

Cambodia New Vision

Issue 94

<http://www.cnv.org.kh>

November, 2005

07 November 2005 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Inaugurating New Buildings in the College of Pursat



07 November 05—Samdech Hun Sen was warmly greeted by the people of Pursath upon his arrival to inaugurate the new buildings in the Province of Pursath.

In his trip to inaugurate the new building in the College of Pursat in the province of Pursat, Samdech Hun Sen gave a speech from which comments are being selected and translated as follows:

... It is our pleasure that my wife and I are here today to inaugurate a two story building of ten classrooms that is a donation from HE Suy Sem and Chum Teav Chea Kheng to the College of Pursat (CoP). In just one year's time I have come four times to the province of Pursat – first I came at the time when the province suffered a severe drought at the end of November of 2004, in which trip I also visited the commune of Santre and the Ba Kaan hydraulic dam. My second trip here was on March 8th, 2005 – the International Women's Day, in which I also went to Santre to observe the irrigation construction in the place and to observe the one in Damnak Ampel. In

early September, I came once again and offered a 138 meters Bailey bridge over the river of Kravanh. And again today, I am here with my wife to put into use the new building for the CoP.

... On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia and on my own and my wife's behalf, I wish to express our sincere thanks to HE Suy Sem and Madame for the efforts they made for the sake of human resource training and development. I think that if we compare where we are now to 1979, we have been going quite a distance away from there, where this place witnessed ragtag buildings, which were no different to situations elsewhere in the country under the Khmer Rouge's Pol Pot regime. Having pursued the approach of joining hands between state and private in rebuilding the country, as well as

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29 November 2005 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Honoring the Graduates of European Union Institute

Presiding over the graduation ceremony at the European Union Institute, Samdech Hun Sen made comments on issues of poverty, border treaty, and gangsters. Following comments are being selected to illustrate the PM's views on the topics.

... I wish to talk a little bit today as we have finished a major part of our works regarding the issues of border treaty, which to my understanding, is going to be signed by HM the King

Norodom Sihamoni tomorrow. It is a bit unusual this time as all the leaders of the legislatives and the executives will have to sign the treaty all together. It is good, however, since this is a decision of a big family. I am grateful to all the supports given to me in fulfilling this very important task for our nation. It would be useless to be a Prime Minister without the courage to make a decision on the matter. It is now time for us to have a clear borderline and to

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19 November 2005 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Inaugurating & Building NR 5 & 6 Roads and Bridges

Two days after the Water Festival, Samdech Hun Sen went to the province of Seam Riep to inaugurate and to launch the groundbreaking ceremony of roads 5 and 6, and 76 and 68, etc. where he talked about roads achievements, road 48 and the rail in the framework of ACMECS, and the cooperation between CPP and FUNCINPEC.

... I am very pleased to join our Buddhist monks, national and international guests as well as our people in the district of Puok of the province of Siem Reap at the inauguration and groundbreaking ceremony of roads with credits of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). I wish to take this opportune moment to seek an apology for the fact that I have come in rather late in initiating the road construction of this part. Procedure taken in concluding a deal to renovate the road from Siem

reap to Poi Pet could be a lively example on how to solve issues relating to removing residences along the projected areas. Despite the fact that it has taken a lot of our time, I still see that it is better to have it at last. I am glad to have come today.

... HE Sun Chan Thol, Minister of Transports and Public Works, already mentioned the histories involved in the efforts of renovating this road, and our aim to have a road of 368 Kilometers around the lake of Tonle Sap. I am glad that the current ADB representative to Cambodia has informed everyone concerned about its decision to offer loan to Cambodia for this

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road construction project, which is a response to the wish not only of the Prime Minister of the country but the people of Cambodia as a whole. HE Sun Chan Thol already told you that we will spend about 77.5 million US dollars for the renovation and construction the above roads and bridges, about 26% of which is the contribution of the Royal Government of Cambodia for settling compensation policy for the removal of residences of 3082 families along the projected road.

... We have set a central line dividing the road into two parts, on each side of which a width was set for enlargement of the road. Unfortunately, residences had been set up more and more along and over the projected area. However, the Royal Government has exercised understanding and care for those affected by the road enlargement project. Last week I ordered the release of another 1.5 million US dollars more for that purpose. We had similar issue for the National Road 1 from Baavet to Neak Loeung. We did the same for the Japanese assistance for the construction of the Kizuna Bridge in the province of Kompong Cham. It is because this lesson that I have said that no matter what form of assistance you may take, from whoever it may be, Cambodia has to reserve its counterpart fund for projects in case.

... HE Minister already said that the road has been put for auction in three parts – first, the 50-Kilometer road between the district of Kralanh and Sisophon, to be built at the cost of 15 million US dollars by the Thai SBP company; second, the 50-Kilometer long road between the district of Kralanh and the provincial town of

Siem Reap, to be built at the cost of 15 million dollars by the same company; and third, the 50-Kilometers national road 5 from Poi Pet to Sisophon to be built at the cost of 11 million dollars by the Thai Civil Group company. As for the construction and placement of bridges and drainage system on the national road 56 and 58, we have offered it to the Cambodia-China High Way company for a sum of 10 million US dollars at the inspection service provided by the Korean KGI company.

... I hope with all arrangements I have just said we will have a good road and finish them by the projected date in 2008. More importantly with the roads in place, I hope that we will have more tourists as predicted and projected by HE Minister Lay Prohoas and HE Secretary of State Thaong Khon of Tourism. According to their prediction, with condition being less good, there have been at least a thousand tourists traveling across the area, and in good condition, for one day, their numbers would triple. We have a corridor road number 48 from Koh Kong province to the national road 4, including also four main bridges.

... I wish to take this opportune moment to express my sincere thanks to the Asian Development Bank's representative and all of its leaders for such an important and huge loan for Cambodia so that it could implement one of its colossal projects. Thanks also go to the Ministry of Transports and Public Works in expediting the whole process from hiring consultant to auctioning, etc. The Ministry of Finance and Economy, local authorities of the provinces of Siem Reap, Banteay Meanchey, as well as people residing along the projected area also deserve similar

thanks. As we are talking about building new roads further, I wish to also put into official use the ADB-loan road length of 368 Kilometers – 268 Kilometers of which covers one part of the national road 5 from the province of Kompong Chhnang to Sisophon and 100 Kilometers of which covers the national road 6 from Skun to Prey Romeas.

... A part of the national road 5 from Phnom Penh to Kompong Chhnang was built with the Royal Government budget because we then had a special event which the road has to be built for use between Phnom Penh and U Dong. Therefore waiting for loan approval from ADB was impossible. The 91-Kilometer road was implemented by the military engineering team. Traveling between Siem Reap and Phnom Penh can be done by three different options – first, by air that links the two places; second, by water, along which stops were made in Kompong Chhnang, Kompong Thom, Pursath, and Battambang provinces; and third the road, which has two prongs – one goes to Kompong Thom before continuing to Phnom Penh, while another goes to Banteay Mean Chey before turning back to Battambang and Pursath. As we have more roads built and renovated, traveling in the area has become less time consuming compared to a long and exhausting journey in the past. This I do not mention life threatening incidents in the past like all sorts of attacks damaging roads, bridges, rails, etc.

... Poverty reduction and promoting economic growth do not mean that (the Royal Government) gives out money to everyone as someone said that more and more money have been borrowed, but no one seems to have received it. No

country in this world would go to borrow money from other countries for giving out to their people, which I am sure donor countries would not approve such requests. Benefits from the loans lie in the fact that our people shorten their traveling time and expenses, where our people can use these savings for other needs. One more thing that should be mentioned is travel comfort.

... A bridge near the Royal Residence in the Provincial town of Siem Reap is not yet starting. Why? The renovation fund has already been disbursed by the APSARA authority. That is a reason why I like to use the military engineering team. I approved the project since the Khmer New Year, and now how long has it been since then? We cannot afford to let a project that is supposed to be attractive to tourists sitting still like this. I warn you of this bridge that if the construction project does not get started in two weeks from now, no one is to be forgiven in office. The first to be removed from position is those in the APSARA authority because they are the ones that have to provide money. The bridge would cost only 180,000 dollars, less than the amount spent during the three-day Water Festival that we have celebrated and concluded this week.

... As for me I would not see this or that is from CPP or from FINCINPEC, if they fail to perform their duties – take for instance the Governor of Siem Reap and the Head of APSARA authority – would be stripped off their positions in case they fail to get the bridge construction started.

... I also take this opportunity to beg drivers of siren vehicles to

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accept no longer the so-called “white zone” or “status quo”, while nobody knows exactly where it could be. In the Royal Government’s view, we have to set the record clear and would not leave the unresolved cases for the younger generation at all. We have now the opportune moment to bring this matter to a solution and once it is resolved, efforts could be made aimed at making the border area peaceful, cooperative and developing.

... In the meeting in Bangkok last month I have said to the Prime Ministers of the other four Mekong countries that it is now time for us to start thinking of turning border areas – people living in poverty, prone to fears and conflicts - into areas of factories, hotels, electric power plants, etc. We encourage trade activities with one another. It would be more productive and peaceful than to deploy troops, which I think all the countries concerned will see how burdensome it could be. When some people blame this effort as handing land to neighbors, they in fact not only blame the Government but soldiers who guard the border areas. Some of them have been put in custody because they accused us of selling land, an accusation that does not base on proof.

... Some say the Royal Government is abusing the freedom of speech. How could it be acceptable when they accuse us as traitors and sellers of the Cambodian land to neighbor? I would say we should leave them to serve the prison term if they are found guilty. Well if they criticize that the country is noted with an increase in gangsters, off-the-record taxes, problems of irrigation, etc. I would say they are true and thank them for making those cases heard. But it would not be inap-

propriate and unacceptable for anyone to be called a traitor or a seller of the Cambodian land to foreign nations. I would say no leader in this world can accept this sort of baseless and defamed accusation. I would not accept the bail granted to Mr. Cheam Channy as it would lead to a misunderstanding that I do it in submission to the pressure from the international community – which the opposition has been exploiting from the beginning.

... As far as border issue is concerned we still have more to do – the land border, the water territory not only with Vietnam but also with Thailand and Laos. Physical demarcation will have to be done after an agreement on paper is realized. This time I suggested that we plant granite poles as they would last long.

... Just now Mr. Chhuong Vuthi mentioned the difficulties in starting this Institute from scratch. I have learned that there are about 70 poor students who are residing in the Institute, and there are 25 female students among the figure. To help the Institute tackle their needs, I commit a sum of one million Riel and a ton of rice a month. Well I would say again that despite difficulties you all have, I think you are still in better conditions than when I was a student and lived with a monk. I would say that there are not many leaders in this world who might have arisen from the most desperate situation like the Cambodian Prime Minister.

... One day my kitchen prepared Chinese noodle and I was so moved to have tear in my eyes as I was recalling about my situation as a pagoda boy (a male child or teenager who survive by serving the Buddhist monks – usually away from home in pursuit of

study opportunity). One day, it was long ago and there were not many noodle shop as we have today, the monk was invited for a religious ceremony in one of the houses along the Kampuchea Krom road. The monks had all the dishes except the Chinese noodle. I had a chance to fill my stomach with it. Having enough to eat and having good food to eat had been a rare opportunity those days. That is one of the reasons why I always have special feeling when it comes to problem of hardship and poverty. No matter how high I could be, I would continue to keep this affectionate feeling.

... There is this issue that I would urge parents or superintendents, families, communities and society as a whole to closely cooperate in providing education and nurturing our youngsters so that they would be able to transform themselves to be a capable generation for the country. We have our border issues under control, terrorist activities away from us, but we have a problem that has born in us – hoodlum. They have spread to schools and disturbed schoolings, while making our society so fragile. Most of them are children of the rich as those of the poor would not have resources to purchase good motorbikes or cars for racing like that.

... I mentioned many times already about this case – once at the CPP Extraordinary Congress – with a recommendation to fight what we call “dark society”. I warn those Heads of Districts where there are hoodlum activities that if they could not stop their actions, they should resign and let them rule their districts instead.

... We have to cooperate in handling this matter. We have confiscated four Samurai

swords from gangsters and they even threaten to use them against police. I am not talking only in the framework of Phnom Penh city but all over the country. Actions have been taken in Phnom Penh and I hope that police will seek cooperation with the military police in handling this matter. Some people say they can no longer control their children.

... I see that as a result of providing their children with whatever they may need – to say in other words to over-satisfy their wants. Some people encouraged their children with motorbikes or cars when they were not yet adults. I have been successful in educating my children in a military way. I called for a meeting of all of them when one of them made a mistake. It has been successful so far but I do not know about the future.

... What I dislike most in my life is the fact that the rich is looking down upon children of the poor. That is why when became a leader I considered “educating my children” as a matter of prime concern. I have many nieces and nephews, some of who are not good. They are the Huns’ children but they are not from my own roof. Some of them have also been cuffed in the past for their actions. I would declare that no matter who, and whose parents they may be, law must be exercised without restraint on all abusing it.

... I have made a request and begged the CPP officials to understand this matter and the Extraordinary Congress applauded when I ordered this matter done. I also ask the Co-Minister for Interior and the General Commissioner for Police to remove commissioners who could not competently

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that I have mentioned above and having seen the invaluable character as a leader of Samdech Krom Preah, the Cambodian People's Party declares its position from before the July-2003 election that on winning the elections, the Cambodian People's Party would organize a new Royal Government only with FUNCINPEC that is under the leadership of Samdech Krom Preah. At this moment this position has become a reality and a long-term position of the Cambodian People's Party because we are obviously aware that peace and social stability in all fields and sectors are the most important and best opportunity for progress, prosperity and well being of our people.

(Comments) – *Just now Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranaridh, President of FUNCINPEC, on its behalf, declares the FUNCINPEC's support to me - Hun Sen – for the post of Prime Minister in case the Cambodian People's Party wins the forthcoming election for the next term. In response to this, on behalf of the Cambodian People's Party, (I declare) the CPP's support to Samdech Krom Preah for the post of Prime Minister in case FUNCINPEC wins the elections. Let me once again affirm that if it were not because of the key role played by Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranaridh, with my cooperation in the past, the country's situation would not have been this peaceful, politically stable and developed as it is now.*

Peace and stability is also the most precious but it is difficult to realize and especially not easy to maintain. Concession is key for the safeguarding of a peaceful coexistence, cooperation and getting-rid of internal

division and other hostile actions. It is therefore that we – the Cambodian People's Party – consider that continuing and strengthening of cooperation between our two Parties a golden opportunity for Cambodian motherland in safeguarding peace and stability, while healing the wounds that are left after decades of war.

We all know that humanity can achieve progress through energetic and ever changing interactions and balance among important factors ranging from politics, security, socio-economics and other factors, as well as environment. If we were to stress on one factor if not the other, that would then cause tension, possibly leading to division, negative outcome, backwardness and loss of stability. A harmonious adjustment in and between important factors was a prime condition for economic growth and development. Only concession and unity on common national objectives between political leaders and major political parties, based on the legal principle and democracy and through means of negotiation that the country could realize peace, stability, economic growth and development.

It is on this philosophical basis that after taking office on July 16, 2004, in my capacity as Prime Minister, I have led the first new Cabinet meeting which put out the "Economic Action Agenda of the Political Platform of the Third Legislation Parliament" titled "Rectangular Strategy" for Growth, Employment, Equity and Efficiency in Cambodia. This strategy has been organized on the basis of the political platform that was agreed upon between the two Parties in our cooperation to set up the Royal Government taking good governance as its core, serving as

tool of the Royal Government of Cambodia for promoting the implementation of a wide ranging and comprehensive reform agenda while keeping aloft the objective for reducing poverty of the people as its prime political priority.

The result of the implementation of reforms will bring about progress and prosperity to the people of Cambodia, strengthening national security, national reconciliation, peace and stability in the country and in the region, including efforts to expand and push further economic activities, tourism, trade, investment, cultural exchange and good relations in the region. With full and constant determination of the two political Parties, I have a strong belief that the Kingdom of Cambodia will take further and swift steps in the current of energetic changes in the region and in the world. Our country has gone beyond the darkness of its recent history and is looking forward to pride and confidence for a prosperous and brilliant future.

Working closely with an aim to strengthen peace, national reconciliation, democracy, rule of law, respect of human rights and dignity for Cambodia's long lasting and equitable socio-economic development, our two Parties has an historic chance, an ideal task and supreme responsibility in leading the Cambodian society towards realizing the national ambition i.e. the sustainable development and harmony and the guarantee that Cambodia can master its own destiny on an equal footing and equal right in all regional and international works in the name of a nation that deserves respect and appreciation.

Before ending this speech I would like to express my pro-

found thanks for FUNCINPEC and especially for Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranaridh for inviting the delegation of the Cambodian People's Party to participate in the opening ceremony of the Extraordinary Congress of FUNCINPEC today. This clearly notes the importance and necessity of the top-to-bottom cooperation between our two Parties – from leaders to communal and village levels of the Kingdom of Cambodia for the sake of developing our nation towards progress on the basis of a joint responsibility...■

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the cooperation in order to make way to ensure the success of the strategic planning of the government so far.

I would like to congratulate and to also compliment MUHIBBAH ENGINEERING CAMBODIA Co. Ltd, NAWARAT PATANAKARN PUBLIC Co. Ltd and the office of Public Works and Transportation in Battambang province who have worked hard in implementing the projects and the technical adviser (SMEC) who has controlled the technical aspects of the construction and maintenance of the national road No.5 and No.6. I would like to congratulate Guandong Provincial Changda Highway Engineering Co. Ltd, Khaou Chuly MKK Co. Ltd, and SPT Civil Group Co. Ltd who have been successful in the procurement to be the major implementers of the project and the Korean technical adviser (KCI) who has helped on the technical aspects in the construction of national road No.5 and No.6 from Poi Pet to Siem Reap and the construction of bridges on road No.56 and No.68....■

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 refrain from using siren in undisciplined manner. I have told my bodyguards to use siren only when the road is congested. Vehicles with siren are those of senior officials but they put up sounds loud enough to disturb the Buddhist monks, and worse still wake up patients in hospitals. I hope officials with siren vehicles would tell drivers to use siren only when necessary and not to disturb all around. In Siem Reap, we have defined three ways of building road construction – *first*, the national budget would be used in laying down infrastructure; *second*, construction and renovation, or maintenance of roads around the hotels must be resolved with the responsible participation of owners, and third, we have to consider using the formula of 50 + 50 that is being used by the Phnom Penh municipality.

... I also wish to seek our people's assistance in keeping the roads in good condition for long-term benefit. Not to overload your vehicle to cause damages on roads. Forest concession is still in prohibition. More than that, drivers should drive slower because traffic accident is on the rise almost as high as HIV/AIDS.

... Before, mine-related death toll is number 1, HIV/AIDS number 2 and traffic number 3. At present, all three have reversed with HIV/AIDS being number 1, traffic number 2 and mines number 3. As far as road maintenance and renovation strategy are concerned I wish to advise those involved to change the procedure used so far as it has been time consuming and allowing small problem to become big one.

... We have to find a better response procedure. We cannot afford to accept the procedure

where at the start of reporting there was a hen's nest in the road, and when the matter passed through to the Prime Minister it has turned into a pond already. That is, when the requested maintenance fund is disbursed, the amount could not afford the renovation of the expanded nature of the damage. As I have talked a lot about roads today, maybe I should tell you about the rail. ADB has accepted in the framework of ACMECS to offer fund, and Malaysia to offer rail. We also have more to do for water canals.

... I have said that our people harvest rice in water is better than having nothing to harvest. This year we have a good rainy season and dry season rice. The same is true for people in the district of Puok. The three-day Water Festival finished with great success to the joy of everyone. The ceremony is held in a very grand nature compared to before. About three million people came to Phnom Penh to observe the festivities. Phnom Penh dwellers on the contrary have come to rest in Siem Reap, Sihanoukville, etc. I am very happy that the Phnom Penh municipality has taken effective measures in safeguarding the people's security and safety throughout the event. I have advised security apparatus that aside from Phnom Penh, security cautions have to be taken at other places like Siem Reap, Sihanoukville, etc. Along with this we recently destroyed anti-aircraft missiles in Kompong Speu on November 11, in addition to 230 short range and 34 long range missiles in 2004.

... The above achievements have been attained thanks to the joint efforts of the Cambodian People's Party and FUNCINPEC. FUNCINPEC under the leadership of Samdech Krom

Preah Norodom Ranaridh organized its Congress recently. On November 21, CPP will hold its extra-ordinary congress. The two parties have a common objective as we deem any party's success to be the success of the coalition, and there is nothing better than that. We – CPP and FUNCINPEC – would not be in conflict even in words, as we have enough of that in past. We would furthermore collaborate from bottom to top in getting things done.

On that occasion Samdech Hun Se offers ten million Riel (about 2500 US dollars) to the pagoda of Khemara Samaki of Puok, two school buildings of 12 classrooms to the primary school of Prey Chrouk, a 120-meter of Bailey Bridge to the district of Puok, and an 8500-meter dirt road from the national road 6 to the village number 5.

The Prepared Text

..., I have a great pleasure to participate in this opening ceremony for construction section of the national road No. 76 and 68 from Siem Reap to Poi Pet, including the inauguration ceremony for official use of the section of national road No. 5 and 6, which have been funded by an Asian Development Bank (ADB) loan.

Taking this auspicious occasion, on behalf of the Royal Government, People of Cambodia and myself, I would like to convey our sincere thanks to the ADB, which today is represented by SHYAM BAJPAI, in providing loans for rehabilitation and socio-economic development of Cambodia aiming at rapid poverty reduction of our people.

Indeed, since the mid of the 90s, ADB is the main development partner, which has had

confidence in the Royal Government of Cambodia by providing loans in timely manner, regardless of national and international political conditions, for rehabilitation and development of Cambodia in every sector. Moreover, after the supports to complete the construction and rehabilitation of this road section, the Royal Government strongly hopes that ADB will consider additional loans for the construction of railroads section of 48 kilometers from Sisophon to Poi Pet. This is to connect railway system in Cambodia with the one in Thailand as well as with other infrastructure in order to allow Cambodia to rapidly integrate into regional economy.

On behalf of the people and the Royal Government of Cambodia, I highly appreciate and make a noble note of fine gesture of ADB that always remains our good friend who continues to help Cambodia at the time of needs.

The rehabilitation and reparation of the national roads No. 5 and 6, whether they are planned under flood emergency projects or any other projects, concretely contribute to the rehabilitation of roads connection that is the important economic veins of Cambodia and of all other member countries of ASEAN, especially of the GMS region.

Without any doubt, infrastructure is one of the most important sectors for sustainable development. Taking the actual situation of Cambodia, infrastructure sector represents three important aspects, which are economic, social and security. The economic aspect of infrastructure can be seen in its importance to attract investments and to be investment targets. This is the fruitful contribution

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the ability of sharing resources, and full participation from the Buddhist monks, parents and superintendents, in gradual process, we have overcome the most difficult time of external embargos.

... Thanks to what we have done since 1979 up to the present, we have improved vastly our material and technical foundation while bettering human resources through education. It is obvious that we have here buildings left from the 1950's and 1960's and those built in 1980's and 1990's, and I also had contributed two school buildings here.

... Still it is not exaggerating to say that we still need more of them. It has been my aim and wish to bring about a realization of the constitutional concept that all Cambodian children have to finish a nine-year education. To achieve this end we have to put more resources and efforts in building more schools, more buildings, more resources, while upgrading primary tiers of education to secondary ones.

... I wish to reiterate what I have said about how peace contributes to the betterment of education in Cambodia. As peace was achieved, we have dissolved internal barriers while creating further facilities for students and teachers to do their educational tasks. Parents and/or superintendents are relaxed from concerns that their children and/or teachers were subjected to threats of war. It was a special relationship that is inseparable between peace and development.

... Without peace and stability, we could not have development, and without development, peace and stability could not prevail. Therefore it is necessary to maintain the hard-to-achieve peace and stability, while making efforts for socio-economic

development with a focus on poverty reduction among our people in general.

... According to the report of HE Governor Chhay Sareth, the district of Sampeo Meas registers seven communes of 63 villages, in which 79% of them are farmers, with only 13% as traders and handicraft workers, 3% as civil administration officers, etc. Among the counted 10,700 houses, only 3,614 houses or about one third of the figure are still thatched. It is indeed our primary work to deal with needs in foods, clothings other utensils, transport means – education, health and so on. There is a Japanese charity who offers to provide solar-energized electricity to about 500 places in one year. It is a good thing as we need to provide electricity to rural hospitals for vaccine preservation and schools.

... I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the CPP working team in the western front of the country, take for instance HE Suy Sem in the province of Pursat, and to the Cambodian armed forces for their active and effective participation in lessening hardships as caused by drought that was extending from 2004 through to 2005. As in the case of Pursat, we had a good sum of rain from early season, less in the middle and more is still coming at the end of the season.

... In general I am glad with the rice cultivation efforts in the country this year as we have cultivated in all more than two million hectares or over 97% of plan. Our people have started dry season rice along with water-recessing rice. If there were to be no damaging factors, our estimate of the harvest would be about five million tons of rice – about four million tons of

rainy season rice and about over a million tons of dry season rice. Having kept about four million tons of rice for local consumption, we would have a sum of over one million tons for exports.

... Along with this I would appeal to our people to swap from traditional variety to short-term variety. I have noticed already on my way here that people in the provinces of Kandal, Kompong Chhnang and a part of Pursat have harvested rice in wet condition. I used to say to the people in the commune of Put Sar in Takeo's Baati district that we harvest rice in wet condition is better than to have nothing to harvest. With consecutive severe droughts I am of the opinion that it is better to have rice for harvest though in wet condition.

... At around 5:30 pm of yesterday, I led a group of Government's border team to see HM the King Norodom Sihamoni to report to HM all border related issues. I have informed HM about my trip to the second Summit of the Heads of Government of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam in Economic Cooperation Strategy in Thailand in early November during which I have proposed a concept of transforming all borders into peaceful, cooperative and economic development ones. I said to all the Prime Ministers participated that it is always a sensitive issue to talk about border areas, which normally are heavily militarized places.

... I said we should try and work together as neighboring countries to transfer zone of fear along the border into income generating areas. I have also raised the issue of agriculture, including also contract farming like those we had implemented in Pailin for cultivation of

maize, nuts, etc. We also are looking for possibility to replicate these practices to elsewhere other than the border area.

... Samdech Krom Preah and I have been in close consultation on the issue. It is important to ratify the treaty on the border issue between Cambodia and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and we are of the view that no one should be allowed to ruin the peace and political stability that we have achieved at all.

... I used to mention that "farmers are life partners, while customers are bosses". Industry could not survive without farmers whose production would then be supplied to factories for purpose of processing into different forms of final products. Factories in this sense are the marketplaces for farmers... As for the Kravanh river bailey bridge is concerned I would suggest that we will officially inaugurate on March 8 next year. I have come to Pursat, and Kompong Chhnang, yet to Battambang, Banteay Mean Chey and Udor Mean Chey. I have come very often though to Siemreap as I will be going there again on November 19 to celebrate a ground breaking ceremony.

On that occasion Samdech Hun Sen offers ten million Riel each to the pagodas of Sovankiri of the commune of Roleat and Pea Nhek of the commune of Khteah Pring, a schoold building of six classrooms to the primary school of Khteah Pring, a school building of six classrooms to the college of Prek Sdey in the commune of Rolok Sar, and a school building of six classrooms to the college of 10 Makara (January) in the district of Krokor. ■

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perform their duties. I have just signed to remove a commissioner in Kandal province from his rank and transferred him to the Ministry of Interior as well. We have about 60,000 police that I believe that we can find a good man for the post.

... I have instructed my children of two choices and only two choices if they were to commit any crime or guilt. First, the one who commits the crime or guilt would have to go to prison, and second, dad will resign. The second choice is the worst as I step down while s/he has to serve the prison term still. There is no third choice. I wish to seek understanding from all those residing in Cambodia, no matter what positions and professions they may have, the armed forces, civil servants, generals, etc. to cooperate in this campaign. In urgent cases commanders of the military police and police commissioners of all provinces and cities could have a direct call/report to me. We have to maintain social order.

... I also wish to say a few words about siren used when those children conducted car race. I am sure many people are unhappy with the siren as well. The sound of siren disturbs all in schools, in hospitals, in sleep and in work. Siren should be used only in case of necessity and according to protocol demands. Using too many siren cars and entourage motors would add on to increase of number of staff, fuel, and budget. Some of the kids of our officials follow their parents' habit of using siren cars. I wish that we all understand this and take all measures to help putting an end to them as they could be a serious cause of disorder in our society... ■

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that allows Cambodia to build production basis and services, especially to define its position in the region and in the world. Social aspect of infrastructure is justified by the fact that besides being strong support to economic growth, roads and bridges are the key factors to poverty reduction through developed economic opportunities for the people such as jobs creation, revenue generation and transport. At the same time, infrastructure such as roads and bridges has security aspect in the sense that roads system and connection will increase number of travelers and activities in connected areas. Roads quality will increase population density along their side areas. This will surely transform deteriorated situation of remote areas to become well connected populated towns.

Moreover, roads and bridges that were destroyed during war and internal conflicts in the last two decades are the key elements for economic integration within the entire country.

Besides, the rebuilding and construction of national roads No.5 and No.6 from Poi Pet to Siem Reap as well as bridges and drainages along roads No.56 and No.68 are complementary works to the section of National road No.5 which has not been repaired in order to connect the road which is considered by ASEAN countries and the great Mekong sub-region as "Asia's High Way" and the great Mekong sub-region is the first priority for the economic integration between Cambodia-Viet Nam -Thailand through trade by transporting goods from Bangkok to Ho Chi Min city of Viet Nam via Phnom Penh until Vung Tav's port through Cambodia's national road No.1 which has just been recently repaired and to be

inaugurated for official use in the coming December.

Indeed, through these infrastructures the people of Cambodia can earn incomes to upgrade their living standards, hence enables them to send their children to school and hospital. Furthermore, they also help to improve the situations along the North-Western border of Cambodia by transforming it into a friendly region with peace, good cooperation, development, fast and good communication with Phnom Penh which represents the economic, trade, education and cultural center of the country, which make it easy for us to protect the land, culture and our national pride like in the Angkor's time. The Royal Government still determines the rehabilitation and development of transport infrastructure, roads, water way and railway, as prioritized policy that needs special attention and to actively push this sector forward because roads and bridges are the main means of economic growth, enhancement of living standards, improvement of well-being and enrichment of the heart and soul of the people. Indeed, with good roads people can transport, exchange goods at a faster rate with greater quantity while maintaining good quality by spending less time and paying cheaper prices to the intended markets. Good roads can attract business people from all places to come and invest on all sectors including industry, agriculture and tourism which can create employments for the people and to help the constructions of schools and hospitals as well as deploying many qualified teachers and doctors to those remote areas and for a better protection of our land.

In the sense of great pride for all the achievements which we all have drastically accom-

plished and in the sense of deep optimistic for the future of Cambodia, I would like to appeal to the authority at all levels, leaders, and officials of Ministry of Public Works and Transportation to continue to cooperate and to better fulfill their duties in order to connect and to preserve good continuity of the transportation network in all the regions in the country. Moreover, the cooperation and the support of the people is a must to enhance the process of repairing and maintaining roads and bridges and to protect the safety, public and private properties, as well as the lives of the people by raising the awareness on safe-driving to avoid further fatal accidents. Most importantly, I would like to suggest the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation and all authority to impose strict measures on those officials and the owners of those overweight vehicles who are responsible for the damages of roads and bridges.

... I would like to sincerely thank the government and the people of all those friendly countries and donors who always provide helps and supports both mentally and physically and financially for national reconciliation, rebuilding, and the development of the Cambodian economy, especially through the maintenance and construction of infrastructures which represents the key to increase the economic growth rate in order to alleviate poverty for the people of Cambodia. I would like to sincerely compliment and continue to support and encourage the leaders, government officials, workers and employees of the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation, authorities as well as concerning ministries and institutions who have devoted their hearts and souls in

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14 November 2005 (Unofficial Translation)

Addressing the FUNCINPEC's Extraordinary Congress

Samdech Hun Sen, Vice President of the Cambodian People's Party and Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia addressed to the Extraordinary Congress of FUNCINPEC held at the National Olympic Stadium

... Today I have a great honor and pleasure to join Samdech, HRH Princes/Princesses, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen in the opening of the Extraordinary Congress of FUNCINPEC. May I convey to Samdech, HRH Princes/Princess, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen the congratulation and best wishes from leaders and members of the Cambodian People's Party.

National and international circles have been monitoring with their utmost interests the Extraordinary Congress of FUNCINPEC being held at this moment. They all are awaiting with eagerness to comprehend and to learn the positive results that the congress is going to set out in its endeavors to formulate policy and strategy of reforms aimed at strengthening FUNCINPEC and consolidating the long lasting partnership between the Cambodian People's Party and FUNCINPEC, which is a major key in guaranteeing Cambodia's peace, stability, order, progress and prosperity.

As a faithful partner, the Cambodian People's Party wishes to express its sincere congratulations and wishes for FUNCINPEC's brilliantly great victory in conducting the Extraordinary Congress.

In the very near future, the Cambodian People's Party will also organize its congress. In our agenda, the strengthening of a long lasting partnership

with FUNCINPEC is one of the prioritized important discussions. This reflects a common aim and will of our two parties aimed at furthering closer bonds of alliance, solidarity and cooperation at all levels in both the Royal Government and legislature and other state institutions in the spirit of national reconciliation, unification, national unity, democracy, while gathering all forces of patriotism to work together for the sake of peace, stability and public order, and to restore and to develop the country in our utmost aim to heighten the well being and living condition of the people.

Over the last decade FUNCINPEC and the Cambodian People's Party have come across uncountable challenges, while collecting numerous political experiences and lessons together. Our rich experiences indicate clearly the indispensability in the leading role of our two Parties in the political process of Cambodian society. Whenever our two parties are strong and reconciling in their leadership of the state and national construction, the country and its people will certainly be enjoying peace, stability, social order and harmonized progress. On the contrary, when any of the two Parties is in a weakening position, and the partnership between our two Parties becomes destabilized because of any factor it may be the whole society of Cambodia would definitely be suffering divisiveness, uncertainty or socio-economic upheaval, while the rule of law and democratization would be placed in the state of stagnation and the opportunity for progress and development would be weakened, pessimism and fear being prevalent. That is why the purpose of the Cambodian Peo-

ple's Party and FUNCINPEC as well as firmness of the long lasting alliance between the two Parties would inevitably be the prime interest of the country and its people. It is in this meaning that I have said time and again that the two Parties should consider their partner's firmness being their most important interest, while making all out efforts in the spirit of faithful partner on the basis of legal principle and democracy aimed at strengthening and promoting one another.

It is true that some circles are not satisfied with unshakable firmness of FUNCINPEC and the Cambodian People's Party. They all are dissatisfied with the long lasting, close and firm alliance of the two Parties because these points are contrary to their short-term political interest. However I comprehend that it is a good fortune for the country and people of Cambodia that this destabilizing tendency could not absolutely win over the brilliant wisdom of the leaders of our two Parties in several stages of hardships in the Cambodian political process over the past decade.

In fact the developments after the parliamentary elections for the third legislature in July 2003 have been a major test of maturity of politicians and major political parties in Cambodia, especially for the Cambodian People's Party and FUNCINPEC. After active discussion for a period close to one year, the two political parties – the Cambodian People's Party and FUNCINPEC, have broken down political impasse, formulating new coalition Royal Government while the third legislature parliament has been set up and working actively.

It is worth indicating once again that the supreme signifi-

cance of the national reconciliation, mutual concession and the respect of legal principle and democracy of the two Parties in attaining political settlement that are indispensable factors for safeguarding peace, stability and certainty of social life for the country and people as politics and democracy is the art of making concession between individuals, between contradictory views and opinions and paths for the sake of achieving a common cause.

Certainly the above achievements are realized because our two Parties show their political maturity, considering national cause more important than short-term political interest and benefit of all the parties. In this context I wish to indicate the special and key role of Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranaridh the President of FUNCINPEC in his participation in breaking through the impasse in formulating the new Royal Government and National Assembly nearly one year after the third legislature parliamentary election in July 2003 and in overcoming complicated challenges after the establishment of the new Royal Government up to the present. Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranaridh not only took a courageous and just decision aimed at evading the post-election crisis, which constitutes a tremendous gratitude for our nation and FUNCINPEC, but more importantly with a brilliant wisdom and close cooperation with leaders of the Cambodian People's Party, he provided numerous important and invaluable contributions for a smooth and peaceful solution of all problems that is vital to our nation, for instance the continuity of the throne, etc.

Taking these experiences and political lessons from the past

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