



31 January 12 - Samdech Techo Hun Sen, HE Pan Guangxia and Cambodian Dignitaries Inaugurate the National Road 76 from Snuol to Senmonorom & Launch the Construction of new segment between Senmonorom and Ratanakiri's Ta Ang.

NR 76: Snuol-Senmonorum-Ta Ang

31 January 2012 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

1.7 Billion Chinese Assistance, 1500 Km Roads/Bridges

I am so happy to be able to come to the province of Mondulakiri once again after I accompanied HM the King here on 10 January. As we had this electoral campaign for the Senate election, I made no address since January 6. I always refrain from making any public statements/speeches in the period of elections, whether they are universal or non-universal, local or national suffrages. Please allow me to recall that before the end of 2011, the Chinese Ambassador HE Pan Guangxia and I have fulfilled two tasks – to put into official use the National Road 62 from the city of Preah Vihear to the temple of Preah Vihear and to launch the construction of the Cambodian-Chinese Friendship Bridge at Jroy Jangva, Phnom Penh.

To start the year 2012, here we

meet to put into official use the National Road 76 – the 127 km segment between the Snuol district of Kratie province and the city of Senmonorom of Mondulakiri province, and to launch the construction of the 171.78 km second segment of the road from the city of Senmonorom to Ta Ang of Ratanakiri province – both are financed, as is reported to you by the Chinese Ambassador and HE Tram Iv Toek, Minister for Transports and Public Works, by the Chinese assistance. Please allow me to add further to what have been reported. China offers four different kinds of financial loans – grant, non-interest loan, concessional loan and commercial loan.

Cambodia does not subscribe to the commercial loan from either China or any other country. However, the People's Republic of China provides such loan to the Chinese companies to make investments in Cambodia. I have mentioned on various occasions that the Chinese companies are
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7 January—33th Anniversary in Kg Cham

04 January 2012 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

January 7 Victory Day of/for All

First of all please allow me on behalf of Samdech Chea Sim, Samdech Heng Samrin and other leaders of the Cambodian People's Party to express our best wishes and the four Buddhist blessings for Buddhist monks, Excellencies, Lok Oknha and Lok Jumteav, ladies and gentlemen, our compatriots to the international New Year, which was five days ago, and the 33th anniversary of the January 7 Victory Day of liberation of Cambodia (1979-2012). It is a great pleasure that my wife and I have had this chance to celebrate here with people of Kompong Cham these magnificent events, while official address on the January 7 Victory

Day will be pronounced by Samech Chea Sim on January 7, 2012.

On January 5, 2011, I met people in the gathering like this at the district of Memot of Kompong Cham. Today, January 5, 2012, I am meeting with all of you here in the city of Kompong Cham. It sounds like I am coming to the province of Kompong Cham at least once a year. In fact there are two other major events in my life that make me come to Kompong Cham on 5 January. Firstly, the province of Kompong Cham to the east of the Mekong River was liberated on January 5. One day later, I got married. It was 36 years ago. I am so thrilled to see that the

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7 January Overpass for Phnom Penh

06 December 2011 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

The 7 January Overpass

My wife and I are so glad today to be able to join with Excellencies, Oknha and Lok Jumteavs, ladies and gentlemen on this auspicious occasion to put into official use the 7 January overpass, as we are going to celebrate tomorrow the 33th anniversary of the January 7 victory day over the regime of Pol Pot's genocide. It has been our anticipation to see this overpass ready for traffic here at the formerly known as the Sangha Hospital junction road. Now we call this junction the overpass 7 January. It is ridiculous that some people have named political parties after their own names but they are not satisfied when we name this junction after the 7 January victory day.

The traffic at this junction has

been one of the busiest and the jam has happened the most. Today, right after this ceremony, our people will be able to travel on it and traffic will be more manageable in the western part of Phnom Penh city. You may remember, as we celebrate the inauguration of the overpass at Kbal Thnol roundabout, June 24, 2010, we then informed our people of the decision to build the second overpass here. A few months later, on December 29, 2010, we launched the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the 7 January overpass. The construction took a little over one year to complete.

The 7 January overpass in place will certainly help improve traffic into and out of Phnom Penh

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very lucky to have access to such financial help, and because of this assistance, the Chinese companies never fail but always advance.

As is said by HE Pan Guangxia, so far Cambodia received 1.7 billion USD from the People's Republic of China in 1,500 km of roads and bridges. I also have a report from HE Keat Chhon, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Economy and Finance, that we are using the Chinese financial helps in 34 projects, of which eight completed, 21 are underway and 5 other projects will be signed tomorrow.

I told HE Pan Guangxia to have lunch together as I wanted to have a chat with the President of the Chinese (Import-Export) Bank. When I accompanied HM the King to the province of Monduliri, at Snuol district, I told HM that it would be a real push (for the Cambodian economy) if we could secure a sum of five billion USD.

In my thought, with that amount, Cambodia could use three billion USD for infrastructural development and two billion USD for irrigation. I have made it clear that I am giving priority to physical infrastructure, which is part of our strategy after effort to resolve the need for irrigation. I came to this place once in 1990 by air as the road access was time consuming and hard to pass. I had to stay here two nights. Later, I came again to oversee a road built by the military engineering team. With good road now, people travel only five hours between Phnom Penh and Senmonorom, while they used to spend a night or two in between.

Cambodia's Northeast Interconnectivity

I see that some photos have been taken of the present road condition. I must assure our people living along the projected road to take picture of what it is now because we will not be seeing it anymore by 2016. Usually, however, the Chinese companies

completed the projects before schedule. For example this segment of the National Road 6, the company finished construction since 2011, only we postponed the official inauguration to 2012. Once the second segment – Senmonorom (Monduliri) and Ta Ang (Ratanakiri) is completed, our people will travel between the two cities/provinces without having to make a U turn like we are doing now.

Even more, our people will be able to link together their journey in the whole northeast zone – Kratie, Monduliri, Ratanakiri and Stoeng Treng provinces, and from there even to Preah Vihear province in the north. This is what you can see as the Royal Government's effort in ensuring Cambodia's internal connectivity, which is also important for inter-regional connectivity – in the frameworks of ASEAN, the Greater Mekong Sub-region, ACMECS and East Asia.

I never believe that the Cambodian win-win policy would hold only by administrative and political integration, without the investment in physical infrastructures, especially roads and bridges.

We could not talk about inter-regional connectivity while leaving parts of Cambodia itself disintegrated. We could not go on traveling to Vietnam territory before entering into Cambodian territory in this part of the country. If that is going to stay, Monduliri could not be integrated with the central part of Cambodia.

The same is true for Ratanakiri and Stoeng Treng province. It is in this regard that we are making it our priority to achieve internal integration or connectivity so that Cambodia will be ready for integration and interconnected with its neighbors.

Take Monduliri province for this instance. As we are putting into official use the segment of national road 76 between Kratie's Snuol district to Monduliri's Senmonorom, and to

build the next segment to Ratanakiri, we also need to build a road of 27 km that will connect the national road 76 to the border with Vietnam at Dak Dam. This would improve the trade and transportation condition for the province as well.

Goods can be transported down to Vietnam's Qui Nhon seaport. Inter-regional connectivity will answer to the need to reduce the cost of transportation, as in this case, to transport production down to ports in Sihanoukville would cost more than to send them down to Qui Nhon port in Vietnam, which is closer.

This is the fact in the time of regionalization and globalization. In this effort, our Chinese friends have been so kind to help our internal integration so that our country can be a linking dot to inter-regional connectivity. Cambodia has got three neighboring countries to be connected to. With Vietnam, while a road is to be built to Dak Dam at the border, we also have a border link on the national road 78 from Ratanakiri to the border and another border access point is (at Anlong Jrey) along the national road eight.

With Laos, we have built already the national road 7, whose end is reaching the border point with Laos. With Thailand, Cambodia already has road links at various points – NR 57, 57B, 59 and 62. As road accesses to countries in the region, these roads also serve as local integration as well. Let me remind you that inter-connectivity is not only the vision and effort of Cambodia alone but a matter that is raised in every forum and summit, whether it is ASEAN, East Asia or the Greater Mekong Sub-region.

As is said by HE Pan Guangxia, helping Cambodia build roads in its northeastern zone allows Cambodia also to serve the objective of the triangular development between Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam too. It is undeniably true that it will have implications on projects of the Greater

Mekong Sub-region and ACMECS.

China and Cambodia – Good as Gold Neighbors

It is in this regard that through HE Pan Guangxia, I would like to express on the Cambodian people's behalf our greatest thanks to the Government of the People's Republic of China for making such fruitful cooperation possible, as China and Cambodia are comprehensive strategic partners. Indeed, what we are putting into official use today are born out of close cooperation between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the People's Republic of China in the framework of good neighborliness, good relations and comprehensive strategic partners altogether.

I would like to take this opportunity to hail warmly the 2011 Chinese economic growth of 9.2%, the highest growth in Asia, as is released by HE Pan Guangxia. The world economic growth is thought to be in the state of uncertainty as the recover from crisis in the US and Europe is not quite convincing. Asia has made it convincing though as China and India have taken the lead. I agree totally with HE Pan Guangxia that (the growth) is a good start for the twelfth five year plan and a firm foundation for the opening of the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. There is one true fact that China's success is not only for China alone but also for helping the whole world too.

You may give it a thought that when there is economic crisis in the United States of America and Europe, what kind of situation would the world find itself if China were to be plagued with the same problem. It has been everybody's knowledge that when the US and Europe are plagued with crisis, China and India stabilize the economy in Asia and the Pacific. Similar trend has been noted also for countries in Latin America, Brazil is one of a kind. However, we hope and pray that the US and

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province of Kompong Cham has come along with substantial change and development.

Let me take this opportune moment to talk a little about the 7 January Victory Day that we all consider to be our second birthday. Maybe it is best to go back to 33 years ago to see how the people were in the province of Kompong Cham as well as in the whole country. As part of the province was liberated and people were so happy to be liberated, there were also parts that were yet to be liberated. People were still suffering hardships and facing with killing. Even after January 7, when the Phnom Penh capital was liberated, a number of provinces had not yet been liberated. Suffering and killing was still our people's fates in those places.

This is just to remind all of us that that bitter past brought about destruction and family separation on us. There were no families that did not lose member/s. Everyone in Cambodia knows and remembers this. Those of you who were born later might have been told by parents, grandparents, etc. However, I wish to have your attention on this note that when I am saying that gratefulness should be expressed to the 7 January Victory Day, I don't mean to single out the CPP, the United Front for National Salvation of Kampuchea or the assistance rendered by the Vietnamese voluntary army - for you to be grateful to. What I wanted your attention is that the quick fall of the genocidal regime of Pol Pot started with the people's participation even before the offensive of the United Front for National Salvation Army and the voluntary assistance of the Vietnamese forces.

Maybe it is important to share with you my thought about our people's role in toppling the genocidal regime of Pol Pot. First of all, if the regime of Pol Pot did not kill the people or inflict upon them sufferings and

destruction, the regime might have survived till today. My wife said to me sometimes at the dining table that "if we were given food like what we have on the dining table now, God knows, how delicious would they be then." I said to her "if we were well fed then, given rights and freedom, no one would oppose them." However, you may look at the mode of production that was left from the Pol Pot's regime. What did we have?

When the Lon Nol's regime was removed on April 17, 1975, our people should have been provided with peace. On the contrary, they were faced with killing. First they did that to former city dwellers. Then they rooted out private/individual belongings. People in the whole country turned to be rural villagers. They were moved from place to place. They put in place a common mode of production, where people worked and ate in a collective way. They also gave one big wedding organization, in which more than one couple would be approved. In my case, the wedding took place with thirteen couples. We were the last couple to be approved.

After the liberation, the United Front for National Salvation army and the Vietnamese voluntary army did not have the means and personnel to organize local administration and/or a new mode of production. However, according to what happened then, it was the people themselves who rose up and dismantled the mode of production that they had to work and eat in a collective way. Our people opted for private work and consumption pattern. Let me affirm that that was not initiated and modeled by the United Front for National Salvation of Kampuchea, any provincial authority and/or Vietnamese voluntary army. It was all by the Cambodian people themselves. You may recall, those of you who happened to be going through that very moment, who had initiated and facilitated the

distribution of kitchen stuff from collective kitchen to the people in the village? Who ordered our people to move back to their native villages from wherever they were under the Pol Pot's regime? They were all done by the people themselves. That is why I am saying it was the people who took part not only in toppling the regime but also commencing a new mode of production themselves. According to my diary, reviewing it again, I noticed that we did not have sufficient number of officials to hold even the provincial posts. How could we talk about reorganizing the villages? Buddhism was also restored and revived by our people.

All in all, what I have mentioned is to prove that 7 January Victory Day is by and for the people. While commencing a new mode of production and a new way of life, our people no longer approve collective wedding, Buddhist monks no longer being disrobed against their will, etc. According to Buddhist faith, the 7 January Victory Day liberated those who suffered the genocidal regime but also souls of the deaths. In absence of the 7 January Victory Day, we would have no Buddhist monks. Without the Buddhist monks, who are important for the traditional Pjum Ben ceremony, people could not offer respect to ancestors (*the Pjum Ben day is a period of fifteen days when the Cambodian people believe that souls of the passed-away relatives, who may not rest in peace, would come for offerings in materials such as foods, beverages, clothing and Dharma – all happened thanks to the bridging by the Buddhist monks*).

1979-1994: Pol Pot Fell, War Went On, Substantially Poverty Went Down

The 7 January Victory Day is therefore defined not as anyone particular victory/achievement – the Cambodian People's Party, the United Front for National Salvation of Kampuchea and the voluntary army of Vietnam – but as mainly a result of our

people's participation. It is with the people's resolute commitment that they could put an end to not only the regime but also its ideology. However, while we removed the regime of Pol Pot, war did not end. We knew war was destruction and we did not want it. But it came to us. We then had to work out hard in search for a solution.

While war was a fact in numerous locations, peace prevailed in various parts of the country too. War was on a smaller scale in terms of time and location. We were able to have peace in a larger part for the country. We fought however with three real enemies – the possible return of the genocidal regime, hunger and aftermath left from the regime of Pol Pot. This is commonly understood to be two tasks to be fulfilled at the time – preventing the return of the genocidal regime of Pol Pot and solving people's needs for survival.

In a period of 14 and a half years, from 1979 through to mid 1993, in the state of peace and sporadic war, we then were able to assure our people's basic rights – the right to life. We also made great efforts to initiate and conduct negotiation for political solution for Cambodia. In the mean time, poverty, which was then recognized to be 100% among the people, after the liberation on 7 January 1979, went down to below 50% in 1994, while the country needed resources for foiling the return of the genocidal regime. It should be noted that this was achieved by the authorities under the leadership of the Cambodian People's Party through the People's Republic of Kampuchea, which became later the State of Cambodia.

Subsequently, the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) used a sum of almost two billion USD for peacekeeping operation in Cambodia. UNTAC left Cambodia two (political) controlled

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areas and two governments – the area controlled by Royal Government elected by the UNTAC organized general elections with the constitutional monarchy, where Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk became King once again, and the area controlled by the Khmer Rouge, which Khieu Samphan was Head of State and Prime Minister in the city of Anlong Veng.

Late 1998 – Cambodia Reunited

Being left in such a state, we had no other choice but to find way to put an end to war once and for all. That was when the win-win policy was formulated and put into practice. It was late 1998 that Cambodia, for the first time in centuries of its history, became one unified country under one Constitution, one King, one National Assembly, and one Royal Government and army. I am calling this the diamond opportunity for the country.

Right to Life and Freedom of Expression

Having said all this, I wish to related that if some people do not wish to mention about any rights enjoyed by our people at all, they should at least think of the basic right to life that everyone has to be ensured. The Cambodian People's Party and the Cambodian people themselves have implemented fully the obligation of respect of human rights, which first of all is the right to life. We toppled the regime of genocide to allow our people to live. If no one could be alive, how could anyone talk about freedom of expression?

These days there have been some people who preach about freedom of expression, while in fact they are denying it. Expressing opinion in opposition is a normal process. However, to oppose (a historical fact that gave and protected) people's lives, including even his/her own life that were liberated by the 7 January Victory Day,

would not be defined as normal. If Pol Pot were to be in power for another ten years or up to the present, would anyone expect to be alive? Such an insult on the 7 January Victory Day not only goes against the souls of those who lost their lives under the regime, but also his/her own life as well as those of their families.

Frankly speaking, it is ridiculous that those very people, who thirty three years also joined us to put an end to the Pol Pot's mode of production, shared the benefit of establishing a new private mode of production, are now considering the 7 January Victory Day their enemy. They were doing it themselves back then and they denied it today. Back then, some were not punished by the Government for stealing rice but sent to study in the former Czechoslovakia. It is funnily enough to see that this person does not dress in black (Pol Pot ordered the people of Cambodia to wear black clothes in the whole country) but in nice clothes with ties and travels by cars or motorbikes from place to place to scold us. At least people can see how contradicting it was in his/her philosophy that s/he denies the truth of 7 January Victory Day.

While blaming the Royal Government about freedom of expression, these people also reject the fact about the right to life that was ascertained and maintained by the 7 January 1979 victory. Despite all this we do not wish to make it a law for anyone to recognize the 7 January victory day at all. I think I should bring up this story of strained relations between France and Turkey on December 23, 2011 over issue of the 1915 massacre of 1.5 million Armenians during civil unrest at the fall of the Ottoman Empire. Maybe I should read you one paragraph here: "*Ties between France and Turkey, strategic allies and trading partners, abruptly unraveled Thursday after French legislators submitted a bill making it a crime to deny that the mass killings of*

Armenians by Ottoman Turks nearly a century ago constitute genocide."

According to the French International Radio, "*if the two French parliaments approve, a punishment of up to one year in prison and a fine of euro 45,000 (\$59,000) would be in force for those who deny or "outrageously minimize" the killings, putting such action on par with denial of the Holocaust.*" A tip to your knowledge in history, the massacre took place nearly 100 years ago conducted by the Turkish army over the Armenian population. As you can see here, anyone in France denies this fact would be fined up to 59,000 USD. Would anyone say France is trampling freedom of expression? Under French law, it is a crime to wear uniforms, insignia or emblems linked to the Nazi regime. The act is punishable as a criminal with heavy fine.

In another development, also relating to this legal issue, on December 22, 2011, the French state prosecutor opened a preliminary investigation into the Nazi-themed stag party attended by the Conservative MP Aiden Burley in the Alpine ski resort of Val Thorens, France. Is this a violation of freedom of expression in France? No one could talk good about Nazi or they would be jailed. As for Cambodia, a person may choose to respect or not to according to his/her own will. I only think that perhaps these people's states of mind are not normal that we should not find fault with them.

January 7 and October 23 - Two Historical Facts

Some people state that October 23, 1991 (the day when Cambodia concluded the Paris Peace Agreement) is their second birthday while denying the 7 January 1979 one. These two dates are of historical significance for the people of Cambodia. However, one may ask what if there was no 7 January 1979, in which circumstance no

one could ascertain Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, whose children and grandchildren were already dead, could be alive? If Pol Pot were to be in power till 23 October 1991, would there be Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk to conduct negotiation with Hun Sen? As for me I would be alive because I already had my army built. Maybe my wife would not be. But would it be possible that HE Sar Kheng, HE Men Sam An, HE Tia Banh, HE Sok An, etc. could still be alive?

If Pol Pot stays in power till 23 October 1991, how many more of Cambodia people would die? As a matter of fact, despite speedy liberation we had secured, we were able to save some from being killed and pushed into graves. It is so shocking even now, on the Bayon TV program "this is not a dream," to see people are still searching for loved ones. Some could not even remember their family names. Some in Kompong Cham province have found their lost relatives too. This is proof. Would there be this program if there were no family separation. *In just days ahead I will be going to Vietnam to pay our respects to the forty nine fallen combatants of the United Front for Salvation of Kampuchea army, who were laid to rest there.*

That our lives are saved while we were about to be killed already is one fact that no one could ever deny or forget. Those who went through this and deny it could ask themselves if they wish to be dead. Let me remind all of our people once again that 7 January 1979 Victory Day, our marvelously huge achievement, does not belong solely to the Cambodian People's Party. I am grateful to all who keep live and good memory of 7 January 1979, even some might need to forget, to scold and to do whatever against their conscience for reason of political ideology.

Growth Despite Three Major
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Challenges, Works To Do in 2012

We have had so many tasks fulfilled and many more to complete for the fourth legislative term of the Royal Government of Cambodia. We have come through challenges of defending our country from foreign invasion, overcoming impacts from world financial crisis and economic downturn, and dealing with natural calamities – the 2011 flood and the Ketsana typhoon effects. Despite all these difficulties, it is confident that we still have achieved economic growth.

As we are still waiting for final evaluation of the agricultural sector, we are almost certain now that the 2011 economy sustains a growth of around 7%, while the poverty rate will reduce to one percent lower. Now that we still have five days to step into 2012, it should be noted that we have so many works to do. We will have two elections to run – 29 January 2012 for the Senate elections and 03 June 2012 for the communal elections. Please allow me to take this opportune moment to appeal to all our people and political parties to take part in fostering a neutral political atmosphere so that the elections will proceed in a safe, transparent, democratic, just and acceptable manner. We also will hold the general elections in 2013.

I know that for the election seasons, anything at all can be politics. However, I wish to encourage our people, especially members of the Cambodian People's Party, to take utmost patience or the ruling Party will be accused of so and so violence and wrongdoing. We also have the duty and honor to host the ASEAN Summits as Cambodia is now chair of ASEAN. Let me clarify this point that it is not Hun Sen alone who is the ASEAN Chair but the whole people of Cambodia are. From past experience, when Cambodia was the ASEAN chair, the opposition figures went on hun-

ger strikes. In 2011, they also did that when Cambodia hosted the ASEAN Inter-parliamentary Assembly in Phnom Penh. They may do the same against Cambodian role as chair of ASEAN. I doubt if they would go on hunger strike till end of the year or to eat no rice but to have noodle.

Four Reasons Why Cambodia Is Part of ASEAN

Now let me share with you my four reasons why Cambodia should be part of ASEAN. While being its member, Cambodia has to fulfill its obligation in a responsible manner for the sake of establishing successfully the ASEAN Community in 2015. **Firstly**, *there is this non-interference principle into one another internal affairs*. This is the most important factor that attracts our membership and involvement. Cambodia went through so many wars and internal divisions because of own problems, but, as everyone knows, there had been endless interferences from the outside too. There had been invasion into Cambodian airspace in the past wars – from Bien Hoa in Vietnam, O Tapao in Thailand and there were even B52 coming from the Philippines.

It is with this principle that we believe Cambodia could defend independence and sovereignty. As far as the conflict in Preah Vihear land area issue is concerned, some politicians in opposition demanded that Cambodia should defend its territorial integrity and sovereignty by the Paris Peace Agreement. Let me tell you that in time of conflict, the Thai Government under Abhisit said that they respect Cambodia's independence and sovereignty, but the so-called 4.6 square km area in the Preah Vihear zone belongs to Thailand. Cambodia also claims it belongs to Cambodia too. The last resort is to seek help from the UN Security Council and the International Court of Justice in The Hague. We will wait for the court's decision.

Secondly, *ASEAN upholds the spirit of a community as decisions will be made on a consensus basis*. Based on this principle, ASEAN applies a principle of equal rights and footing. It is with this principle that Cambodia takes the initiative to build peace, friendship and cooperation in Southeast Asia. It is even more convenient as ASEAN now also has its charter. In a period of thirteen years as a member of ASEAN, we became chair twice – in 2002 and in 2012. The community spirit has been an attraction for Cambodia to join ASEAN, and through ASEAN, we work with its partners on various initiatives to promote socio-economic development, security and issues relevant to the region and the world.

Thirdly, *Cambodia benefits from its economic cooperation and partnership with ASEAN and ASEAN partners*. As ASEAN integration proceeds – together with the ASEAN new and old members – we have benefited a great deal from it. You also know that there have been ASEAN-China, ASEAN-Japan, and ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreements and more will be coming. They will bring more partners and opportunities for Cambodia to speed up its national development. ASEAN and its partners have pooled a sum of 120 billion USD as reserve capital to be used in time of crisis. Also in this respect, Cambodia has worked to its benefit the connectivity with other countries by roads, rails and air links.

Fourthly, ASEAN also serves as a diplomatic channel for Cambodia. Being one of the ASEAN members, Cambodia has its external relations open far and wide because ASEAN itself has got so many partnering countries like EU, US, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, India, Africa, South America, and Canada too. With this benefit, Cambodia performed well its coordinating role for ASEAN and China, and in just months

ahead, Cambodia will fulfill its coordinating role for ASEAN and India, ASEAN and EU. On behalf of ASEAN, as Prime Minister of Cambodia, I had a chance to give a keynote address in the ASEAN-EU commemorative summit in Singapore.

These four major factors are Cambodia's key considerations for becoming a part of ASEAN and to benefit from its membership too. In 2012, as the ASEAN chair, Cambodia will strive to take ASEAN ahead along the theme: "One ASEAN Community, One Destiny." Under this theme, the ASEAN chair Cambodia will advance the ASEAN integration framework, while making efforts to perform international role in the name of ASEAN in coordination of relevant issues in the region as well as in the world...■

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toral groups – the Cambodian People's Party, the Sam Rainsy Party, the Funcinpec Party and the Norodom Ranaridh Party. The contest was smooth and dignified though there have been exchanges of words on various issues. In all, the atmosphere was good and credible for the elections. The two contested parties, especially the Sam Rainsy Party appears to have accepted the results already. I would like to thank the members of National Assembly and commune councilors who are members of the Cambodian People's Party for casting their votes for the CPP.

I also thank members of the National Assembly and commune councilors of the Funcinpec party, the Norodom Ranaridh Party and the Sam Rainsy Party, who provided 797 votes more for the CPP. It seems the CPP takes 179 extra votes from the Sam Rainsy Party. Based on unofficial results, the CPP has won one extra seat in Kompong Cham province making it 6 seats instead of 5. This has brought the CPP total seats in the Senate from 45 to 46...■

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not only by our people but also foreign visitors through the Phnom Penh International Airport which is on the western side of the city. It has always been a difficult moment when we have the visits of foreign dignitaries and the convoys through this junction road, take for instance the delegations to participate in the AIPA meeting last year, always blocked the crossing traffic flows from the side for a long time. That will no longer happen after the ceremony is over in two hours time.

Packing Palm Sugar with Palm Leaves

I am so grateful for the collaboration together with the supports from the Royal Government of Cambodia, the Ministry of Economy and Finance and various other concerned institutions for allowing the Municipality of Phnom Penh to implement a form of financing, which they called “*using the Phnom Penh’s money to finance Phnom Penh’s development*,” for this project. I then compared that to our traditional way of *packing palm sugar with palm leaves*. You may know that Phnom Penh leased Koh Pij to private development group and the money made from the contract has been used to develop three major infrastructures in Phnom Penh so far: 1) the New Monivong Bridge at Kbal Thnol; 2) the Kbal Thnol Overpass and 3) the 7 January overpass.

This form of financing has been cutting short the need to go through lengthy process to finance the projects. This also has reflected the fact that decentralization and de-concentration of power has proven to be effective for sub-national level authority to handle development projects. This has also shown that we have a way to working around the power of concentration. With these developments in place, we see that Koh Pij is no longer a grassy area but a newly developed town with colossal buildings to serve every purpose. We now can offer to or-

ganize huge meetings like those of the Non-Aligned Movement, the South-South meeting, etc. I have also met with a group of thousands of scouts and there are a lot of spaces available.

The grassy place has now become a place of numerous colossal multipurpose buildings, but also providing jobs for many. In addition to the Koh Pij development itself and the job it has provided, as I already mentioned, Koh Pij development has brought Cambodians three achievements along the way – the New Monivong Bridge, the Kbal Thnol Overpass, which costs over 12 million USD, and the 7 January Overpass, which costs over 13 million USD. The Koh Pij development has also paid a considerable amount of tax on its tangible assets. That is why I state that using Phnom Penh’s money to finance Phnom Penh’s development project is a correct vision and implementation.

Extensive and Intensive Development of Phnom Penh

It has also been an effective planning and implementation by the Municipality of Phnom Penh with regard to the construction of roads in Phnom Penh in form of 50 + 50 collaboration (for every road constructed, the residents along the road together will provide 50% of the needed amount and the Royal Government will cover the rest) with the Phnom Penh residents. It has been an amazing success that we now have asphalted and concrete roads all over the city. We are now expanding our ability to asphalt extension roads from Phnom Penh and main national roads, where for few we have the contributions from the people, but for the rest the state covers them all.

If we compare Phnom Penh now to the Phnom Penh of 1979, its size has grown double. In the process of development, numerous communes from Kandal province have been taken on four occasions to be

included as parts of Phnom Penh. Extensively Phnom Penh goes twice the size of 1979. However, intensively, Phnom Penh goes between five and seven times more than what it was. What do I mean by intensive development of Phnom Penh? Phnom Penh in the old day consisted of building of between 500 and 1,000 square meters. As of present, there are buildings in Phnom Penh that are up to 20,000 square meters. That is what I mean intensive development of Phnom Penh.

In the old days, only two lines of house along the paved roads were what we called the city. In about 100 meters off the house lines were rice fields or rural areas. I used to go and transplant rice at O Baek Ka Am (to the southern part of Phnom Penh city). We could not do so any more now. There are no rice fields to plant rice but universities, factories and enterprises. In the Tuol Kork area of Phnom Penh then there were sporadic houses here and there. When the Vietnamese voluntary army withdrew from Cambodia, the Tuol Kork area was returned to the Cambodian authority. We set up a commission to distribute houses and housing lots among staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Many of them decided not to take what was given for them because they were afraid of darkness, as there was no power, and the road condition was impassable.

Now, it goes without saying that everything is astonishingly different. You may see the difference with your own eyes as many TV stations have shown how the Phnom Penh city looked like in those days before and right after 7 January 1979. The whole city was deadly silent and there was not a single car running in the street. People could go to bed in the street for days. Some people may say whatever they wish to but as a human being their conscience could not deny the fact that Phnom Penh in 1979 was an

empty city. More so, their conscience would not be able to deny that present day development of Phnom Penh as well as traffic jam has called for further road and infrastructural management and development.

Phnom Penh Present Day

As of now, Phnom Penh is known to be a crowded city. The streets are packed with over 230,000 cars and over 900,000 motorcycles. We have been facing with so many challenges to resolve demand for a city living style and condition. We need more good roads, running water and electricity, etc. As far as electricity is concerned, please reserve the Royal Government some understanding: though we have power generation from the Komjai hydro-power plant, we have yet to maximize the supply of electricity. We could not generate electricity with the amount of water we have in the reservoir for a short-term demand but dry the reservoir. We have to generate electricity and supply in stages.

In the old days Phnom Penh produced only 40 mw of electricity, you knew that. After the liberation on 7 January 1979, we brought in more generators from the former Soviet Union. As of now Phnom Penh consumes over 400 mw of electricity. Doing the math you can see easily that the consumption has gone up ten folds. What is even more interesting is that we have a city to manage and provide electricity like every other country. Unlike under Pol Pot when there was no city, we now have set up a committee to oversee the contest of the most beautiful city.

Having said so I wish to thank the Municipality of Phnom Penh for every effort it makes to achieve the city beauty through development of many parks. It is my greatest pleasure and joy to see parents walking their kids in the parks. It should be noted that in those parks people could exercise with their feet on tile

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flooring. It has been a general case in every country that overpass needs to be built to answer to growing traffic. It is not exceptional for Cambodia as we have moved from the time when commuting from one place to another by bicycle or taxi bicycle to real taxi and bus.

For a Beautiful and Safe Phnom Penh

It should be noted that in 1983 or 1984, there was no question of waste management as there were no major waste to tackle and there were no need to purchase waste collecting trucks. The reason was simply because we had a small population in the city and there were not much to eat. As of present, we have 1,600 tons of waste per day. This volume of waste would be amazing when you multiply with 365 days. For the sake of our city's beauty, I would urge our people to always place their refuse in waste bins and to be environmentally conscious. Let's all make effort for the beauty of Phnom Penh.

Please allow me to take this forum to appeal our people to take precautionary measures while driving so that traffic accidents can be avoided. The other night, I saw a report of a traffic accident on TV. It was hardly believable to see that a car ran into the street divider and turned upside down. I just wish that our people to respect the traffic rules, while keeping their speed controllable, keeping vigilant and taking no alcohol. It is good to see that TV stations are advising people to drive no more if they are drunk. Many lives were already lost because of mines and unexploded ordnances.

Stoeng Meanjei Overpass on the Way

When I came here on December 29, 2010 to launch the construction of the 7 January overpass, I informed you about the need for a study to be conducted on the possibility to build the third overpass at Stoeng Meanjei. As of now there have been six dif-

ferent ideas and designs shown to me. It seems there is a consensus for design and option number six, which will be completed in two phases – building two overpasses and a tunnel at a total cost of 17.77 million USD over an 18 month period; and building a number of extension bridges and two main bridges crossing the canal of Stoeng Meanjei at a total cost of 4.975 million USD over eight month period.

I already gave my approval. What is more important is that the project will have to have cooperation and collaboration from our people so as to resolve impacts with the support of the Ministry of Economy and Finance. Again we will apply the method of wrapping palm sugar with palm leaves. The cost of building this third overpass will be a fund collected from a company that invests in a development project at Jroy Jangvar. The project was before offered to Sunway Company from Malaysia. While the company could not implement it, the new company is taking over.

I thank HE Pung Kheav Se, Chairman of the Association of Banks in Cambodia and President and CEO of Canadia Bank, and Mayor of Phnom Penh, HE Kep Chuktema, for proposing policies to resolve the impacts from the project for people living in the area. As for people who have some land here for cultivation, they will receive a monthly pay of 500,000 Riel for a period of two years as their first choice. Let me clarify that no one is allowed to own land in this zone. The land belongs to the state. The second choice is they will choose a shop in the market. So, in addition to owning a new house, people could choose to get a compensation of 500,000 Riel per month or a shop in the market.

It was in 1994/95, HE Sun Chanthol may still remember, when Samdech Krom Preah (Norodom Ranaridh) approved the deal of building a satellite

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When the Royal Government confirms the land as part of the reserved forest, they demand compensation. Demonstration has also become a provoking tool.

Having said that I do not deny that there have been cases that people really have difficulty with their land need too. It has been always an instruction through the Cambodia Development Council that wherever investment in a given area happens to mingle with land that belongs to the people, tiger stripe solution is to be applied i.e. the investment has to find a way to exist together with the people. It has been clearly instructed that if company does not agree, it is the company who should leave the place and not the people. We also have a policy to reserve ten percent of extra land to the land that people possess for indigenous need.

For all investment, the Royal Government requires the company to provide first of all benefit to the people from the company physical infrastructural development such as schools, hospitals, canals and reservoirs.

The second benefit for the people has been defined to be jobs to be provided by the company to the people and their children. The third benefit in line is integration of job. This should be understood that when the company builds a factory to process

city at Jroy Jangvar. Now that a new company has taken over in the project, it will build us the third overpass at Stoeng Meanjei crossing and canal. The company also has an obligation to build a new 27 million USD bridge to link Phnom Penh from the western side to the satellite city on the eastern side of Tonle Sap River.

After the third overpass taking shape, let's all wait and see where the fourth one will be. We have a master plan that was co-studied and assisted by France and JICA...■

their sugarcane, people in the area who cultivate rice may resort to cultivating sugarcane and selling them to the company too.

The company would then become the market for our farmers. Therefore, for every investment, the Royal Government always place high its thought and agenda on the people's loss and benefit.

Let me have your attention that there is no investment in the world that does not have impact on land use. In Malaysia, they grow rubber on 1.1 million hectares, in Thailand close to one million hectares, and in Vietnam 600,000 hectares of land. Some people have even fooled our people that investors will confiscate the Cambodian land.

How could foreigners confiscate land from us or to remove their rubber trees and ship them out? They will stay on Cambodian soil. Countries in the world are competing to get investment capital into their countries, why Cambodia always comes to problem? Some promised to confiscate land from the rich to give to the poor if they won the elections. What on earth are they talking about? It is their right to expression.

Hailing the Senate's Smooth Election

Today January 31, after the campaign ended on 29 January, I am here to give my public address again. On behalf of the Royal Government, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the efforts made by all level authorities and the armed forces in providing safety and security in the electoral campaign as well as the voting day for the Senate elections.

There has not been any noted violence whatsoever aside from the land conflict incident I mentioned above. I also thank all political parties contested in the elections – the Cambodian People's Party and the Sam Rainsy Party – for votes from four elec-

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Europe are back on track so as to alleviate impacts on Asia, Africa and Latin America. This would eventually reduce China's burden for the world and regional economy as well.

China has been helpful in this situation as it is sure that if the US and Europe are in chronic crisis, sooner or later there will be impacts on China too. When that happens, Cambodia will also be in a difficult state. Having said that I must say we are lucky to have a good friend. It is like what is said by HE Wen Jiabao, Chinese Premier, that to have a good neighbor is like having gold. I see his analogy is truly correct.

As in the case of Cambodia, (when there was war of aggression from the Thai army and Abhisit Government) between 2008 and July 2011, Cambodia did not have gold but mine. The situation has now improved somewhat but we could not conclude if we have gold or silver.

In the Summit in November in Bali, Indonesia, in the framework of ASEAN, Premier Wen Jiabao announced an additional 10 billion USD for ASEAN, of which 4 billion USD is concessional loans and 6 billion USD is loan for investments in ASEAN member countries.

One can see that not only Cambodia alone needs Chinese loan but every ASEAN member country does. Cambodia has filed four projects to the Chinese side through HE Ambassador of China for the four billion USD concessional loans for ASEAN.

Among the seven projects proposed to the Chinese friend, we are looking for financial assistance to enlarge the national road 6 from currently five meters to eleven meters from Kompong Cham's Skun to Siem Riep province. We are going to launch four lanes construction of the national road 6's segment - between Phnom Penh's Jroy Janva Bridge and the road junc-

tion to Prek Kadam. We also are working to extend the four lane condition from there on to Skun of Kompong Cham province.

Production in Mondulkiri, Northeast Zone - a New Economic Pole

It has been reported here that there are over ten thousand hectares of cassava grown in Mondulkiri, and the province harvested some 180,000 tons of cassava. It is a high yield. We also have rubber on 17,441 hectares, 10,043 hectares of which are companies' holding and 7,398 hectares are family size rubber plantations. Compared to 2010, there has been an increase of 5,776 hectares of rubber. I am so happy to see that on my way here, starting from the district of Kraek, Kompong Cham province, there grow endless fields of rubber and cassava.

According to the report of HE Chan Sarun, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the family rubber plantation has grown to almost 100,000 hectares in the whole country, while the privatized rubber plantation from former state companies was noted to be only 50,000 hectares. There are over 60,000 hectares of rubber plantation of companies with approved investment from the state.

As of now, to count in both industrialized and family size rubber plantation, we have altogether over 200,000 hectares. We have planned for the year 2020 to bring the rubber plantation to over 600,000 hectares.

I must affirm here that we all must make further efforts to continue to develop Mondulkiri, Ratanakiri, Stoeng Treng, Kratie and Preah Vihear's agro-industrial and mineral potentials into a new pole of economic development before the year 2020.

As of present, we have only three poles - Phnom Penh, Sihanoukville and Siem Riep. Once the good road connection is in place, I am sure the new economic pole will appear in the

northeast.

Land Conflict Incident in Snuol

As far as land conflict that led to the armed incident that wounded protesters on January 18, 2012, is concerned, along with the solution sought after by HE Mok Mareth, Minister for Environment, I am of the opinion that this incident should not have happened. I have placed order to HE Sar Kheng, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, to arrest the shooters for punishment. I would take this opportune moment to call on those who committed the crimes to report themselves to the authority as there is no way that they could escape justice.

The question is a search has to be conducted to find out why the company acquired rifle. As for the shooters, we also have their pictures.

The incident has been remorseful and such an act could not be forgiven. I have told HE Mok Mareth that in any land claimed by companies, they must stop wherever there is impact on people in the area. A solution must be sought after. However, the armed incident above not only sought for no solution but also caused problem.

I denounce such act and will not forgive. I am asking the TTY company to send the fugitives in so that justice could be done or the company itself would be the one to be held responsible.

I am asking Oknha Na Mardy to bring in the fugitives to the authority. I am sure you know them. If you do not send them in, you will have to be brought in for interrogation. That is the last option. There is no way that you could get by even if you are advisor to the Prime Minister.

If you do not act accordingly, I would strip you of your position as advisor too. I have written instruction to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries too that wherever land claiming appears to run into conflict

with the people, action must be stopped or the relevant company will have to be responsible for the consequences. If it is necessary, we could also take back the land given out as concession too.

The only thing I am asking from our people is that they should not be indulged by the game of "winning will get land, losing will get paid." If they all really need land, they should file a report to the Committee of Land Policy.

As is reported by HE Mok Mareth, there have been incidences that people are clearing land and some are occupying the land on other people's behalf.

I am placing a warning that no further land claiming is allowed and we should allow those who have cleared the land to have access to a size of five hectares of land (as is allowed by the law).

Anyone acquires more than that must register to lease it from the Royal Government like land on concession. We must register and issue land ownership for people to own up to five hectares of land claimed. We also seek our people's understanding not to sell the registered land and claim new land.

People Centered Investment and Development

It is not right to say that the Royal Government does not pay attention to the matter. As a matter of fact, people who claim land are not all from Snuol district alone but from Kompong Cham, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng, etc.

So I am asking our people to help the Royal Government by not being motivated and instigated to play the opposition's card of "winning would get land, losing would get paid."

There has been incident that over one night, in a certain place, there were one hundred homes set up and claimed to have been there for five years already.

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