples – an inspector to Mondulkiri returned with a new Pajero vehicle, an inspector to Kompong Som returns with report of no serious problem. I wish HE Men Sam An takes a strict review of her officials.

Now I am looking for whoever the journalists included has the will and power to help resolve the issue. The decision reached has been out of legal process – one case has been resolved in the conflict near TVK and one more in Banteay Mean Chey, after which I offered to build a road and a school building as well. There is nothing wrong for building road and school for people. I also take this opportune moment to seek HE Chan Sarun's scrutiny of land requested on behalf of Associations which has encroached

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01 May 2006 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

One-Stop-Service Building and Seaport Groundbreaking

Every year my wife and I come to visit our workers in the Autonomous Seaport of Sihanoukville. This year, as usual, it falls on the 120th anniversary of the International Labor Day and the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the port's one-stop-service administrative building. My presence on this occasion brought about successive renovation of the existing facilities of the port, the extension of the general cargo terminal. Everything here is possible because we have the loan of 77 million US dollars from the Government of Japan and more will be sought for the development of the special economic zone project, which is adjacent to the port. Just

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upon the people's land. If they were to do development work for people, why don't they give it out to people? They could set up centers, training schools on the land but they could not disguise themselves under the name of Associations and make exploitation from the land for own purposes. We should inspect this issue and take them back. It is ridiculous to see that an Association has requested for about 7000 hectares of land between Koh Kong and Kompong Speu provinces. Officials who are members of the CPP have been requested for about ten years consecutively to refrain from committing mistakes in relation to land issue. In various party meetings, I have warned the party officials that on ground that we are the ruling party, severe punishment would be meted out if they are proven guilty. We could not let a cancer to eat the whole body. Let me warn them that this is no joking statement...■

now HE Ambassador of Japan Fumiaki Takahashi has mentioned the Japanese offer to give loan at an adjusted interest rate from 0.9% to 0.01% or frankly speaking at a symbolic rate, or a apparently comparable to non-interest rate. This is a good sign and also an advice to Cambodia to recognize its duty that every loan must be paid back... The building – after its construction – will help facilitate the trade activities and the speed of facilitation will greatly reduce from three hours to less than ten minutes. The port will then become a standard and competitive one not only in Cambodia but also in the region. As a large segment of time is going to be reduced, trade activities will be speeded up and will gain its competitive advantage. We have gathered here – the one-stop-service institutions concerned with trade activities – port officials, police, CamControl, Kamsab and quarantine. We have one port of this kind at the border with Vietnam. I would like to have your attention that though we have office in place, it would still be important to have the involvement from human beings – because if human beings are not working, the office will stay idle.

HE Minister Sun Chanthol for Transports and Public Works has just mentioned what needs to be done in the time to come. It is indeed true that the US Company has discovered oil in our territorial waters and will start using our port more frequently for the sake of providing its services to the drilling site. I would ask HE Fumiaki to consider more loans for this project. If we could not get the loan, we should set a

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27 May 2006 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

Visit to Bridge Construction Sites in Kompong Thom

It is a great day for me to be able to join with our officials and people here in observing the constructions of two bridges in the district of Stuong in the province of Kompong Thom. The construction site commenced after I declared from the inauguration of the the Kompong Chen Tbong's Buddhist temple and assured HE Kvan Siem I would make a visit one day. I am glad to see our people here and I think the report of HE Kvan Siem has made our people and all of the participants understand about the project. Through all-out efforts made by various people involved, a construction team of the military arrived and has carried out construction work for almost 72 days. A number of works have already been done.

Our working officials here did not have time to enjoy the Khmer National New Year but to continue to work hard and some of their families have come to the construction sites to meet their husbands or sons instead. Our troops not only could not enjoy the Khmer New Year but also took that moment to depart from the country to join with the UN mission in Sudan.

Their commitments and sacrifices have been great. They have removed UXO and mines for the sake of the construction. It is indeed important that I extend my sincere appreciation to the military and its leaders – the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces' general staff, the Ministry of National Defense, and various levels of the military construction teams.

The bridges under construc-

tion never exist before. Only in Svay Sar did we have a small wooden bridge that people raised money to repair every year. The bridge has been built in 1965 and after 41 years it must have come to its rotten stage.

What concerns me most has been the fact that we have no more four-meter Bailey iron bar in stock. I have just ordered HE Minister Sun Chan Thol to make a calculation on the Chinese assistance of 200 million US dollars to build two bridges over the Mekong and over the Tonle Sap, the construction of the national road 8, and the enlargement and asphaltting road from Snuol to Ratanakiri to find out if there would be any remaining part so that we can purchase 2000 meters of the seven-meter width and 2000 meters of the four-meter width Bailey bridges.

People who have no knowledge or information inside out of the process of financial system and management have claimed to increase the salary for the civil servants. They should be aware of the fact that doing so while having no money would lead to canceling the construction of bridges and roads, etc. One may think of doing so through taxing our farmers because if we were to impose a tax of 50,000 Riel per hectare we would have a lot of money from 13 million hectares. But, increasing salary for our Government officials only to leave farmers carry this burden would not be a good solution.

We once tax the people in the form of "patriotic contribution" but only to stop since

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