

## Meeting Workers/Employees in March

(March 2018 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)



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

### PREY TIA, PHNOM PENH, 28 MARCH 2018

Are you all fine? (The Khmer New Year is approaching so) anyone of you who are in your five-month pregnancy could still dance. I heard a moment ago that there will be the Best Women in their 60's contest on 30 March [...]

### Resolve Problems of Employers Abandoning Workers

I am so grateful for employers for allowing workers to this gathering and also an afternoon off with full pay [...] Just now I came across a niece who told me with tear that her employer abandoned workers in her factories and they have not been paid yet. She does not know that we have released a sum of 4.6 million USD to resolve her factory problem [...] Minister of Labor and Vocational Training, HE Ith Sam Heng, has just offered measures to take in future along with the recommendations I made. It is not a big problem to cover the workers' salary (in case that employers ran away). However, there are more advantages to cover and it is a big amount. Take for instance in Kandal, there was a closing-

down factory case in which a worker had an accumulating sum of twenty thousand USD advantage. That was clearly the case in which employers embezzled the money and used it for other purpose that in the end led to loss of workers' advantages. The burden has befallen on the Royal Government [...]

### Triangular Angles – RGC Policies, Private Sectors' Investment, Workers

Please allow me to thank you all for doing your parts in national development. To take a jobs and be serious with them is first of all for the benefit of yourself and family. No one in this world is well off because s/he does not have a job. In the course of our efforts, there are three angles that are interdependent one another. The first angle to start with is the Royal Government who would be responsible for policies [...] the second angle was private sectors' investments [...] and the third angle was participations of workers in taking up jobs in factories and enterprises [...]

Among the three angles, which are equally important and com-  
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## Cambodians in Australia & New Zealand

(16-17 March 2018 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

### A Warm Welcome for Own Nationality

I am so happy today to be able to meet with all of you who are living in Australia and New Zealand. I convey my respect to those of you traveling from New Zealand and various states of Australia to be here with us. This gesture has clearly showed how much consideration you have for your motherland because my trip to Australia is not one for private purpose. It is an official visit. That you come out to welcome me and the Cambodian delegation spells clearly your support and not opposition to the nation. Any opposition to Hun Sen ('s visit) would mean a confrontation to own nation. I am not here on a private or tourist visit [...] I am so happy that we have this meeting but unfortunately we cannot have one meeting for every one of us. Tomorrow night, after the banquet for heads of state and government given by Prime Minister of Australia, I will have another meeting with our people [...]

### It Is Good to Keep One's Native Nationality

... Our people (living in Australia and New Zealand) could have come here at three different circumstances. Some might have come since the war between 1970 and 1975. Some could have come when they took refuge from the Pol Pot's regime between 1975 and 1979, and some might have come after the liberation in 1979. My biggest pride and impression of being here is that though you may have taken new nationalities, you do not forget who you originally are. It is a good feeling to travel anywhere and to meet with own people who think about their nation. It is our

right and property. We cannot abandon it. In Cambodia, no matter what nationality you may take, you are not obliged to leave your native Cambodian nationality. You also have a lifetime visa to Cambodia [...]

### Why Cambodians Abroad Cannot Vote

... I understand some demands made for political interest. I should bring it up a bit for your understanding. Some political parties demanded that people living abroad have rights to vote [...] I may have to address this issue that the Royal Government of Cambodia led by the Cambodian People's Party and/or Hun Sen does not allow our people living abroad to vote [...] the matter is relating to the elections systems. Politicians went around deceived people that the Royal Government did not appreciate or respect your rights [...] there are three different voting systems – one is a first-past-the-post system, another is proportional representation system, and proportional representation system by provinces [...] (as Cambodia is using the third system,) where would you go and register? [...] the law demanded that registration undergoes in the country. Some may go to Cambodia but your stay would not be long enough for you to carry out your right.

... For instance, where would you register? Would you from Australia register in Kompong Cham or Kompong Speu? On another instance, we have time  
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& New Zealand

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plementing each other, the Royal Government's policies has been a responsible factor to whether there would or would not be rapid investment, jobs creation, labor-related laws, and markets for exports [...] I am so happy to see there is progress in our effort for our country to become a low-middle income one [...] In 2004, our national income was between 400/500 USD [...] as of present our per capita income has reached over 1,500 USD [...] you all are benefiting from a basic wage of 170 USD/month, which makes it roughly over 200 USD/month including other advantages. In this development, you would earn over 2,000 USD/year [...]

In the world, (according to the United Nations) the poverty rate had been set at one USD. Anyone earn more than one USD would be considered living above poverty line. It has been readjusted to 1.25 USD lately. Taking your basic salary/wages into consideration, you in the industrial sector earn more than six USD/day. This has indicated that you are moving away above the poverty line [...] in the course of implementing the 2015-2025 industrial policy, currently we have seen that industry already contributed a share of 30% to the GDP, while in the past it contributed only 4% or 5%. Agriculture has lowered to 25% and service upped to 45% [...] increasing shares of industry and agriculture clearly indicate progress of our national economy [...]

### Supporting CPP Is Making Peace

... That you have jobs and incomes, which are increasing, you may ask why do you get all that? Surely, they are not from either from war or preaching of the opposition. They all are possible because of the Cambodian People's Party, which overthrew the regime of Pol Pot, prevented its return, and secured peace through its win-win policy, which transform Cambodia from a divided country with many rulers to a unified one under one King, Constitution, Royal Government, and

armed force. It is a gold and diamond opportunity for Cambodia to make effort for its socio-economic development [...]

We have laid out necessary infrastructures ranging from roads, bridges, ports, airports, electricity, and required conditions to attract investments to Cambodia. Should we achieve no peace and war continued, who would have brought their investment to Cambodia? Who would bring themselves to tour Cambodia? The past experiences have taught us. Your parents and grandparents understood this better [...] they have supported me, a leader of the Cambodian People's Party, to resolve every issues happened in Cambodia since its hardest time [...]

### Those Committed Crimes Face with Legal Challenges

Cambodia is no longer a country at war. It is neither a country of political crisis as some have said it. Cambodia is in no political crisis [...] workers are working in factories, farmers are cultivating, and traders also are busy with their businesses. Where is the political crisis? The elections will take place on 29 July 2018. To say that Cambodia is in crisis is only a story in the minds of some people, who have committed crimes. They have to face legal challenges. It is not a problem to be resolved by political means [...] what you have achieved comes from peace and stability that we scored through the implementation of the win-win policy.

We must be determined to defend it and make sure the bad past will not come back [...] you may wonder why Hun Sen appears in 2017/18 with workers. You know that in time of war, I was at the forefront to overthrow the genocidal regime of Pol Pot. When I became a country's leader, in army uniform, I visited troops and helped resolved people's hardships at the frontline. People also saw me in negotiations for a political settlement of the Cambodian problem. No leader in this world has involved more than I do in negotiation [...]

### Workers' Wage of 250 USD by 2030 Predicted

We are in the process of inspecting more issues related. Wage increase is not only for 2018, 2019, 2020, but every year. In the Cambodian People's Party's political platform discussion the other day there was a suggestion to implement this policy between 2019 and 2023. Real figures were also suggested. I requested removal of figures because I wanted to give us an opportunity to negotiate on a yearly basis. According to predictions by economists, by 2030, workers' salary/wages will be no less than 250 USD/month. There will be increases by stages. However, we must take into consideration a competition factor. On this note, in order to ensure your growing incomes, the best way for you to do is to take part in keeping peace. Peace will ensure development, jobs and incomes [...]

### Developing Countries Produce and Export More of the Same

Economic development will lead to increase of incomes [...] farmers would also benefit from it too. In the whole world, who would go without eating? Our problem here is that we in developing countries are producing more of the same for exports. We are competing with each other. Take for instance, we in ASEAN are competing to export more of similar products. (Developed countries) import planes – airbus, Boeing, etc. which there is no competition as such. They sell those planes at a price they fixed. When we sell them our goods, we face problem of price and some countries even apply subsidy policy, though it is not in conformity with the WTO principles, for their farmers. They just keep doing [...] though it is a violation on free economy principles [...]

### Three Days of Free-of-Charge Bus Service

... Normally, during the Khmer New Year, transportation service increases its cost. I am calling on all doing this business to not jack up the price. I also

request for the city bus service to offer a three-day free-of-charge service for our people [...] who may not be interested to leave the city, or those living in the vicinity of Phnom Penh, to go around taking its sightseeing tour [...]

### 1 May – Take a Meal and Dance with Workers in SEZ

I will join our workers in their final beauty contest on May 1. I think I will go to the Minebea factory (in the special economic zone). I am declaring that I will join our workers to enjoy the day. I will deliver no speech but to have a good time with our workers. I used to spend my 1 May labor day with workers at the Seaport of Sihanoukville. This year, I will have meal with the Minebea workers before returning [...] thank you very much for today's meeting [...] this Sunday I will meet with factories' foremen and administrative staff from Kompong Speu. After that I will meet and have meal with the Japanese Foreign Minister [...]/.©

**PO SEN CHEY/S JREY KAONG  
AREA, PHNOM PENH, 21  
MARCH 2018**

### The Khmer New Year Will Be in Rather Good Weather

... I am sure some of you might have waited for my presence. My time has indeed been short. Yesterday I had in fact planned to go to Preah Vihear. However, there was a natural phenomenon, which I said perhaps there was a meeting between the Dragon Kings. Our country has had quite some rain. Last night there was rain too. This year, we seem to have no dry season. There was in a short span of time. There was a short period of hot weather, then came rain [...] however, last night rain does not prevent us from today's meeting, does it? We could predict that this year the Khmer New Year – the year of dog, Buddhist calendar of 2562, which is coming soon will not be too hot. That would allow our people to travel places for their holidays [...]

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**It Was Such a Warm Welcome and Hospitality**

I thank you all for your warm welcome and hospitality. Your kisses here do not leave me with prints of lipstick [...] in Australia, kissers' lipsticks were hard to remove [...] please allow me to send from here my gratefulness to our people in Australia and New Zealand for making their presences to welcome the country's leader for the meeting in Australia. Their presences were indeed a clear indication for the Kingdom of Cambodia's leader. On my first day, we were able to meet with more than 800 people, in a place where they normally housed only 600. For the second meeting, it was at about 930 pm, I had more than 500 audiences [...]

... In what they claimed to be the greatest demonstration (against Hun Sen), there were only about 100 people. We had about one thousands coming to greet the delegation [...] on their last day, those demonstrators had blended themselves with those from Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand, and the Philippines [...] thus making altogether a rather growing presence [...] that we are live now, and Australia is four hour ahead of us, it should be about 12am, I am sure they could see me speaking from here thanks to Fresh News and National Television. Again, I thank you all for your warm welcome and hospitality indicating that no matter where you are, we are all Cambodians [...]

**With Your Votes, I Will Continue**

... I also thank those who protested my presence. It had indicated a working democracy. The small gathering has clearly indicated that they had no chance of gathering people, not only in Cambodia, but even abroad, than Prime Minister Hun Sen, who has led the country for nearly forty years, and will continue to do so in another ten years, at least. Just now, passing by that place over there, some nieces and nephews wished me to win the elections.

Well, with your votes, your family members' votes, I will be elected and I will keep going [...]

... After overthrowing the Pol Pot's regime and preventing their return, we had put into practice a process of win-win policy. It had created a condition for a country, divided into many parts and rules, to unify under one rule [...] well, except those with mature pregnancies, who may deliver in the time of the Khmer New Year holiday, everyone must be planning their journeys to their native places to celebrate the event with their families, thank to good infrastructures, peace and security, in addition to means of transportation and financial resource [...] Your parents and grandparents have been supporting me from the beginning and now it is your turn to do so. I hope that you will continue to make contributions with me for the sake of keeping peace altogether. With peace, we will be able to guarantee long-term development [...]

Today is March 21, on March 18, forty eight years ago, there was a coup that overthrew Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk. It was 48 years ago that they started war in Cambodia [...] we lost many lives, and many were maimed and separated before we could end the war. It was a tragedy from the past that was left for us to resolve. In the process of resolving it, I shared responsibility with other leaders to seek for peace, national reconciliation, and implementation of the win-win policy, which brought about peace and unified country for the first time. It was a precondition that is primarily important for creating jobs and income generation [...]

**We Should Keep Both Peace from Arms and of Mind**

... I am taking this chance to appeal to our people concerning violence issue involving a traffic accident that took place some days ago [...] we indeed need our people to uphold the traffic law. However, in doing so, we are not looking for ex-

treme actions leading to loss of life. In any traffic accident case, if the person who caused it tried to escape, you may make a citizen arrest and leave the rest of the matters for involved authorities and the court to take actions. People should not try to end the person's life. It is not human moral. It is the sort of action that we must avoid. We should not allow our country to be anarchic and to plague with extrajudicial killing [...] the authorities have now arrested those culprits who will have to take responsibility for the crimes they committed. We must make common efforts for our country to keep peace, which is not only from arms but also of mind [...]

**Taking Measures to Prevent Problems of Factories Closures**

... We have a serious matter that requires measure. Minister of Labor and Vocational Training, HE Ith Sam Heng, already said that we had just released a sum of 4.6 million USD for 4,146 workers in nine factories in Phnom Penh, Kandal, and Kompong Speu, because the factories closures. If it continues to happen, the Royal Government will surely be a victim [...] I have instructed HE Aun Pommoniroth to lead a meeting to seek a solution to the problem [...] there has to be some ways to deal with this [...] otherwise every time there is this issue of closing down factories, responsibility to deal with money owed by factories to workers is coming to the Royal Government [...] I see that it is one of the problems requires our attention to evade our workers and the Royal Government from such irresponsible actions of entrepreneurs [...] we also have to work with respective countries from where the investments come [...]

**Voting for CPP for Real Democracy**

I wish to remind you to go to vote on 29 July 2018. I hope that you and your family members will vote for the Cambodian People's Party, the only Party with true ability to lead and to

keep independence, sovereignty, peace, territorial integrity, and to drive further development [...] I would not go into issue who said this and who said that [...]

**Monk "Marie" – Is He Real?**

... There is no one who would arrest me in this world. However, there are many people who like to tell a lie [...] there is this man who called himself "Monk Marie" who went from place to place with his bad mouth telling people a lie. I have ordered to look for him. I have his picture here. We have also a picture of him since before he "became" a monk [...] he travel from Kep to Kompot, to Takeo, telling people a lie. Governor of Kep province, HE Ken Satha perhaps can search for this man and find out if he is truly a monk or not. If he is not, that would even be the case to take action on. He may say whatever he wishes but not about the national issues [...] he told people I fled from journalists and ran into the plane, while I had a marathon meetings [...] he could be not a real monk ... but a spy [...]

**No Negotiation with Those Imprisoned**

... They misbehaved very badly. That they burned the effigy of me means that you have ended your chance of getting out of your stalemate. Before I left for Australia, they cheated people that I would be arrested. When that was not true, they said there would be a negotiation. Hun Sen has no need to negotiate with imprisoned men, and those with dissolved party. They knew full well that Hun Sen holds key to everything but they led their actions to burn the effigy of me. I did not lay a trap for you but you had made your steps far from the red line. That has proven that you are half-baked politicians. You should instead be patient and seek for negotiation [...] they may indulge themselves to damage my soul which is beholding in every Naga statue in the Buddhist temples because I was born in the year of dragon [...] they like

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to make what I said happen [...]

... They could have been cool. That they are quick tempered, they had in fact shut their doors. Even those jailed in Phnom Penh, who sought for a pardon, could not gain that because of actions of their bosses [...] when I released Hong Sok Huor, they quickly said that it was because of international pressure. If they keep going with this, I would not seek pardon for anyone [...] because their bosses have been so disruptive [...] in this note, let them serve the sentence. Some had to serve jail term of twenty years. They would still be in jail when I no longer am a Prime Minister because I seek only another ten years in office. They may have to wait for the Prime Minister after me [...]./.

#### **TA KHMAO AREA, KANDAL, 7 MARCH 2018**

#### **Was Present at the Frontline with Soldiers in War Time**

You may ask why I visited workers very frequently these days. I just wanted to let you know that it is because we have different priorities at different times. In the war time, people might have seen me in the frontline to figure out difficulties of our soldiers and people close to the battlefields. Though I did not went to battle myself, as Prime Minister, my job was to obstruct the return of the regime of Pol Pot. There was no negotiation with them. We fought to keep them away. Therefore, it was necessary for me to be with people and the army at the frontline [...]

#### **Was Present Inside Country and Abroad to End War**

While fighting to prevent possible return of the regime of Pol Pot, we also conducted search for political settlement to the Cambodian problem. In those days, after seeing me in Battambang, Siem Reap, and other frontline battles, people saw me in France, Indonesia, etc. to conduct series of negotiations. It was in what we called time of war and peace existing together.

We negotiated to end the war. Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk Preah Borom Ratanakaod played a crucial role in ending the war [...] the win-win policy had brought about peace for our country. It is a durable peace that brought about national unity and favorable conditions for national developments.

#### **Was Present in Rice Fields**

After the war ended, we had a pressing issue to deal with relating to agriculture. People saw me in many places with our farmers talking and solving problems relating to their cultural productions. We had to put in necessary infrastructures which support our agriculture but also Cambodia's economic growth. People saw me in fields harvesting and transplanting rice [...] to encourage our people through various public forum with farmers. People also saw me in various construction sites of bridges or roads [...]

#### **Now I Am Present at Factories with Workers**

Now, though works relating to keeping peace has relaxed, our efforts in agriculture is not yet over. We continue to make effort for further agricultural growth. Along with that we also lay down policy for industrial development and relevant policies for national developments. I will continue to make my presence seen in industry and service sectors. I started with garments and apparel factories, enterprises, etc. It is in this reason that these days you see that I traveled and met with workers/employees in places. As of this moment, I have met with over 400,000 workers already [...]

#### **Busy Schedules in March and More**

... Yesterday I had meeting with arts and performing arts professionals and career people, while today I am meeting with you workers/employees. The day after tomorrow, Saturday 10 March, I will preside over the river festival. They have scheduled a meeting for me with teachers without knowing

that I have a wedding party of my niece, daughter of my youngest sister [...] Next week, I will also have a heavy schedule. Next Wednesday, I do not see my schedule to meet with workers/employees. I will take that opportune moment to inaugurate a bridge across a river tributary in Kompong Cham. On Thursday next week, there will be this economic conference and I will leave for Australia in the afternoon. I will arrive Australia at 8:40 – Australian time. According to prior schedules, from 1:30 pm through to 2:25 pm, I will have a dialogue with my counterpart and Prime Minister of Australia, who host the ASEAN-Australia Summit. After that, I will meet with our Cambodian compatriots. I will do it though not one, twice or thrice, because the Summit will take place on 17 March. I will arrive back in Cambodia on Sunday [...]

... Prior to the elections, there are many schedules inside the country and there is one more meeting of International Committee on the Mekong in Siem Reap in April. After my trip to Australia in March, I will go for the Greater Mekong Sub-region meeting in Vietnam. There will also be an ACMECS and CLMV meeting in Thailand in June [...] President of the European Union Mr. Donald Tusk and European Commissioner Jean-Claude Juncker wrote me a letter on 22 January inviting me for the Asia-Europe meeting in Brussels in October. There will also be a Japan-Mekong consultative meeting in the same month. After the formation of a new Royal Government, I will set out for the Asia-Europe meeting. I will reply to their invitations that I will go. Perhaps, I will also conduct visits to some countries in Europe, Turkey could be one of them. Returning from Europe, I will go to Japan and some other countries [...]

#### **By Constitutional Means, No Shortcuts**

... Please convey my sincere thanks to your parents, grandparents, should they still be alive. I thank them very much

for making contributions and journeying with the Cambodian People's Party. We must continue to be together. Some murmured changes ... where would they want changes to go? [...] should they wish to change, they must do it in a legal way. They should not try the shortcut [...] the other day that person wished for a negotiation. I responded that there would be no negotiation. The following night he gave an interview saying to seek a negotiation to get Hun Sen to step down peacefully. That he could not do what he wanted on me, he said to get me down by peaceful means. I am sending him a message that that I am here by constitutional means, I will go down only by the Constitution. There will be no shortcut [...]

I also send message to some in Phnom Penh who said that Hun Sen pre-recorded his speech. As a matter of fact Hun Sen is seriously ill. I went the other day to inaugurate achievements in the pagoda of Tchouk Va. They said it was a pre-recorded action and event [...] they told people lies (about my health) [...] it is because they tell lies, they failed. There is a Khmer saying that goes "the more lies one tells, the more failure he suffers" [...]

#### **A Cooler Weather for the Khmer New Year**

... Will there be any dances for the river festival? I wish to stay longer to see it. I have a house here (in Takhmao). I could either stay here or go to Phnom Penh. I am also a citizen of Takhmao town. In the future, when there will be a meeting in this part of the city, I may choose to stay here [...] we may have a gathering with workers/employees in Svay Rieng after the Khmer New Year. We have noticed that there have been many rain this year. We have the feeling that the weather will be not too hot for our Khmer New Year event, which will come in more than a month time. I hope you will have chance to enjoy traditional games and sports [...]./.

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**PREAH SIHANOUK (SEZ-P),  
DAY 2, 4 MARCH 2018**

### **To Have Meal with Factory Workers on International Labor Day**

I have fulfilled my aim to meet you today. I hope that on May-1 International Labor Day, we may organize this event again, and one of our Deputy Prime Ministers could take the presidency, while I will attend one of the events at factories. This year I wish to see a factory to organize something fun to commemorate the International Labor Day so that I can join and have meal with workers. Regularly, factories have organized parties for workers on May-1. Please allow me to excuse myself to workers/employees, and leaders of the Autonomous Seaport of Preah Sihanoukville from my annual visit, and will send someone to represent me instead. As I am touring the country to meet our workers. I think I should also join them in this joyful event.

Some may walk with petition letter. That is their right. A few hundreds out of millions of workers may walk with petition letter. That is normal in a democratic country. Our rights also allow us to celebrate the event with joys too [...] last year there was this contest of freshie boy and girl, and it seemed that the boy from Kompong Som (Preah Sihanouk province) won the first prize and girl from here too won the second prize. Let us organize again another contest of freshie boys and girls in garment sector. Some have said that female workers have their choices in making couple. It is a good thing. In Khmer we say "to grow rice, one must be aware of grass, and to couple, one must know of kinship." Well, in the present day, we also have to have blood test on both side [...] having said that I am grateful to factories/enterprises as well as companies for providing jobs to workers with HIV/AIDS [...] in addition to care to prolong and improve life provided by relevant authorities, for which our country has scored numerous suc-

cesses [...]

### **Workers Contribute to National Economic Growth**

I wish to take this opportune moment to thank and appreciate our workers in every sectors gathered here for their works [...] though it is for their own salary but your contributions have helped national economy to achieve growth. I just remind you that, where there are factories but there are no workers, there will not be bosses. Where there are workers but there are no factories, no investments, and production for exports and local consumption, there will not be jobs and income. You may have to return to your parents for other jobs, mainly in agriculture [...]

I know that among workers gathered here yesterday and today, some are not from the province of Preah Sihanouk. They are from other provinces. For some years in the recent past, we made our efforts to localize schools for children and youth to have access to education. For some years now, we have localized hospitals and made further efforts to localize factories to provinces for local labor availability. This has created job opportunity for those of you in provinces of Kompong Speu, Kandal, Svay Rieng, Kompong Cham, Pursat, etc. Even in Koh Kong, we also have factories for which I will also visit [...]

Previously, you might have seen me visiting farmers in the fields. It was a time when we had to achieve our goal of making Cambodia a food sufficient nation. With so many inputs we offered such as building of dams and canals, our farmers have made great progress in their cultivation. Just rice alone, where with less than ten million population, we did not have enough to eat and sought for food assistance from outside, now with over fifteen million population, we have a surplus of over five million metric tons of rice for exports [...] Unlike the Pol Pot's policy of having rice was having everything, we introduced policy for industrial

development, which we are making further efforts to continue to develop, and to achieve a value added industry. Having said that I just wanted to stress it does not mean we are leaving labor intensive industry at all.

### **The Cambodian People's Party Keeps Peace, Stability, and Social Order**

... To continue to keep our jobs and incomes, and increasing ones, our first task is to maintain peace, stability, and social order. War and genocide in our country killed so many people. We did not have tourists, while life was hard [...] in 1979-80s, traveling at night to certain targets would not be safe [...] and to keep peace, there would not be any choice better than voting for the Cambodian People's Party (CPP). Voting for CPP will keep peace, life, and avoid war sufferings like those in Syria, Iraq, Libya, etc. In the present day, only CPP has the ability to guarantee that. You wished me luck and continue to be your shade in life. It is easy and you do not have to ask for help from spiritual powers but voting for the Cambodian People's Party, those wishes of yours will come true. I already declared it and the Cambodian People's Party already issued the decision through its congress for me to continue my candidacy of Prime Minister. No one objects that [...]

### **Let Us Go to Vote and Vote for CPP**

... I know well that I would not satisfy everyone, but I am sure there are people who are satisfied with my works. In a democratic regime, the one with the majority support wins [...] let us wait till 29 July 2018 to see what is going to happen [...] how many of you have registered to vote? I see, almost everyone here did [...] please do not forget to go to vote to keep peace. If you wish to see me in power, just vote for the Cambodian People's Party, you will see that I will continue to be with you [...]./.

**PREAH SIHANOUK (SEZ-P),  
DAY 1, 4 MARCH 2018**

### **A Gathering of More Than 20,000 Workers/Employees**

I am so happy to return and meet you all once again after my visit in 2016 to celebrate the opening of the 100<sup>th</sup> factory in the Special Economic Zone of Preah Sihanoukville (SEZ-P). Let me remind you that we normally throw this kind of meeting in May, the International Labor Day. However, on second thought, May is going to be having lots of rain in the areas bordering the sea. We thought of doing it on last December 30 and 31, but such a gathering would involve so many bodyguards and civil servants, who would otherwise have the year-end holiday to share with families. We then moved the schedule to today. In previous meeting, I met between 15,000 and 17,000 workers/employees but today our meeting brings together more than 20,000 of them. Tomorrow, in this very same place, we will also have another meeting. I am so grateful that coming see you, I had a chance to learn to drive a water scooter yesterday [...]

### **A New Economic Pole Is Coming**

In the past twenty years, who would have thought that we were going to have a special economic zone, where more than 20,000 workers/employees are working in? [...] China and South Korea, having not much investments in old ASEAN nations, who already have more investments from other sources, are turning to Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar [...] and here we have this SEZ-P. We also will have another SEZ in Preah Sihanoukville, adjacent to the blue water port invested by Japan. In the province of Preah Sihanouk, as you can see, besides tourism, we also have industry that employs over 40,000 workers/employees [...] Cambodia has pinpointed three economic poles – Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, and Preah Sihanouk. Soon there will be this fourth economic pole in the northeastern part of the countries covering Mondulkiri, (Continued on page 6)

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Ratanakiri, Stoeung Treng, and Preah Vihear, because we will exploit mineral resources such as coal there along with agro-industrial potential of rubber, etc. [...]

SEZ-P has one very special point and it is the agreement between Cambodia and China since the time of President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao to support it. In 2010, Cambodia and China declared their relations strategic and comprehensive, support of the SEZ-P was reaffirmed, and was later augmented by Premier Li Keqiang and President Xi Jinping. We have come to signing agreement to provide firm support for the SEZ-P. As you can see, we have seen investors coming not only from China but also from France, etc. [...]

### US Ambassador Should Clarify His Assistance Cessation Statement

There was one issue yesterday that I wish to say a few words. Received a call from Kong Vibol of Taxation Department that there was a diplomatic note to him on cessation of assistance which was cut since 2016. Assistance for capacity building support to the General Department of Taxation (GDT) ended since 2016, when Minister of Economy and Finance Aun Ponnornroth bestowed a medal on the (American) assistant. How come they make a statement on this issue in 2018? I am seeking clarification from HE Ambassador, what would be your true intention to declare it now? Was it a deception of public opinion? Since you have circulated it among the media, including the Voice of America, I have had to bring this matter up for my people's understanding. Every Cambodian citizen must know that we had not received any American assistance in the field of taxation since it ended in 2016 [...] what would be their real motive?

Was it your intention to defame Cambodia? Is that because of your dissatisfaction, as a donor country you cease it? The note emphasized GDT's perfor-

mance contributing to "backtracking" on democracy. (On this point) The Cambodia Daily and Free Asia do not pay the tax they owe. We do not close them. They run away. Just you give us a clear answer why assistance ended in 2016, and you declared cutting it in 2018? It was just a wind, a wind with political objective, truly [...] President Donald Trump just gave his award to fake news media. I understand he was tired of fake news and lies. Now it is not only the fake news by media but the Ambassador who used fake news [...] I wish to tell my people that you, representing a country, tell them a lie. Was it your intention to twist the truth and create a psychological impact for those who died to come back? [...]

On another instance they declare cutting assistance for demining. I quickly inform our people that the Royal Government would fill in the blank space. Later, in my meeting with the Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, he affirmed that China would expand its assistance into demining and removing UXOs. Suddenly, (the US) declares giving its assistance back. I wish to know what would be their real intention. I wish H.E. (William A.) Heidt clarify this [...] I wish that he would not imitate former Ambassador's William Todd's behavior when HM the King was receiving guests [...] it is my obligation to inform my people and to show them intention to destroy us. Otherwise they would be misled that the US had cut off its assistance. What could they cut when there was not a single coin on that? So, the main objective would be political [...]

### Meeting More Than a Thousand Cambodians in Australia

... Yesterday I have news and I will wait and see positions taken by other countries. For the ASEAN-Australian Summit in Australia, President Duterte of the Philippines will not attend because of busy schedules in the country. There have been news of demonstrations by four countries – the Philippines,

Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia. If the four countries' leaders do not go, (the summit would) be infertile. They may send junior level officials to the summit and it will not be a summit anymore. I am not sure how true that is but I got it from the Minister of Foreign Affairs. As for me, I will go to Australia to meet with more than one thousand people there. Since the place of meeting is small and can house only about 400 people, I would be happy to do two sessions. As of yesterday, there are allegedly more than a thousand of them waiting to see me. I would make my time to meet them even at 3am. This will prove that not only the opposition to organize demonstration but the ruling party also have its supporters to welcome us [...]

### Voting for the Cambodian People's Party, Voting for Lasting Peace

Peace, security, and social order are important issues. I wish that you understand and prevent our factories from being harmed by gangsters and drugs problem. Keeping peace would be a simple thing to do. You must prevent war from happening. The best way is to vote for the Cambodian People's Party to keep a lasting peace. I have determined to continue the post of Prime Minister no less than ten more years [...]

### Search for American Soldiers' Remains Would Continue, If ...

... I still nurture my intention to build up good relation between Cambodia and the United States of America. I am waiting for a reply in order to allow resumption of humanitarian mission in searching for remains of the American soldiers, 84 of whom died and 49 more are still unaccounted for. It is because of what you did to us; we have to put it on hold. Let me send a message to Ms. Ann Mills Griffiths who had been in Phnom Penh recently and sent me a letter. I continue to affirm that it is a matter of reciprocation. If you sort this issue out for me, I would review your request for the search of remains of the

American soldiers, including the Cambodian Koh Tang too. I do not wish to be enemy to anyone but problem arises one after the other [...] Cambodia is poor but it has its dignity and would not go easy with insult. As a country of peace and sovereignty, we must keep our honor and dignity of our race [...]

### Non-Registered Sector Workers to Register at Ministry of Labor

I have brought 20,000 Riel for each and everyone here – 21,191 workers/employees coming from 77 enterprises in the SEZ-P. It is a small amount of money compared to your salary. But it is a token of appreciation that you have come and we meet each other to learn about each other [...] we are calling on workers in non-registered sectors to register at the Ministry of Labor to gain access to social protection benefits. Now that the water is clear, we can see the fish quite well. Some claimed themselves to represent workers in non-registered sectors, but when we ask them to send their members for registration, they did not have any. Workers come and claim for themselves [...] I do not have to mention their names [...]/.☐

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from commune councils and members of the National Assembly elected 58 senators. HM the King already assigned two dignitaries to the Senate and we are waiting for two more to be elected by the National Assembly. When that is done, HM the King will convene the first Senate session [...] the Khmer New Year is approaching and there will be Ramvong dances [...] on 29 July 2018, the general elections will commence [...] it will happen and happen in a just manner. I am ready to talk to political parties to contest in this elections to create a favorable atmosphere [...] the Royal Government, represented by Minister of Interior, will see that your demands are taken care of [...]/.☐

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difference too. While voting and counting with everyone present, there were accusation of fraud. What would happen if we have had to transport the ballots from Australia? [...] the whole idea of casting votes is for the country to make progress. The Cambodian People's Party would not object to this idea when appropriate time comes, when we have a different voting system, so that our people may exercise their rights [...] I think politicians should not bring this matter up for their advantages. What advantages would they have? Firstly, they would raise fund from you [...]

### **Go Against Hun Sen Is Patriotic, Welcome Hun Sen Is Traitor?**

... I am so sad to have learnt that some politicians insulted all of you here for coming to see me. You have been branded to have been here for money – 600 \$. They may insult me but they should not do that to you. I do not have money to hire you to come see me. And I am sure you are not for hire. You are not animal. I just find it difficult to understand when some people claimed themselves heroes but insulted their own people [...] our conscience is not for sale, no matter how much [...] if they say, for instance, I bought Mr. Prak Skhon to work as a Foreign Minister, you may have a second thought that that could be true. However, when they said that you are here because I bought your conscience, what would you say? [...] this is a bad habit of some Cambodian politicians. They colored so and so for being Vietnamese, Siamese, etc. They claimed themselves patriotic but they made themselves traitors [...] that you go against me in demonstration, you are to be patriotic. However, that you have come to welcome me, they labelled you traitors. Hun Sen has bought you all to come [...]

### **Vision of Foreign Affairs**

As we are meeting today you may want to know about political development in Cambodia and what have been our foreign

policies, economic development, etc. Let me first give you one good reason why we have a chance to meet here in Sydney. Why Hun Sen is here? It is because of our foreign policy. If Cambodia is not a member of ASEAN, it is definite that the Cambodian Prime Minister, Hun Sen or anyone else, would not be coming to Australia (for this event). I should elaborate for you as to why I led Cambodian into ASEAN? [...]

**Firstly, this principle of non-interference of each other's internal affairs.** You may know that Cambodia is locating between a 100-million-people nation to its east and 60-million-people nation to its west. You may know that in the time of (Thai Prime Minister) Abhisit Vejjajiva, Thailand sent their troops to the pagoda of Keo Sekha Kiri Svarak of Preah Vihear. It we were not member of ASEAN, who would stand to resolve the problem for us? No one would care to help us. ASEAN members would support each other [...]

**Secondly, community spirit. ASEAN way of working based on consensus.** ASEAN is in this case a community of equal right and footing. There is no big brother as in other regional settings [...] some has sounded their opinion that (the Australian Prime Minister) Malcom Turnbull should not invite me here. If I do not come, there will not be a fully present ASEAN here. It was fortunate that President Duterte of the Philippines sent Foreign Minister in his place [...]

**Thirdly, to secure socio-economic benefit from regional integration.** There are many economic groupings in the world. Hosting ASEAN summit in Phnom Penh, there were this ASEAN ten plus six partnering countries – Australia, New Zealand, India, China, and South Korea. There was this Trans-Pacific Partnership, which had been annulled by President Donald Trump [...] we have chances of securing vast economic benefits from this grouping [...]

**Fourthly, it is Cambodia's diplomatic exits.** ASEAN has many partnering countries. By becoming an ASEAN member we benefit from ASEAN's existing connectivity and partnerships. It is in this note that I have to answer the question why I am coming to Australia? You said you wanted to meet me. Well, we can do it because we are one country member of ASEAN [...] Cambodia is not isolated [...]

### **Cambodia Sends Blue-Beret Peacekeeping Troops for Twelve Years Now**

We have discussed with Australia about the fact that we have sent our blue-beret peacekeeping troops for the UN peacekeeping operation in the world for the last twelve years. Our troops are now stationed in Lebanon, South Sudan, Mali, Central African Republic, etc. Our Constitution does not allow us to send forces abroad. There had been countries asking for Cambodian forces to go to Iraq. I denied because its operation was not under the United Nations flag [...] when I met with (Prime Ministers of) France, India, etc., I always asked them for cooperation on that matter for information sharing [...]

### **No Political Prisoners, Only Politicians Charged With Wrongdoings**

... I told HE Malcom Turnbull today that in ASEAN, different countries have different situation. In Brunei, the country is led by the Sultan, in Vietnam and Laos, they exercised a one party system. And in Thailand, the military is holding power. As for Cambodia, we have many political parties to contest in the next elections. I never say Cambodia cancels elections. Those who committed wrongdoings must go before the court. I told him that there are no political prisoners in Cambodia. We have only politicians who committed wrongdoings and therefore have to stand trial [...]

The Royal Government never says to prolong elections. That one party does not contest (is not a problem). The Cambodian nation would not be hostages of

one treacherous political party. They should not say that if that party does not contest, the elections fail to earn legal recognition [...] our problem here is to organize a free and fair elections. In 60 days after the elections, HM the King will convene the Assembly meeting. HM the King also assigned a dignitary from the winning party to the post of Prime Minister, who then will have to organize and propose a Cabinet. The person will then ask for approval on the Cabinet from the National Assembly.

With the National Assembly's approval, HM the King signed the Royal Decree to allow the functioning of the Royal Government. Members of the Royal Government will take the swearing-in session. There is no need for recognition or approval from the US President, so and so Prime Minister, or even the UN Secretary General [...]

### **Australian Provides 87 Million Dollars**

... Some said that Hun Sen would be pressured by ASEAN and Australia [...] I should share with them that during our courtesy call session, Prime Minister Turnbull said that Australia will provide Cambodia a sum of 87 million dollars [...] he even asked for further trades and investments. In the following meeting with President of the Chamber of Commerce of Australia, we also talked about direct flight between Cambodia and Australia [...] I wish that what happened opened eyes of the ones who said it the month before [...]

There is no such thing as international standard in politics. In Australia, should anyone do not exercise their voting right, s/he would get fined. In the US, voters can decided if they vote or not. In France too. International standard seems to exist and apply only in sports [...] in Cambodia, we first vote to elect the National Assembly as they do it in Australia. The elected party in the National Assembly will propose the Royal Government. I just learned something

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new about Australia. Let us not follow it. We just take the points that are applicable for us [...] we leave right up to the people to decide whether they go to vote or not [...]

### Montagnard Are Not Cambodian Minorities

... I should bring up an issue which is shocking if Cambodia was to go that way. It is about this VDO clip that showed us about politicians willing to give autonomy four provinces [...] does anyone of you know about Degar or Montagnard in Cambodia? Are they ethnic people living in Cambodia? [...] in time of signing the agreement, there were three flags present – one new Cambodian flag, one American flag, and one of the Degar. We are to lose four provinces to the Degar. The man has not had power in his hands yet but he dare to go this far [...] if they are all Khmer, why had they had to go into agreement (about land) [...] the Cambodian Constitution does not allow secession. We respect our ethnic minorities such as Jaray, Kajok, Stieng, Tumpuon, Punong, etc. We do not have and never have Montagnards or Degar. They ran into our country. Some went to a third country after interview and those who failed we sent them back to Vietnam. They are Vietnamese [...]

... Every day you accuse me of giving land to Vietnam. Not much said with Thailand or Laos [...] what happened in past was more than I could know. They said I gave Koh Trol to Vietnam. According to record, Brevier drew a line when our governor of Kompot could not go there to collect tax for his inability to survive seasickness [...] the French Assembly met in 1949 and finally gave Cochinchina to Vietnam. The Cambodian delegation voted abstain. They did not reserve any position for us younger generation to protest [...] addressing the National Assembly in 2012, I apologized and said that if I were the delegation then, I would have voted against the decision. That I was not yet

bom, why have they accused me? [...]

Anyone from Ratanakiri? Mondulkiri? Stoeung Treng or Kratie? Do you know of Montagnard? The Royal Government of Cambodia has provided the Cambodian ethnic minorities with what they have wished to keep. We provided them rights to community land [...] ethnic people in our country now wear no more pieces of cloths but clothes. They also have cars and motorcycles [...]

### Kem Lei and Chun Chanbot

... I was told that wife of Kem Lei led a demonstration against me. She was convinced that I involved in the death of Kem Lei. Let me today break out two mysteries to the Cambodian people and international community. Kem Lei was in fact to meet me when I returned from the Asia-Europe meeting in Mongolia. It was either on the 18<sup>th</sup> or the 19<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, he was assassinated on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July.

Who had really committed this crime? Who would benefit from the death of Kem Lei? It would not be the Royal Government led by Hun Sen. It was clearly in the interest of the opposition. Everyone said whoever met with Hun Sen always come out changing his political mind. Kem Lei was not an opposition figure to Hun Sen at all. He sought to meet with me. It was act of a third hand. I just wish to tell Ms. Phuong Rachana that she is confused and makes friend with your enemy [...]

Secondly, it concerning Chun Chanbot. He is also present in Australia. He went to see General Mao Sphan, commander of brigade 70 prior to his meeting with Hun Manet, my son. What did he say? He asked for General Mao Sphan's protection or he could be killed like Kem Lei. Chun Chanboth may swear if he did or did not meet with General Mao Sphan and my son. When you have a problem and escaped from the country, you sent my son a message on WhatsApp [...] he normally forwarded those messages to

me. The Cambodian people who listened to Radio Free Asia may ask about his meeting with Mao Sphan and my son. Hun Manet. I brought this issue up because Chun Chanboth and Kem Lei's wife are here [...] I did not disclose this because I thought maybe you could be my spy in the long run. Now I will not keep it [...] no one could have a way of knowing about it [...]./.

SYDNEY, DAY 2, 17 MARCH  
2018'

### Demand and Protect Current Border

Let me first talk a bit about our sovereignty. Our people may have learnt about our country's ancient border. In generations later, especially in the time of French colonial period, our country has shrunk small. What the current Royal Government, as well as the ones after 1979, tries to do is to defend the border inherited from Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk. We would not have to resort to force, especially in this era, to sort out border differences either with Thailand, Vietnam, or Laos. We must take legal and negotiating means [...] I could not fathom that some our people resorted to coloring so and so on such matter. Why did they not try to help each other? I have made every effort to demand and protect the current border left by Preah Norodom Sihanouk and deposited at the United Nations – land and maritime borders. Our Constitution also allows use of 1/100,000 scale printed by the Indochina Geographic Group in between 1933 and 1954 [...]

On this issue of border, they keep scolding me. I brought this matter up with 800 people yesterday. They said I had sold Koh Trol to Vietnam. People who are in their 60s would know. Looking at the Cambodian history, the French Governor General of Indochina (Jules) Brevier drew a line in the maritime. It was said that the Cambodian governor of Kompot, because of, his inability to cope with seasickness on the way to collect taxes, abandoned his du-

ty. The French Governor General then drew a line and issued a decision. The reference did not call it Koh Tral but Phu Quoc. It was since 1931. In 1949 the French National Assembly met to resolve the Cochinchina issue, including Koh Tral and the Khmer Kraom. I was born in 1952 [...] we Cambodians should in fact have tried to make efforts to defend the land that we are left by our ancestors [...] but some kept us scolded for working out with concerned party to mount border posts [...]

### No Talk to Effigy Burners and Prisoners

... Yesterday I sent a message to Ms Bou Rachana (Kem Lei's widow) that she was wrong. Whether she believes it or not would be up to her. They wished to find a chance to talk to me but they instead burn out effigy of Hun Sen. In this case, which country would dare come to talk to me about negotiation? I would just reason why should I talk to anyone that burned my effigy? More so, you are not fit for such a talk with me because you are a prisoner. That is a legal matter. As for other political parties, I am open for negotiation with all who are working to contest in the upcoming elections. We can talk and come up with political agreement. Should any party wish to negotiate for a political agreement for the electoral campaign, results, process, [...]

Those who burned out effigy of Hun Sen have in fact committed (a political) suicide. They know well that Hun Sen hold every key, still they burned effigy of me. It is not Hun Sen's trick but you should have learnt by now that you were in wrong track all along. They could have tried to seek my sympathy. Instead, they went great length on improper actions [...]

### The Senate Elections Done, General Elections on 29 July 2018

The Senate election was done on 25 February, when non-universal electoral colleges

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