



09 February 12 - Samdech Techo Hun Sen and senior Royal Government officials toured the new buildings and office facilities of the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (Kampuchea Thmey).

## Land Management's New Office Buildings

09 February 2012 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

### Land and Water Ministries Created Simultaneously

Maybe it is worth mentioning a bit about how the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC) came to existence. You may remember that it came to existence at the same time with the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology. As a candidate designated by the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee for the Prime Minister's position, after being elected, from my residence in Takhmao (city of Kandal province) I launched the creation of the two Ministries.

and Meteorology (MWRM). In 1994, people of Put Sar commune of Takeo province came to my house to seek intervention to save their rice fields from drought. I took the time to visit the fields. I even spent the night there.

I observed that we pursued inappropriate approach. We used to provide water pumps and irrigation facilities for farmers but because we shifted to free market economy in the post 1993 elections, all forms of state interventions were abandoned. It was a gross mistake that was imposed on farmers. With prompt intervention and restora-

I first decided to launch the Ministry of Water Resources

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## No More Fishing Contracting Zones

28 February 2012 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

*This is a part of the impromptu comments delivered by Samdech Techo during the graduation ceremony of the Cambodian Institute of Technology. For whole comments, please visit [www.cnv.org.kh](http://www.cnv.org.kh)*

suppress anarchic fishing by some. The message is for people all over the country and especially for those who live around the lake of Tonle Sap.

### Policy Decision on Fishing and Fishing Lots

Though I have some urgent matter to attend to, and it could be said to be irrelevant to the topic that I am presiding over today, I have a message to deliver on policy concerning fishing and fishing lots/areas in the Tonle Sap Lake. However, I take it that you all are consuming fish for protein requirement and there are many families living around the lake of Tonle Sap so you are waiting to hear policy decision of the Royal Government of Cambodia after the implementation of the Royal Government's order 001 to

Our people must be waiting to hear and see what is next in the Royal Government's agenda as far as the anarchic contracting and mismanagement of the fishing zones is concerned. For one, our people are waiting to hear if the Royal Government allows people formerly inaccessible fishing lots and to fish. For your information, formerly there was a clear boundary defining areas for people to fish from those designated to fishermen contractors. As of now the state's reserved fishing lots are no longer allowed to contract out. That is the reason why people are wondering if they could enter the designated zones and fish.

Secondly, there has been an ambiguity as far as the duration of postponement of the fishing zones is concerned. Samdech  
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## National Road 6 Made Four Lanes

14 February 2012 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

### 26-M Wide Four-Lane NR 6

It is a great pleasure for me to be able to join with all of our people for this groundbreaking ceremony to enlarge the national road (NR) 6 to four lanes from Kilometer Post 4 (to be continuing from the Phnom Penh Municipality's NR 6 enlargement project Site) through to Thnal Kaeng (in the province of Kompong Cham), which is 40.5 km. In just two weeks, HE Pan Guangxue and I have attended two major events - to put into official use the National Road 76 from Snuol of Kratie province to the city of Sen Monorom of Mondulhiri province. In the same event, we also laid to work the construction project for the remaining segment of the NR 76 from Sen Monorom to (Ta Ang of) the province of Ratanakiri too.

Fourteen days later, we are here to launch the enlargement project of the NR 6 to four-lane 26 meter width. Last year, Ambassador Pan Guangxue, the Chinese chargé d'affaires and I have presided over 11 major events for that matter. I would like to take this opportune moment to declare, at the request of HE Keat Chhon, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Economy and Finance, ending the existence of the national road segment 6A (before it was given to the segment of national road 6 from the bridge at Jroy Jangva to Thnal Kaeng of Kompong Cham province). As of now we have only national road 6, which runs from the bridge of Jroy Jangva in Phnom Penh through the provinces of Kandal, Kompong Cham,  
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Techo Hun Sen already said that the zones are to be left untouched for three years, till 2014, and people would really want to know what will happen after the said prohibition is over. I have the duty to declare and inform our people that in the lake of Tonle Sap, all 35 fishing zones – in the provinces of Kompong Chhonang, Pursath, Battambang, Siem Reap, Kompong and Thom, two others in Banteay Meajei will go on till end of contract - do not exist anymore. All of them are dissolved. The two in Banteay Meanjei will also be dissolved when the contract ends.

The meeting of inspectorate commission last month sought my approval on the proposed three different types of fishing lots – those for dissolving, those for conserving and those for go-on fishing. In recent days, there have been discussions, though not in the form of official meeting, to look into the research and investigation relating to this issue. The results also have been brought to HM's attention already last Friday. I also went on to seek for a final decision on the issue and the result is what I have just mentioned to you above.

#### Conserved Fish Species Zones

After we dissolve the fishing boundaries and lots, the Royal Government will define areas for conservation too as we could not ignore the need for fish to have its residential area for certain time of the year at all. We will define zones that are to be known as conserved fish species zones. There will be defined coordination of zones for various kinds of fish species. They need to be conserved so that these fished can spawn and reproduce. Deputy Prime Minister Bin Chhin will lead a meeting tomorrow to draft a sub-degree on this matter.

No one, state or private, has the rights to fish in the conserved fish species zones. Once they

spawned, grew bigger and migrated out of the defined zones, people at large can fish them. These zones will not be too large and will be placed under the management of the Fisheries Administration of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. In addition to that these zones normally are known to be habitats of birds of all kinds who feed themselves with fishes. So, in areas that are not going to be defined as fish species zones, will they be designated for fishing and who have the rights to do so? Please listen carefully as I make it clear for you there will no longer owners of so and so fishing lots anymore as they have been dissolved. People with household size tools will be the ones to catch fish there.

#### Putting out the Flame, a Policy of No Reversal

I no longer sit and blow the smoke away but rather extinguish the fire itself. In 2000, already we reformed the fishing lots as there were so many problems brought to our attention back then. The idea of reform since then was for the interest and benefit of the people and nothing less. At the time the state fishing zones were set too large that people in some areas could not go far from their house as they may be caught encroaching into the fishing zones. In a rescue mission from flooding, in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense HE Tia Banh and Minister of Trade HE Cham Prasidh, member of the National Assembly HE Sieng Nam told me about 16 people who were caught and put in custody for boating across the fishing zones.

As a Prime Minister I saw that should not be the case so I was determined then as I am now to initiate and see through the implementation of the reform of fishing and fishing lots in the lake of Tonle Sap. I then revoked the fishing lots in the district of Soat Nikum of the

province of Siem Reap, while enlarging the people's fishing area to a size of roughly 56% of the fishing area. The situation then improved not only about fishing and fishing lots but also between fishing lot contractors and those who need to preserve water in natural reservoir for the sake of growing rice. In 1995 I visited Svay Proteal of Troey Sla in the Sa Ang district of Kandal province with HE Lim Kean Hor, there were about five or six locals coming to see me and asking me for rifles. I asked them what they need rifles for. They said they need them to sort out differences with those fishing lot contractors.

Those people were angry that fishing lot contractors drained out water from the reservoirs for fish while people need to keep water in the reservoir for their rice cultivation. Similar incident also took place in Kompong Chhonang when I once allowed people to see me at the secondary school of Teb Pronom. People knelt down in front of me to beg my help for their need for water to cultivate rice while fishing contractors in the area drained it out. It is now the time to end all this. Once the fishing areas are given back to people, through the fishing communities, they will work out among themselves when to keep water for dry season rice cultivation and when to catch fish. People truly are in control of their destinies at local levels. This is what we say people are masters of their own fates.

However, in following years, incidents recurred when there were reports that fisheries businessmen, who contracted fishing lots from the state, had created access difficulties among local people. According to inspectorate reports, contractors in some fishing areas placed their traps from 800 meters to 1,000 meters, and even more. That created difficulties for people to travel through the lake. The time for people traveling in the boat to avoid the trapping area

could be consuming and in case of urgency, perhaps some people might face life-threatening circumstances. These fishery contractors had made themselves big bosses of fishing lots in the lake of Tonle Sap. They set up themselves secessionist zones. The Royal Government could take them no more and would not leave our people to continue to suffer.

As a matter of fact, in some instances, people were sued for crossing their fishing zones. It was secessionist practice indeed as they could arrest people and send them to the court. Shall we leave the situation to deteriorate to what it was before we confiscate the fishing lots or shall we put an end to it once and for all? There was a matter brought to my attention by Judge Jiv Keng and I was shocked to learn only then that the river of Sen in Kompong Thom became a fishing zone and people taking bath on either side of the river were in fact in the fishing zones.

It is in this note and commitment that I am determined to take action and will not back out. It is not to be a reversal. Those who would like to have a reversal in this matter would have to wait until I leave my position or when the Cambodian People's Party lost the people's support. Only then other political parties may reinstate the fishing lots/zones again. As an oath in my life, this policy that I issue and see through the implementation will not be altered in any case by the Cambodian People's Party, no matter who would take it over.

Like the policy of tax free for farmlands, which came into effect since 1979, in 1991 I declared it before the signing of the Paris Peace Agreement so that we could prevent those who would be joining us from thinking of taxing people of their farmlands. The policy has been in force for 33 years now. I would continue to guarantee

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tion of main canals, perhaps from that time on that there was this saying “it is better to harvest rice in inundated rice field than to have no rice to harvest.”

At that time, the authority to deal with irrigation was Department of Hydrology under the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). We then upgraded the department to General Directorate of Hydrology. However, being under the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, its mandate and ability to deal with irrigation and hydraulic works in general was constrained by financial hierarchy. I then prepared for the establishment of the Ministry of Water Resource and Meteorology with HE Lim Kean Hor designated as Minister.

As for the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC), its establishment also arose from the fact that there had been various issues relating to land ownership and tenures, which would not be covered by the MAFF. The attention was THEN forwarded to the attention of the Council of Ministers. There was also this issue of construction, as far as I could recall, we had a General Directorate of Construction headed by HE Ti Yao. There was an attempt after the 1993 elections to group it with Public Works, which I disagreed. I then instructed HE Im Chhun Lim, then Secretary of State for Interior, to look into the establishment and operation of the MLMUPC.

Therefore there is no such thing as which of the two exist before the other but roughly same time and I am responsible for their establishments. In fact, the MWRM should have been established since the early 1980s, however, we could not afford to deal with lack of or inappropriate hydraulic infrastructural and irrigation facilities. It is thanks

to the establishment of MWRM that we have increased coverage of irrigated rice fields from between 60 and 70 thousands hectares to over one million hectares now using both state and external source funding. I am sure you agree with me that this achievement would not have happened if it was left to be handled by a General Directorate under the MAFF.

#### Ministerial, not Personal Approval

It is indeed true that in each ministry there are various expertise involved. Take for instance in the MAFF, there need to have expertise in forestry, fisheries, hydrology, agronomy, animal husbandry, etc. It is also the case that when I am Prime Minister, my area of interest and attention has been to resolve all these issues for farmers. However, there is no guarantee that when someone else becomes Prime Minister, for better or for worse, s/he would do what Hun Sen did.

It is also a matter of concern that when one Minister is too concentrated on his/her area of expertise, leaving other related matters unattended. Sometimes it is the case that the Minister of Water Resources is putting every effort into his works regarding water but pay no attention at all to issues related like agronomy or animal husbandry. It is in this situation that as a leader I used to mention about being comprehensive and not focusing to only one area of attention. Everything should be prioritized.

Take for instance, the law on the establishment of the MLMUPC. It was clearly the case that we then made a law to fit with the overall development of the Ministry in function. I would say to trim of one's feet to fit into shoes. It was written then that “*all constructions must be approved by the Minister in charge of urbanization.*” It was wrong that the process must be placed under one person's deci-

sion while it should be the Ministry to approve it. With this written, the law would find itself inapplicable when the position of Senior Minister in Charge of Urbanization was no longer in place. What had happened could be considered the very mistake out of lack of experience and vision. We have already amended the situation and the writing already though.

#### Office Exchanges - Swapping Horses

Ministries and establishments set up after the liberation, one should recall, were mostly located in flat building in Phnom Penh. In those days, the late HE Taing Sarim, who then led the Phnom Penh Military Committee, did not set up office in the current Municipal of Phnom Penh. He chose to stay at the current Council of Ministers, where Ieng Sary (Khmer Rouge Foreign Minister) worked. Samdech Chea Sim, who then led the Ministry of Interior, chose to set up the Ministry of Interior at the current location of Ministry of Education because it was close to his house.

I had the privilege of taking control of the river front area while the old “Building” part was controlled by Keo Chenda's cultural arts and performance department. I noticed then the Buddhist Schools and I administered the two compounds across the street to train diplomatic staff and officials.

After the formation was over, people were still afraid having to pick out a house to stay on their own. Out of fear of being in quiet parts of the ghost city of Phnom Penh, it was general case that more than one family decided to share a house. As new situation arrives, we have to return the School of Buddhism to the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Cult, and build a new office building and compound where HE Hor Nam Hong is working nowadays.

After the liberation we set up

various committees – the (People's) Committee for Agriculture led by Noa Samom, the Committee for Education led by Chan Ven, the Committee for Health led by Nu Beng, the Committee for Economy and Living Condition led by Mok Sokun, the Committee for Trade led by Taing Sarim, the Committee for Industry led by Meas Samnang and the Committee for Telecommunication led by HE Khun Tchi. These committees later called themselves Ministries. We also had the Committee for Finance and Banking, led by Ja Rieng. Later on there was also this Committee of Social Affairs led by Sam Bun.

What were we going to do to cater to demand for working spaces? In some cases, as the buildings were already in degraded condition plus some thirty years in service after the liberation, it is indeed calling for consideration. Every ministry is in need for alteration or construction of working space. The Ministry of Information collapsed. If we were to place our money all in building the needed institutions, how would we go about paying for roads, bridges, canals, schools and hospitals? The situation led us to swapping horses or to exchange the old office buildings for new ones. Through these exchanges, the state asset value did not lose anyway. As in the case of Ministry of Trade, the new office location now is increasing its value.

I would urge the Ministry of Economy and Finance to conduct a comparative study on exchange of assets between private and public sector. If it would not incur loss of value, but allow the state's institutions to have better spaces and buildings, or if we are sure that a horse would be traded for a horse that could be stronger, let's strike the deal.

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There is nothing odd about that. It is a common practice found in Malaysia and China, perhaps in various other countries too. In Malaysia, they will build a new city and we also have to find money to build a new embassy there too. In China's [Guizhou](#), where HE Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China used to serve as Party Secretary, they decided to build a completely new city. I wondered how they could find money to do that. They said they sold old buildings in old city and build a new one elsewhere.

### **Background Story of MLMUPC Office Buildings**

As far as this place is concerned, in fact it was one of the properties that were under my control and responsibility. I was Minister of Foreign Affairs. The houses on this land were administered by the Department of Diplomatic Corp's Assistance. It was then residence and offices of the Embassy of Hungary. HE Ung Huot, then first Prime Minister, chose this place to be his residence. I apologize to HE Ung Huot for what I have to say now about setting up a residence for incumbent Prime Minister. I have been Prime Minister for a period that is longer than his. I also thought of establishing official residences for the Prime Minister, Head of State and President of the National Assembly, too.

However, our ability could not allow us to. HE Ung Huot requested to take this place and set up his residence. I said to him to think hard on it. His tenure of Prime Minister was only more than ten months, then why should they make intensive investment in building residence for the first Prime Minister? Worse still, at the time we also had not paid salary for civil servants, armed forces at the start of Asian financial crisis as well as in a condition that we just came out of armed clashes on July 5-6 in Phnom Penh.

We had to purchase the French Peugeot and Japanese motorcycles for bodyguards for the first Prime Minister. There was also a swimming pool too. I wonder, I apologize to HE Ung Huot, if that was not a partial cause of his electoral loss in 1998. There was this sentence written by Benny Widiono (author of *Dancing in Shadows*) that the votes won by HE Ung Huot were less than the number of his photos. I thought that we should have at the time tried to stay united and paid more attention for the living condition of the people.

This is what you should know about the story of the place where the new office building of the MLMUPC is on. This has brought me to a suggestion that in case of change of Minister, maybe it is not worthwhile to start changing chairs and tables right away. I noted in 1993 that after the elections and formation of the Royal Government, wives of various ministers visited their husbands' offices and ordered for new furniture, curtain, while moving their desks around according to Feng Shui geomancy.

### **Work Efficiency Sought**

As we also will have the office building for the Ministry of Environment to be completed soon, I wish to have your attention that it is important that we all seek for work efficiency. Well, you know that the Ministry of Environment was formerly the house of HE Ros Samay. It was first of all offered for the commencement of the Ministry of State Affairs Inspection led by Minister HE Sim Ka. The Ministry was later led by Kung Kuam, who is currently Vice President of Sam Rainsy Party. He was one of the CPP's officials but he is now making the worst insult too. I am calling him to be considerate because after all I never detest him in any way.

He had a house at the Samdech Paan Road in Phnom Penh.

Upon returning from his ambassadorial post in Hanoi, he took in another house, where the Sam Rainsy Party Headquarter is now, without asking for Minister's approval. He then claims that he is not a greedy person. If what he said is true, he may choose to return the house. He obtained a house like others in those days, how could he pass the blame on others and not on himself? I just wanted to make this known to many who may not have the background story.

For the sake effective process of negotiation (for political settlement of the Cambodian problem), there was a need to see through the reorganization of a team in I had to back the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs along with HE Tia Banh, then Minister of Public Works and Transports, taking the post of defense. It was in this situation that Kong Kuam was transferred from then Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Ministry of State Affairs Inspection. He was also member of the CPP Central Committee and resigned in 1992.

As far as office buildings are concerned, during the visit in 2004 to my working office, Vice Premier Wu Yi of the People's Republic of China exclaimed about condition of my then office. Seeing that the Chinese friends offered to help us build the Friendship Building of the Council of Ministers. I told her that I wanted to save money to help our people and to seek for work efficiency. Premier Wen Jiabao came and launched the construction for the Friendship building of the Council of Ministers and also the Komjai Hydropower Plant. Now that we have good office buildings, we must place high priority on efficiency.

### **Warning on AKP and National Library Buildings**

I also have the need to place a warning on two issues that I do not wish to see them happening again. One is the office of the

Agence Khmer de Press (AKP) building of the Ministry of Information. It was proposed to me twice by Minister of Information - HE Khieu Kanharith. It was not his intention and therefore it was false. The building seems to be wanted by many companies. I instructed to HE Kheiu Kanharith that he no longer submit such request to me or he may have to resign. To those who are interested in having the building (of AKP), HE Khieu Kanharith can show the instruction and tell them even if you do not resign, he (the Prime Minister) would remove you anyway.

I also have a message for HE Him Chhem of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts. It was about the request to swap the National Library. It is unbelievable. The latest request seemed to have sought for leasing some 3,000 square meters of the National Library compound. I said no. I am warning against any extremes.

The Ministry of Economy and Finance, the National Bank, the Ministry of National Defense and the Office of the Commander in Chief – though some of them are not in full use – they are to be conserved as historical places. We allowed for swapping the buildings only when the Ministries dwell in buildings that were not official buildings before.

As far as this development is concerned, I mentioned once that before June 20, 1977, I was a piece of algae in a huge lake that was swept in any direction with the current and by wind. After the June 20, 1977, I became a lake with lots of algae and fishes in it. I therefore am familiar of major, if not all issues, relating to my life.

### **Public and Private Sectors – Engines for Growth**

I wish to talk a bit about this need to complement the roles

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between public and private sectors as partners for growth. The private sector is engine of national growth. In it, social and economic land concessions are major issues.

I have a feedback, true or not I could not verify yet, that as far as the incident at Snuol is concerned, after resolving the incidental conflict, there has been a report that some twenty houses or so were built overnight (in conflicted area). If they go on doing that there would be more problems.

Eventually, any development thereof would be hard to hold the company responsible. People should be warned that such act is an abuse on the company and therefore the state land.

Once again, I would appeal to all to refrain from applying the trick of those in opposition that “they may get land if they win, they may get money if they lose.” Some criticized the Royal Government of being late to order an arrest, while in fact, the Minister of Interior did his duty since day one. However, because we were in the Senate electoral campaign, I could not make public announcement. There was a written authorization indeed. Maybe those in the civil society should give a second thought on what they had to say. They may know well their interest but this issue required study of all relevant and comprehensive factors. Our ministers have those abilities.

On 17 February 2012, there will be a meeting between the non-governmental organizations involved in the flood disaster assistance and the Royal Government at the Peace Building of the Council of Ministers. It is like a cabinet meeting. There will be a VDO link to all related institutions and provinces.

We need to invite foreign embassies related to share their views. These NGOs are the

ones that really worked to ensure the basic human rights – the rights to life and food. There will be a discussion as to why there are more deaths in Cambodia from the flood disaster than in our neighboring countries.

It is also my wish to meet with those NGOs as well. I would like the NGOs who will be participating in the flood disaster situation to talk freely and fearlessly about their hardships and operations to provide assistance. They may also present facts about their cooperation with the armed forces and the local authorities at all levels.

### Growth in Constructions and Tourists

I am so impressed by the figure of growth provided in relation to construction. As is said by HE Im Chhun Lim, Minister for LMUPC, in 2011, there are 2,129 approved construction projects at the current market price investment cost of 1,734 million USD. In 2010, we had 2,149 projects with the total cost of 840 million USD. This has shown a growth of 106%. I strongly believe that in 2012 there is going to be more constructions – either in factory, hotel or housing.

As far as the house construction is concerned, soon after we have this law that permits foreign citizen to co-own the building, there have been 281 foreign nationals who purchased 670 units. You may agree that this means money comes into Cambodia from foreign destinations. One factor that no one can deny is that they believe Cambodia is in peace and stability. Cambodia is no longer an isolated country.

Taking this opportune moment I would like to instruct staff to proceed accordingly and without prolongation to approve the construction requests. Approval to request for construction permission must be processed immediately. There used to be

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Sim’s and Samdech Heng Samrin’s houses. They were close to come check my house too. The person then also held the post of Defense Minister while he had none of his own force. He even claimed that Samdech Chea Sim and Samdech Heng Samrin were his soldiers. Well, that was some facts from the recent history of Cambodia. He was in fact a soldier in the Vietnamese army. It is ridiculous that this guy, while claiming he hates Vietnam, married a Vietnamese. In his written memoir, there is only one correct fact – Hun

ideas that here and there the construction of a new building should not reach any height taller than the Royal Palace, the Council of Ministers, etc. I then made it my policy that anyone to build a skyscraper in Phnom Penh would be presented with medals. As long as they are not in flight routes, we have no concern about any height they may go.

The same is true for filling lakes. In the past there had been lake fillings in various places in Phnom Penh – Boeng Prolit, Poeng Tumpun, etc. but why it is not possible for us now to fill any lakes at all. When we do not do anything they will say we are no good because we could not do anything. We have to exercise conservation in buildings like the National Library, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Ministry of National Defense, the Custom House, etc. But in some places, such buildings already collapsed. To conserve those buildings would take a lot of resources and where can we find them?

We have aimed to achieve 2,700,000 tourists to visit Cambodia last year. Now we have come to a figure of 2,880,000 tourists or close to three millions. It should be noted as well that many Cambodians, around 60 or 70,000 people are making tours to foreign destinations...■

Sen arrested him at his house, while all else are lies. While claiming to be the father of January 7 the person also claimed to be patriotic and anti Vietnamese. To everybody’s account, he was brought up by Vietnam since 1954, after the Geneva Conference (April 26 – July 20, 1954). Why he is not ashamed of himself? How could he not change? This proves that arresting him was not an incorrect thing to do.

Regarding the heavy security measures taken prior to July 1997, as I see that HE Serey Kosal is here, I may bring up one thing in the past. HE Serey Kosal already mentioned in an interview the other day about gathering 150 Khmer Rouge soldiers in the Samdech Paan area of Phnom Penh. They moved out from the residence of Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranaridh to open fire on the late National Police Chief Hok Lundy’s house. Serey Kosal’s speech was also incorporated into the reportage of AP-SARA TV about DIFID (Divide, Isolate, Finish, Integrate and Develop) strategy. Now you see how bad it was.

HE Li Thuch, who is now also a member of the CPP, said in English to the press at the time of incident, and we can see that on tape, that Hun Sen was killed by the bodyguard already. That was indeed a plan by Ho Sok (then Secretary of State for Interior), who raised ducks behind my house. It was a wrong political move when they keep one hand in the Royal Government (being Government partner) but another hand with the Khmer Rouge related plot for insecurity.

It is now the past but I also warn some people to be cautious in what s/he has to say. We have facts and documentation to prove their actions and to support our arguments and claims. I brought these matters up because they are concerning with national security...■

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Kompong Thom, Siem Reap to Banteay Meanjei's Serei Saophan.

The road was named 6A as it was built under the popular socialist society of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk when the bridge at Jroy Jangva was built. The segment from Thnal Kaeng to Prek Kadam will then be named NR 61. Ambassador Pan Guangxue mentioned in his speech just now, I am so grateful for it, that the Chinese side is considering the provision of loan support for the project to enlarge the remaining segment of 260 km of the NR 6 into four lanes for Cambodia. This means that the NR 6 and bridges along will be upgraded to four lanes in the future.

#### **400 Million USD for Seven Projects**

I am so proud and happy to see that our country are changing everyday through the construction of infrastructures – both with own efforts and assistances provided by friends. The People's Republic of China, particularly, has been providing the most and we have so many projects that are undergoing together. This NR 6 four-lane project is the result of the visit of HE Xi Jinping, Vice President of the People's Republic of China to the Kingdom of Cambodia in 2009, at which time the 400 million USD agreements were signed for seven projects. To include the study for enlarging the NR 5 (Phnom Penh to Battambang and on to Banteay Meanjei provinces) into four lane project, it should count to be eight projects in all.

You may have noticed that it is not what some people think that we sign a deal today and will get the money the same day. We went into agreement in 2009 and the money has been disbursed for project funding in parts.

Last Friday, the Cabinet meet-

ing looked into the paper on preparing strategy to manage foreign debt for the period from 2011 through to 2018. As is stated in the paper, though we have accumulated so much fund, we have not used it all yet. Including the Chinese financial assistance, we have so far used only 60% of what have been agreed on loan. This four-lane NR 6 project is a good example as it was agreed upon since 2009 and it actually happened only today.

#### **Economic Value to Cambodia's Judgment**

What concerns here is that the seven-meter wide national road, which was good for 1960s, 1970s or 1980s, is no longer applicable to the need for transportation. Though some of the roads have been enlarged to eleven meter width in 1990s, we still find them to be limited in response to the need. It is on this note that for certain length, the National Roads 5 and 6 out and around the capital of Phnom Penh must be enlarged to four lane roads aimed at addressing the need for high traffic volume.

During my trip to accompany HM the King to the province of Monduliri, I noticed that we have a good national road 8 with eleven meter width but we have conditions to be improved at the national road 11 – also present were Senior Minister HE Sun Chanthol, HE Im Chhunlim (Minister of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction), HE Mok Maret (Minister of Environment), HE Tia Banh (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense), HE Sar Kheng (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior), HE Chan Sarun (Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries), HE Chea Sophara (Minister of Rural Development) - where bridges need to be rebuilt to larger size, and efforts must be made to accumulate fund to enlarge the road thereafter.

Returning from Monduliri province, I sought the time to meet with President of the China Exim Bank (Export-Import Bank of China) and invite him to a dinner, which is totally unusual as I only dine with counterpart guests, where Ambassador Pan Guangxue was also present. I found it important to sit with the President of the Bank as he is the one who manages both bilateral and ASEAN-related loans.

China has so far earmarked loans of ten billion USD for ASEAN countries, four billion USD of which is preferential buyer's credit loan. China has moved away from its previous defining quota for countries to have access the fund. China now declares to work on no quota as some among the ASEAN ten members may not need to borrow money from China.

Regarding quota and proportion of population, a country like Cambodia would have a meager portion to the fund. It is a good thing that now China makes it first come first served. Therefore, I am privileged to inform the Chinese friend that Cambodia is submitting seven more projects calling for five hundred million USD, in which the four-lane enlargement of NR 6 from Thnal Kaeng to Siem Reap city is its priority.

In my meeting with the China Exim Bank's President I told him about the significant role the NR 6 plays in the Cambodian economy. I also exchanged with him about the care and consideration of the Chinese leaders – HE Li Peng, HE Ju Rongji, and HE Wen Jiabao – who always place high respect for and make effort to positively respond to Cambodia's request for (financial) assistance of economic benefits. China always responds to projects judged to be Cambodia's priority.

**Chinese Assistance for**

#### **Cambodian Connectivity**

Now we should look into how the Chinese assistance helps connect Phnom Penh capital to the country's northeastern area. I brought this to your attention for you to understand background efforts and stories. In fact the Chinese have helped us on local/internal infrastructure as well as infrastructural connectivity with neighboring countries. As for Cambodia, let's look into it, China has come to providing us with assistance in all directions – from north to south and east to west, so to speak.

As far as the northern part of the country is concerned, the Chinese assistance provides us with the forthcoming Cambodian-Chinese Friendship Bridge at Jroy Jangva, the Cambodian-Chinese Friendship Bridge at Prek Tamak, the NR 8, which connects to the border with Vietnam and also to the NR 7. To another direction, from the Cambodian-Chinese Friendship Bridge at Jroy Jangva, we will have the Chinese loan for the four-lane NR 6 from Phnom Penh to Thnal Kaeng and, in the future, to Siem Reap city. From Thnal Kaeng, the Chinese loan gets us the NR 61 to Prek Kadam too. You may notice that from Prek Kadam back to Phnom Penh, which I mentioned earlier, we are calling for help from the Chinese friend to make a segment of NR 5 into four-lanes too.

Before reaching to Siem Reap city, we also have the almost completed NR 62 from Kompong Thom province to Preah Vihear province's Tbeng Meanjei city. We already put into official use the national road from Tbeng Meanjei city to the temples of Preah Vihear and Koh Ker. This road, you may agree, is very important given its connectivity around this part of the Tonle Sap Lake as it could well be imagined to be a tail bending dragon or a "green dragon" according to Ambassa-

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dor Pan Guangxue's prediction. The year of the dragon, according to the Cambodian observation, there could be another big flood. I would advise the Shanghai Construction (Group) General Company to pay attention while building this road and bridges –we have 23 bridges to be enlarged and three new bridges to be built along existing ones - as the NR 6 is lying along the flood thrust.

We also will have a road from Preah Vihear to Thalaborovat of Stoeung Treng province, from where we have the link by NR 7 either on to the border with Laos or back down to Phnom Penh. This has clearly connected Cambodia locally north, northeast and east.

As far as the northwest area is concerned, we have the NR 57, 57B and 59 which is linking Kon Damrey to Mealay and on to Pailin. To the west, we also have the NR 41 which connects the main NR 4 through to Kompot province. The China Exim Bank's President affirmed the other day that we also can have the NR 44 which will be the fourth road on the right hand side of the main NR 4 at Kompung Speu's Jbar Mon district. I think we should speed up the project formulation and negotiation with the Chinese friend, and hopefully we could get a portion of the four billion USD for at least one road, etc.

### Ensuring Atmosphere for Elections

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, please allow me to take a bit of time to remind authorities of all levels about the busy schedules and works of the National Elections Committee, which on one front is in the process of ballot counting and proceeding to announce the electoral results of the Senate, and on another front, on June 3, 2012, to deal with the communal council universal elections. All political parties to run in the elections will have to

come up with their communal councilor candidates lists by March 1 to the latest. As today is February 14, we have only 15 days more.

I am calling on all local authorities and armed forces to make everything they can to ensure a favorable atmosphere for all political parties to run in a free, fair and just election. Eventually, the Cambodian People's Party is in the process of organizing nationwide caucuses in all 1,633 communes throughout the country to evaluate the work fulfilled so far according to the communal development plan for 2007-2012 and to work out goals and objectives of the plan for 2012 through to 2017.

The Cambodian People's Party local caucuses are also conducting pilot elections to figure out the best candidates to run in the communal councilor elections. It is seen to be the Party's democratic process. The Cambodian People's Party, while there is maybe a different practice from others, offers chances for candidates to compete. The result of the pilot elections will then help the ordering of candidacy in the party list for each commune.

### Thanks to Those Involved

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation through HE Pan Guangxue to the Government and people of the People's Republic of China for the assistance they kindly offered to Cambodia. It is equally important to value the magnificent bond of relations between Cambodia and China which was built by previous generation leaders – Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and leaders Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai and Liu Shaoqi, etc. I could remember standing by the road side welcoming, when I was young, the visit of Liu Shaoqi to Cambodia. I thank the Ministries of Transports and Public Works and Economy and Finance as well as all concerned local au-

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to control weapons and persons who had the authority to carry ones. We then had issues of armed robberies, kidnappings, etc. It was so serious and complicated for a solution. I never expected that happened as I always believed that they, who had western education, would be bringing in to Cambodia civilized practices. I never thought or imagined they could be the ones to bring in dishonorable actions. Also this is our past experience that all of you who graduate today from the national police academy as well as those who will go on with your training and study here need to know. It was a hard-won achievement considering what we have today.

### Response to Academic Needs

HE Ma Choen already mentioned this point in his address which he not only illustrated efforts and achievements scored by the national police academy but also directed our attention to what else – physical requirements, so to speak such as teaching/studying tools, lab, classrooms, hostels, shooting practice range - that needs to be

thorities of the three provinces where the project will run through. I may as well thank the Shanghai Construction (Group) General Company, one of China's prestigious construction companies, to make this road with standard and beauty as those of Shanghai's that I have seen. I thank the Chinese embassy and all concerned authorities for the facilitation they provided so that this construction ceremony could happen today. I am seeking Cambodian people's understanding, especially those who are residing along the project site, for the difficulties and inconveniences the project may incur on their living condition. It is to everyone's experience and knowledge that once the NR 6 is done, the direct benefit will come to those of you living along it...■

done for this academy.

As is said in my recommendation, and HE Sar Kheng, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Interior also is aware of it, we have had budget constraint in the past years as we needed to divert some funding for immediate border defense purposes. This year we also have a number of major items to spend on – organizing the ASEAN summits and related meetings and the Senate and communal council elections. We also had to deal with heavy flooding too.

However, I would urge the Ministry of Economy and Finance to figure out if there could be any possibility for the construction of the Academy's building to go on. I am sure that we have a tight budget and I am not certain at all if it is going to be possible any time soon. As far as shooting range is concerned, there would not be a possibility to set it up here. Therefore I have two suggestions for the Ministry of Interior and the National Police Academy to consider.

Firstly, find a plot of land elsewhere to set up the shooting range for practice. Secondly, police in training could go and practice shooting at the military or bodyguard shooting ranges. The issue remains is the construction of a multipurpose hall like the one we built for the Royal Agricultural University at Jamkar Dong or National Institute of Education. I would cover the cost of building the hall and perhaps all of our dignitaries here could cover the cost for equipping it with basic furniture and air conditioning. We will name this hall after Samdech Akka Moha Dhamma Pothisal Chea Sim so that everyone will remember him always to be the one who first establish the Cambodian national police force.

### Historic Facts

General Nieng Phat was then ordered to carry out the task and he went to Samdech Chea

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## Graduation of National Police

02 February 2012 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

### Founding National Police Force

Let me clarify this point here. The army was established on the same day that we set up the United Front of the Salvation of Kampuchea (Cambodia), that was prior to the day that we overthrew the regime of Pol Pot's genocide. As far as law and order is concerned, measures were taken after the establishment of the provisional government, which was then called the Kampuchean Revolutionary Council (KRC).

You may be reminded that Samdech Akka Moha Dhamma Pothisal Chea Sim, the current President of the Senate, was the one who brought the national police force into being. I was then Minister for Foreign Affairs in the KRC. The person who had to start from scratch in forming the national police force was Samdech Chea Sim.

With just a few people – HE Sin Song, Mat Ly, etc, Samdech Chea Sim started the national police formation. Now we have the national police in the whole country. You can imagine how difficult it was to get national police force established throughout the country. In the course of carrying out the task, there was this fact in our history Samdech Chea Sim's house was ordered to be checked, and I am sure General Nieng Phat remembers that. They found in Samdech Chea Sim's diary the plan to build up the national police force throughout the country.

The person who ordered investigation on Samdech Chea Sim's house brought the matter to the meeting. I then rebuked him with my argument that how someone could fulfill his function and duty when s/he was given the task to set up the national police but not allowed to recruit force. What is unbelievable is that this person continues to preach these today, despite

everything he did, that he was the father of the January 7 victory day.

### Getting Rid of Improper Security Measures

On this point, I also have some facts to remind us all about the recent history between 1993 and 1997 that we all went through. You may have remembered that then in Phnom Penh there were heavy security measures taken by various leaders. The whole city was plagued with armed men. Even in coffee shop, people did not feel secure because of those arms. Leaders in those days created an armed situation beyond anyone could imagine.

In the past prior to the specified period above, Samdech Chea Sim, Samdech Heng Samrin and myself included, in my capacity as Prime Minister, never had siren guiding vehicles running before our cars. However, after 1993 (when the first UN supervised general elections was held) leaders (from other factions) created a completely different security environment, in which a leader's vehicle was led siren car, security cars behind and also motorcycles. HE Nhek Bun Chhay, Deputy Prime Minister is here to confirm if it was not so.

As far as I could recall, Nguon Suor was the one who started it all up in the Ministry of Interior. Ho Sok was another one who always had his bodyguard carrying B 40 rocket launcher around wherever he was. This heavy security measures had brought about an armed clash situation (in 1997). After the incident, implementing my eight-point order, which I declared in Sihanoukville province's Prey Nub, we have collected and destroyed over 30,000 rifles.

Though there was heavy armed security for leaders, it was hard

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that as long as the Cambodian People's Party is in power, this policy would be upheld. It would otherwise be a different matter if it other political parties were to be in power. They may think of taxing farmlands and give fishing lot contracts to fishery businessmen again. Though the sub-decree has yet to be issued, the political will and commitment will not back-track.

### State Loses Income, People Earn More

Well, there have been rounds of discussion before I declare it today in my capacity as Prime Minister. With correct policy, the fishery catches this year have improved. We have more fish to catch and caught more fishes. We have yet to close the fishing season, but as of the moment of speaking, some 445,000 tons of fishes have been caught or 40,000 tons more than the previous year. What is to be noted here is that the one who caught those fishes were not fishery contractors but household fishermen. The state is ready to lose return of the fishing contracts for our people to be able to fish freely for life.

According to the study by HE Aun Poan Munirath, Secretary of State for Economy and Finance, and my advisor, because of the increase in the amount of fish caught, the price of fish has fallen down, bringing down with it the inflation rate from what was expected to be around 6%. So abundance of fish catch in this case placed money in our people's pockets. From this time on the lake territory is under state's control and people are allowed to catch fish, except in conserved fish species zones.

I just learned that each fishing lot did not give us much money. Like the fishing lot number 1 in the Sen River of Kompong Thom, the contracting price was 80 million Riel (20,000 USD). We have started from zero GDP in 1979/80 to now over 13 bil-

lion USD, whereas our capital reserve has shot up from nil to over 3 billion USD. Why should we need to collect these minor incomes? Let's give it out to the people. *It is true we lose some state's income but we give more money to people's pockets.* People are happier and there will be lesser problems for us to resolve as they will be sorting out their interest themselves.

We also have this Tonle Sap Lake Authority, which is an inter-institutional and inter-provincial authority grouped with various coordinating ministries – Water Resources and Meteorology, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Environment, etc. I would urge local offices of these ministries to take high responsibilities together with the Fisheries Administration, who could be considered as justice police in this matter and area.

I would like to take this opportunity to place an appeal to all to refrain from illegally importing small-hole nets and all police and custom officers in all entrances must control strictly. I also call on all to preserve the inundated forest as this year's experience has showed us that fish population does increase not only in the lake of Tonle Sap basin but also along the Mekong River – both upstream and downstream. I hope what our old saying goes “where there is water there is fish” to become true again. So it is important that we defend the inundated forest for fish to breed and spawn, protect and conserve the fish species zones.

At the same time, I also called to Deputy Prime Minister HE Yim Chhay Ly to advise him to discuss with HE Chan Sarun on irregular price bidding for fishing lots, which led to the annulment of the biddings for fishing lots in the provinces of Prey Veng and Kompong Cham. I am of the opinion that those lots should also be dissolved ...■