

## Meeting Workers/Employees in February

(February 2018 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)



28 March 2018—Samdech Techo Hun Sen with Workers/Employees in Kompong Speu Province's Samraong Torng District

### SAMRAONG TORNG DISTRICT, KOMPONG SPEU PROVINCE, 28 FEBRUARY 2018

...

#### From Feed 4 or 5 Persons to 5,000 People

Please allow me to warmly welcome excellences, ladies, gentlemen, and especially our nieces and nephews workers/employees ... After my trip the a gathering in Khsach Kandal of Kandal province to meet our workers, today I am here to meet you all in the province of Kompong Speu. This week, I also have scheduled to head for Kompong Cham tomorrow, and on Saturday and Sunday, I will go to the province of Preah Sihanoukville for a gathering with workers too [...] Let me remind you about this thing in 1995-96 when there was some exchanges of words between some members of the National Assembly and myself. They criticized the Royal Government for letting our farmers to sell land along the National Road 4 between Phnom Penh and Kompng Speu [...] and some parts of the NR 3. I was adhering strictly to a position

that we should not be afraid about that because it would bring about an opportune moment that from that land many people would be fed. When factories and/or enterprises occupy those lands, we would be able to feed more people than continuing to do farming [...] farmers who sold lands could use some money to buy more lands and even saved some too. My vision from nearly twenty years ago has now become a reality [...]

#### The Fourth Economic Pole to Come

I used to talk about three economic poles of our country – the first one is Phnom Penh, the second one is Siem Reap, and the third one is Preah Sihanouk province. I hope that the fourth economic pole will come soon in the northeastern part of Cambodia when we ensure connectivity and agro-industrial development. We have now achieved our goal to provide jobs as close as possible to nieces/nephews. I asked some over there where are their home villages. They told me they come to work during day time and to return home before nightfall.

(Continued on page 2)

## A Kroch Chhma-Stoeng Trang Bridge

(9 February 2018 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

### The Cambodian-Chinese Friendship Bridge between Stoeng Trang and Kroch Chhma

I am so happy to return to my native place once again to launch the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of what will be the Cambodian-Chinese Friendship Bridge between Stoeng Trang and Kroch Chhma, the 8<sup>th</sup> bridge co-financed by the People's Republic of China and the Kingdom of Cambodia [...] we need at least three more bridges. The first of the three will be for linking Kratie province and Kompong Thom province over the Mekong. The second and third

bridges will also be over the Mekong at Jroy Jangva and Svay Jrum and at Kdey Takoy. We also think of building more bridges along the river's streams and/or canals [...]

I am so happy because the project that I have mentioned last time has now realized. Though we have set a long schedule for the construction of the bridge, normally we finished it prior to the set date. People in Kompong Cham and whoever will need to come across this area will surely benefit from the presence of this bridge, which should be ready before the Khmer New Year in 2021 [...]

(Continued on page 6)

## Decentralization & De-concentration

(22 February 2018 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

### Implement the Law, Not Wait for Order

I should make a point here. It should also be our appeal as well as advice. I have raised this issue relating to delegation of power and/or transference of functions several times. The issue here is whether the chief of each institution is willingly and voluntarily to fulfill the jobs or not. I have said earlier that process of delegation of power, transference of functions, and resources is still slow. It may be because of limited capacity of our human resource at the sub-national level. What I wish to pinpoint here is that I wish to see nothing but your action to implement the law. I have noticed that some institutions or sub-national authorities have not yet fulfilled the laws. They are after the orders. Take for instance, we still have issues that so and so institutions are not fulfilling their tasks but

waiting for orders from the Prime Minister. In that case, why was it necessary to establish institutions and/or judicial framework for institutions? Let me urge you chief of institutions once again that reforms to take place in the forthcoming sixth legislative term of the National Assembly will see that this is a precondition to review which institution is or is not making steps forwards, or minister is or is not able to fulfill his/her tasks.

... While holding everything at the central level, and the sub-national administrations are not taking parts in the implementation, things like the non-standard modified trucks would happen. Our law allows trucks

(Continued on page 8)

### In This Issue

- . Workers/Employees
- .. Kroch Chhma Bridge
- ... Decentralization

(Continued from page 1)

This has been our medium and long-term vision. Previously, we pursued this policy to relocate schools to rural areas to allow more students to study. However, in the last 15 years, we have commenced this initiative of relocating factories closer to local people. Concentration of factories in Phnom Penh also caused problems to urban settlement, and difficulty to get a jobs for our people living away from the capital [...]

### **Kompong Speu Ended War in 1996**

You may not forget that Kompong Speu province was one of the toughest fighting front. War ended here in February 1996. There was this pilot implementation of win-win policy [...] Starting in February, some people asked me if (Gen.) Keo Pong (of the Khmer Rouge) who was allowed to come to Phnom Penh did not keep his end of the promise and never return. My answer was that would be no minus or plus to the overall situation. If Keo Pong did not implement what he had discussed with us, we would not lose anything and the Khmer Rouge also would not gain anything at all. However, should Keo Pong do it, we would have the whole area of Oral. It turned out that he did it as we wished. I went there for integration. Impact resonated to farer places. Later, Ee Chhien and Sok Pheap (of the Khmer Rouge) rebelled in August [...]

As we wished, the whole country united and on 29 December 2018, we will celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the implementation of the win-win policy as we would have by the built a win-win statue to remind us all about how the win-win policy ends the war. It was because of such policy that we are able to establish this factories zone in Kompong Speu. Should we not implement the win-win policy, not only that we did not end war or establish the factories zone here, no one would enjoy their sound sleeping.

People in rear would have assist in any way they could to help

with the war activities like transporting food to the front [...]

### **Current Development Arisen Because of Support of CPP Policies**

We must connect between peace and development. Cambodia had gone through so much sufferings as you may know. Your grandparents and/or parents shared the journeys with me in the liberation of our country from the regime of Pol Pot and the prevention of its return. They supported my policies or those of the Cambodian People's Party, especially in implementing the win-win policy to realize full peace, a foundation on which we embark on development to respond to demand of people's livelihood. You have chance to get jobs because of peace and established necessary infrastructures. In this area of our country, if we do not maintain NR 4, improve our blue-water port, build and secure production of electricity, and its transmission, NR 3, NR 42, NR 44, NR 51, etc., when do you think that people in Kompong Speu have what they earn these days? [...]

### **Protect the Hard-Won Peace**

The Royal Government under the leadership of the Cambodian People's Party reserves no efforts to build every necessary conditions and foundations in response to national developments' demands. We ensure strengthening of peace and political stability, obstructing destruction by criminals for the sake of keeping time for the country to continue to develop. Some may not like it this way. It is up to them but for us we are doing everything to satisfy the fifteen million people. We dare to scarify for people's peaceful life.

Millions of us Cambodians died in the period between 1970 and 1975, in the reign of Pol Pot, and also in internal war between 1979 and 1998. People suffered more than enough. In this note, we allow no one to harm peace that we have in hands. It is with peace that we have chance to develop [...]

### **Instead of Effigy, They Should Get Rid of All Dragon Statues in Pagodas**

... Let other say whatever s/he likes to. I wish to send them a message too that burning Hun Sen's effigy would not do me any harm. I may tell them one way of doing it right. Hun Sen was born in the year of dragon. If you wish to harm him, you have got to remove and destroy every dragon statues in the Buddhist pagodas [...] remember, dragon statues in the pagodas or it would not do me any harm [...] well, when a dog bit your leg, you would not bite it back, would you? [...]

Well, in Kompong Speu, please allow me to keep one son here with you. Hun Mani is my youngest son and he is a member of the National Assembly representing this constituency. He always reported to me about what is happening in the province [...] Last night I sat having dinner with my youngest daughter and a daughter-in-law. Hun Mani went to a wedding of A Joi – a comedy actor [...] later, there was some social media postings that Hun Sen's son – Hun Manet, is a great drinker. My youngest daughter said at our dining table that it was not right. In fact Hun Sen's son is not good at drinking, his daughter is. It was just a joke. None of my children are born a drunkard. However, people should not do drunk driving and beware of traffic accidents [...]

### **A Country Has To Have What It Needs for Defense**

... I still have one more event to attend this evening, the closing of annual conference of tourism and the bestowments of Awards for Clean Cities. I will have one even to attend tomorrow morning in Srey Santhor district of Kompong Cham province. On Friday, I will have a meeting with factories foremen, employees, and managers at Koh Pich, after which I will leave for Kompong Som (Preah Sihanoukville) province to meet with some 40,000 workers on Saturday and Sunday [...] last night news came in about our special cargos [...] it was not

drug. It was tens of thousands of tons. A country has to have what it needs to defend itself. Samdech Tia Banh took care of this matter. Well, you understand that. He is the Minister of Defense. He would not transport flowers, would he? [...]

### **Go to Vote and Vote for the Cambodian People's Party**

I am calling on nieces/nephews, and bring along your grandparents and parents, to go to vote on 29 July 2018. I hope that you and your families will vote for the Cambodian People's Party to continue to lead the country. On this note, I think that those who are calling on people not to go to vote are making a strategic mistake. If they would do so, it could mean that everyone going to vote would only be those who support the Cambodian People's Party. Do they not think that they make a wrong calculation? In fact I should let them do whatever they wish to [...] your strategy was to ensure low voters' turnout. Look! what happened in France lately, only 50% of voters exercised their rights. President in the US never received more than 50% of votes because only 50% of voters went to vote and they voted for two candidates [...]

### **Go to Vote and Do Not Go to Vote Is One's Right**

... There would not be a problem if one go or not go to vote. It is one's right. There are many countries in this world where only 50% or 60% of voters exercised their rights. Those heeded their appeals would not be the ones to vote for the Cambodian People's Party. It would be fine if they would not go to vote. Only those voting for CPP would go, would it not? [...] It is good that they are calling on people to do so. As for us, we just let our supporters to go to vote and vote for the Cambodian People's Party. Why do I say so? (I said so because) the Cambodian People's Party appeal to them to go to vote and vote for it. Those who would answer to the appeal to not go to vote, let them not vote [...]

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

## TOEUK THLA, PHNOM PENH, 21 FEBRUARY 2018

...

### A One Thousand Meters Scarf

... Let me inform you about this longest scarf of one thousand meters campaign to break the world record. If you wanted to join in lengthening this scarf, please visit the royal field next to the Royal Palace to add few threads to the weaving to become a strand of strong unity to create the longest scarf in the world. HM the King and HM the Queen Mother opened the program. The weaving is underway. If you can make some of your time available, you may take a chance to weave a few threads each. For anyone to help weave it, you will get a stamped ticket [...] there have been some tourists doing it too [...] in the celebration of Sangkranta, we already broke the world record on two things already – the Madison dance by largest number of people, and the biggest sticky rice cake. This year we hope to have another Sangkranta at Siemreap again [...]

### We Meet for Ten Years

... This week we could meet only at this place because on Sunday, as an incumbent member of the National Assembly, I am going to join other electorates in the Senate election. However, next week there will be many meetings. On Wednesday we will meet in the district of Samraong Tomng of Kompong Speu, and later on Saturday and Sunday, there will be more meetings with workers/employees in the province of Preah Sihanouk. I will fulfill what I have promised. I will go around and meet workers/employees not only in the 2018, but no less than ten years more. I have grown addicted to the meeting. In any week that I did not have time to meet workers, I felt that I missed something. I am sure, you also waited for chance to meet with me too. More so for those female workers in pregnancy. It has been a

feeling not only between a leader and workers/employees, but also one among family members. I understand that and our mutual acceptance is not something new. You and your parents have known me from a long time and shared a journey together to the present. This has encouraged me to seek to the best of my ability solutions to every problems in the interest of workers/employees [...]

### Peace – Foundation of Development

Our hard-won peace has served as a basic foundation of development. You should remember that were there be no peace, there would not be development. Our beginning was so difficult and not simple. Backtracking a bit, you can ask your parents and grandparents, or any living souls, who had been going through and survived the past sufferings of war of aggression in between 1970-75, the Pol Pot's genocide between 1975 and 1979, and the period of war and peace mingling together in between 1979 and 1998. You may remember that UNTAC spent a sum of over two billion USD to implement the Paris Peace Agreement [...] they ended their missions leaving Cambodia in two different control areas. On one side, the area controlled by the Royal Government of Cambodia born from the elections organized by UNTAC, and another the area controlled by the Khmer Rouge Government led by Khieu Samphan, who acted as Head of State and Prime Minister. However, the win-win policy provided us with chance for national reconciliation without foreign involvements.

Among Khmer, we came to a reconciliation and created this win-win situation to reconcile the once divided country. In our region, some countries are still having seceded areas controlled by armed forces that are against the Royal Government. Many of them are still in that state. Cambodia no longer has that problem. We have many political parties. In the forthcoming Sunday's Senate elections, because of the electorates we

have, there will be at least four political parties contesting in the elections [...]

### No One Can Pressure a Sovereign State

Yesterday there was this meeting between networks of the United Nations agencies present in Cambodia with Prime Minister and concerned ministers of the Royal Government. We discussed issues relating to youth and labor, and migration. We also looked into issues relating to interest and wellbeing of our people. Let me open a bracket here [...] there have been talks about pressure being put on Cambodia by the United Nations. Let me send you a message that as a sovereign state, an executive body leader, no one can apply pressure on. In this world, the Secretary General of the United Nations or international organizations can not apply pressure on any independent and sovereign state.

We discussed relevant issues in partnership. If they did something wrong, we brought it up. Inputs they give us, we will consider and accept them. I asked them not to start some projects and leave them. Take for instance, this project about bird flu thing, when HE Nuth Sokhom was Minister of Health. The issue took place in Kompong Speu. I knew about it and I asked for the one who would take up financing responsibility. HE Chan Sarun was Minister of Agriculture then. They told me, first the World Health Organization would take the responsibility. I told concerned Cambodian stakeholders not to go for the project. They might pay for the project in a period of one year, and they might leave. We had no way of quantifying how many bird flu there would be in a year and how many chickens would have died. How could we be bound to pay for them? All we should do was to acquire vaccines and medicines to prevent the disease (and not to cover the number of dead birds).

### Providing Rice for Local Food Project

Yesterday I told the gathered

UN agencies that there must be joint study of projects out there because some of them may need diversion of assistances. Take for instance the UN World Food Program used to provide rice assistance for Cambodia to cater snacks for 250,000 students in schools. However, lately, the UN World Food Program (WFP) was short of funding. It has burden to assist not only Cambodia but also other countries. They proposed to Cambodia to provide rice and some financial assistance to World Food Program to run the project. We provided them with rice. We offered rice to WFP and WFP delivered the rice to help schools in the country. We discussed this matter yesterday and were of the opinion that by 2021, WFP will withdraw its part and Cambodia will offer help that it used to provide to WFP directly to the snack project for schools. Cambodia is no longer a country of food shortage. It is true that our discussion yesterday covered also issues of nutrition, taking for instance iodine salt, and the likes [...]

### ASEAN Needs Consensus

... Yesterday they even talked about the fact that there will be pressure on Cambodia in the forthcoming ASEAN-Australian Summit in Sydney. Let me convey them a message. Without Hun Sen, there would not be sufficient meaning of ASEAN [...] Australian would not be able to put pressure on Cambodia. Cambodia would coin in advance that should there be any improper positions, Cambodia would block any declarations. ASEAN needs to have a consensus (to issue something). Why should Cambodia fly to Australia to be rebuked? In fact, Australia should indeed thank Cambodia. They lobbied Cambodia to support the gathering to commemorate relations between ASEAN and Australia [...] let us not be confused [...] How could they say that Australia will be rebuked and pressured on the visit to Australia? (This is the) Prime Minister of an independent

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

country, which has equal right and footing, and bears the right to veto (that you are talking about). Without consensus, nothing could come out. Please learn more about ASEAN [...]

### **Will Meet 600 and More Cambodians in Australian Visit**

I will also meet with some 600 Cambodians in Australia because of the place we will meet is small. There will be more to come. On my first day in Australia, I will meet some 600 of them. I will take more of my time to meet more. People organize this meeting should program it even at midnight since there will be people flying from New Zealand too [...] people now address me as Senior Prime Minister because in ASEAN I headed ASEAN twice – one in 2002 and again in 2012. In four more years, Cambodia will take up rotating chairmanship again. I am in the process of thinking where to organize the forthcoming summit – Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, or Kompong Som (Preah Sihanouville province). We have to enlarge our airports in Kompong Som because (if we are to launch the summit there airport needs to be able to accommodate planes of) big countries including the United States of America will have to come join it. I am sending this message to people who cheat and to warn (Cambodian) opposition in Australia who threaten to throw demonstration. I also have my supporters in Australia. It is a normal issue [...]

Australia lobbied us. If Cambodia were to disagree, I would only tell them that in 2018 I would not be able to travel abroad because the country will have elections to carry through. That would mean Australia could not call on the summit because there were no consensus. There would be no declaration of ASEAN and Australia too, should there be any actions or orders given in contrary to Cambodia's independence, sovereignty, and deemed to interfere in Cambodia's internal affairs. Let me have their atten-

tions now. If you issue one, I will issue my version against it. That would present a sign of division. Let us not go in that direction [...]

### **No ASEAN Pressure on Cambodia**

... ASEAN has solidarity. Some said that ASEAN is putting pressure on Cambodia. How could ASEAN do that to Cambodia? Do you know what ASEAN has been doing these days? Some ASEAN members are asking for our supports. Take for instance the Rohingyas issue in Myanmar [...] the United Nations has no reason whatsoever to interfere in internal affairs of a member nation. Those who work in Cambodia must abide by the Cambodian laws. There will be problem if they do not. Let us be clear with each other [...] I sincerely hope that you are not that uninformative to get yourselves cheated (by those politicians) [...]

### **“No Time to Kill” in Foreign Countries**

... We will not allow our country to be ruined by anyone. In another clumsy move, they said Germany issues no visas for (officials in) the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Samdech Krola Haom had had to make a clarification yesterday. It was unknown as to where The Phnom Penh Post had this news and ran it. Let me give an example, should the Germans really do it, Cambodia will be the one to benefit. They said that Germany will issue no visas for private visits to members of the Royal Government of Cambodia and their members, and that would include also family members of Mr. Hun Sen. What does that mean? It means if you want to go to Germany for tourism purpose, you cannot. You can go only for official matters, like a meeting, etc. On another reason, since when Germany and/or the US had not said it, I never go there. I have no time to kill there. I need times to meet with my nieces and nephews. I find it more enjoyable to be with them than to kill time in those other countries [...]

### **Monitor & Resolve Problems**

### **of Workers of Abandoned Factories**

Let me congratulate the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training for implementing the eight recommendations I issued lately. I wish to add one more [...] and that was to continue to monitor closely and resolve immediately issues relating to factories that are closed and abandoned by owners [...] there was a day when workers were coming to a gathering with me, an owner closed the factories and fled. Let us not allow it to go on and on. Should problem like this arise, take immediate action. Find out where can we get the money to pay our workers first – could be from the Ministry of Economy and Finance, and/or other sources [...] let us do it in a timely manner so that our workers would not be concerned about their pays. To sell in auction the factories or what would be a matter of secondary urgency. We must not allow workers to protest because there were not certain solutions. In addition to this, we must also try to find jobs for workers whose factories owners abandoned [...]

### **De-Miners to Access Free Healthcare Service in State Hospitals**

Yesterday we did not have time to talk about this matter. I think that I should take this opportunity to speak to CMAC staff. There is a report from CMAC to request for free healthcare access like those provided to our workers. I am asking HE Mam Bun Heng to include de-miners – not only in CMAC, but also in every de-mining organizations, into the free healthcare accession system from state hospitals [...] while their health are not well, it would be difficult to secure good work results. I am declaring today in my capacity as Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia to operators to de-mine and remove UXOs everywhere that they are having access to free healthcare services like those provided to workers and/or sportsmen/women. We do not need to include army and military engineering teams be-

cause they already have their own systems [...]

### **Hun Sen's Presence Necessary for Peace and Development**

I wish that the National Elections Committee (NEC) understand that I am not making a campaign. In the period of campaigning, it is forbidden to offer any gifts. I am not launching a campaign for those who run for the Senate. I am here as Prime Minister to visit workers. However, on 29 July 2018, there will be a general elections. I hope that you will join with your grandparents and parents to go to vote for the Cambodian People's Party so that I will be able to continue my leadership. I really wanted to know that under my continued leadership for nearly four decades, how rapid Cambodian economy would grow. I wish to stay and protect it from those who wish to destroy it. The presence of Hun Sen is necessary for peace and development. It is in this meaning that (the opposition said there is) no need to attack the Cambodian People's Party but Hun Sen. Why? It is because Hun Sen was the main buttress of the Cambodian People's Party. Falling down Hun Sen is tantamount to bring down the Cambodian People's Party [...]

### **Daughter Will not Own Kuntha Bopha Hospital**

Let me also send a message to a neurosurgeon in the Kuntha Bopha hospital. Yesterday he said mistakenly that Hun Mana, my daughter, will own the Kuntha Bopha hospital. I warn him to be careful with what he had to say. My daughter is not specialized in medicine. Mr. Seiha heard it and shared your talk to me. You said in in the hospital. I know who you are, your name and where you are. As a neurosurgeon, why could you be this silly? My daughter has no knowledge to own and manage the hospital that huge. The Kuntha Bopha hospital will have to continue to function even Dr. Richner has had to leave for his health. My daughter has nothing to do with it. She contribut-

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

ed one million USD per annum to the hospital. Why did you accuse her? Though it is not yet an open statement, but your discussion had been caught [...] I wish to send you message that the Hun family is not for you to insult or eliminate. This family has helped saving millions lives and developing the country. There are bad ones and good ones. Those who are bad like the one who owned cock-fighting arenas in Kandal province was arrested the other day. Whoever commit guilt will have to take legal responsibility [...]

### **Demonstration Is a Right, But No Effigy Burning**

I also send a message to those who are preparing to launch demonstrations. It will be an honor of your government. It is your freedom. However, you should know that I also have my supporters too. Everywhere I went those who joined demonstrations were about only ten per cent of those who supported me. A few of them were shouting outside but many sitting and listening to me inside. I am warning though there should not be any effigy burning or actions will be taken to your homes. In 2013, there were demonstrations. Samdech Krola Haom told the American embassy to tell demonstrators that it is Cambodian faith of superstition about effigy burning. Should that happen, there would be problem. I was determined to react should they burn an effigy that resembled me. I will take it to their houses. Let me be clear. Once you burn someone's effigy, that real person also has rights to fight you. It is a reciprocation. You inflict violence on an effigy thinking it Hun Sen, actions will be taken ...

### **National Rescue Movement – A Terrorist Organization**

... As far as this national rescue movement is concerned, where there comes one, let us eliminate one, where there come two, let us deal with two. It is not an infringement upon their rights. They are terrorist organi-

zation that will destroy the country and is illegal. I am calling it terrorist organization. If you are strong and mighty, build a party to compete. If you do not come in, it is fine with me. Some said Hun Sen now used derogative terms. Well, I just do in return to what they did to me [...] there has been a court order already and there is no pardon yet. I will not seek one for anyone because the person has been intolerable. S/he must serve the sentence. S/he would have to wait until the sentence is over. Some do not dare to challenge imprisonment and ran around [...].

### **KOBSROV, PHNOM PENH, 07 FEBRUARY 2018**

...

First of all, please allow me to express my warm welcome to nieces/nephews, owners of all seven factories, and Your Excellency, Lok Chumteavs present here today. Today HM the King, and HM the Queen Mother go for the inauguration of a hospital in the Khan Russeikeo (of Phnom Penh). I got the news only three days ago while I already had planned from two months before this meeting with our workers and employees. That had left me with no choice but to apology to Their Majesties for my absence at the event in their presences [...]

### **Amicability and Hospitality between Leaders and Workers**

I thank nieces/nephews for their hospitality and amicability in every meeting I have with them. Their gestures clearly indicate their affections on a leader, on whom they consider as their family member, father, uncle, and granduncle, or even grandfather. This has correlated that not only you who have known me but surely have your parents, grandparents since when you were not born or were small children. Our country went through a period of hardship and your parents, grandparents had also been with me and my leadership in those circumstances. As of this moment, you

have made clear to me your feelings, encouragements, and supports for me and for my leadership for national development.

### **Previous Generations Lost Chances**

I had no intention to be a leader. Originally, my ambition was to become a teacher. However, because of political upheavals, our country did not offer youth of my generation any chances. They made war and brought about loss of many lives. Youth in the previous generation lost their chances. I consider my live invaluable because I endured five times of injury and lost one eye. I have made, however, stringent efforts to stand up with your parents and grandparents to liberate the country, saving lives of some five million people. It has now generated to some 16 million people [...] I went through a report sent to me yesterday that there were about 140 new born babies yesterday [...] which has added the figure from January of 4,817 to about 5,000 babies [...] for whose mothers we have spent about two billion Riel or half a million USD in their supports [...]

### **Advantages Gained because of Everyone's Efforts**

... Our joy has been that our workers' new salary has already been implemented. At the end of 2017, in December, we had come to an end of a minimum salary of 153 USD. Now, we have put into operation a minimum salary of 170 USD per month. This is a great achievement scored by our joint efforts. No one can claim it. It is here because of efforts of nieces/nephews workers, factories owners, and the Royal Government's steadfast effort to build necessary infrastructures, to attract investments, and ensure access to markets for exports. We have made efforts together to rebuild a country from devastation and loss of human lives to impressive development achievements.

### **Cambodia's Lowest Minimum Salary Stands Fourth in ASEAN**

In the framework of ASEAN countries, Cambodia has become the fourth country that has one of the higher lowest-minimum salaries. Singapore stands first, Brunei stands second, Thailand stands third, and Cambodia stands fourth. Our civil servants receive a salary of over one million Riel or 250 USD. Our workers receive a minimum salary of 170 USD, plus advantages that can ensure their incomes of about 200 USD. We can see that our people's income has grown. We also have a favorable condition this year. Agriculture has scored a remarkably good output. We may have a surplus, after consumption, of about 5.5 million metric tons because we had been able to gain secure good yields from both rainy and dry season rice. Along with that, prices for agricultural produces also seem to have surged. These have positive repercussions on incomes of rural farmers, who may have been your parents, in addition to incomes you have earned and shared with them for their agricultural activities [...]

### **Factories/Handicraft Workshops – Production Community for National Development**

In labor relations between managers and workers, we must ensure a reciprocation free of insults on workers. Everyone must think about own life and those of other people. Even though one may have a higher responsible posture, s/he should not because of that rank insult others, especially workers. Everyone is born naked. No one comes out equipped [...] holding high position does not mean that you can bully those under you, and vice versa, those under one's supervision should not insult those above. They must be mutual and helping each other, especially those who may have more difficulties. I wish to see that every factory in Cambodia, tens of thousands of them, and registered and non-registered handicraft workshops to turn themselves into communities whose productions further contribute to national develop-

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

ment. I am so happy to see that we have improved workplace and labor relations. We still have some minor issues to follow up [...]

### No Need for Labor Court

There is no need to set up labor/industrial court because we have positive experiences from trilateral mechanism to resolve labor and workplace conflicts [...] should we go for establishment of labor/industrial court, there would be issues who would win and who would lose. It is in this sense that we are seeking way to resolve conflict to ensure everyone is winner and there is no loser. I hope that the factory owners, managers and workers continue to work together in their factories for solidarity. Every time I dropped by the factories, I noticed there were always good solidarity, and thus far demonstrations have wended down.

As is raised by Minister of Labor and Vocational Training, HE Ith Sam Heng, we need to make a wide-ranging study to draw conclusions on health problem in workplaces where workers fainted. It happened in numerous places. We must widen our study and research on probable causes of this occupational hazard. We also have this fainting cases among students [...] this is another recommendation for the Ministry of Labor and concerned institutions [...]

### No Investments and/or Tourism in War-Ridden Countries

... We have received some 5.6 million tourist arrivals in the last year. They came and they spent money in our country. We also have Cambodians who are going and spending abroad. Take for instance, some 92 thousand of Cambodians have entered Thailand either for medical or for tourism reasons. Some 5.6 million tourists have come to Cambodia, though. This has given us chances to create jobs through hotels, touring destinations, restaurants, transportation, and trading. The point to remember is that we must by all

means prevent our country from falling into war again. No investors would come to a war-ridden country [...] we also have our troop to help keep peace in some countries. Visited India recently, I also sought for cooperation with India on information exchange, training, and sharing experiences on issues of keeping peace in the world. Previously Cambodia received to its territory the UNTAC forces. It has been twelve years now that Cambodia send its troops for peacekeeping purpose in Lebanon, South Sudan, Central African Republic, and Mali. Our ability is higher. We have been able to ensure this because of the peace that we all have won [...]

### Peace Destroyer Must Be Punished

To achieve peace is difficult and we must not let anyone at all to destroy it. Whoever (carried actions to) destroy peace, s/he must be punishable. It is unavoidable. We give no chance to no one to destroy peace, to kill human lives, to take away people's peaceful life, and income-making jobs that you are doing every day. People need wellbeing and peace. They do not wish to displace again. You workers must remember that where there is no peace, there will be no development [...]

### Weight-Control Is Healthy

There have been some comments that Hun Sen is getting thin. They even went this far to say that Hun Sen is very ill. In fact, I am perfectly healthy. Previously, I weighed 86 Kg. The Singaporean physicians recommended that I should go down to between 68 and 72 Kg for my height of 170 centimeters. I weighed this morning before coming here and recorded that I am at my 72.5 Kg. A perfect weight [...] someone who scolded me a lot had just died some three weeks ago [...] however, some said about Hun Sen being ill. I wonder if they are not insane to say so when Hun Sen is speaking every day [...]

### Seeking Premiership for Ten More Years

(Continued from page 1)

here in this section are people from my village and my relatives. Many of them know me from my childhood. Some also were soldiers when I joined the struggle movement invaders on the other side (of the river). Who could have imagined that a young boy who used to cross the river by boat in this area, and ferry at Tonle Bet, Prek Kadam, and Nak Loeung, has now become the country's leader who built so many bridges. Fate is unpredictable. I never wished anything more than just becoming a humble teacher. A man who did not wish for power has had to do it and not for short

Let me convey through you my affections and consideration to your parents and grandparents and tell them that we must continue together to prevent peace from being destroyed. I hope that your parents and grandparents, should they are still alive, will exercise their rights to vote. I also hope that they will vote for me to continue premiership position. I wish to stay and take care of you for another ten years and shall I be here, I will not let anyone to destroy peace. I will not let them to do stupid things because we used to lose so many human lives. They should not continue to carry out national destruction actions. To stay long or not in power depends on voters. Some had run and lost every times have instead claimed that I was afraid to let them run in the elections. How could a convicted felon be allowed in the elections? [...]

I have said something concerning labor and social protection here. Tomorrow I will talk about construction materials – cement, in Kompot province. The day after tomorrow, I will preside over the construction ceremony of a bridge over the Mekong at Kompong Cham's Kroch Chhmar. It will be about transportations. Three different days, three different topics [...] I also have many works to do in March because I will conduct two visits to foreign countries – Australia and the Greater Mekong Sub-region meeting in Vietnam's Hanoi [...].

time but for 39 years, of which 33 years as Prime Minister.

### Constitution Limits No Age for Politicians

Someone had said yesterday that "let politicians limit political activities to the age of 65 altogether." How could a man in jail challenge an incumbent Prime Minister to step down? There is no law to forbid me from staying on. They may look at rights to politics in the Constitution. They talked about limiting political activities at the age of 65 and not beyond [...] I do not wish to talk with such a man or on nonsense issue. To be frank, someone is older than I am and wished to be Prime Minister [...] the issue here is that he may be clever but not capable enough to lead the country [...]

Has he ever thought that because I was not that naïve that I could stay for nearly 40 years in power. It is even more than 40 years if the phase of national liberation is included. There is one thing I must remind him though. In about fifteen years ago, he made it his topic of electoral campaign "while there is Mr. Sen, there won't be Mr. Si, and vice versa." I think we have now come to what he had wished. There is now me, and you are not. I think this has happened according to his wish.

### 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Cambodia-China Diplomatic Relations

In their speech, HE Xiong Bo, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China and Minister of Transport and Public Works, HE Sun Chanthol, reminded of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cambodian-Chinese diplomatic relations established by Samdech Preah Borom Ratanakaod and Chairman Mao Zedong and Premier Zhou Enlai. At the time Cambodia was in difficulties and China had not been yet a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. Taiwan was. However, HM the King Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk appealed to the United Nations to

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)  
recognize (the People's Republic of) China as the sole representative of China. That was an historic turning point for us younger generation to continue to foster. It was not a mistake to have hold hands with the People's Republic of China.

### **One China Policy – Respect of Own Independence and Sovereignty**

We are continuing policy of Samdech Preah Borom Ratanakaod Preah Norodom Sihanouk. Currently, HM the King, son of Samdech Preah Borom Ratanakaod continues his leadership together with the Royal Government in the implementation of the One-China policy. Implementing the One-China policy is tantamount to respecting Cambodian own independence and sovereignty. I always said that in China, there are numerous issues like Taiwan, Tibet, etc. I also made it a point that respecting the One-China policy is like respecting our own sovereignty. We may ask a question and think if China supports anyone country to secede Koh Kong or anyone province from Cambodia, what would be our reaction? We would be in rage. What would China do, if we establish diplomatic relations with Taiwan and not with the People's Republic of China? They would not be happy.

It is in this understanding that we must respect mutual independence and sovereignty. Let me be clear on that as the Chinese New Year is approaching. We do not allow Taiwan to have its office of representation and to raise its flag in Cambodia, but we are not hindering any business relations with the investors from Taiwan. That would include also flight between Taiwan and Cambodia, Siem Reap and Phnom Penh. We have normal business relation.

We planted and nurtured our relations in the past 60 years, or when I was five or six years old. It has now grown to 60 years. In 2010, our strategic partnership has grown when President Xi

Jinping visited Cambodia in 2016, and my visit to China in 2017. The Chinese Premier also visited Cambodia in early January this year. These have promoted further our comprehensive strategic relations, by which Cambodia and China have been working together to ensure it, and through these relations, Cambodia's development depends one part on the People's Republic of China. It is in this note that we Cambodians wish China to make even higher progress [...]

### **Welcoming Chinese Tourists**

As of present, 1.2 million Chinese tourists has made their arrivals, a figure closer to my wish to have 0.01% Chinese tourists of their population. Many Chinese air companies conduct businesses in Cambodia and there are Cambodian air companies conducting flights to many Chinese provinces too. That we have received 1.2 million Chinese tourists we have earned a lot from visas fees [...] if China were a poor country, and there were some thirty million of them fleeing the country, what would be the problem? At present, China is able to provide for its 1,350 million population and to contribute to the developments of other countries [...]

### **Thank “The New York Times” Reporter for Coming to My Home Town**

... We have to have a good knowledge of geopolitics and to design a policy responding positively to foreign relations. Some have criticized me for being too close to China. I asked them a question when they said so. Have they offered us anything besides insulting me, threatening me? The New York Times reporter here has followed me to my meeting with workers. He took so many pictures. Today he is here with me in my birthplace. Let us wait and see what he is going to write about us. I do not know if there is going to be any more “fake news.” Well, President Donald Trump gave some media outlets – CNN, the New York Times, etc. an award of fake news. As he is taking us so many pictures,

wish that he will run them all, not a selectively few of bad ones. I thank you so much for coming to my hometown.

### **Working with China on Mutual Respect Basis**

... Relating to policy in general, it is not only Cambodia but also the whole of ASEAN and many other countries, including New Zealand, which is close to the United States is also looking for loans from China. China made progress and can help other countries. For countries that accuse Hun Sen being close to China may ask themselves what have they given us? However, we wish to be friend with them. Making friend with them is hard, though. I told them frankly too that to make friend with them was hard and they said I was too close to China. (What can we do, when) working with China is smooth and equal. Some countries have their ambassadors admonished us as if we were kids. I could not take it. I have respects from not only ambassador, but also the President and Premier (of China). I need equality. It should not be about sizes and/or status [...]

Relating to what we are doing today here, would we have this ceremony and/or the eight bridges so far, should we have no good relation with China? I wanted to be partner to every country ... we have bridges over the Mekong because of assistance from Japan, from China, and ourselves. Why they intimidate us about cutting off assistance? [...] no one would be able to hinder our development. Many countries wish to destroy China, and they could not [...] as many Chinese investors come to Cambodia, they stirred up (negative) opinions about it. The Chinese Ambassador had had to come out and talk about it in a press conference. In fact, those circles are envious with the Chinese for conducting businesses in Cambodia, while they did not. They accuse China of clouding us. I listen to no one's order. We have cooperation on equal right and footing. I hope our people will benefit from infrastructures in the time to come [...]

### **Make No Propaganda for the Senate Elections**

Tomorrow, the Senate election campaign will start. I have already affirm to the National Elections Committee that I am not a candidate for the Senate and I do not help to campaign them. However, I continue to meet with workers in my capacity as Prime Minister of the Royal Government. I will continue to give out help and gifts [...] the electoral college are members of the communal councilors, etc. Candidates will have to go see them. It is up to the candidates. As for me, I have so many programs to cover. I still have five more programs with the Chinese Ambassador [...]

### **Measures on Overloaded and Modified Trucks**

... I am issuing a stern order here. Companies with overloaded trucks should convene to discuss this matter. If we stop trucks with overloading capacity, we will proceed to closing its company [...] Secondly, it is about modified trucks. As of zero hour tonight, there must not be modified trucks in the roads. If modified trucks are mobile in any provinces or districts, governors of provinces and/or districts are to be responsible. We must stop and keep them in one place. We will ask owners to re-modify them. I will follow it up [...] from this time on, there will be more than ten hours for them change their schedules [...] whoever set them free will be punishable. People may come in and comment in my Facebook page and tell me where and who – district governor and/or police set them free. I will follow it up.

The Land Traffic Safety Committee issued orders but failed to get their attention and respect. That we stop and place those trucks in a confined place would lose the jobs for drivers and their companies. However, we are guaranteeing safety for people living and traveling along the road. We also will ensure that they will not overload their trucks leading to damaging our roads too [...]./■

(Continued from page 1)

to be as long as 16 meters. In reality, some have extended longer. While this was happening, our authority were not taking action according to law but waiting for orders. They should be implementing laws [...] in the 1980s, some of you may still remember, should we not delegate more power to local authority, Pol Pot would have taken back provinces. The provincial authorities then had their army, and resource ability to mend roads and fix bridges without waiting for intervention from the central level authority [...]

That situation has changed. However, why is it that we cannot further delegation of power and resource? Let me clarify again that chiefs of institutions must expedite this task which is in the frameworks of decentralization and de-concentration instructed so far. You wait for no order but take legal actions. There would be no success without participation and/or allowing no chance to others to participate. It is impossible to lend your hands from Phnom Penh to resolving problems in the local level. It is true that some tasks require sovereign decision, which national level will take over. However, there are many jobs that would be more effective if the local or sub-national level authority carries out [...]

### **Job Descriptions and Monitoring Mechanism**

I have mentioned earlier that transference of functions must be clear. There needs to have a functions and/or jobs description as which are the functions overseen by which level of authority [...] I wish Samdech Krola Haom and related commissions to set up what they call monitoring bulletin [...] it should be one among other conditions when the sixth Cabinet is formed. When some ministers are not doing their jobs in the fifth term, would it be necessary to appoint him again in the sixth term? I should mention it straightly [...] we may have for example monitoring mechanism/bulletin which counts so

and so number of services/functions that are delegated to sub-national level authority, and so and so number of services/functions that are kept at national level [...]

### **Be Responsible for Power Delegated**

... Let me reaffirm that you must take up power delegated by the national level but you should not consider it a sovereign power. You cannot do whatever as you should wish. Take for instance expenditure issue is concerned, you have administrative discretion to authorize it for the construction of roads and/or water canals. It would not be in your discretion to use it in the purchase of your luxury vehicles [...] It is not discretion of the provincial governors to divert budgets reserved and delegated for building of canals, clean water, roads, schools at sub-national level to purchasing other staff for personal civilized requirements [...] There was this issue I had this morning with a provincial governor that I should not mention which province it was.

In WhatsApp, I saw that he asked me for advice. I replied to him that it is provincial authority and power to take action against a company that carries out its plan without and/or against authorization. I replied to him that it is the provincial authority and power and (you have to) close it down within two hours. I then called up the company, which responded that they would suspend what they were doing. I told the company to do so in within one hour or the authority would do it within two hour later. Why dare you not take up responsibility? [...] we must implement our roles and functions given by law. I gave you the sword but you never use the sword that you wanted very much [...]

### **Sand Pumping in Koh Kong**

... There is this issue in Koh Kong. I heard that there is this action of sand pumping to create a city. Who authorizes it? I asked and no one seems to know about it. What have you

done? It do not know yet if it is or is not true. I just saw it in the media. There seems to be no confirmation yet. That is our job. That is our task. Institutionally, they are in the responsibility of the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning, and Construction, and the Ministry of Environment. You may have to look into this thing to find out why on earth are they encroaching upon state land and mangrove forest? Why should they be allow to pump sand to fill in there? Everyone wants to be governor, minister, secretary of state, undersecretary of state, district governors, etc. After being appointed, they do not represent the power given. They do not help prevent such violations. The governor of Koh Kong, while there were no reactions from concerned institutions, should come out and clarify [...] governor of Koh Kong is a woman but she has to take up responsibility as if she is a man in this position. They are equal in function and responsibility [...]

### **Discretion by Projects, Not for Personal Gains**

We have not been waiting for anyone to help us. We have saved up money and delegated to local level in an incremental pattern every year.= ... we have so far offered some two billion USD to the three levels of sub-national authority. This year, the Ministry of Economy and Finance will disburse over 430 million USD to the three levels of sub-national authority. There are also funds channeled by central level to their local offices. All in all, the sub-national authority is benefiting from more because of projects of roads, water canals, bridges, etc. carried out directly by the national level. The sub-national level authority benefits from a vast amount of funding. Use your discretion on the over-430 million USD provided to the three levels of sub-national authority [...] Discretion must be by projects and make expenditures rational and effective [...]

### **Public Financial Reforms Reap Current Account Surplus**

We have made stringent efforts to conduct public financial reform, which in turn we are reaping current account surplus, allowing us to increase salary for our civil servants, and channeling fund for local level functioning. We have money for basic infrastructural investments in each and every institution. We must keep up our efforts and must work together to collect incomes [...] where there is no income, there will be no expense. I am so glad and accolade our public financial reform efforts [...] allowing us not to wait for breathing provided by donors. We hail assistance but we must know that there will come a time when we will no longer enjoy that favorability [...] I was worried that when Cambodia reaches to a stage when it is a lower-middle income nation, we would lose such credit favor or what they called "concessional loans," and had to endure what they called "commercial loans." I conducted negotiations with Japan, China, South Korea, and Asian Development Bank – all four, to retain chance of accessing to concessional loans [...]

In fact, we have managed our public debt in a fair way. Principle ratio of our debt, which in a general term they would allow a 40% of GDP, is still at 22%, while some countries have reached even 100% of their GDP. We continue to need concessional assistance from development partners – both financially and technically. However, we must grow up to take up destiny in our own hands. Donors have heavy burdens in own countries as well as elsewhere such as Libya, Mali, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Somalia, Congo, Angola, etc. [...] funding to sub-national level authorities are bigger and we still want it to be growing still wishing (1) to expand our income to promote rational expenditures to our targets, and (2) to increase national funding for sub-national level according to functions transferred. While transferring functions, we have to transfer human and financial resource [...].