

## The Kompong Speu Institute of Technology

(23 February 2016 — Unofficial Translation)



23 February 2016 - Samdech Techo Hun Sen Greets HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand in the Province of Kompong Speu

Today, I have a great pleasure to be able to accompany HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of the Kingdom of Thailand to preside over the ground-breaking ceremony to build the Kompong Speu Institute of Technology. I have taken so much pride to come here to do this very important job for the future of our country. In the moment passed, HRH brought about some facts relating to this institute. Initially, Cambodia proposed to have only one institute of technology at the province of Koh Kong. Thanks to her wisdom, HRH concluded that youngsters in Koh Kong province could just cross to Thailand to further their education. We then discussed where the project could take place instead of Koh Kong. We then came to choosing Kompong Speu, where the opportunity would provide chance for education and training not only for those in Kompong Speu but also from provinces of Koh Kong, Preah Sihanouk, Takeo, Kompong Chhnang and even from Kandal.

I am so pleased to see that these achievements have come from joined efforts, spirits of solidari-

ty and understanding, and from HRH personally, in reserving heartfelt assistance for Cambodia's education and health, after successfully transforming the College of Kompong Chheu Teal at Kompong Thom province into the Kompong Thom Institute of Technology already. HRH's strong consideration for human resource training there has allowed more and more Cambodian students to learn and have training in Thailand. On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, as well as the Cambodian youth, who benefit greatly from HRH's assistance, I am expressing my sincere appreciation and profound thanks for HRH in providing her assistance to the people of Cambodia, especially in area of human resource training. We should not forget that to develop a country, what one needs firstly was human resource. Thailand, which is one of our neighboring countries, has ability to assist Cambodia addressing this need.

Having said that, please allow me to express my sincere appreciation to the Cambodian and Thai working groups for choos-

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## Closing Interior Annual 2015 Review Conference

(25 February 2016 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

*In addition to the prepared text at the closing session of the Annual 2015 Review and 2016 Directives Setting Conference of the Ministry of Interior, Samdech Techo Hun Sen stressed and listed out certain orders and recommendations dealing with issue of public services and social security as followed:*

### Minister of Justice & Prisons Heads to Reexamine Release of Criminals

... We must pursue a serious campaign because lately we have found out resurgence of armed robbery and drug trafficking. We must have all measures combined to manage and control weapons of armed

forces on the one hand, and to launch a large-scale operation to suppress dangerous targets on the other. Lately, we have discovered that thieves are same persons who did not seem to spend time in prison long enough. On 2 December 1999, you may still remember, I ordered to arrest them back. I was at the Calmet hospital then and HE Chea Sophara was first deputy mayor of Phnom Penh. Again, I had a report on release of a number of thieves from Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng. Now, those conducted armed robbery said to have just released from prisons. Why it was so easy for thieves and drug traffickers to get out of prisons?

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## Environment New Building Inaugurated

(25 February 2016 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

*In addition to the prepared text, to preside over the inauguration of the Morodok Techo Building of the Ministry of Environment and the opening of the annual review conference on environment of 2015 and directives setting for 2016, Samdech Techo Hun Sen gave his impromptu comments as followed on a number of topics:*

### Say Sam Al – First Minister Asked for Transference of Functions

Please allow me to take this opportune moment to speak a little on this matter. First of all, I convey my sincere appreciation to HE Say Sam Al, Minister of Environment, who, in a period of over 30 years that I lead the Royal Government, is the first Minister requesting for transference of functions between ministries and release of some functions to others. Habitually, (ministers) are embracing for

power for their ministries always. This Minister has done it differently. He is looking for a clear-cut package of functions. I am looking for such reform. I appreciate that and hope other ministers will not embrace works but delegate them to sub-national level in a speedy manner. In relation to transference of functions, I already had a report from Deputy Prime Minister HE Keat Chhon, who led the meeting. I think that we should not wait any longer. For example, soon enough, we will transfer areas provided for investment by the Ministry of Environment to the Ministry of

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ing this strategic location, which is adjacent to the national road 44, for the construction of the institute. I just mentioned to HRH that the road is new and has yet to inaugurate. However, report has it that there are increasing volume of transportation here. The national road 4 in Kompong Speu runs through to national road 5 and it would take lesser time for people residing in this area to go to the city of Kompong Chhnang than to go back to the town of Kompong Speu. However, I am sure, the (national) road and the school will be of great interest for people of the district of Tpong, commune of Am Lang, where, in the past, there were only suffering, blood and tear (because of protracted civil war). It has now become one of the country's developed areas, where there is also a tertiary education establishment to solve issue of human resource training.

I would take this opportune moment to express my sincere thanks for Oknha Ly Yong Phat for providing some economic concession land for the work of development in this region. I would express my sincere thanks for the Buddhist monks and people for accepting political solution and offer for land settlement and expansion. This project is for the national interest and it will stay not one or two years, but from one generation to another. We have addressed all except one among four priorities – road, electricity, human resource and water. We already addressed the need for road, electricity and human resource. We still need to find a solution for water. I hope that the committee placed with responsibility to see through the construction, the provincial authority, related institutions, mainly the Ministry of Water Resource and Meteorology, to work together to find means to resolve need for water, not only for students but also for people residing in this and adjacent areas.

I am so proud of our long lasting cooperation. Taking into consideration the first trip HRH

made to Cambodia in 1992, up to the present, HRH has made in all 13 visits – official and unofficial – to Cambodia in search for cooperation and provision of assistance in the fields of education and health, along with a project in Kompong Thom province relating to human resource training and the likes. Today, it is auspicious that we are laying the corner stone for the construction of the Kompong Speu Institute of Technology. There are projects concerning health in Ratanakiri and Mondulakiri province to fight against malaria. This is going along with the Cambodian objective of eliminating malaria from Cambodia in 2025. Yesterday HRH visited Ratanakiri, one of the targeted provinces of malaria elimination.'

In HRH's three days visit to Cambodia, there are so many activities. Yesterday, HRH went to Ratanakiri, today to Kompong Speu, Prey Veng, Tbong Khmom and Kompong Thom. The visits aim to help provide neighboring assistance for the people of Cambodia. On behalf of the Royal Government and people of Cambodia, once again, allow me to express my sincere thanks to HRH for the contribution she made for the people of Cambodia, not only for this generation but for many generations to come. I would take this opportune moment to express my sincere thanks to the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for always supporting those activities, let alone the joint Cabinets meeting in last December of the two countries. The two Royal Governments have focused on cooperation in preparing for HRH's successful visit. I also extend thank to the Cambodian-Thai Friendship Association, where the two Presidents and some of their staff who are present. I also thank Thai businessmen who will take their time to have audience with HRH this evening.

It is true that today, HRH will continue with her schedule and after returning to Phnom Penh, HRH will visit HM the King of Cambodia. For the Kompong

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## Heng Samrin-Tbong Khmom University Opens

(11 February 2016 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

... I am so glad today to have returned and joined with you all again after my presence on 5 January last year to launch the construction of the administrative buildings of the province of Tbong Khmom to put into official use the Heng Samrin-Tbong Khmom University. HE Hang Chuon Naron, Minister of Education, Youth, and Sports has already shared with all of us a report about a vision for development (of education) in this area. It is a pleasant surprise that we have been able to finish the construction of the university and the construction of the provincial headquarters of Tbong Khmom is underway in a speedy manner. There is no need for us to follow what HE Sar Kheng and I had thought about sharing some of the University's unused offices with the provincial headquarters.

I am here today, together with Samdech, Excellencies, Lok Chumteavs, to put into official use buildings we have achieved but also to start construction of some additional buildings. HE Hang Chuon Naron already mentioned in his report that the need for a university is much more and we have plans for speedy construction of the residences for professors and hostels for students.

### “One Province, One University” Policy

I would like to take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation for the efforts made and visions in getting this up of Samdech Punhea Chakrey Heng Samrin as well as of Samdech Krolahaom Sar Kheng with supports rendered from the Royal Government of Cambodia. We have had our vision to list this policy in the CPP political platform and the elections in 2013 to work towards a “one province, one university” or at least a University's branch policy, after we had put into success the policy of “one commune, one junior secondary school at least.”

While we decided to set up the province of Tbong Khmom, we

have the opportunity to get this Heng Sarim-Tbong Khmom University project going. It will serve students in this educational geography – Tbong Khmom, Prey Veng, Kratie, Mondulakiri and even some from Ratanakiri provinces. However, the Kratie University is under construction under the financial assistance partly from the Government of the People's Republic of China and some from our national resource [...]

### History of American and Thieu-Ky Invasion

I must apologize to people from the local area among who some have known me since when I was a young man. I heard over here somewhere that they have something that need to discuss with me. It is impossible for me to do that as we have about ten thousand people here today [...] This place is in the area where I and some of us here would call it “a place of pleasure, blood and tear.” Why do I say that? Here, the American invasion started along the National Road 7 from Snuol district through further downer parts in 1970. The road from Tropeang Chhlous via Protheat to Chhlong was what the Thieu-Ky forces called “a Complete Victory” military campaign. They planned for the prong to Tonle Bet and the prong from National Road 7 through Chhlong to meet one another. However, their campaign had become “a Complete Failure.” There were many dead tanks along the National Road 7 [...]

Not far from here, in the Jrab village – about 7 or 8 Kilometers from here, my wife and I were getting married here in a wedding ceremony of 13 couples. We had our first son in the village of Khnar and he died in the district of Mehmot, where we build him a tomb in the secondary school of Mehmot. I was wounded five times (in battles) from Snuol through to Tonle Bet and my last wound was at the foothill of the present Kizuna bridge. I have so many

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memories but please forgive me for being unable to meet some of you personally because we have this schedule to follow.

### Reducing Knowledge Gap, Human Resource – Priority One

Where do we start to reduce the gap between urban and rural, rich and poor? The objective of the Royal Government led by the Cambodian People's Party is to reduce development gap starting with the development of infrastructure and human resource training. There is no country in the world that achieves the aim of closing the property gap. Only the regime of Pol Pot did so. They abolish the gap through setting up groups of people to work and eat collectively. Other than that, there is no country in this world succeeds in doing so. There are always those who are rich and poor. Closing the wealth gap is difficult to achieve. We cannot abolish the rich as was suggested by policy of some (politicians) or Pol Pot.

However, I believe that reducing a knowledge gap is possible to achieve and the state will invest in it. Everyone may be born to different places, families, and titles. There is no one who is born along with wealth or clever brain right away. Everyone starts by studying from childhood. We are born naked. No one is born with knowledge (without studying) though [...] Since 1987, I talked about four priority works – irrigation, roads, electricity and human resource, for which resource must be gathered for them. We need irrigation for our people to cultivate as our country depends on agriculture. We need roads to connect places in our country after a long war, the regime of genocide and continued civil war. We need electricity because it is a requirement of the time. In the past, Phnom Penh consumed some 30 to 40 kWh but it now uses hundreds of kWh. More importantly, there is a need for human resource. The Royal Government has now alternated human resource to priority number one among the

four – from roads, irrigation, electricity and human resource to human resource, irrigation, roads and electricity.

### Bringing Schools Closer to Local Students

We have seen educational reform under the leadership of our young Minister of Education, Youth, and Sports, who is now 54 years old. We are localizing schools to people and many junior and senior secondary schools had come to being. In the province of Tbong Khmom, we have recorded 396 primary schools, 53 junior secondary schools, and 23 senior secondary schools. Localizing schools at the communal level has cut down hardships for students to continue their studies through to nine years education. It also allows more girls to go to school as it has been our tradition that parents would not allow their daughters to be far away from home. We still need to have more Universities in provinces. We already have university in the provinces of Banteay Meanjei, Battambang, Siem Reap, Svay Rieng, Prey Veng and now Tbong Khmom. There is also a University of Agriculture in Kompong Cham provinces. On top of these, there are also some universities of private sectors. This has lessened concentration of students in Phnom Penh. This is also the best way to have human resource everywhere in the country. Ethnic students in northeastern areas could also benefit from this human resource policy and, in the future, we would not need to send people from plain area to become head provincial and/or district authorities anymore.

Human resource has become a key subject of development of Cambodia as it would reduce internal gap but also development gap with other countries. It is like connectivity. We are making our connections. I believe that this has to go along with the need for road. We could not afford to have only schools and no roads or roads without schools. All four priorities are subjects for resolution. I have the pleasure to work with

everyone after the liberation in 1979 to the present. Nothing we achieved is given or come from empty promises. We did it [...]

### E-Government, Existing Administrative System

There was an analysis about Facebook cabinet ... The point is even if we were to have no Facebook, people also send their complaints to me in Phnom Penh. They even went out and brought their petition to my house. What we did was to send those issues to relevant institutions and they would have to study and make me reports. I am leading e-government, which means it helps with speedy actions for people's requests. We also use those systems listed by law and sub-decrees on organization and functioning of institutions. When people sounded out their problems on electronic system, certain matters need to have input from relevant institutions. Take for instance trade registration now is no longer a procedure to follow through only in Phnom Penh. People can do it on electronic system. Take for instance HE Mam Bun Heng of Health Ministry solved so many requests [...]

Actually, the method has expedited working speed of our people everywhere. When I did all that for the people, you called me "Facebook Prime Minister." (You claimed someone else) as Facebook Prime Minister before. I do not use Facebook to compete with anyone. I use Facebook for solving people's problems ... It was them who claimed themselves to be Facebook elites. I am using Facebook for effectiveness and efficiency of work. I do not want to have fake reports, either from people or from authority [...]

As we are putting this University into operation, we need some more buildings and HE Aun Porn Moniroth already responded to the need of Riel 21.353 million broken into two years. I am so joyful to see that the University has prepared curriculum for technical and vocational training certificate where students can achieve it by finishing

their nine years education + 1 year; + 2 years and + 3 years and other one week or three-month certificate courses. In universities that I assisted, in Phnom Penh, give priority to this need too.

### Illegal Emigration; Oil and Rubber Prices Drop

(Vocational training) serves the need of not only the province of Tbong Khmom but also in other places, external labor market included. The Royal Government is working hard to prevent illegal emigration. To find our people legal jobs abroad is one way of solving our people's need for work. Some people seemed to have bragged about creating jobs as magician. How could they do that when no power in hands yet they have made the rich their enemies already. The Philippines has over ten million people working in foreign countries. There are ten of thousands of them working in Cambodia. Finding jobs locally and externally is the Royal Government's duty to find for the people.

It is true that we must make efforts to create jobs for our people locally. We see that as a better option than going to work in other countries since our country also is lacking of labor. However, owners of rubber and pepper should rework workers' salary and their residences. However, according to recent news, situation in the world is not that good for every country. Rubber price fell. Oil price fell from over USD 100 per barrel to just USD 30.27 and there is a prospect that it would slip further. Which market could we uncover now? In Vietnam, the market saturated with rice and cassava. We continue to make efforts though as there would be a turn.

In 2008, price of food surged and our farmers benefited from it. The world is busy facing with the world problem and we are meeting our own. Farmers these days sell their produces at a cost that would not pay their labor. In Thailand for instance some had stopped tapping of rubber latex because they could not afford the labor cost...■

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Agriculture to oversee them. That is for the sake of exploitation. Areas ruled and protected by the Ministry of Agriculture will need to return to the Ministry of Environment. We already did by a sub-decree to transform a zone in Punnhea Krek district along the border with Vietnam into a protective one. I am asking HE Keat Chhon to expedite the work [...]

I may as well share a piece of news. In our reform effort concerning the economic land concession in less than a year, we already have completed the task. Among over two million hectares of land provided for private investment, both in agriculture and environment, we have already conducted a thorough checking. We have recalled nearly one million hectares. Only 1.9 million hectares of land will continue with investments. It seems conflicts with people over land issue almost disappear. The remaining land need to resolve problems with people and some may be subject to further confiscation. Under the leadership of Deputy Prime Minister Bin Chhin, together with HE Im Chhun Lim, HE Ouk Rabun, HE Say Sam Al, land given out by the Ministries of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment, have been taken back and will be disposed for our people's access to social land concession.

### Local Authority to Suppress Forest Crimes

I hope that in the near future, when rubber and other industrial crops grow above the ground, they will provide forest coverage and economic interest. We take it as great pain when some cried out about deforestation. We agree that act of deforesting must be suppressed as crimes. If small bushes are there, how can one plant rubber? When we clear them for that purpose, some took advantage and open propaganda attacks. They did the same in Malaysia to grown rubber and palm oil. Did they not have forest before? They did. It was the same in Thailand or in Indonesia. However, I disagree with overall deforestation.

It seems that there has been a new forest crime reported on TV this morning ... to claim land.

As for changing how we call the Ministry, we can wait. Transference of functions and job reference need to go first. We need to change, if it is a requirement, the royal decree to transfer those lands or functions from environment to agriculture, for instance. As far as Kbal Chhay area in the province of Sihanouk is concerned, a protective area, we need to take back from the Ministry of Agriculture and place it under supervision of the Ministry of Environment. Let you two Ministries do the job. There is no need to involve the committee of HE Bin Chhin as it is to be dissolved since the land checking has completed. We have taken back land that need to and those that will continue have a timeframe set only for 50 years according to our civilian law.

I am calling on local authorities to work strictly and not to wait for order from Phnom Penh. Anything in your area, you should be aware of them. Drug could be difficult to find as some of us, me included, would not know what they are like. However, as far as forest crimes are concerned, they involve huge trucks. Where have all eyes of soldiers, police, military police, forest administration, and environment gone?

### “Demanding for More Power, But Asking Prime Minister to Act” When Problems Arise

I am so happy with our reforms and we must do them ... If there is something we do not cover, let us fill them in. If there is a need to amend law, let us just do it. In my tenure, I have come across ministers who demanded for more power for their ministries ... I used to tease HE Mok Mareth, former Minister of Environment, who asked for more power but when problems arose, he asked for intervention from the Prime Minister. As in the case of a provincial official of Kompot who built his house into the valley of Toek Tchou, he asked

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## Facebook Messages—Family Reunion, Opposition Propaganda and Facebook Fans

(24, 22 & 2 February 2016 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

### A Facebook Message on Family Reunion 37 Years Ago

Today is the 37th anniversary, when my wife and I reunited (24 February 1979 – 24 February 2016) after we parted in suffering and tears for the sake of national liberation from the regime of Pol Pot's genocide on 20 June 1977. My wife then was five month pregnant, after my first child died in pain on 10 November 1976. Since our parting, I never received news whether my wife was alive and that had led me to believing that she was dead. After the liberation on 7 January 1979, for over one month, I could not account for or discover any news about my wife, my parents in law, brothers-in-law or sisters-in-law. They all disappeared.

Joy of liberating people from the regime of Pol Pot had not stopped tear from coming into my eyes yet. If she were dead, where would she die? How did I go about setting up my life onward? I would be a widow in my age of 27 years old.

In the afternoon of 24 February 1979, I was working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, located along the river at the time. Then Minister of Health, Nou Beng, came in and told me that my wife and child, and sister arrived at my house. I did not believe it. There had been two cases already. Firstly, there was an old woman, as old as my mother, came to see me and said she was wife of “grandpa” Minister. She told me to go find her husband for her. She confused because her husband's name and my name were the same. Secondly, there was another woman too who came to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to look for her husband. She called me “nephew” and asked for permission to see the Minister. When I told her “I am the Minister,” she rose in anger and yelled until I had to drive my car out and did not know where she went later. It was because of the two incidents and the new account was that there were also

kid and sister, I had not dream of it was true. However, it was about five in the afternoon. I left for home.

It was an exciting moment. As I stepped out of the car, I saw my wife before anyone else and then my sister and a young boy. My wife told me in tear he was my son. I quickly went for him but he escaped to embrace his mom and cried. In fact, my wife and her family kept low profile and picked broken rice stalks in Tbong Khmom to feed themselves. The situation was troublesome and they decided to keep a low profile. My son, Hun Manet, addressed me as uncle for over two months. When he got used to calling me dad, another unfortunate thing happened to us. My wife lost our third child. It was my mistake that I did not carry water to fill jars. In Phnom Penh those days, there was no running water. We had to carry buckets and fetch water from the (Mekong) riverfront to fill jars at home. We then take water from downstairs with buckets to jar in bathrooms upstairs. I did that regularly. One day I failed to do so for urgency at work, my wife had to do so herself. That had resulted in the sad development. What happened to my family was just a tiny bit compared to tragedy and suffering encountered by most in the whole country.

We must unite to protect peace, and resolutely prevent the return of Pol Pot's style neopolitics ...

### A Facebook Message of Samdech Techo on Opposition's Deceptive Propaganda

(22 February 2016)

Dear Compatriots,

You all have known quite well about decisions I made recently for the national interests as Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia. (I decided on) ceasing toll fee for use of Veng Sreng road; paying no more for

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driving license for motorcycles of 125 CC, and below; 50% reduction of the price paid for issuing a driving license for vehicles; canceling inheritance tax from grandparents to grandchildren, parents to children, and between spouse; charging no fee for using national road 4, etc.

These achievements have been scored thanks to people's forum where members of the Cambodian People's Party collected people's suggestion and feedback of people through different media outlets and direct comments to my Facebook account.

I wish to send a short message to leaders of the opposition party to cease their deception of our people. In the past weeks, leaders of the opposition party have misled people's understanding of achievements scored by the Cambodian People's Party and decisions of the Prime Minister. Demagogically, they told people that the "Prime Minister acted that way" because they had demanded that. It was purely a lie that beyond anyone's imagination, the opposition could do it shamelessly. However, truth is truth and the opposition does nothing but spread deceptive propaganda among the people.

Certainly, though the cock does not crow, the sun will still rise. Even if the opposition party does not cry, I will just continue to serve our nation and people. There are national achievements that I have realized without participation of the opposition party. What they truly did was cheating, insulting, instigating, and calling for foreign countries to cease assistance to and investment in Cambodia, etc. I beg those leaders of the opposition party to hold dignity and refrain themselves from deceiving other achievements as their own ...

#### A Message on How "Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia" Facebook Page Started and Went Official

Today, 2 February 2016, at 11:09 am, my Facebook page

have had the supports and likes from 2,099,740 fans. I thank our compatriots and youth inside and outside the country for always reserving me their supports. I wish to share with our compatriots about when and how I started my Facebook activity. There was a Cambodian youth, who, after finished his education in Cambodia, went to study on scholarships in Canada and USA.

Noting importance of Facebook abroad, which many youth and students favored, that young man thought that Prime Minister of Cambodia should have such social media to communicate even closer to the people, especially the youth. It was with that thought that that young man came up with a Facebook page under my name "Samdech Hun Sen, Cambodian Prime Minister." He posted in it news about my activities and Cambodian society as well as photos and news that attracted tourists to Cambodia.

I followed the page regularly, while there are also many pages created under my name. My Cabinet issued a letter denying possession of personal Facebook account/pages by me. The opposition then declared that its leader won the ruling party's leader while I did not even have a Facebook page of my own. As for that young fellow that created my Facebook page, he continued to keep it updated, though there was no official recognition. I kept following the pages created and used my name to compare its content and responsibility. I then decided to choose it as my official page.

When the page created by that young man received some 1.5 million fans in September 2015, I told my son to search for the man and declared it as my official Facebook page on 20 September 2015. After verifying with Facebook that it was my page, I noted that number of supporters who liked it has increased. Since I assumed ownership of the page on 20 September 2015, over four months on 2 February 2016, number of people who supported and liked

## Preah Sihanouk Referral Hospital Inaugurated

(29 February 2016 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

... I am so happy to be able to join with HE Kumamaru Yuchi, Japanese Ambassador, in this ceremony to put into official use a number of buildings in the referral hospital of the province of Preah Sihanouk. Please allow me to seek your understanding for my being late. I wished to have come since yesterday to benefit a rest at the beach but my wife engaged with other activity that we could not make it.

### Japanese Assistance to the People of Cambodia

Today we are working together to put into official use a number of buildings, reportedly five in all – emergency ward, maternity ward, general ward, administrative ward and support services ward. The cost of construction is US\$ 15 million. According to the report, the hospital, built in 1952, same age as I am, though was renovated many times, has now been improved with the Japanese assistance. The Japanese Ambassador just mentioned about how much Japan had so far provided financial support for the Cambodian blue water seaport, which plays very important role in the country's development. I used to refer to it as head of the dragon whose tail placed at the three-angle section of our country at Stoeng Treng and Ratanakiri provinces at the border with Laos. The blue water

the page reached 2,099,740. I use Facebook for social interest and learn about people's hardships, and to give people chance of living beside me.

Recently, I resolved numerous national issues through social media. I am not using Facebook in competition with anyone. Number of Facebook fans signifies the support of people who like me when they learned about my official page. I welcome them all, no matter from whatever political party they may be. I thank our compatriots and youth for reserving their respect for and being with me to keep peace for our nation ...

seaport provides Cambodia with opportunity for the country to do trade with other countries.

Along with new buildings, we will be receiving today some 91 medical items for treatment and related works by hospital for our people. I would take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation and thank for the Government and people of Japan for providing assistance for this hospital. I thank the companies in charge of construction and consultancy for making efforts to fulfill this task successfully. I thank the Ministry of Health as well as the local authority for paying attention and resolving problems and related institutions [...]

Today we have new buildings and we must understand that it was not that simple to get a project like this going. The Japanese taxpayers contributed their parts to the Japanese Government and the latter provides the money to Cambodia for the construction of this hospital. I think I need to repeat again about this fact so that the Royal Government of Cambodia and  
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for my intervention. I told him "I have given you the martial sword, you can't ask me to use it for you." That is why I am asking you ministers not to gather that much or you will not be able to work it out and resort to Prime Minister's power [...] Well this is what is created my legal mechanism relating to the establishment of institution and there would be not many articles in it. The sub-decree of organization and functioning of ministries will be more detail. It is the Royal Government's competency and there is no need to bring that to the National Assembly's attention. My idea is that we need not to wait for long. The Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture will need to discuss their functions, what need to exchange and where. Let us act. Do not wait ...

## NUM Graduation & Diploma Presenting Event

(05 February 2016 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Today I am so pleased to be able to preside over the graduation and present diplomas to some 4,901 graduates. Our country has today achieved new educated human resource. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the efforts made by our country as a whole and particularly for the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports for leading a new phase of fundamental reform. I also reserve my appreciation for the National University of Management for its sharing contribution in human resource development [...]

Stemming from correct policy in the field of education, which also attracted investment from private sector locally and externally due to permission for fee-paying students program, we have resolved the need of further education of our students who have finished their secondary school education. Among them all here, there are some 125 students have graduated with my scholarships, which NUM kindly offered to me and I gave them to those who needed them.

### Making Efforts to Prove Local Graduates Are Capable

While hailing progress of NUM as well as successes of graduates who are receiving their diplomas today, I am urging more deep reform in the field of education. Though one or two people insulted the quality of education locally, I wish everyone conscientious to translate those insults on local diplomas into real knowledge, and make further efforts to achieve higher education than they are. Having done that, we are not defeated before insults from some politicians. They preached about that those of us getting local education are worthless. Have they forgotten that those who prepare themselves to rule the country in 2018 are educated locally? Are they also subjects of insult?

Please transform sufferings of insult (by those politicians) into a studying force not only for each individual but also for educational institutions, where promotion of concrete reform is required. We are in the context of strong re-

gional and world competition, where human resource has become key in integration efforts and competition at regional, sub-regional and world levels. Cambodia can. We have been able to do it already. While the US sent its Secretary of State to Cambodia prior to the meeting between ASEAN and the US, it proves that Cambodia is also a sovereign state with its own mind. Cambodia is not the best in the world or big brother in the region, or so and so, but Cambodia also does not like to be insulted.

### Cambodia's Independent Foreign Policy

In days now, there have been comments that Deputy Prime Minister Hor Nam Hong's visit to Beijing was to calm China as the US Secretary of State John Kerry had been to Cambodia and Hun Sen would soon attend the US-ASEAN meeting next week. I wish to reaffirm that the Cambodian foreign policy is independent and sovereign. Cambodia need not seek any country's input. I was Foreign Minister when I was 27 when some of these analysts were just kids. Should its foreign policy be dependent, Cambodia would not have climbed out of abyss of dark past. Its win-win policy would not have yielded a success. There is no need (for Cambodia) to report to China what we did with the US or to the US what we did with China. The same is true for Tokyo. Cambodia is Cambodia. No one knows Khmer better than the Khmers. Only the Cambodians will hold the rights to decide of their fate.

John Kerry clearly said to me that he was here not (for Cambodia) to choose between the US and China ... I responded immediately "I also do not have to choose who from who as I would need them all to be my friends. What interest should it be if I would choose one and abandon the other or help one fight the other?" However, I have made a point to John Kerry that "maybe it is time to return justice to me. It is time to make it up on issue of South China Sea in 2012." I told John Kerry I was disappointed when they said that Cambodia's

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the Government of Japan are not misunderstood and dishonored. If they wanted to know how much or how the money is spent in this project, they should ask the Japanese Ambassador or the Head of JICA here. In Cambodia, case of people blaming one another goes endlessly. They said (we in the Royal Government are) corrupted and wasted foreign assistance. In fact, all I know was cutting the ribbon to inaugurate it. Bidding also did not happen in Cambodia. They did it in Tokyo and only Japanese company allowed for bidding it. Some people knew about this but pretended not knowing and some politicians have even slandered.

It may have been tenth time now that MC mentioned about the "Kingdom of Japan." MC, provincial governor, minister have it all wrong. Japan or Malaysia, though the countries have Kings, they are referred to as Japan or Malaysia. Please upgrade your knowledge as we are now in an integrated world and knowledge era.

### On Comments about Cambodian Physicians

I have something to say about physicians. We heard complaints from some people whose comments dishonored our physicians or medical staff. Though we accept that there are rooms for improvements, we also must be clear that comments that 99 out of 100 Cambodian physicians are immoral or unethical is not acceptable. Personally, I am thankful of and appreciating the physicians who have made efforts so far. They work around the clock like the armed forces. It is obvious that most of our physicians are ethically and professionally responsible and sacrificed to help our patients.

There may be a small number of physicians who could have conducted unethically however to give a ratio of one good against 99 bad is unreasonable for about 20,000 medical staff. The comment had gone that far to call for a revolution among physicians. It is an insult. We

understand that some physicians could have been unethical – using rough terms and even placing money above all else, but I am appealing to our physicians to help explained one another and should not allow one or two bad staff dishonor the whole hospital. The best way to handle this is to educate peers, to see the problem and manage it together.

There was a time when I was in the Preah Sihanouk province, perhaps in 2007, one person claimed himself as analyst said on TV that 75% of Cambodian income went into loss. You may ask yourself if 75% of what you earned went into waste by any reason, would your family be able to survive. What the person compared and stated was extreme. Some had even discredited those who studied inside the country. Whatever reason maybe, we must continue to strengthen medical staff ethics and we have a committee to do this work. We have modern equipments, technology and knowledge, but without virtue we would not be able to change.

Look, it is because there is a lack of virtue in technology that the world is facing danger these days. Why am I saying like that? Who produces nuclear (weapons)? Would it be just any one to be able to do it? Possessing technology and knowhow without a virtue clearly causes the world trouble. Take for instance, terrorists. Would they not know anything at all? They learned and knew how to use technology as normal men did. They steered the planes into buildings in New York.

I hope that there will be change in our behaviors from inappropriate to appropriate. There was a term I used before "physicians become massagers." It was not a disgrace to say that. In 1980s, we established a medical network to communal level and we did not have enough supply of medicines. With nothing to give to the patients, our physicians in those days resorted to coin rubbing (Gua Sha) to help

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(Continued from page 6 A) closeness to China was the obstacle to realizing COC (Code of Conduct in South China Sea). I had John Kerry's attention that when, before Cambodia took its turn, Vietnam and Indonesia were rotating chairs of ASEAN, why could they realize it? After Cambodia's turn, Brunei, Myanmar, and Malaysia – did they do it? What could they say about it? Is now not the time that those who attacked Cambodia or me personally apologize to me and repay my justice and cleanness?

I made my point to John Kerry that maybe because Cambodia is poor and small. When it is Brunei, no one said a word about it. I said to him “no gas should be placed in fuel on issue of South China Sea.” There needs to be efforts for countries in conflict to resolve their differences. Whether there will or will not be COC, ASEAN will not have rights to divide land among them. Vietnam and China would have to sit down and work together. The Philippines and China, or the Philippines and Vietnam, will have to sit down and work out their differences. Take for instance on issue between Cambodia and Thailand, there is no one else but Cambodia and Thailand to work on it [...]

#### **Cooperation of Education and Education Related Institutions**

I wish to give my sincere appreciation to Dr. Hang Chuon Naron for his leadership in reform of education with wide ranging support from our people, students, and their parents. Transformation in the way secondary school exam take place has brought about major impacts not just students in the secondary educational level but also students from primary upwards. Parents are now feeling that their kids are making more efforts in school. There is a community sense for that matter. Its repercussion has vibrated into our society and leading change of moral among our youth and children.

I am calling for closer cooperation between the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports with parental institutions and their own educational brands such as agriculture, health [...] We have increased a big slide of fund for education and our civil servants have had their salary increase last

January and will have another increase in April. Increasing budget for education, health ... has close relation with this idea of human resource training and development.

#### **Service Required Vs Service Requested**

There was a student who sent in his comments and requests to my iPad and iPhone. I just learnt of another problem. Medical students have six years to study and they have to take exam to get a license of their specialization, by which there would be those with full and temporary status. I transferred their requests to Whatsapp of HE Mam Bun Heng, Minister of Health last night. I also texted the students who filed the request that HE Mam Bun Heng received their requests already. I also added that there should not be full and temporary status after they are taking exam anymore. We have now come to a consensus [...]

... (I have made some prior decision) and amendment of law could follow. We have adjusted demand for driving license and even canceled those required for operating any motorcycle with 125 CC or less cylinder volume. We also have given money back to those who already paid for licenses. As for inheritance of property from parents to children, grandparents to grandchildren or between husband and wife, brought up by the CPP officials to the CPP Party convention, I decided to make a decision to cancel stamping taxation of inheritance. People complained about paying toll fee on Veng Sreng road, on National Road 4 ... we now have ended those contracts and people can now use them free of charge. Having done all that, has Cambodia fallen? No, it is not.

We must review people's demand by dividing them between services required and services suggested. What are services required? They could range from people's ID cards to their letters of certification of their births. I am calling on officials to pay attention and improve this work. Relating to trade, there are some requirements that would facilitate local

and external trade. Ministers are here today and they should sit down and work out together what are the requirements in their areas of expertise and management. People may ask for a road, a well, etc. These are services suggested. If we can resolve it today, we do it. If we could not, we could try to find other means – like organizing a Buddhist ritual to raise money for it, for example.

#### **Welcome Chinese New Year, Beware of Fire and Traffic Accident**

Today is one day closer to the celebration of the Chinese New Year. May have stamped their houses with Chinese letter but they knew nothing of what they all mean. In Cambodia, our people celebrate New Year three times – International, Chinese, and Cambodian. Some of you who have received diploma today would go to native village. The Ministry of Education already issued a notice to advise students to go to school on the Chinese New Year day. Sometimes, students are half-Chinese or teachers are, so very often there were no classes. I also beg all of our people to abide seriously by the traffic law. In January, though the number of traffic accident was lower, the number of fatal injuries was higher. According to weather forecast, on February 7, the weather will be cool. Since we often had fire during the Chinese New Year, mostly because of incense sticks burning while making offering for the ancestors, people should exercise extreme care.

#### **Cultivate One Dry Season Rice for Water Retention**

I would also take this opportune moment to appeal to our people to pay attention to water after the RGC issued a circular on lack of water. Last year, flood had not filled over the Mekong, Tonle Sap, Tonle Bassac and we would not celebrate the water festival's boat race. There was not much water reaching to lake. I suggest that our people cultivate dry season rice only once and keep water for animal and human consumption. According to weather forecast, not

until June will we have rain. Climate change is a common problem for the world. The forthcoming US-ASEAN meeting will also discuss this problem. The world is in turmoil of climate condition, natural disaster and contagious diseases [...] the fact that North Korea threatens to fire missile test is another serious issue for Asia [...]

#### **Keeping the Country's Peace and Stability**

I thank our people for placing confidence in me to continue leading the country. The most important factor here is to maintain stability. Should there be no peace and stability, no one could imagine of development. We must be clear, and see it through. In Italy, perhaps, if I remember it correctly, there has been a view that it is now too late to save Libya. What are consequences of terrorism? In Europe, Middle East, ISIS conquers large areas and has its own oil for sale. Cambodia – on that instance, must take heinous consideration on the country's need for peace and political stability.

To break peace and take away stability is easy. To find them back is difficult. We must not allow extremists to destroy the Kingdom's peace. We have made indescribable efforts – life included, to bring peace, life, and national unity back to the country thanks to the win-win policy. I hope our students; professors and people understand these interrelated reasons and glance at what happened in the world. Would Cambodia want the sort of situation that is happening in Libya, Syria, Iraq, Yemen or the others? I am sure this is what our people should sleep on it ...

(Continued from page 6 B) their patients. To help rub their patients with a coin in time of no supply of medicine was our physicians' effort to help patients with care. Now we have better means. What would be important is to pay attention and take serious ethical for and professional responsibility with patients...

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They would just rob the property before. Now they even killed people. I am calling for a serious inspection and conduction by the Ministry of Justice on this matter.

Those of you who look after prisons (must affirm) that so and so had really corrected themselves. I am demanding that from today onward, for every request for me to sign before submitting for approval from HM the King to set them free, there must be indications on the list as to who were thieves, and who were drug traffickers. I would spend my time to go through their cases attached, if possible. It is very suspicious why some did not get a prison term because of robbery. Some did not get a trial on ground that there were insufficient lawyers or they spent overextended detention without trial. I am calling on our people in the whole country to cooperate in suppressing these thieves/robbers for the sake of our country's security. Taking drug trafficking into consideration, criminal offense does not go down. I suggested to reschedule commitment for a free-drug ASEAN to a newer date but they did not. Now the deadline of 2015 is over ... we would have to re-discuss this matter.

### **Arrest Order for Truck Causing Damage to Tsubasa Bridge**

I was so shocked to have received the news and the overloaded truck caused damage to the bridge at Neak Loeng got away with a compensation of USD 150 in fixing the damage. I heard Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng issue an arrest order ... about 24 hours now and we do not have news if we are going to have it or not. We must pursue it whether it would be now in Vietnam. I would say that maybe we in Cambodia must close down some transporting companies or the same mistakes would repeat. The big problem stemmed from their bosses. If they paid insufficient attention to safety, we should close them down and order them to fix their problems ...

### **Transports and Agriculture – Two Ministries of Grade F**

... Well, I should talk more about transport and public works. The Ministry of Transports and Public Works is the most irresponsible ... frankly speaking. I do not see Minister HE Tram Iv Toek here today. Why the Ministry has been so clumsy? I would not allow myself to slide down with you. I am speaking for people to know and hear it. I do not have any more patience. It is beyond my comprehension. Agriculture too, with HE Ouk Rabun, that I have given grade F along with public works and transports. I think I will give them grades since we also have grades for cities. I have allowed more than enough time to take bath, to clean dirt and reflect oneself in mirror. Now it is time for treatment.

I am of the thought whether I should reshuffle the cabinet this year. I could not let it go on. I would be the one to bear the burden. Too much understanding brings about danger. I am thinking at this moment if I should have cabinet reshuffle this year. It is difficult. When I had my hand in and resolved the problem on their behalves, people said power concentrated only in one person. When I give them power, (the result is like) yesterday's order that until this time, the truck causing damage to the bridge is still nowhere to be seen.

### **Requirement to Have Attention Before Request**

As far as public service is concerned, I wish to stress out that we should divide it into two parts – people's requirement versus request. What every institution and section should try to fulfill is to answer to people's requirement as demanded by law such as ID cards, family logbooks, birth certificates, marriage permission letter, death certificates, etc. Concerned authority must issue for people, quickly and with transparency. They are people's requirements or needs. As for request, people may ask for schools, hospitals, pagodas, infrastructures, etc. We would answer to their re-

quest according to financial ability.

Today I wish to stress on this issue. We must concentrate our efforts to resolve this issue. There has been a mixing understanding between requirement and request of people. Requirement is a kind of service defined by law and there is no need for people to pay money for it. The national working teams also do not have to bother with them. Sub-national authority knows how to do it. It is so simple to understand what one person would require. S/he would require an ID card. There is no need for the person to ask for. When it is time, just do it for them. It is a requirement. We have determined that people of 15 years of age upwards must have ID card. Concerned officials must take it as their obligation. The same is true for family logbook. When a baby is born, s/he must have registration. People are unhappy when they had a hard time or even spend money to get what they entitle to by law. That is the problem.

I would urge the governor of every province to look after this matter. People voted to choose officials in communes/sangkats and they have to serve voters. For request, we already have stated in the five-year and annual national development program and they will carry out with communal fund. However, people are displeased with obstacles that prevent them from getting what they entitle to by law. I think we must concentrate in resolving this matter in the first half of this year. I may take a trip to local offices. I may need to scale down my program in Phnom Penh. I wish to learn what the problems are down there.

### **“Get It Done, Do in a Speedy Manner and Do with Transparency”**

We all should know that not only interior that has service for people's requirement but every ministry. Take for instance, the Ministry of Trade, they also have a section dealing with this, such as trade registration. I have three words to guide us all – “do

for them, do in a speedy manner and do with transparency.” I returned from the office of the Prime Minister late yesterday but I underlined the concept and determined to talk about it today. Our people already benefit from peace and development of infrastructure – roads, water canals, schools and hospitals, etc. Their income increase clearly. Comparing to 1979, their living conditions are very much different. John Kerry, the Secretary of State of the United States of America, who visited Cambodia and I met him during recent visit to the US-ASEAN summit in the US ... guided me to a waiting room and he said it loudly (of his impression on Cambodia) ...

People are not happy with complicated issues around them in the lower levels. That had annoyed them to a level that they would hit the cart while being unhappy with the oxen. Please excuse me for talking it out loudly. I wanted people to listen to it and point their finger at those who do it on contrary to the Prime Minister's advice. I will see through in this period of first six months. I think we can do it. In fact, we are doing it and there is no need for additional materials to make it work. I wish to see every province or even provincial governors actively compete in fulfilling this task ... The other day I called Sao Sokha and asked if I should visit some of the warehouses. Sao Sokha said he had just finished some of them and suggested I waited. I heard that there are legal and illegal logs. I wish to see with my own eyes what are and are not legal...■

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Speu Institute of Technology that we are laying the stone for the construction under the royal assistance of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of the Kingdom of Thailand, please allow me to take this opportune moment to wish HRH, Excellency, Lok Chumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen as well as our compatriots with the four Buddhist blessings. May the friendship between Cambodia and Thailand last always ...■