



10-11 January 2018, Samdech Techo welcome Chinese Premier Li Keqiang for the second Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) meeting and official visit to Phnom Penh.



24-28 January 2018, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcome Samdech Techo for the Special Commemorative ASEAN-India Summit, the 69th Republic Day, and official visit.

Commemorating 7 January Victory

(07 January 2018 — Unofficial Translation)

Today is the 39th anniversary of the great and historic victory on 7 January 1979 that saved millions of Cambodian people's lives from massacre under the brutally genocidal regime, and ushered in a new era of Cambodia in independence, freedom, democracy, and social progress.

We are celebrating this anniversary to commemorate always our supreme gratitude for our heroic cadres and soldiers of the National United Front for Salvation of Kampuchea, and the heroic Vietnamese voluntary troop, who sacrificed their flesh and blood in the fight to overthrow the genocidal regime of Pol Pot, and defense of Cambodian national and people's survivals. We are expressing our deep gratitude for friendly countries, near and far, and peace and justice loving people in the world for supporting wholeheartedly for the course of national salvation and saving our people from the death abyss. We are bowing in respect for souls of millions of compatriots who pitifully and unjustly lost their lives under the regime of genocide, and praying for their souls to rest in peace.

On this occasion, we all are

expressing fidelity and highest gratitude for Preah Karuna Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia, and Samdech Preah Mohaksatrei Norodom Monineath Sihanouk, the Heroic Queen Mother of Cambodia in Freedom, Dignity, and Happiness. We wish Their Majesties good health, strengths, intellects, and longevity to stay as cool shade for the Cambodian nation and to continue leading the Cambodian ship to the shore of progress always in full independence, peace, national unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Though decades have passed, we are still remembering always the massive tragedy, national disasters, flamed by wars caused as a result of the coup conducted by the Lon Nol group on 18 March 1970, wired-pulled by foreign nations, and the greatest criminal regime of genocide of the Pol Pot's Democratic Kampuchea in a period of three years, eight months and twenty days, after the victory on 17 April 1975, turning Cambodia into the most brutal killing fields, a sea of blood and tears of the Cambodian people. Over

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Second Annual Gathering of Journalists

(15 December 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

... Once again, at this second annual gathering between the Royal Government and the local journalists, please allow me to express my warmest welcome to every media institutions for taking their times to join in this joyous occasion ... We have just wrapped up the extraordinary congress of the nationwide representatives of the Cambodian People's Party, and I just spent about two and a half hours briefing the party officials. I had about a half hour time for physical exercise before coming to our gathering. As you can see, my health is good and I am still fit for another ten years as Prime Minister [...]

Three Kinds of Journalists

We seem to have three kinds of media in our country [...] Firstly, those that are performing like mafia. I have reports in my hands. I just wish they adjusted their behaviours. They have blackmailed people with story they made. They would run the story if they did not get a pay-off. This kind of journalists are working on mainly issues relating to forest crimes. I send them a message to stop it immediately. I have proof of your commu-

nication. They have disrespected their professional ethics for about five years already and blackmailed people for reasonably huge pay-off. We must pay attention and work to put an end to this practice [...]

Secondly, those journalists who never abided by the law, who did not make a legal registration, and who evaded taxes. When their way of practice blew up, they acted as victim of politics to win praise from their countries of origination. Some media operated in our country and violated our laws, did not pay taxes to our country. When we discovered it, they made themselves political victims of the Cambodian authority. I think President Donald Trump was correct to have created awards for news media of fakes and lies [...]

Thirdly, those media with only names but without actions. I

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three million Cambodian people were killed tragically, while national infrastructures were demolished to their roots.

In circumstance of severity that the nation suffered disaster, pure patriotic forces of the Cambodian People's Party, left from the Pol Pot's regime of massacre, stood up and heroically fought against the regime, and united to establish the National United Front for Salvation of Kampuchea on 2 December 1978 to lead the people to struggle to liberate the country from the brutal regime. The army of the National United Front for Salvation of Kampuchea, with great, timely-manner and effective support from the Vietnamese voluntary troops, toppled the regime of genocide and scored a brilliant victory on 7 January 1979. The 7-January victory saved lives of people surviving the killings in a timely manner, brought back to the Cambodian people rights that were lost under the regime of Pol Pot, restored and revived spiritual and material values of thousands of years of the Cambodian nation, and contributed actively to peace and security in the region. The 7-January victory gave the Cambodian people their second births and hope for national future. It is the true history that no force can deceive, exaggerate, and destroy.

After the liberation, while enjoying the national revival, Cambodia encountered uncountable challenges and hardships caused by the threat of attempted return of the genocidal regime, destructive war conducted by remnants everywhere, and severe consequences in every fields left from the regime of Pol Pot. It should be reminded that after the fall of Pol Pot's regime, their broken forces dispersed and re-grouped at the western border. They were aided and abetted by some countries to survive and to make war aimed at infiltrating and overthrowing the authority of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, which was established after the 7-January victory. It was another difficult phase that the Cambodian People's

Party had to restore economy, society, and people's livelihood from scratch and empty hands, on the one hand, and to fight to prevent the return of the regime of Pol Pot on the other, while in its poor condition, suffered further unjustly political and economic embargos from some countries, who united together to eliminate the People's Republic. Should we not be able to prevent the return of the genocide, we would not have survived and have had everything we do today. However, with leadership of the Cambodian People's Party, and the great solidarity of the people, our nation overcame threats victoriously, stood up, and scored great achievements in all fields. That was very deeply meaningful in our history for long lasting existence, and progress of the Cambodian nation.

The past 39 years clearly indicates that stemming from the 7-January victory, Cambodia has been marching on a correct direction in accordance with our people's sacred aspiration, and in lines with common tendency in region as well as the world, no matter how many difficulties and flexibility required:

Cambodia – previously was a killing field, a protracted battlefield of war, a fearful insecure place – has become a land of peace and freedom, where people live in harmony, and an attractive tourist destination in the region and in the world receiving up to 5.6 million tourists in 2017.

Cambodia – previously was covered with dictatorship of the Pol Pot's butchers, a country insulted by many, has now become a country adhering strictly to principle of democracy, freedom, liberal pluralism, promotion on human rights and dignity; implementing regularly a free, fair and just elections; abiding by rule of law and legal principles; and a state that is full of sovereignty and cannot be infringed upon.

Cambodia – previously was under economic and political embargoes, has now become a country that is integrating actively into the region and the world, good friendly relation

and cooperation with other countries, while actively fulfilling its role with equal rights and footing in every international, regional and world affairs.

Cambodia – previously received the UN peacekeeping troops, in just over one decade, has sent its peacekeeping troop to many countries under the framework of the UN operations.

Cambodia, where its national economy foundation was destroyed completely, covered by poverty and lack of food, has now become a country that exports rice, ranks among countries that achieved sustainably high economic growth at an average rate of 7.7% per annum in the last two decades, while realizing progress in poverty reduction. Cambodia has achieved one of many important milestones in its history to transform from a low-income country to become a lower-middle income country, and is progressing to become a higher-income country by 2030.

These mentioned above are major historic transformations of Cambodia in nearly four decades. They stemmed from the correct leadership of the Cambodian People's Party, from energetic participation with patriotism of our people of all strata, races, faiths, religions, civil servants, armed forces, farmers, workers, traders, laborers, and progressive circles in society in the course of restoring, building, and defending motherland, while enjoying faithful assistance from friendly countries – near and far, and international community.

The 7-January spirit eternally exists in the heart of every Cambodian, and every generation thereafter. The 7-January spirit is a light that shows us the road to overcome every obstacles and consequences in every circumstances towards successes. The 7-January victory is a strand of great and unbreakable national solidarity. We are determined to safeguarding and promoting the glorious spirit of 7 January always to score more new achievements in the construction and defense of, and in preventing disastrous war and

genocidal crimes from recurring in our motherland. Only those who wish to destroy and bring backwardness to the nation, and those who forget their births, nation, and people, were against the victory on 7 January.

As we are now stepping into 2018, the fifth year of implementation of the political platform and the third phase rectangular strategy of the Royal Government in the fifth legislative term, after so many new achievements we have achieved in the passing year:

We have strengthened further people's national defense foundation and national security to guarantee safeguarding of territorial integrity, peace, political stability, and social and national harmony. We have taken effective legal measures to thwart successfully attempt of color revolution by the opposition party acting in collusion with foreign circles aimed at overthrowing the legal Royal Government. The color revolution organization mastermind in Cambodia to cheat and betray people's wills has been neutralized and certain persons have been brought for trial in conformity with laws in force. It is on this basis that Cambodia is firmly defending its peace, independence, and sovereignty, evading further national disasters, and guaranteeing progress on a correct path of democracy, human rights, and rule of law.

We have furthered implemented with strong will and effectiveness process of state reforms at all levels and sectors. It has a positive repercussion on state institutions' governances, strengthening of justice, social equity, national development, and is enjoying people's accolades.

We have maintained peace, political stability, and firm security to guarantee Cambodia's realization of further achievements in process of socio-economic development and improvement of living condition of our people. Cambodia has scored a growth of 6.9% in 2017. Such a strong growth has been reflected through progress

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made in the field of industry, manufacturing, construction, agriculture, and services, including those of tourism and real estates, etc. It should be noted that Cambodia is transforming its economic infrastructure from one that depends on agriculture to one that depends on industry and service sectors.

Cambodia has implemented a careful macroeconomic policy and stabilized its economy, while driving and raising high economic diversity, competition, including productions and domestic consumption. The exchange rate stabilizes, and inflation rate has been at a controllable level, while foreign reserve has increased every year thanks to positive growth of foreign direct investment, and improved balance of payment.

People's living condition improvement has been reflected through social indicators, especially increase of GDP average per capita from 1,042 USD in 2013 to 1,435 USD in 2017. Poverty rate has dropped sharply from 53.5% in 2004 to 13.5% in 2014, and continues to drop further. Along with this, gap of people's incomes has also narrowed gradually.

Realization of high economic growth and macroeconomic stability in context of low inflation, and stable exchange rate, has allowed chances for the Cambodian people of all levels in the country to have more jobs opportunity, and make more incomes. It is in this note that civil servants and the armed forces will receive higher income year after year, while we are implementing policy to increase a salary of over one million Riel in 2018. Hundreds of thousands of workers and employees working in the private sector will benefit from chance to have increased income to 170 USD per month in 2018, through the implementation of the Royal Government's policy to increase minimum pay for workers and employees in garment and apparel sectors every year. That has not yet included other Royal Government's social protection policies. Agricultural production

this year has achieved a higher yield, while there is a better price for agricultural produces. Aside from chance to seek more jobs and higher incomes for millions of people above, the Royal Government has issued necessary measures and policy aimed at resolving difficulties, concerns, addressing aspirations of our people, and solving national social and economic challenges. In 2018, the Royal Government launches a healthcare fund for civil servants and armed forces, retirees, councilors of all levels, and village officials. The Royal Government is also continuing organization of social protection policies on health and other risks to extend its coverage for people in the whole country.

The past 39 years have been ones of **solidarity, heroism, and victories**. Our efforts in the last 39 years have transformed our country from ashes to revival, and proud progresses. That has bolstered foundation for us to advance further to realize supreme goal of **"a Cambodia of independence, peace, freedom, neutrality, democracy, and progress."** It is certain that our way ahead is still full of obstacles. However, none of them would be able to prevent our endeavors to realize our aspiration as long as our people are in unity, solidarity, and of the opinion to continue on this correct path. We must have confidence in our efforts and remember always that national internal factors determine victories and not those external ones. It is in this spirit that we are determined resolutely to defend and keep our hard-won peace firm, and long lasting, no matter what price it requires us to pay. Peace is essential factor to guarantee progress of democracy and human rights, to ensure sustainable and equitable development, and to guarantee honorably peaceful lives and living conditions of our people. **Should we lose peace, we would be losing everything.**

In this point, I am underlining for our compatriots that though the organization of color revolution was dismantled, perfidious schemes of ill-willed circles

taking commands from behind their backs for color revolution in Cambodia have not yet ended. They continue to use good words on democracy, freedom, rule of law, and humanity, but in reality, they block true democracy, freedom, and rule of law from progressing. They choose certain individuals who are against the Royal Government, encouraging certain non-governmental organizations and media to abuse the laws, while abandoning the Cambodian people and holding them their political hostages. Such actions are not new though. Those are what they had been doing in the 1980s aimed at suffocating the People's Republic of Kampuchea militarily, economically, and politically.

Those foreign circles pretended to overlook actuality in Cambodia and are making efforts to cover up their failures, while continuing to pressure the Royal Government to act at their wills under the pretext of democracy and human rights, and through threats to cut off assistances and other strict measures, which are interfering grossly in the sphere of competency of a sovereign state. On behalf of a sovereign state, Cambodia bows to no external pressure, and would not allow resolutely changes by color revolution to happen because such policy has been creating internal conflicts, instability, insecurity, war, sufferings, displacements, and unjust loss of lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent people in some countries. Cambodia has had sufficient lessons on which to continue its march forwards on the basis of defending independence, sovereignty, and holding rights to determine our own destiny. Along with this, we hope that those circles will see and accept the truth, live with the Cambodian people and stop creating obstacles for our pitiful Cambodian motherland.

In this auspicious occasion, I wish to affirm that a true democracy in Cambodia does not backtrack or drop low. It is on the contrary, it has been kept and bolstered firmly further along with rule of law principle in the Cambodian people and

national interests. Only fake democracy has been eliminated. The Cambodian People's Party adhere firmly to a political regime of democracy and liberal pluralism stipulated in the Constitution. The Party will take parts in competing freely and in equal footing with other political parties that are operating legally in Cambodia in the forthcoming fourth legislative Senate elections on 25 February 2018, and the sixth legislative term National Assembly elections on 29 July 2018. Cambodia is deeply grateful to countries that are understanding the true situation and the Cambodian people's aspiration, while continuing to provide faithful assistance to the elections in Cambodia.

The Cambodian People's Party is furthering implementation of measures taken by the Royal Government in raising high good governance of public institutions of every level, strictly and equally implementing laws to guarantee effective works, to eliminate negative phenomena, to strengthen social justice and equity, to guarantee public order, and to provide public service closer to people's access. The Party will continue to make efforts to implement its political platform to score more new achievements in every fields to respond to people's aspirations and to address people's concerns, while continuing to implement measures and policies aimed at improving and raising high living standard of the people. Along with this very effort, I am calling on the whole Cambodian people to increase further national unity, and solidarity for the protection of peace, to safeguard achievements that we have scored so far, and to continue national and social development making Cambodia a **"Kingdom of Wonder"** that many in the world would wish to know, visit and take pictures of a symbolized prosperous civilization of our nation.

On this auspicious occasion, on behalves of Samdech Akka Moha Punhea Chakrey Heng Samrin, leaders of the Cambo-

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have noted that Minister Khieu Kanharith already took a stern measure on them. Some had acted as a director of a media. When s/he committed offense, s/he sought out release with their media passes. We must not allow this to happen or it will destroy journalists' personal honor and integrity [...]

Be Centrist and Not a Judge

... My answer is not to be a leftist or a rightist, but a centrist. Centrism has been a movement recognized by everyone, after breaking up of violence and extremism in region and the world. For media persons and/or institutions, they should not be either extremely left or right, but try to speak the truth. I continue to advise media people not to act as a judge in any given story. I reminded once in our gathering last year. According to some reports that I saw on TV, I am of the opinion that some reporters and/or commentators had taken a confused role between being a journalist and a judge. I would not encourage you doing that.

You should learn more about media profession. What you should do is to speak the truth and leave legal decisions for the court [...] I bring this matter up to avoid the fact that irresponsible and unprofessional comments by a commentator could affect integrity of given media institutions. I wish to speak on this so that the same old thing will not happen again. I could even name names but I think they know themselves what they have done. I also had informed owners of those TV stations.

Brave Journalists Keep Integrity

I am urging that state institutions at national and sub-national levels must dare to speak the truth and thank media for stories that we would otherwise not know. We have learnt some issues from the press. Whatever appears in the press, we must conduct research to find out immediately. If it is not a factual matter, we may request for correction from them. In this

case, we can also do it online, via social media such as Facebook, and institutions may do so on their websites. Some institutions have their own media outlets such as radio or TV even [...]

What is more important though is that journalists must be brave and keep their integrity. They should be honest even in their ways of formulating questions. Some had done it in a dishonest way. For example, some had made their questions very long and part of it is very much the answer (leading question). Some would not pay attention and journalist would then make up the story [...] I have been tired for three days but I still have something to say to you.

State-Media Relations

I wanted to say a few things relating to the media as an institution and person [...] I have a few points to mention here. Firstly, relations between the media and leaders. One may see that in many countries, media people and their leaders are in regular contacts [...] based on personal experience that I have gained in the past 39 years, I had spent lot of times with media people, or otherwise I would not have been this well known. Some journalists such as Jacques Bekaert, who liked to write about me, had made me famous since 1970s and later in 1980s. You may find articles on me in the Bangkok Post and Le Monde [...] They have made Hun Sen known to the world, not one or two years, but dozens of years so far.

Secondly, there is this relation between media and advisors and assistants [...] I am talking about my experience of state management in the past 39 years. Beside direct contacts with the press, like through interviews, press conference, etc., my advisors and/or assistants are sharing information to the media. After meetings and/or official negotiations, we always have a team that provide information to the media [...] I think this practice is useful. Deputy Prime Minister, senior ministers

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Meeting Workers at Prey Tia Area

(17 January 2018 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Respect, Affection and Trust of Three Generations

Let me extend my warm welcome to nieces and nephews workers, leaders of the Royal Government institutions, sub-national authority, and managers and owners of factories in the area for being present. We have over 16,000 workers from twenty factories. By the way, I wish to inform our workers in other places that on the next Wednesday, I will set out to India for the ASEAN-India Summit, the Indian National Day, and an official visit to India as well. I will return on Sunday [...] I am so happy to be able to get together with our workers here and every other places that I had been. I thank you workers for your welcome and hospitality, as well as your respect to me. It is not just a meeting with simply the Prime Minister. Your affection, and amicability for me has surpassed relations between a leader and his/her people since you have considered me your uncles, granduncles, and even your father. It is indeed a source of encouragement.

What we had been able to do together – your parents, grandparents and I, and now with you – is not a history of one or two days, or one or two months, or one or two years. Our history clearly affirms that we have been together for forty years already from the time of salvaging our country from the regime of Pol Pot, to save lives of your grandparents, parents, who have given lives to you, to the present. This has clearly showed that we have made this journey together, three generations already so to speak. This has brought about friendly feeling and amicability. I thank you for your supports, as well as those of your grandparents and parents, for making such a journey with the Cambodian People's Party, with me, who has been a long serving Prime Minister in the region and in the world. It has been 39 years since the liberation of our country on 7

January 1979 to the present [...]

Follow-up on Workers' Salary

We have reviewed incomes of our workers – their minimum wages plus other advantages [...] While our workers are receiving higher incomes, they also are benefiting from reductions of expenses on various necessities/commodities thanks to efforts made by the Royal Government in maintaining macroeconomic stability, especially inflation to avoid a gap that salary increase does not afford sky-rocketed commodities prices [...]

RGC's Social Protection Truly and Properly Implemented

I am grateful to and appreciating efforts made by the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, and the Ministry of Health, for implementing properly the RGC's social protection policies. I was at the Calmette hospital the other day to put into official operation a new building for cancer treatment using nuclear radioactive, which offers better chance for treatment of cancer, especially women with womb cancer and other types of cancers too. We can do it in our country now. While viewing the ward and equipment, midwives told me that over half of women coming for delivery at Calmette hospital are female workers. According to the report of the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, which I have received regularly, as of 10 am yesterday, there were 123 female workers giving births to 124 new-born babies. In sixteen days so far, our some 1,895 female workers gave births to 1,911 babies since there were some twin deliveries.

We have provided them with cash assistance [...] I thank the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, the Ministry of Health, especially the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) for making cash assistance right

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at the time and place for them making this prioritized program of the Prime Minister real in action [...] I am calling on every foundations to register with the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training to secure interests for their workers both in registered and non-registered sectors [...] we have reserved a sum of ten million USD and we have made a pre-financing transference of 25% of the amount to NSSF, once they are out of the money, another 25% of the annual funding will be transferred [...]

New Airports in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap

In the past 2017, our economy has grown very strongly. Thanks to such development, we have positive impacts on 2018 [...] purchasing orders continue. This has allowed Cambodia to export products from both agriculture and industry. Tourists to the Kingdom of Cambodia continues according to their schedules and in growing number too. Last year, our small country received 5.6 million tourists. This has brought us to a consideration for a new airport in Phnom Penh and in Siem Reap province. We must start thinking from now for a long-term growth of our country. We can now look at evidences of more constructions of factories on that side. This is evident that we will be able to provide more jobs for our people. We are working to give more jobs, to secure incomes, and defend them. We have gone through so much that we must not allow anyone, guerilla in the forest or in city, to destroy them. Your grandparents, parents, and now you have been doing a lot for this country to have peace after it was torn by war, genocide, and then civil war again [...]

Meeting Workers in Sihanoukville Before Rain Comes

I am proposing to the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training to reorganize plan for (meetings in) the Sihanoukville province. We can alter our schedules a bit. At first we

thought of meeting with workers on 31 of April or 1 of May [...] However, if we prolong meetings till 1 May, there would be rain coming at the coastal areas. We should re-schedule to meet some twenty thousand workers in the Sihanoukville province before rainy season [...]

Foreign Policy Neutral, Non-Aligned, and Respecting Market Economy Principles

... In just three weeks, Prime Minister of a country representing 1,350 million population, the People's Republic of China, conducted his visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia. I will soon conduct an official visit to India that is representing also over 1,200 million population. That is a development course of Cambodia's foreign policy. We are implementing a foreign policy of neutrality and non-alignment. We are making and building up relations with every country in the world and our main aim is to promote Cambodia's socio-economic development. In this world, no matter one country is big or small, poor or rich, economic relations in trade and investment have been a normal conduct. They are complimenting each other. They send goods to our country and we do to theirs. It is a normal process and a nature defined by conditions set by the World Trade Organization, to which Cambodia is also a member [...]

Cambodia is advancing on a policy guideline for regional, sub-regional, and international integrations within the frameworks of free trade areas, and free trade partners with every countries [...] We have seen what happened in Tunisia, where violent demonstration caused loss of lives because of the country's policies that had led to high prices of commodities. In Cambodia, we respect the procedures of free trade. Market decides while the state monitors it to guarantee controllable inflation rate that will not have negative on people's living condition. We are making our economy strong and responsive to people's better life [...].

Meeting Tricycles Rickshaw (Cyclo) Riders

(15 January 2018 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

... Please allow me to warmly welcome everyone present here today, especially tricycles taxi riders, as well as those of you from institutions, Oknhas, who support the tricycles taxi fund. I also extend my welcome to artists who have shared their times and performance for our event. Today, it is not just to announce the foundation but also to put into operation the tricycles taxi riders fund (TRRF). About three weeks ago, I proclaimed an initiative relating to the establishment of TRRF, which we cannot name it Cyclo Association for there is already this association registered in the Ministry of Interior. It has also a statute of its own. TRRF also has its statute, which we may call in short – the Cyclo Fund.

Four Reasons to Start Cyclo/TRR Fund

You may wonder why I have chosen this day in January to launch this Fund. Many events occur in January, First, we have this historic day on 7 January, when we liberated the country from the regime of Pol Pot. We are now celebrating its 39th anniversary – 7 January 1979/2018.

Secondly, on 5 January, it is the 42nd anniversary of the Khmer-Rouge style group wedding, in which my wife and I were the last couple among all thirteen couples. We have now become one very big family, in which parents, sons and daughters, plus in laws have made 32 of us.

Thirdly, started on 8 January 1979, or 39 years now, I started to hold state power as I was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in the age of not even fully 27 years old. Tomorrow, will be the 33th anniversary of my tenure as Prime Minister. I was one of the youngest Prime Minister in the world and I have now become one of the long-serving Prime Ministers in the world. There are many more events relating to my family and people of Cambodia. Most of

my children's wedding also occurred in January.

It is in this note that I decided to take action to respond in a timely manner to our tricycles rickshaw riders' anticipation. I know what it is like to be waiting. In just three weeks, we have put together a statute and deposit it in the Ministry of Interior. The Fund is functioning in accordance with criteria required by the Ministry of Interior and by laws of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

TRRF Memberships

As honorary president of TRRF, I should clarify issue relating to memberships to avoid misinterpretation by commentators and/or anyone who would always like to criticize others. There are four types of

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dian People's Party, and my own behalf, I wish to convey my deepest respect and gratitude for our compatriots, inside the country and abroad, for providing their steadfast supports for the leadership of the Cambodian People's Party in the last 39 years, making it capable of fulfilling successfully missions to serve our nation. The Cambodian People's Party will continue to do everything for the sake of peaceful life and happiness of our nation and people.

I also thank deeply political parties, and civil societies, who participate in safeguarding peace, political stability, defending of national sovereignty, bolstering democracy, human rights, and rule of law in Cambodia. On this occasion too, I offer my thanks to friendly countries – near and far, development partners and international organizations for providing assistances and supports for the just course of the Cambodian people in every phases, and for continuing to strengthen and expanding further relations and fruitful cooperation with the Kingdom of Cambodia ...

Calmette's Cancer & Maternity Ward

(15 January 2018 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Two Healthcare-Related Achievements in Ten Days

I am so happy that in just ten days we have put into operations two achievements relating to healthcare and wellbeing of our people. On 4 January, we put into operation a modernly equipped building in the Khmer-Soviet hospital. Today we are putting into operation a 23 million USD building equipped with modern tools and materials. These new achievements of the Kingdom and people of Cambodia guarantee that we are moving forwards with better ability to take care of our people's health [...] I used to mention about decision to reestablish the Calmette hospital, especially its operation of earning income and reinvesting in its betterment. We have been doing this since 1990s. Our ability to invest in the construction and armamentarium to respond to growing needs of our people.

Calmette Reopened after 7 January 1979

We have put into operations various achievements in the Calmette hospital. They include also a general neurology ward/building. Minister of Health, HE Mam Bun Heng, already mentioned about how we got the hospital back in business. I just wanted to remind that after the liberation on 7 January 1979, the Calmette hospital started to provide its limited services in medical checkup and treatment.

I myself also had my vermiform appendix operation and treatment in this hospital. It was just four days before voting day. I did not join the electoral campaign in 1998. Returned from a canal restoration with people in Takeo, I felt the pain. Then rumor spread that Hun Sen died. Well, they said about my death several times. To evade suspicions among the public, especially voters, I made an effort to show myself in TV broadcast that I am still alive. I just wanted to share with our people that I have been using

this hospital's services since 1980s and 1990s, and in the present too [...]

Investments from National Fund and Development Partners

It has ascertained confidence in capacity of our hospital and medical experts in general, and those in Calmette hospital too. We all should remember that in our difficult phase, Hungary had built us a building, where I stayed for a few days too. It was when the late brother Yit Kimseng was Minister of Health. My mother, my wife, also came here for medical reasons. We have, thanks to our progress, leveled up ability to provide checkup and treatment, including wards for critical stage patients, of the hospital. Aside from national funding for investments, the hospital development also enjoys those from development partners such as France in modernizing and equipping armamentarium.

In 1997, I came here with the former French Ambassador to put one other building adjacent to the one provided by Hungary into operation after many countries abandoned us for the 5-6 July 1997 incident [...] I am glad that the hospital director told me about the possibility of replacing some with many-floor building in the time to come [...] it is true that there must be a master plan for the Calmette Hospital development.

Making Efforts Together – the Only Best Option

I think that we have made improved medical service provision for our people and it is necessary in a recent campaign to work together to resolve healthcare issue of our people. Ten days ago I talked about our pride and challenges remained in this endeavor. We worked together to put an end to polio in Cambodia. We also made efforts to stop other diseases such as tuberculosis, and especially malaria, which we aim to

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(Continued from page 4) and ministers should be maintain relations with the press through their assistants.

Thirdly, written statements, press releases, etc., are available by concerned institutions on their websites, and other social media forum. If our media persons make just a little effort, they would be able to find websites and other social media of concerned institutions [...] some working in media but did not have required knowledge and knowhow in retrieving and sending information. We are not information lacking but sometimes overloaded [...]

Fourthly, we are also sharing information through spokespersons assigned by concerned institutions. I have always advised state institutions, national and sub-national levels, to organize and prepare their spokespersons. According to our review and information we received from some media persons, spokespersons in some institutions have not fulfilled their tasks sufficiently and effectively, especially those at the provincial level. There is always a deputy governor and few staff to work on that. Let us just make it a real responsibility for someone. On this point, I wish make it an advice for every state institution [...] we must take further actions to strengthen works of spokespersons in the RGC institution, provincial offices, and municipality to guarantee rights to have access to information [...]

Fifthly, media professionals must seek for information. Based on the above four points, media professionals would lose their jobs [...] media persons must seek for information and hunt for it by themselves, especially in this fast-track technology development, they would not be able to quickly get to the news when they may already go into social media such as Facebook. In the IT era, one leader must be a press institution. Let us not forget about that [...] Let me now talk about my goals on, and suggestions to our media people:

State and Private Media Institutions to Reflect the Truth

What do I want our media institutions/persons to achieve in the time to come? Firstly, it is my wish that state and private media institutions fulfil roles to reflect the truth in society. In the time that the Cambodian People's Party, especially my time as Prime Minister, I am after true information, which reflects the truth in society [...] I have a suggestion that we keep our mirror intact. Those who are 60 years old and more would have remembered mirrors they placed at Wat Phnom, which gave distorted reflections to original objects [...] It is on this note that I am asking state and private media to ensure transparency and be truly reflective [...]

Secondly, I wanted a media that links information between state and people [...] let me take tax policy on income for example. Our tax ceiling is set for anyone with income of more than 1.2 million Riels. People with limited information would make an uninformative decision like they would not want their salary even one Riel more [...] this is the case where explanation and information sharing is not reaching far from state to people. We have introduced many new programs relating to workers, especially with female workers. While doing so, there was a demonstration in Pursat, in which demonstrators demanded a maternity leave of three months. In fact, (the Royal Government) has resolved that female workers are entitled to a three-month maternity leave with 120% pay of their salary.

That people rose up with demonstration was because they did not have information which should go from state to them. I wanted our media – as a person and institution, to take complementary roles on one another by sharing to people state policies to people, and reflect back to the state people's concerns.

Thirdly, I wish to see media in constructive criticism and moni-

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achieve by 2025. Among those listed, we have been able to realize before schedules, thanks to efforts made by our medical personnel and participation of our people.

Also ten days ago, I mentioned about that fact that some framed 90% of our medical personnel and experts as incapable or immoral, and only 10% was good [...] it was unacceptable. How could a country or an institution survive when 90% of their population or staff are bad?

Well, that is what they let their mouth say but we must make efforts to prove that what they said is not true. There is no other best option. Judging from what those people had said out there, Cambodia is hell. There are two different Cambodia [...] there is a true Cambodia that we are putting into operation a new building for cancer treatment and maternity in the Calmette hospital and other necessary infrastructures.

The real Cambodia is where people are traveling everywhere and realizing economic growth, still to add up, of no less than 6.9%. However, there is another Cambodia in the media world out there that was compared to hell and fearsome. As you can see with your own eyes, dear foreign friends, the real Kingdom of Cambodia. I am not proud without responsibility or refusing to recognize shortcomings. Yesterday was the 33rd anniversary of my premiership. I started as one of the youngest Prime Ministers in the world. Now, I have become one of the long-serving Prime Ministers in the world. I have made my journey with every Cambodian – students, their parents, and grandparents [...]

Out of Poverty, Reform Continues Still

... We suffered an unjust embargo. Pol Pot killed our people but they allowed his regime to occupy the Cambodian seat at the United Nations. It was a sad story. However, I dare say that no one could win over a man who would lose his life for the country's noble course. We

have bet our lives for the country's liberation from Pol Pot's regime. We suffered an unjust embargo and there were efforts to support Pol Pot's return to power. However, we stood together and prevented their returns on the one hand and restored the country on the other to achieve gradual improvement of people's socio-economic condition, the improvement of medical services of Calmette hospital also included.

We have come this far and are working to meet with further challenges. We are not satisfied yet. People's need grows. Though our country has become one of the lower middle income countries, we still see rooms for reforms. Japan, though advanced and developed, still has the need to exercise necessary reforms. France also does. We have lots of works to do in the time to come, especially relating to people's wellbeing and healthcare in every state hospitals [...]

Care Given Primarily to Women in Pregnancy

Last year, I planned to inaugurate a hospital with the Japanese ambassador in Svay Rieng. However, because of unexpected upcoming and cancelling again and again, I decided to send HE Mam Bun Heng in my behalf.

I wish to have your attention that our new efforts made in social protection policy would require tremendous efforts from our medical personnel and experts in every state hospitals. We have a probable figure of over three millions people who are workers from registered and non-registered sectors to benefit from equity fund in accessing free-of-charge medical checkup and treatment in state hospitals.

On top of that, pregnant female workers, civil servants, and armed forces are also entitled to cash assistance when they deliver. You may be reminded that when I first launched the social protection policy program, I had the attention of Chairman of economic policy, Academician and Senior Minister, and Minis-

ter of Economy and Finance, HE Aun Pommoniroth, to focus primarily on women in pregnancies [...]

From Less People, Shortage of Rice to More People and Rice Export

We started when our country registered only some 5 million population in 1979. Now are over 15 million. Though our birthrate has fallen to only 1.6% now, in time after the liberation from Pol Pot, it was 3.2% and made a gradual descent from there to 2.8% and to the present rate.

Our population figure has grown strongly. While there is a one percent increase of population, we have had to come up with a 3% increase in our food production. While we were at between five and seven million population, we were in short of rice. Now that we are at over 15 million, we have a surplus of over five million metric tons of rice for export [...]

Health Services Ensure Confidence of Tourists and Investors

... We have new buildings and armamentarium in this hospital and also there are many more hospitals, health clinics in our country. They guarantee provision of medical services not only to Cambodian citizens but also to investors and tourists while in the Kingdom of Cambodia. This will ensure confidence of tourists and investors, especially those old-aged tourists of medical care they can find while they have unexpected health problem. Interactions grown from better services hospitals on attraction of tourists and investors to the Kingdom of Cambodia should not be overlooked.

Capacity Building According to Technologies Available

... I sincerely thank nuclear medicines association together with France ... however, I must warn that while technologies are more advanced, we must also try to improve our capacity. Otherwise, even with advanced armamentarium, we would not

be able to save lives in a professional way. We must focus on training our medical personnel and experts skills of maneuvering those advanced medical technologies and tools [...] our health human resources left from the previous generation have become old and I hope that you younger generation will become skilled and capable of taking care of our people's health and saving lives. Make no mistake, having armamentarium needed, but lacking medical ethical conduct, there would not be effective result [...]

Necessary Healthcare Infrastructures to Rural Area

On Friday last week, the Ministry of Health has had to come up with more laws, required as conditions when we gained accession to World Trade Organization, concerning licensing for treatment [...] please take serious measures on permission for opening of dispensary and/or drugstores. We are now focusing on providing necessary infrastructures to rural areas. We have so many demands to meet. While handing out land titles to people in 2012, people relocated and set up new homes and villages in many parts of the country. There are real demands for infrastructures such as roads, clean water, healthcare services, schools, etc. It was part of our effort for labor redistribution as Cambodia has faced a time when more people reside in certain places with less land, and where there are more land but less people.

People searched for land available. We have provided them with chance to occupy those lands and work on them. However, in order to sustain their living in those places, we must provide them with needed infrastructures and services.

We must build schools, dispensaries, etc. for them. These are not matter for talk the talk but for real actions, considering investment in accordance with available national fund but also participation from development partners [...]

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memberships in the TRRF statute – founding members, honorary members, supporting members, and active members. Let me clarify these memberships' roles. Founding members would be the ones who initiate the foundation of TRRF, and they may include me and some other people. Honorary members are ones that contribute ideas and financial, material supports to TRRF irrespective of their own interests. Thirdly, supporting members are ones that contribute actions to the functioning of TRRF, and fourthly, active members are those who perform the trade.

Active Memberships' Advantages from TRRF

Members of other associations relating to tricycle rickshaw riding trade can also request memberships to TRRF. Let me stress that only the people who ride tricycles rickshaws will benefit from various TRRF's advantages. Memberships of type 1, 2 and 3 will take no benefits. They are the ones who give. There could be a misunderstanding that Mr. Hun Sen forced tricycle rickshaws riders to become members of TRRF to enjoy those benefits. There must be a question as to who should I give my money? I cannot give my money to just anyone. They have to have some kind of identification to receive advantages from TRRF. I would not want the fund to benefit only the leadership of association and/or Fund.

As is reported by HE Khuong Sreng, (Mayor of Phnom Penh and President of TRRF Board) there are two tricycle rickshaws associations in our country. There are those who belong to no one association too. It is in this situation that I cannot provide money to associations. I have come across these issues before. I saw how they mismanaged the fund that I had provided, and only those who controlled associations enjoyed the benefits. Some proposed to set up a non-governmental organization and started by requesting for two cars and a few motorcycles, and even their headquar-

ters, plus rent. They also asked for salary of their staffs [...]

First Advantage – Free-of-Charge Medical Checkup in State Hospitals

I wanted to meet directly with real tricycle rickshaws riders. I hope other associations would understand this. I do not wish to dissolve them and tricycle rickshaws riders would wish to stay as its members too. However, to secure real advantages for true tricycle rickshaws riders, TRRF is open to everyone in that business. Firstly, they will have access to equitable fund which is to cover free-of-charge medical checkup and treatment in state hospitals. Their membership cards will be registered at the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training's National Social Security Fund, who will then pay for costs of checkup and treatment from equitable fund [...]

Second Advantage – A 7,000-Riel Per Diem

Secondly, those with membership cards will receive a per diem of 7,000 Riel, of which 2,000 Riel is for cost of renting a tricycle rickshaw, and 5,000 Riel is for the day's meal. These type-4 members are not obliged to make contributions to become members. They only have to write a membership request. They also can leave TRRF the same way. Membership will be voluntary. People cannot claim to be a tricycle rickshaw rider and request for those advantages. We must make sure he truly performs the trade [...]

Tricycle rickshaw riders who are members of TRRF may claim their per diem every ten days – on tenth, twentieth, and thirtieth day of each month. Money will be transferred to them by Wing (money transfer service agent) anywhere they may be. They do not have sit waiting to collect the money from the central office of TRRF [...]

Uniforms and Other Allowances

In the initial stage, our tricycle

rickshaws riders will receive only per diems. However, in the long run, the governing board must look further into other benefits on a yearly basis. Take for instance, should they have an identical uniform for tricycle rickshaws riders, which will have partial benefits on our tourism and among our people too. They could also figure out at times of national traditional event and ceremony, for instance Phjum Ben Day and the Khmer New Year, whether there would be allowances for them as those provided to the civil servants and armed forces. In case we have bigger pocket, perhaps we can also take this policy into consideration so that tricycle rickshaws riders and their families will have more money to enjoy the festivities. It is all up to the governing board to decide [...]

Death and Retirement Benefits

We also have to look further into other issues such as when anyone tricycle rickshaw rider dies and/or cannot perform his trade anymore. It is not only a daily benefit process here but a life-long one that would cover later also death and retirement benefits [...] for example, in anyone of the cases, each tricycle rickshaw rider could claim their daily per diem for 100 or 200 days, so that his family could reap a secure amount of money to start a new trade. These are some recommendations on my behalf as honorary president of TRRF [...]

Let Us Conserve Tricycle Rickshaw

... We have fund to start TRRF from today. However, we must think of other means to make sure that tricycle rickshaws are maintained properly and conserved [...] We have only about 300 of them left, while many more new modes of transportation are available out there [...] Taking a ride in tricycle rickshaw will also cut down environmental pollution, and help improve living condition and income of tricycle rickshaws riders [...].

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toring implementation of state institutions on every policies and programs put forth. This point is indispensable in a democratic society. Constructive criticism and insulting are two different approaches. In Cambodia, no matter how much you worked for the country, for certain group of people, they would not refrain from making insults [...] numerous programs and/or policies issued by various Royal Government institutions [...] Insulting is not a process of democracy. We are for freedom of expression but against insulting and inciting turmoil [...]

Fourthly, I wanted to see contributions of strategic analysis from media on national and regional issues. I wish to see our media professionals capable of making analysis not only on small local issues, but regional and world affairs [...]

Fifthly, we do not wish to see media that causes conflict. We respect freedom of expression, but they have to be responsible for what comes out of their mouths.

Sixthly, make efforts to eliminate media to blackmail for money. Let me clarify that a media institution and the personnel go together [...] I have not yet taken actions but I sent people to tell them. Rectifying or not would be totally their choices [...]

Seventhly, make further efforts to raise high human resource capability and training in face of modernization of media technology [...]

Holding Charges on Foreign Movies Visa for Five Years

There is this paragraph in the speech of the Information Minister that he did not read. It goes "we are seeking Samdech Techo approval to prolong charges on visa of imported foreign movies broadcast on TV ... which entered into force since 1 January 2018, for another five years ..." Based on power vested in the Prime Minister, I approved the request [...]