

# Cambodia New Vision

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## EXTRACTS OF

POLITICAL PLATFORM OF THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA (1998-2003), ANNOUNCED BY SAMDECH PRIME MINISTER HUN SEN ON NOVEMBER 30, 1998, AT THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



## I. POLITICAL SCENE

### A. DOMESTIC POLITICS

The objectives of the Government's domestic politics are peace, stability, national unity, the building of the state of law, the development of liberal democracy and the respect of human rights with a view of creating more favourable conditions for the economic and social development and the poverty alleviation.

#### 1. Pacification

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) upholds the policy of national solidarity in order to muster the nation's strength from all circles, political tendencies, in the country as well as abroad, being united into a solid bloc in defending the nation, safeguarding social achievements and building

the Kingdom of Cambodia in independence, peace, democracy and progress in accordance with the noble idea of HM Preah Karuna Preah Bat Norodom Sihanouk.

With a view to build up a long-lasting peace and stability, RGC welcomes the return to the fold of the nation of the remnant Khmer Rouge rebels...

We will take every measure possible to prevent the genocidal acts and the past tragedy from happening again. The hard-line leaders of the outlawed Khmer Rouge will be tried according to the law in force...

RGC welcomes the return of a small number of forces, formerly belonging to the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF), to the framework...

## 2. The Implementation of the Liberal Democracy, and the Respect of Human Rights.

RGC upholds the principles of strengthening the pluralistic liberal democracy and the respect of human rights, which are the indispensable components and basis for the existence and development of our nation. In this light, the process of democratization and liberalization in all spheres of society must be strongly carried on in order to create a grand impetus to the development of the economy and livelihood... The Government institution in charge of human rights will be strengthened in its structures, means and activities and will closely cooperate with human rights organizations and agencies concerned in order to heighten the effectiveness of the implementation of the human rights...

## 3. Freedom of Press and Expression

RGC encourages the implementation of the freedom of press, expression and assembly, which is the factor for speeding up the free development of political consciousness of individuals and society. Public fora will be promoted in order to collect the opin-

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ions of the people from all walks of life and political tendencies to contribute to the national development...

#### **4. The Role of the Opposition Parties**

In order to gather intellect from all circles and political tendencies for national reconstruction, RGC advocates the widening roles of the opposition parties which provide constructive criticism, monitor and help adjust the direction and activities of the Government so that the latter will fulfil its tasks within the framework of stability and development. The political parties are entitled to carry out political activities in accordance with the existing law and enjoy the guarantee of freedom, justice, security and activities from the government.

#### **5. The Contribution of the Civil Society**

RGC enhances the cooperation between the state and the civil society on the basis of the rule of law in order to strengthen democracy, freedom, social order and the respect of the state law... The civil society plays the role of effective partner of the government in the national construction.

In this spirit, RGC supports and encourages, in all forms, the NGOs and other associations which are carrying out activities for the good of the people throughout the country by considering a reserve funds extended to the NGOs, allowing the latter to manage a number of the Government's projects in which people participate.

#### **6. The Rule of Law**

The rule of law is the fundamen-

tal principle of democracy, and the permanent basis of the activities carried out by the government and all institutions, which will guarantee the freedom and sustainability of the national policy. It is imperative to speed up the establishment of the fundamental laws, and the dissemination of laws, strengthening the implementation and respect of law in general...

#### **7. Reforms**

At present, to give a renewed impetus to the system of organizations in our society is of great necessity. RGC will carry out the four reforms, which are closely related and serve the common goal, namely, administration, justice system, the military and the police, and economy...

RGC will carry on the administrative reform by striving to achieve the goal step by step, in the right direction and by concrete measures, in order to build an administrative system with transparency, neutrality, as a sincere and effective service of the people, and the living standards of governmental officials being raised.

The number of municipalities and provinces will be reconsidered. It is also necessary to provide some autonomy to the municipal and provincial management. The justice system and courts are necessarily to be reformed from top to bottom in order to strengthen the independence, justice, confidence in and respect of law.

To achieve this goal there must be the cooperation between government, National Assembly, and the independent institutions concerned, namely the Constitutional Council, the Supreme Council of Magistracy and the Courts, while

raising the salaries of the judges, especially those at the Supreme Court. RGC considers the fight against corruption an issue of important priority...

To guarantee the effectiveness of the task, the following measures will be taken:

- To establish a law as a priority condemning those committing corruption at all levels.
- To set up an institution with the task of monitoring, supervising and eliminating corruption,
- To strengthen the law implementation by overseeing the living and properties of the government officials at all levels.
- To pay attention in supervising the records of state properties.
- To mobilize the people to take part actively in the fight against corruption.
- To increase the government officials' salaries adequately and in accordance with the state budget.

#### **B. NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY**

To strengthen the RCAF, the Royal Military Police and the National Police into an armed forces with absolute loyalty to the national cause, respect of Constitution, discipline, ethics,.. with sufficient capacity to fulfill the tasks of defending national independence, sovereignty, and safeguarding peace, stability security and social order. Every effort will be made to put an end to rebellions and secessionist activities, to reduce the criminal offences and social accidents to the lowest degree, thus creating favourable conditions for national development. The re-

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form of the RCAF will be carried on so that it will become an orderly force with appropriate strength...

The spending on the national defense will be streamlined to an appropriate degree so as to increase the budget for social affairs sector... Weapons and ammunitions will be put under strict control, while their sale in black markets will be ended. The illegal weapons and ammunitions will be confiscated, while unnecessary ones will be destroyed. The need of the militia organization will be reconsidered.

### C. FOREIGN AFFAIRS

RGC upholds the neutral and non-aligned policies, having peaceful, friendly and cooperative relations with neighboring countries, countries in the region and the world over, regardless of political regimes, with mutual benefits, based on equality, respect of independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference into each other's internal affairs ...

- Building the relations of friendship and cooperation with neighboring countries; the border problems will be solved in a serious manner and through peaceful negotiations...
- Building the bilateral and multi-lateral relations with countries in the regions, especially with ASEAN to actively contribute to transform the Southeast Asia region into a peaceful, stable, neutral, co-operative and developed one.
- Strengthening the relations with other countries in the world by respecting the five principles of the Non-Aligned Movement

and principles of the international laws. Increasing the diplomatic relations and embassies...

RGC will make every effort to make the Kingdom of Cambodia a good member of the United Nations and international organizations...

### II. ECONOMIC POLICY

Economy is the task of top priority, in which every effort will be made to bring about a sustainable national development and to safeguard the macroeconomic stability through increasing economic growth, the effective use of international favourable conditions and the external advantageous factors, the human resources development and the sustainable use of national resources.

RGC continues to enhance the free market economy... by improving a stable economic order with clear-cut systems of laws and regulations with a view of ensuring the growth of the private economic activities in the framework of the free market mechanism. While absolutely protecting the lawful rights of the people, RGC implements the policy of providing land ownership with time-limit to foreign investors in order to step up the investment activities, preventing any acts of violation on the legal properties of the people and the companies.

In the direction of development, RGC reserves the priority for agriculture, infrastructure, electricity and the development of human resources, which are foundation guaranteeing the development as a whole and in accordance with concrete conditions of Cambodia.

The objectives to be achieved by the Government:

Firstly, to increase the growth rate of the economy in order to heighten the people's living standard and to create employment for them.

Secondly, to maintain the stability of prices and the Riel currency value, to maintain the inflation rate at one digit in order to stabilize the economy...

Thirdly, to increase the export of agricultural products and processed products by depending on the specialization factors of Cambodia.

Fourthly, to make every effort in achieving step-by-step the goals of alleviating the poverty of the people.

To reach these goals, RGC strives to reduce the imbalances between the need and supply, income and spending in the national budget, export and import, currency and goods, salary and livelihood of the government officials and the armed forces, the increasing of labor forces and employment, the need of national development and the provision of the human resources,...

#### **The development of human resources and the building of infrastructure.**

- While improving and universalizing the general education, RGC provides priority of investment to the vocational training and higher education by focusing on the technical and managing skills in accordance with the requirements of the labour markets in Cambodia...
- The immediate task of RGC is to continue the restoration

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and building in the fields of transports and communications, expanding the electricity and water supplying capacity, and improving the irrigation networks... for the sake of production, service and investment.

### **Agriculture**

Based on the concrete conditions of resources and the local technology, agricultural development is a priority of the Government's development policy aimed at guaranteeing food security and speeding the growth of other sectors, especially providing raw materials for the processing industry, increasing the exportation and generating jobs for the people...

The organization of rural finance system will be speeded up to provide credit for the farmers so that they can buy fertilizers, seeds, tools and machinery and other means of transportation for increasing agricultural productivity...

RGC will accelerate the privatization of the rubber plantations, supporting the private investment in large-scale rubber production and encouraging the farmers to take part in small-scale rubber plantation...

RGC will strengthen the implementation of forest policy and laws on control of forests to guarantee a reasonable use of forest resources to maintain the balance of logging, tree growing and forest development...

### **Industry and Handicrafts**

The Government's policy in this field is the development of workshops and processing industry which target on export, and pro-

mote handicrafts and small scale industry producing consumer goods for local needs...

### **Commerce**

Commercial liberalization will continue with an orientation in which various economic compositions can carry out their activities in accordance with state policy and laws. Favourable conditions will be created for goods circulation throughout the country... facilitating further the productions of goods.

### **Tourism**

Tourism development will be culture and nature oriented. Private and public investment will be encouraged for building tourist infrastructures... making it (tourism) an important source of income...

### **Foreign Trade**

RGC adopts a clear-cut policy of foreign trade in line with liberalization of international trade and integration of the national economy into the world economy...

### **Investment Policy**

RGC promotes the local and foreign investment in accordance with the principles and the regulations stipulated in the Law on Investment... increasing the cooperation with other countries and international institutions in order to attract more investment...

### **Finance and Currency**

The discipline on budget spending must be strengthened... RGC will adjust the priority of spending national budget for promoting production, private investment, social affairs and healthcare.

## **III. CULTURE, HEALTHCARE, AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

- Safeguard and enhance national culture and civilization, putting an end to the cultural decline, heightening social ethics, speeding up the development of culture with national and progressive characteristic.
- Enhance the people's health by expanding the service of public and private healthcare... increase preventive measures, the protection of mother and child and combat against contagious diseases...
- The social affairs tasks will be speeded up to make a general progress in the livelihood and to guarantee welfare rights of the people of all ages, strata and ethnicity. Favourable conditions will be created primarily for the poor and the vulnerable so that they have a link with the trend of economic development aimed at creating a uniform progress of all members of the national community.../ ■