



26 October 2017—Samdech Techo Hun Sen paid homage to HM King Maha Vijiralongkorn while attending the Royal Cremation Ceremony

## Meeting Workers at Tuol Sangke Area

(25 October 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

... Let me thank you all, especially nieces and nephews workers and employees who are giving me such a warm welcome. I am so glad to be here with over 14,000 workers from ten factories in the Tuol Sangke area. I thank you here and workers in other areas so much for giving me affection everywhere I go. Such affection is a source of encouragement for me to continue to make efforts in resolving more problems concerned [...]

This has also pointed out that you have a better understanding of my leadership in the past and a clear indication that your parents and grandparents have had a good memory of sharing hardships in our journey to defend and develop the country altogether after the liberation of Cambodia from the regime of Pol Pot [...]

### Peace, Infrastructure, Human Resource – Crucial Element to Attract Investment

We have fulfilled so many tasks to get where we are now. You may have remembered how it was in the recent past. Tuol Sangke in between 1970-75 was a place from where the

(Khmer Rouge) warring faction mounted artilleries to shell the Pochentong area (and/or airport). It was not a developed area. As you can see now, this has become a developed area and soon there will be new buildings [...]

Why do we not look back at what we did? We have made efforts to make peace, to achieve development, and to attract investment as well as to find markets to attract investments to Cambodia. We had to put in place necessary infrastructures and provided vocational training and education. You may know that it was because of such education and training that you have benefitted from chances of finding jobs in factories and enterprises. Some of you have become foremen and even higher positions in every investments and to attract even more [...]

### Achievements – Efforts of CPP, No Opposition

Why and where have we achieved all this? It was not coming from bragging of the opposition. It all comes from efforts made by the Cambodian

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## A New Bridge Over Tonle Sap River

(23 October 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

### A New Bridge over Tonle Sap – A New Cambodian Achievement

My respect to Ladies and Gentlemen who are here present for this ceremony to build a new concrete bridge over the Tonle Sap river which links up the Jroy Jangva area in the east to the national road 5 of Phnom Penh side in the west. We are also putting up a steel bridge for provisional traffic circulation as well. It is a new achievement of Cambodia as a whole and of the Phnom Penh city in particular. Our country is in development day after day and it requires necessary improved and new infrastructures. We are breaking

the ground today to build a new bridge in between the existing bridges at Prek Phnov and Jroy Jangva, including the one built with the Japanese assistance since 1960s [...] this is time when Phnom Penh is facing with growing number of population and traffics. The bridge will definitely contribute also to development of the satellite cities in western direction of Phnom Penh. I am so pleased and taking this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to this Cambodian expat company for their cooperation in studying and designing architectural plan. I also thank the Ministry

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## Meeting Mention-A High School Graduates

(14 October 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

### In Memory of Samdech Preah Borom Ratanakaod

May I invite all of you to stand up and be silent in respect of the soul of Samdech Ov, Samdech Ta, Samdech Tatuat – Preah Borom Ratanakaod, in memory of his demise that our people will be celebrating tomorrow in the whole country. We all know that Samdech Ov Preah Borom Ratanakaod devoted his whole life for independence, freedom, national reconciliation for Cambodia. If there were without his crusade, we may ask a question what would happen to Cambodia, especially in his fight for independence on 9 November 1953, the final date that the French withdrew from Cambodia.

France, there is this Ministry of Overseas France. Would Cambodia be one of their territories overseas? That is perhaps one point to remember. It was because of his crusade, together with other movements, that secured independence from France.

Secondly, in days we will be celebrating the 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Paris Peace Agreement, which will be on 23 October. We may ask again, if there were no presence of Preah Borom Ratanakaod, would there be this Paris Peace Agreement. There were two main actors (who

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People's Party and the Royal Government. We have also secured them from efforts made by you workers and factories' owners altogether in resolving your differences. We have done what we should in asking other countries to provide assistance, to attract investment and to open markets for our goods abroad ... including our negotiation to join World Trade Organization [...]

### Would Not Let Any Traitors to Destroy Cambodia's Future

I think that you are able to fathom that there were no one else but the Royal Government (who have made all this happen). Some had come to instigate you to demand salary that was exceeding ability of the factories/enterprises owners. They even try to make thing inapplicable. They had used our workers for their advantage, especially in late 2013 and early 2014. They planned to have our workers joined them in overthrowing the legal Royal Government by actions that can be characterized as color revolution. We arrested the person behind this treason now. (According to law,) political party making systematic involvement in color revolution, for which we have discovered elements of undeniable evidences, is facing dissolution in the time to come. We would not forgive anyone to hide under the banner of human rights and democracy under foreign orders to destroy future of Cambodia. The one who did it had failed. We have contained them and the treacherous terror network.

They had used our workers in their plan. What was the real meaning of it? War could have happened because of armed violence as they appealed for armed rebel. You may have seen the VDO clip that the person demanded the army to turn their guns at the Royal Government. Should there be a real fight, what would be the consequences? Every element of evidences gathered indicates treason and national destruction. We will not forgive them. It

was lucky that Cambodia has me and I could have the situation under control. I allow no treacherous ones to have a chance to destroy peace and national unity, and more so to place the country under foreign control. Such determination has guaranteed that you nieces and nephew continued to have jobs in 2013 [...] should we fail to contain the situation, no one knows what could have happened. We have revealed the scheme [...]

### Welcome to Opposition MP to Work with CPP

As the involved political party is going to dissolve, we do not want those who have no ideas of what happened to have to suffer the same fate. It is in this understanding that we welcome those who leave that party and join political life with the Cambodian People's Party. Some have had no ideas of their leaders' attempts. We welcome councilors of the provinces, districts, communes, who wish to continue their works and join the Cambodian People's Party. (According to law,) elected seats of commune heads, assistants, etc., after dissolution, would go to other elected party, and in this case the Cambodian People's Party. In places where there were only two party contested, the seats will come to Cambodian People's Party. Should those elected on that party's tickets wish to continue to serve the people, after reallocation of seats, they may join the Cambodian People's Party to carry through with their jobs [...]

We are taking measure against the political organization of the party involved in treacherous acts. We bring only the leaders to account for what they had done. We do not wish to bother junior level (party) members [...] as in this case yesterday at Takeo, we could just welcome a member of the Daun Keo councilors into the Cambodian People's Party list [...] I also wish to affirm to the Cambodian People's Party committees at every level to implement this principle [...] we did the same

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## 2017-25 Technical/Vocational Training

(10 October 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

*In addition to prepared text, Samdech Techo made the following off-the-cuff comments on worker's basic salary in 2018, income tax, benefits for women in pregnancies, death benefits, and sportsmen access to the city bus service.*

### Workers' Basic Salary 170 USD/Month, Starting in January 2018

Please allow me to add some more issues on these recommendations that I think are closely relating to the topic. Let me congratulate the agreement reached on workers' minimum salary for 2018, which has provided a final figure of 170 USD/month. To get there, the Royal Government will be paying an addition of five USD, which is an amount of roughly four million USD per annum, from holding a part of tax, which is postponing to 2022, firstly. Secondly, we are also letting go roughly 24 million USD incomes from export control. The Royal Government is losing roughly 40 million USD from the two sources. As of now, we can say that starting from January 2018 the minimum salary of workers will be 170 USD/moth. They will earn even more with other works related benefits, such as lowering water, electricity, housing prices, and travel coverage [...]

### Income Tax in 2018 Impose on 1.2 Million Salary and Over

The second point that I wish to talk about now is that in a very short time, our civil servants and armed forces will achieve salary that is no less than one million Riel/month. Let me recall this issue a bit. Previously we imposed income tax on Riel 500,000 monthly salary and over. In 2016, we increased the ceiling to 800,000 Riel and in 2017, to one million Riel. In the forthcoming financial management law for 2018, we are preparing to move this ceiling up to Riel 1.2 millions to tax. This will benefit not only civil servants and armed forces, but also workers because anyone who

earns three hundreds USD per month and below will not answer to income tax [...]. I hope that members of the Royal Government supports this decision and I am sure the National Assembly will also have a fair say on this. It will go into our national budget law and implementation from January 2018 [...]

### Riel 800,000 for Women in Labor of a Child, Starting in January 2018

Yesterday, I was talking about issue relating to additional benefits for women served as civil servant and in armed forces, when they are in pregnancies and in delivery. Previously, she would earn Riel 600,000 for one child labor. We now have moved the delivery benefit up to Riel 800,000 for one child delivery, Riel 1.8 million for twin delivery and Riel 2.4 million for triplet delivery [...]

### Death Benefits for Civil Servants to Implement in January 2018

We also this issue of death benefits to cover – either it is a death from sickness or on mission relating to works. The benefit set from before was not relevant anymore. There have been new suggested figures but they are still not comparably reasonable with the benefits provided in the armed forces. Previously, death of sickness for civil servants would incur a financial assistance of 1.2 million Riel. It has now increased to two million Riel. Death incurred by mission relating to works was entitled to 1.5 million Riel before and it will be reaching four million Riel in 2018. In 2017, we used a sum of roughly 30 billion Riel or 7.62 million USD. We have planned that in 2018, we will be using a sum of about 44 billion Riel or roughly ten million USD [...]

Well, to sum it a bit, for women served as civil servants and in armed forces, delivery benefits set at this time are quite reasonable but death benefits of civil

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of Transports and Public Works for approving such a plan for the construction [...]

## From Scratch to Annual 7% Economic Growth

We should see that the capital city of Phnom Penh, after the liberation in January 1979, started with no inhabitants. It was absolutely a difficult time. This east side of the Tonle Sap River, in 1980s, was a location where the Khmer Rouge infiltrated to plant their shelling into Phnom Penh's fuel depot at Russei Keo on the western bank. I could remind that we sent in those days, youths of Phnom Penh and civil servants in various state institutions to clear the inundated forest, where the Khmer Rouge could use as hideouts.

We also sent many groups of young people from Phnom Penh to cultivate in the area. In those days, Prek Tasek was one no man's land. However, it has now become a potential development area [...] Infrastructure investment that we are putting in today is necessary and it will help reduce travelling difficulties for those who live on either side of the river. We have started, and we all should notice, from scratch to make Phnom Penh now a lively and active socioeconomic city.

For a country that has grown its economy at some 7% per annum, Phnom Penh has made not simple contributions. We have transformed this country from poor and low-income country to one that is on its way to higher middle-income country in 2030 and high-income country by 2050. We have overcome the most difficult time with great successes so we will be able to achieve these goals [...]

### The 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Paris Peace Agreement

Today, the Cambodian people in the whole country are cele-

brating the 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Paris Peace Agreement. Today, we are taking a one-day holiday in commemoration of such important event. (I) have been the one who contributed in the founding of and was one of the main actors to the Paris Peace Agreement. I hope that anyone who exercised interpretations of the agreement should understand it well.

The Agreement stemmed in fact from the Fere en Tardenois 2 December 1987 meeting between Preah Norodom Sihanouk and Hun Sen. It was the starting point of our negotiation for political settlement that involved later the United Nations to shape up the Paris Peace Agreement. Let us remember this [...] HE Ieng Mouli, a signatory of the agreement is also here.

Let me ask, when you talked about respecting the Paris Peace Agreement completely, whether the dissolution of the Khmer Rouge political and military organization was right or wrong. That we tried the Khmer Rouge leaders was right or wrong? ... It was because of not following the Paris Peace Agreement that we dissolved the Khmer Rouge's political and military organization [...] (we have incorporated) elements of the Paris Peace Agreement into the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

It is in this understanding that such a call for signatories of the Paris Peace Agreement to meet again is outrageous and undoable too. (Should they wish to do that they may have to) create the four factions again. Here, on the other hand, we have a legal government that represented by HM the King, the Kingdom of Cambodia's head of state [...]

## Infrastructural Needs Go Before SEA Game Hosting

Let me now turn back to our event today. We are here together and some had just taken

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with the Khmer Rouge. Not every Khmer Rouge was bad. Only bad leader makes them bad people. It is in this understanding that we will only bring the leaders to trial and dissolve their political and military organizations. Those at junior levels will just continue to work for our nation – both civil and armed forces [...]

They planned to use workers to create violence at Veng Sreng road [...] you may ask why a salary and working condition strike had had to take place at 2am and there had been supply of bread for them too. That person who carried out the work has now left Cambodia and is in the United States. This issue is not ending with one person arrested.

We must bring the whole thing into analysis. Had we left the situation in late 2013 and early 2014 unattended, would you think you could stay and work here? War could have happened in the whole country. No one would allow you to overthrow them easily [...]

## Peace and Development - Inseparable Elements

It is in this understanding that we must demand further efforts and our major task is to keep peace. Without peace, there could be no development. We allow no organization, local or foreign, to disguise themselves under financial assistance, human rights, and/or democracy to destroy peace. We need peace because it is crucial to continue development. Without development, we also could not keep peace. They are two inseparable elements.

I am calling on every stakeholder to continue to do whatever we can for the future of our country. Without participation, success would not come. Your parents and grandparents made tremendous efforts in the past to liberate the country from the Pol-

Pot's genocide, to prevent the return of the regime, and to work in cultivation for family's life. They did all those with bare hands [...]

It is in such indication that keeping peace is necessary and bearing great value. Our past taught us well enough. Without peace, we would not have development but destruction [...] I hope that you and your parents and grandparents continue to journey with me in keeping peace, safeguarding development, and keeping jobs and income that you have.

I have declared already that I will continue to run for Prime Minister for the next at least ten years. I will not allow anyone to destroy our country that your parents and grandparents have joined me from the beginning to build it [...]

## Thanks for Your Pure Feelings

We have gathered here with according to the number here 14,614 workers and employees from ten factories. I have brought everyone not much but 20,000 Riel as a token of appreciation. However, I have noticed a pure feeling on me [...] I thank you so much and for your consideration of me as your father, uncle, granduncle, or even grandfather. This has become indeed a source of encouragement for me to continue this long journey to bring our country out of low middle-income country to be one in higher middle-income country in 2030.

I am sure by then your income will be different. Your salary will improve. Years ago, each person had an income of 245 USD per annum. I think that was in 2000. However, we have now reached a new income level of 1,400 USD or more. We will continue to keep it up and ensure that our country will become one of the higher middle-income countries by 2030 and high-income one by 2050. ■

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selfies, embraced or kissed me. There was no need to beg for that. This has also clearly showed that Cambodia is safe because its leaders do not need a bulletproof vest. This is peace. When we have this bridge ready, we will have lesser problems with traffic flow. Previously, we did not have enough money. We contracted road construction and operation out to private companies. As we are repairing the old Jroy Jangva Bridge, we have decided to buy back this Prek Pnov bridge and road (invested by a private company) before its term ends in over thirty years of valid ownership and operation more [...] we also did that to the road from Siem Reap to Koh Ker, the National Road 4, the Veng Sreng road, the Sar La road, etc [...]

The Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia has committed to saving for infrastructural developments. You may notice that this is why I have refused to host the SEA Games before 2023. Should we host such event, we would have to bring down expenses on public investment because we needed to build up sports facilities, hostels and hotels, etc., which would cost us no less than a few hundred millions USD. With that much, we would be able to put some roads and bridges in place [...] we also have a project to build a bridge at Kratie to bridge the city of Kratie to area on the other side of the Mekong to link up with Kompong Thom province. As for Phnom Penh, we also have project to build two bridges – one between Jroy Jangva and Areykhsat and Kdey Takoy (and Lovea Em). It is my vision though to have a bridge in every three kilometre from one another [...]

## Prison for People Found Doing Wrong

... I wish that they would not seek to bring us down in abrupt way. You may not escape from legal net. You are to receive punishment for what you had done. Implementing laws is better than using arms as instigated by a treacherous person for an

armed uprising. Any armed uprising would lead to bloodshed and deaths. Implementing laws would leave no one to die but only imprisonment. Law punishes any person that is committing wrongdoing. Law does not allow arrest and imprisonment of innocent person [...]

... Countries involved in colour revolutions are now at wars because of instigations and calling for armed uprising. In the end, the strongest has the upper hand. Is that what they want? [...] I would advise them not to do it. A “treacherous person” had called on armed forces to rise up and said they are ready for that [...] I think they are not ready yet. They have made themselves my enemies. Should they succeed, they would not only destroy me but also a legal government, because I am the Prime Minister of this legitimate government. They should not forget this point. They said they would go against only Hun Sen but how about people who voted for the Cambodian People’s Party. Hun Sen represents a sovereign state and is responsible for the country’s domestic and foreign policies [...]

## Resolutely Defend Achievements

I have said it already that we are doing everything we can to protect peaceful life and peace for the people. We may have to take away some persons if we have to. I say it again, if we have to. Well, like fighting snake, to get it you have to get to its head. To safeguard achievements scored from the Paris Peace Agreement’s achievements, the win-win policy, and to defend national hard-won achievements, we are determined to defend law, nation and people resolutely. We are ready to respond to any type of situation should it arise. I have right to do so because I am now in such position permitted by law [...] Hun Sen was the one who founded the armed forces of the national United Front for Salvation of Kampuchea. I have been taking care of it to see its growth from the time when we overthrew the Pol Pot’s genocide regime up to the present

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persistently made every efforts to make it happens). Other factions, leaders could have abandoned negotiation with the Khmer Rouge or the Son San faction, but no one would turn their backs to negotiation with Preah Norodom Sihanouk and/or Prime Minister Hun Sen [...] The Sihanouk-Hun Sen meeting at Fère-en-Tardenois on 2 December 1987 was a breakthrough to other stages of peace negotiation for Cambodia. I am sure our people still remember that and to remember his efforts, the Royal Government keeps one day for our people to pay respect to his passing day [...]

## Education Reform’s Positive Impacts

... This year we are so pleased to see how positive the fundamental reform in secondary school exams has occurred in educational system from primary through to secondary levels. We have noticed that our students have understood that the level that they have to make efforts to pass is set high. Students cannot afford to care free and so their parents and superintendents. This has changed attitudes in our society.

It is indeed a great pleasure to see that those of you who passed the secondary school exams with mention-A [...] the standard is still strict and we have noticed increasing figures of students who passed the ex-

[...] I do not think you have the ability to bring me down by military means. If you try it, and should you fail, one place for you to go would be jail. Jail is for person found guilty of his/her actions, and more so for traitors to their nation. For people’s peaceful life in the whole country, we do not hesitate to take legal actions to clear out organizations and persons who violated laws. No state would allow anyone to carry out illegal actions or anti-state terrorist acts to get to power[...]./.

ams. It was because they made their efforts and so did their parents and superintendents. We also must recognize efforts made by teachers and professors too. I am taking this opportunity moment to express my congratulation for over 60,000 nieces and nephews who passed the 2016-17 secondary school exams in all mentions [...]

In previous episode of our country, your parents lost their chances. Not many of them had had it. Under Pol Pot, there was none. Your parents and grandparents may still have memory of what happened to the country. When peace replaces war and division, chance for education also comes for our youth and children. Peace has not been sufficient without construction of infrastructure connecting urban and rural areas. Schools construction has also been playing active contribution to allowing children and youth access to education everywhere [...]

## Grateful to Teachers

We have put in motion this movement of being grateful to teachers in the whole country. This year students even organized marathon, which they claimed in gratitude of their teachers. Yesterday, the teachers association received a sum of fund raised by students’ marathon. If there were such movements in every school, with participations of parents and private sectors, I am sure the efforts to broaden gratitude for teachers will spread widely. I hope that 5 October will always be with us all of the time and in every action [...]

## Regional Pedagogical Education Advances to 12 + 4

We did start from a very difficult condition and we have made our journey this far. We started from those who know more teach those who know little, and those who know little teach those who know nothing. At present, we have improved our system in education. We have now reached a time when our teachers for kindergarten

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## Meeting Workers at Kambol Area

(18 October 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

### Affection, Amicability, Welcome – Recognition of Achievements

Let me thank you all for such a warm welcome, especially from our over 15,000 workers who are present for this event today. I hope that you all are happy to be here. Just now, because of the rain, some of you and I had to walk across rainwater clogging area together. Two years or so ago, I saw news in some countries that a provincial governor went out to oversee the flood situation sitting on a litter so he avoided walking in water. As for us here, since we are from poor family background, nothing frightens us from walking in water clogging area. I was born in the year of Dragon and my house was along the Mekong River. It was a big flood year. My house was flooded [...]

I am so proud and pleased that we can meet today. I always consider it a festive day to see you. My way of working has not been this happy. I always sit alone in my office with papers around. I will have another difficult evening work today because many papers are waiting for me when I get back. However, I am having a wonderful morning with all of you here. I had a twenty-minute walk over there before reaching this podium and many of you had a very good chance to show me your affection, and even taking selfies. This has proven a close relation between Prime Minister, leader of the executive power, and workers. This also stems from the fact that there has always been good cooperation and supports from your grandparents, and parents to me and towards the Cambodian People's Party.

I have this feeling that such amicability, heartfelt affection and welcoming, would not come from misunderstanding and lack of understanding and knowledge of what Prime Minister Hun Sen did and has been doing now. I am sure your grandparents, parents have giv-

en me credits for what I have done always for our nation and people, and they have benefitted from them.

### Liberating, Preventing from Pol Pot; Win-win Policy; National Reconciliation

The fact your grandparents and parents were liberated from the regime of genocide of Pol Pot, I have a share in doing so with other leaders of the Cambodian People's Party. I was just one of many important actors who pooled their efforts to liberate our country from the regime of genocide. We had made further efforts thereafter to prevent the return of the Pol Pot regime and to search for peace through the Paris Peace Agreement. The 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Paris Peace Agreement will come on 23 October. I then put out win-win policy and led the implementation of the policy with other colleagues in the Cambodian People's Party to bring our nation together to unite and embark on peace everywhere. There are no more barriers as in the past when our country ruled by many armed factions. It is a hard-won peace and it has become our chance to bring about socio-economic development and poverty reduction.

### Peace Makes Cambodia a Food Surplus for Export

When we liberated our country (from the genocidal regime of Pol Pot), there country population was only about five million. At present, our population is over 15 million. When we had a five-millions population, our country was food-insufficient and we depended on food assistance from outside. Now that we are over 15 million populations, our country has a surplus of over five million metric tons of rice for export. There were not many tourists visiting our country before. In 2016, though, we received roughly 5.5 million tourist arrivals. We hope this-year tourist arrivals will reach 5.7 or 5.8 million. As we are leaving rainy

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and primary school levels will need to have twelve years education plus two years in pedagogy. For those who teach in secondary level, will need to graduate with a bachelor and one year in pedagogy. We have set our objective to train our teachers with 12 years of education with four more years in regional pedagogical school. It is important in our effort for educational reforms to achieve not only quantity but also quality [...]

### Discrimination by Well-Off Children on Poor Students

... I never like, since when I was staying in Buddhist pagoda in pursuance of education, when children from well-off family in power or in wealth behaved abnormally against students from poorer families [...] I have always been careful with my children because I was concerned that they would abuse his father's power. Now I am doing the same thing with my grandchildren. I am calling our society not to exercise discrimination, stop this bullying and insulting from students in well-off families on the poor. I used to be in tear when others insulted me while I depended on food and shelter in Buddhist pagoda for education [...]

Everyone is born naked and no one brought anything with him – wealth or power. Even though they are short of money, children of the poor also have brain. It was just that they were born to different mother/family. It was in this understanding that we have localized school buildings – not only primary but also secondary ones – to where children are. In the past, there were only one secondary school in a province. Now, we have many. We are creating opportune moments for students [...] Class would create social discrimination. I have tasted it. I would suggest to teachers everywhere help check this problem. Parents and superintendents also have a say in this. Parents must strengthen social moral among our youth [...].

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servants either in because of sickness or accident on mission relating to works seem to be meager still. I am calling on concerned authorities to focus on it and work out to fill in big benefits gap between civil servants and armed forces. We should try to figure out a formula to help those who lose someone in their families, example, like a spouse who does not have enough savings for funeral ceremony [...]

### Sportsmen Ride City Bus Free of Charge

We have been doing a lot for the benefits of our people. Yesterday I have declared that starting from 15 October our sportsmen will ride city bus free of charge as workers do. Sportsmen recognized by clubs and the National Olympic Committee would earn this. We have roughly over 5,000 sportsmen who will need to use city bus services. We provide this service for them free of charge. We do the same for workers [...] We are doing this to help relieve their financial burden and we hope it will also stimulate efforts towards hosting SEA Games in 2023./

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es, I think we will uplift our social morale through actions by younger generations [...]

### Education Infrastructures Needs

As I traveled to provinces lately, I decided to pour in some 150 million USD into education infrastructure. That has not yet included teachers and students' hostels. However, situation requires more. I noticed that schools that I built previously have required replacement, especially in formerly integrated areas between 1996-97, where transporting construction materials were next to impossible. We need to dismantle them and rebuild new ones. We are building many floors building too [...] Conditions for working and living for our teachers have also improved. [...].

For fuller text please visit [www.cnv.org.kh](http://www.cnv.org.kh)

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season, more tourists will come.

Peace has brought you young people jobs. If it were not because of the Cambodian People's Party's efforts, or Hun Sen's, we would be sure of what had happened. When the country has no peace, who would want to bring their money and invest in factories, hotels, etc. in Cambodia? [...] We have come this far and through so much of difficulties, we must not ignore how important peace has been as well as the chance it offers. We must keep the peace we are having now [...]

### Two Points about People's Wills

As we have come to this point, I wish to respond to some of the analysis days now that any dissolution of an opposition party would be a violation of wills of voters. I wish they would just make comments and interpretation as they wish. I would suggest two points to think on this point. Firstly, would anyone have thought about any voters or people's wills when they launched a coup against the head of state Preah Norodom Soihanouk? Was it not against the will of the people? Did they care about it? [...] to serve their war interest in Vietnam, they needed to occupy Cambodia. As Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk refused to oblige their wish, they got him, who had his people's support as a lifetime head of state, out of power.

Recently too, there was this chanting slogan of "Hun Sen! Step Down." Have those people thought of wills of the people who had voted overwhelmingly for the Cambodian People's Party and for Hun Sen to be Prime Minister? This is the point that everyone should think about. No one could deny such silly logic. Secondly, let us take a matter that happened in the land of the world human rights power. There was this Watergate scandal and there was this motion in the US congress to bring him down. Nobody talked about people's will (that put him the presidential post in the first place) [...]

I do not wish to engage in war of words with anyone but I have had to clarify this interpretation concerning trial of opposition leader and political party on charges of treason ... When they brought Preah Norodom Sihanouk down and dissolve the constitutional monarchy in Cambodia, has anyone taken note of that? ... I wish those made themselves analysts think about it thoroughly. In Thailand, a Prime Minister appeared on TV to fry rice for a company and he had to step down against the will of the people who voted for him. There were many cases there in Thailand [...] In South Korea, Ms Park Geun-hye was made to step down from her Presidential position, also voted in by the people [...] I seek understanding from our Thai and Korean friends for (drawing their countries' issues) as examples.

### A Coincidence between a VDO Clip and Evidences

This morning I saw a clip calling armed forces to turn their guns back. The clip was made of a speech on 4 June 2011 in Lowell, Massachusetts, US. They said "... the Hun Sen regime is about to fall down. The army must turn their guns and topple the regime of Hun Sen ..." Then, what can we say about protests with - "Hun Sen! Step down" and violent protests in Veng Sreng road that caused loss of lives? Were they acts of respecting people's will or strikes to overthrow with foreign order that would again flame up war in Cambodia? They had done it. They had failed. They will never abandon their tricks, though [...] Evidence we have collected conjuncts very much to what they said [...] such conjunction would involve not only one person but also the whole party and it will be up to the court to decide [...]

### Let Us Defend Peace for Jobs

... You should remember that for the jobs that you all are having, yesterday, today and tomorrow, is because we have secured peace. No one would bring investment to our country

## Meeting Workers at Veng Sreng Road

(11 October 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

### Warm Welcome – A Source of Encouragement

May I extend the warmest welcome to presences of excellencies, lok chumteavs, ladies and gentlemen, workers and employees today. It is a great opportune moment for me to be able to meet with 14,400 of you who are working in factories and enterprises in the Veng Sreng area and vicinity. Some of you might have met me once at Koh Pich already. I skipped our meeting last Sunday because I had a warming party for my grandchild. I had to carry him to see the first sun light after his birth of one month.

Also on 15 October, we will reschedule our meeting again because the whole people of Cambodia will celebrate mourning over the demise of HM the former King Samdech Ov, who passed away since 2012. It is going to be five years. Please allow me to take this opportune moment to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for such warm

should we be at war. Tourists would also steer away from us. A country with firm political stability can secure national progress. We may look at Singapore – a country that stability stays as backbone of the country's development. China becomes the world number two economy and is on track to become the world biggest economy surpassing the US because of peace and political stability they have secured too.

You may find similar deal in Japan. It is in this understanding that you and our people must safeguard them. We have made great efforts for national economic development. We have lowered our country's poverty rate from 100% to just 13%. Let me explain you a bit. To be above the poverty line as set by the United Nations, a person must earn at least one USD per day. As for you, with a salary of 153 USD, you earned roughly five USD (a day) [...].

hospitality and family-like amicability extended by nieces and nephews for me. I am feeling that your parents and grandparents must have known well of what I have been doing for Cambodia. Their amicability and trusts really are sources of encouragements for me to continue my actions [...]

### Basic Salary is 170 USD

HE Minister Ith Samheng already reported to us in this meeting and I have this honor, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, to share with you that starting from 1 January 2018, your basic salary will increase to 170 USD. In one of the previous meetings, I said that in 2018, we would try to increase our workers basic salary to not less than 160 USD. I was not sure how much exactly. In the negotiation process, representatives of trade unions and the Royal Government voted for a 165 USD basic salary. According to suggestion made by the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, we had a discussion with Minister of Economy and Finance, and indirectly with the Ministry of Trade, to round the figure up to 170 USD because the Royal Government will add five USD to the figure. Then, our workers' basic salary is not 165 USD but 170 USD.

What has the Royal Government done to relieve some of the burdens for factories/enterprises owners in order for you to receive such benefits? The Royal Government has decided to extend grace period for profit tax from 2018 through to 2022. This will lose some 20 million USD to the state. The state also loses another 20 million USD income normally collected by the Ministry of Trade. In all, the Royal Government will mitigate a sum of over 40 million USD for this salary increase. On behalf of the Royal Government, I am expressing my sincere appreciation and thank to the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, (Continued on page 7)

## In Gratitude of Teachers

(05 October 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

*In addition to prepared text, Samdech Techo Hun Sen made the following impromptu comments:*

### **Prolong Retirement Age for Teachers**

I wish to take this opportunity to share with you some of my thoughts. I wish the teachers' day becomes a regular event. I remember that I launched this idea in 1997. I think I did two major works. Firstly, I elevated teachers' retirement age from 55 to 60 years old. I am now sorry that we could have regulated to 65 years old then. At 65 years of age, one is in his/her full energy. Unfortunately, s/he has to go into retirement. I am calling on more thought and consideration to review within the framework of our teachers what we could do to reset teachers' retirement age a bit longer. I did it once to change it from 55 to 60. However, it was not responding properly to our demand. The same is also true in the case of health and medical staff. However, we are dealing first with those in line of teaching duty. We have contracted retired teachers to work. It would be better if we just extend their retirement age.

I wish that HE Pich Bunthin, Minister of Public Functions, to figure out a way on this matter. It is true that prolonging retirement age would cause unhappiness among younger generation. However, I think they could understand the needs of our nation and they would benefit from it too. This contradiction had happened in France. Younger French people protested against such policy. We must take every factor and impact into consideration. We are lacking number of teachers but we are putting many into retirement and replacing them with new ones.

Well, I am just reminding you that this is an idea I launched in 1997. I am calling for a review. Prior to 1997, teachers will go into retirement when they reached 55 years of age. In

1997, we had changed that. As for me personally, I support extension of retirement age for teachers because that would be responding to our social needs. We recruit thousands of teachers every year and they are not enough. Teachers who retired had to work as contracted teachers. I think it is high time to rectify that and to extend the retirement age. I think we can do this and the National Assembly will indeed support the draft law.

## **Teachers' Day – Should Be National Movement**

Secondly, what I did also in 1997 was to set a motion for teachers' day and/or in gratitude to teachers or mentors. It is now 20 years. That has brought me to this meeting I had with former President of Teachers Association, the late senior citizen Neth Yang. He wrote a nice poem. I fell very impressed [...] I really wish the teachers day and/or gratitude to teachers/mentors to become a national movement that lives forever and ever in every students' heart and mind. It will not be for the students of this generation but for the generations to come. We must be in gratitude of our teachers/mentors who guided us through [...]

I have seen the other day students of Beoung Trabek Secondary School gathered to organize their gratitude day for teachers/mentors. If students of other schools were to do the same, I think we should set for 5 October as a day to celebrate our gratitude to teachers/mentors. I think there are many students in many schools who could set this example in motion. We then will not organize day of gratitude to teachers in separate location but in the whole country [...] when our students are of such conscienc-

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(Continued from page 6)  
inter-ministerial working groups, workers representatives, and employers for working together to achieve this consensus for salary increase for our workers in garments and apparels. This is a real benefit. It is not an empty promise [...]

### **Income Tax Applies on 1.2 Million Riel or 300 USD**

Let me also declare today before our workers that we will not impose tax on incomes that is below 1.2 million Riel or 300 USD. The Royal Government will stipulate in its financial management law for 2018 on this point [...] I must seek your understanding that this is tax culture that citizen of every country in the world will follow. It is from this tax that the state will make one part of it your pension when you retire [...] I will continue my meeting with workers/employees in the whole country, not only in Phnom Penh. I think I am physically fit and I must respond positively to your encouragement [...]

### **Thanks to Efforts of Cambodian People's Party**

I need to have your attention that what we have achieved today is not coming down from the sky nor by any empty promises of any political parties. We have them thanks to the efforts made and led by the Cambodian People's Party, who enjoyed supports from your grandparents and parents. We are not flimsy politicians who seek votes in elections times. We have made thorough projects with certain prediction since 2014 to offer a salary of no less than one million Riel for our civil servants and armed forces in 2018. The basic salary of workers and employees will also not be less than 160 USD/month. It was a scientific calculation based on our economic growth [...]

Some parties in some countries made promises that they could never make them happen. As a ruling party and Prime Minister, we cannot just make empty promises. Before we have come

to this stage, you know what had happened. There was war and genocide. Then we had war again. There were no chances left for the country and people. Your grandparents and parents should have remembered them. There was not even a single family, which did not encounter the past tragedy. We had war of foreign aggression in between 1970 and 1975, then the genocide, which left families in ruins and separations. We started from scratch since when some of you were not even born yet [...]

We have come to this stage. We started from handicraft and now we are in the phase of industrial development. The war not only hindered us. It destroyed the country too. No country or company in this world would come to invest in countries without security and are at war. To overthrow the genocide of Pol Pot was necessary to save people's lives. Human rights must start from right to life. Should anyone ignore this issue, s/he is leaving out gratitude for his/her parents, who gave them births. If they die already, where can right and democracy come from?

### **A Shame to Have Allowed Pol Pot Sit in the United Nations**

We liberated the country from the genocidal regime of Pol Pot on 7 January 1979. We restarted the country in hardships and people were working with bare hands. They had to work on land collected as state property by the regime of Pol Pot. They had to go from where they were to their native places. That was a tragedy. The genocidal regime of Pol Pot with foreign supports, the United Nations included, continued to fight, and punish us. We will soon celebrate the Paris Peace Agreement on 23 October. I think that the United Nations should be ashamed for continuing to support the regime of genocide of Pol Pot and to allow them occupied the Cambodian seat from 1979 through to 1991, when the National Supreme Council of Cambodia replaced them. It was a satire for democracy and

(Continued on page 8)

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human rights. They championed for them but they failed to acknowledge the truth. They have now recognized what they did not and demanded trial of more leaders, by which could destabilize our country again.

We continue to stop and prevent the return of the regime of Pol Pot's genocide and we did whatever we could to seek for political settlement. We have achieved the Paris Peace Agreement on 23 October 1991. Every elements of the agreement have now become elements of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia. They may not dream of reconvening a Paris Conference because many signatory nations have not existed any more [...] for instance the Khmer Rouge. Would it be necessary to recreate them to be a party in conflict? More so, the Paris Peace Agreement mentions nothing about trial of the Khmer Rouge. Would they consider then trying the Khmer Rouge regime unconstitutional to the Paris Agreement?

## One Party Goes, Five Will Replace It

They seem to have talked only about multiparty issue. I must affirm here that when one political party dissolved, five new ones will replace it. In Cambodia, we have dozens of political parties and it is a heaven for them as well as for non-governmental organizations. We have made efforts to overcome difficulties. UNTAC (the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia) spent two billion USD to extinguish war in Cambodia. They failed to do it. We made our own efforts to achieve national reconciliation, and through our win-win policy, we have reunified the country for the first time in the last five hundred years or so history [...]

With peace in the country, we have chance to develop our nation. We first tackled issues in agriculture. In times of liberation, we had only five million population but we did not have enough to feed them. We had rice supply from outside. At

present, we have some 15 million population but we have a surplus of over five million metric tons for export. According to norm set by the World Food Program (WFP), and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), they have listed corn, potatoes, bananas, etc. as foodstuff too [...] in Cambodia now, we have a surplus of five million metric tons of rice, other foodstuff not included. We are searching for markets for our people and trying to ensure their good prices [...]

## Cash Policy for Women in Pregnancy and Delivery

Dating back to 1997, we had only 64 factories and 80,000 workers. As of today, we have over one thousands factories and over 740,000 workers. We have in all, including those working in enterprises, about 1.2 million workers/employees. We also have another three million non-registered workers [...] we must come up with policies to help women in delivery both those working in private sector and those who are civil servants and in the armed forces. We need to prepare cash policy for women and we are giving priority to female workers and employees.

This policy to provide cash assistance and the fact that increasing number of factories and enterprises are happening because of efforts made and led by the Cambodian People's Party. There was no hand of the opposition. Please understand this. They asked foreign countries to cease assistance to Cambodia, to purchase no goods from Cambodia, and to send no investment to Cambodia. What they did was calling for increase of salary at an unreasonable rate. Salary increase without taking into consideration proportional economic condition would make things worse. They mobilized workers to join demonstration to demand increase. At the end of the day, the factories are closed. Who would lose first? [...]

## Labor for Foreign Job

## Markets

Some bragged that it was because their calls that the Royal Government increases salary for civil servants, the armed forces, and workers. They really try to take advantage from what has been done and happening, while in fact, through these demands they were looking for destroying what the Royal Government has realized for their own political advantages [...] we are working hard to open job markets abroad – Korea, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, etc. They said that we have been able only to send our labor to work for other countries. Look, even the US citizens are everywhere looking for jobs. Of course, they are looking for higher-skill jobs. Take for instance, BTV, ETV Company owned by my daughter also hire US citizens to manage [...]

In many countries, especially the US, they have made it public about their jobs creations. They are fast. They make their figures available every month. For instance, how many jobs have they created for their citizens, or how many have lost. They keep abreast of this. I think the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training should also work in this and make jobs figures available on a monthly, trimester, semester, or yearly basis. We need that kind of report and that will help our people understand [...]

## Chemical Bomb Ordnances in Nine Locations in Svay Rieng

Only with peace a country can develop. In the past, we have learnt so many lessons of sufferings where war had brought our country destructions. We have located chemical weapons ordnances in nine locations in Svay Rieng province. I am asking Minister of Health HE Mam Bun Heng to conduct a research in the area where we located one last January to find out if it caused any health problems to our people, who have been living with it over forty years, since when it was bombed. We

are looking to understand and record impacts caused by the weapon of mass destruction used in Cambodia [...] they were US bombs and we have seen this US chemical weapons team coming to collaborate with us on this work. We welcome them. I have said that they should not only look for remains of their MIA but also remove chemical bombs in Svay Rieng and also in Meh Mot. In 1970, they used these bombs to drop leaves to identify hideouts of the Viet Cong. They did not think of human right then.

## Stand Up to Defend Our Country's Peace

When implement the country's law for the sake of defending peace, security of the country, they say we are abusing human rights. When they gunned us down, bombed our country, they did not think of human rights [...] we have no weapons of mass destruction and we do not have the ability to send troops abroad, except under the UN umbrella to help friends – Sudan, South Sudan, Mali, Central African Republic, Lebanon, and previously Chad, and Cyprus as well. We wish and I wish that foreign friends understand our situation. However, from what had happened in the past, we knew some did not respect us [...]

I am calling our people to stand up and defend our country's peace. With peace we secure, we will guarantee development for our future. Look at countries like Iraq, Syria, Yemen, etc., where wars are in flame, have they received any investments or tourists, jobs? Europe, if I may remind you, boggled up in consequences of their own actions to support color revolutions in Syria, Libya, Yemen, etc., and the military invasion in Iraq. People from those countries are becoming refugees and swamping Europe. They cannot refuse them. They cannot send them back.

As for Cambodia, we need to continue together to secure our stability and works [...]/■