

At the 73rd United Nations General Assembly

(28 September 2018 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)



Madam President,

My participation in this General Assembly is in the context that Cambodian Nation is enjoying the dividends of peace, stability and rapid development which had never been before in her modern history. Cambodia is a successful case of a war-torn country which had succeeded in making a complete and proudful transformation.

Previously infamous for its killing fields, an unstable region caused by armed conflicts and dangerous mine disposals, an economically backward country mired in poverty and food insecurity, Cambodia now enjoys full peace, and has become a popular tourist destination in Southeast Asia; a food exporter; an outstanding performer in poverty reduction and improvement in social indicators. Cambodia is recognized as one of the world's fast-growing economies, which recently has successfully graduated from its status as a low-income country to a lower-middle income country, owing to its high economic growth at around 7% per annum over the past two decades.

Notably known for its armed struggle for the power and changes of government, Cambodia is now governed by the rule of law and firmly respects the multi-party liberal democracy, with regular, free and fair elections, held to enable its people to choose the country's leadership.

In the general election of Cambodia's Sixth Legislature of the National Assembly in July, nearly 7 million Cambodians, or 83.02% of the total registered voters, cast their votes and decided on their political choices freely and without any coercion, threat or violence. Twenty registered political parties have competed in the election which clearly demonstrated a legitimate representation of pluralist politics and reflected what thousands of domestic and international observers described as a stable democratic process in Cambodia and as a free, fair, and credible election.

By their votes, Cambodians reaffirmed their desire for peace, stability and long-lasting sustainable development. Indeed, the free choice of the Cambodian people and the legitimate result of this election is not a subject for question or debate. Some external circles, who have fed on ambition to interfere in domestic affairs of Cambodia, still fail to see the quality and integrity of our election process by issuing statements against or attacking the election outcome. Such

For the Sixth Legislative Term RGC

(September 2018 — Transcript, Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Transcript of Prepared and Off-the-Cuff Speech to the First Session of the Sixth Legislative Term of the National Assembly, 6 September 2018

... Today is an historic day for the Kingdom of Cambodia that the sixth legislative term National Assembly is working on its first session to adopt compositions of leaders of the National Assembly, and of the sixth legislative term Royal Government.

In my capacity as Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia just winning confidence of the National Assembly I wish to

express my sincere and deep gratitude to the revered Preah Karuna Preah Baat Samdech Preah Boromneat Norodom Sihamuni, King of Cambodia, who always offers warm supports and encouragements to actions taken by the Royal Government pursuing the path of wisdom and good judgment of Samdech Preah Borom Ratanakaod Preah Baat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, the Heroic King Father of Independence, Territorial Integrity, and the Khmer National Unity, and Samdech Preah Maha Khsatrei Norodom
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Meeting Cambodian Overseas in the US

(30 September 2018 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

My humble respects to the Buddhist monks, Dear Compatriots,

Am Here in the US and at the UN

I am so pleased to be able to meet all of you who have travelled long distances either in the US or from Canada today. I am asking myself now where I am actually. It is obvious that I am in America. I do not mean to rebuke anyone or to hurt his or her feeling. However, I think I need to say a few things to bring to light ways some politicians have confused people. After I had a meeting with the Prime Minister of Bulgaria, I went in to the Cambodian seat (in the UNGA). As soon as they had news of me arriving to the US, some had quickly spread their propaganda that the (United States of) America would not allow (me to) step in. As I am now standing here, I wonder what that person has say. I would wish him/her to explain

to his/her supporters. They do not have to explain to those who support the Royal Government or Hun Sen [...]

Secondly. They said that the Cambodian seat at the United Nations has been suspended. It was a cheap way to cheat [...] thirdly, after I said who would have a big liver enough to withdraw the Cambodian UN seat. They said, if I am not mistaken to the VOA, that the UN would not withdraw the seat but would not allow Hun Sen to sit in the UNGA. In light of this, I just wish that the person explains the fact that Hun Sen is in fact here in the US and attending the UNGA delivering a speech to their supporters [...]

Nationality Removal Threat (Continued on page 4)

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Munineat Sihanouk, the revered Heroic Queen Mother of Khmer Nation in Freedom, Dignity and Happiness.

On behalf of the Royal Government, please allow me to convey wishes of good health and strength to the revered Preah Karuna Preah Baat Samdech Preah Boromneat Norodom Sihanuni. King of Cambodia, and Samdech Preah Maha Khsatrei Norodom Munineat Sihanouk, the revered Heroic Queen Mother of Khmer Nation in Freedom, Dignity and Happiness, to stay as cool shade for their children and grandchildren for a long time to come.

Please allow me to take this opportune moment to express profound thanks to Samdech Akka Maha Punhea Chakrey Heng Samrin who have fulfilled effectively and successfully his role as senior member of the National Assembly. I am conveying my gratitude to Samdech, Excellency, Lok Chumteavs – leaders and members of this supreme legislative institution, who have voted to place trust in the Royal Government of Cambodia of the sixth legislative term National Assembly, for which I am heading.

The 29-July-2018 general elections was one that is fair, and transparent, for which some 83.02% of registered voters cast their votes. It is a high rate of voters turnout compared to most recent elections in numerous countries in the world. The high rate of turnout clearly reflects will of overwhelming majority of Cambodians in implementing their rights as citizens defined in the Constitution to choose dignitaries to lead the country in a democratic manner and rule of law. It testifies and underlines the Cambodian people's wills in the whole country that they love peace and support firmly democracy, liberal pluralism, and rule of law. It also reflects their vehement denial to actions carried out by a group of people who tried to distract Cambodia from the path of democracy and rule of law, while inciting them to sink in

those people's ambitions that are perfidious and dangerous for Cambodia as a nation, seeking to downfall the legal Royal Government through color revolution, which would push Cambodia once again into the abyss of social turmoil and tragedy of destructive war.

On top of all these, results of the 29-July-2018 elections also reflects fully and sharply supporting will of the overwhelming majority and every-circle Cambodians to the need for continued leadership to build the country on the path of peace, development, and reforms in every field to achieve progress and prosperity. In this meaning, the Royal Government of the sixth legislative term National Assembly has an obligation to continue its supremely historic mission in steadfast and energetic determination to expedite development and drive deeper and wider reforms. In this spirit, the Royal Government has put together its political platform. In this auspicious occasion, I wish to submit it to the National Assembly and may it be recorded in the official note-taking and report of this National Assembly's full session.

The political platform of the Royal Government is now presented to the National Assembly, and through this house, to compatriots and public to get to know about position, ideal, and determination of the Royal Government in serving the nation and people at all circumstances, while showing clearly vision and policy in every fields to continue to defend and build our motherland to a prosperous future in accordance with people's wills and aspirations. I wish to take this chance to underline four major tasks that the Royal Government wishes to ensure to compatriots through our efforts to implement the political platform for Cambodia's march forward in the sixth legislative term of the National Assembly:

Firstly, to ensure defense of peace, stability, security, and safety in villages and communes for a peaceful livelihood

of our people throughout the country, while defending independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and preventing violation and destruction from whatever force it may be.

Secondly, to ensure continued driving for socio-economic development in every field focusing on good governance reform aimed at strengthening public institution and building clean administration, while increasing effectiveness and improving public service quality; to strengthen macro-economic environment of high resilience to crisis, and supported by sustainable, inclusive and equitable; to continue focusing high priority on human resource investment; to raise high and increase public and private investments, hard and soft, on necessary infrastructural system to attract and support economic activities as well as to serve people's need; and to strengthen financial inclusiveness, especially to provide small and medium financial services, including rural credit services for small and medium enterprises, as well as low interest loans for low-income households, etc.

Thirdly, to ensure continued promotion and improvement of people's living condition through provision of qualified education and vocational training to youth along with chances for them to get jobs; to help farmers expand production and find them markets that offer appropriate prices; to continue to increase wage/salary and other interests while improving working condition, and ensuring careers protection for workers/employees; to continue to increase salary and pensions for public officials, retirees and veterans; and to expand supply network and reduce price of electricity as well as to make effort to further reduce price of water, especially in rural area, etc.

Fourthly, to ensure social safety and steady livelihood of our people in the present and in the future through development and strengthening of effective and sustainable social protection system, and of social security

regime to support every Cambodian people, especially the poor and vulnerable leaving no one to face danger without being given care.

Along with this, on behalf of the Royal Government for the sixth legislative term of the National Assembly, I wish to solemnly promise and make auspicious determination to our compatriots in the whole country that I am determined to lead national executive institutions to ensure successful implementation of political platform of the Royal Government that the Cambodian People's Party presented to our people before the elections, and I have just presented to the highly respected National Assembly. It has focused specially on four prioritized concrete measures to be implemented in 2019:

- To continue to increase wage/salary for workers/employees, and to proceed to put into action bimonthly payday.
- To continue to increase salary and pension for public officials, retirees, and veterans, and to prepare for bimonthly payday through banking system.
- To reduce price of electricity in conformity with laid-out program and prices for 2019 and 2020.
- To lay out and implement social protection program in prioritized areas such as: (1) supporting women in pregnancy and children under two years of age of poor households; (2) putting into action regime on work-related risks for public officials; and (3) putting into action pensions for workers/employees

On behalf of the Royal Government, I am calling on the National Assembly, and through the National Assembly, the Cambodian compatriots inside the country and abroad, and development partners and actors – bilateral and multilateral – private sector, non-governmental organizations as

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well as officials at every level in ministries and institutions of legislative, executive and the judiciary powers, the armed forces, and subnational level institutions, to fully support and take active parts in implementing this political platform and turn it into an energetic and efficient movement with an aim to realize fruitful successes for the sake of supreme interest of our nation. In this spirit, the Royal Government will issue and drive successful implementation its Rectangular Strategy Phase IV, which is an agenda of socio-economic policy of this political platform for the sixth legislative National Assembly.

Once again, the Royal Government expresses its profoundest respect and gratitude to compatriots from every corner for their clear vision of reality of national revival and progress, and for their confidence and support to the Royal Government in every circumstance. Based on people's support, the Royal Government is determined to mobilize forces to strive to implement its historic mission with brilliant successes in the sixth legislative term of the National Assembly.

[Start of Off-the-Cuff Speech]

Taking this opportune moment, I wish to remind members of the National Assembly listed in the Royal Government on one principle. According to the Constitution, the Prime Minister must be a member of the National Assembly. Aside from that, from Senior Minister and lower ranks must request to the National Assembly to leave their elected memberships. Some of you are senior ministers and ministers. It will be your duty to leave the National Assembly memberships.

This afternoon, there will be lists of appointed ministers attached to the Prime Minister, Secretaries and Under-Secretaries of State. If you do not see your names in anyone of those lists, you do not have to do that. Should you see your name in the lists, please submit your resignation as National Assembly members to allow the

one next in elected list to take your place in the National Assembly [...] as we can see here [...] HE Kim Phan will have to resign from the National Assembly to take his job at the Ministry of Commerce, and HE Sar Sokha will do so because he will be Secretary of State for Education, Youth, and Sports. Please prepare the list and send to me before my departure on 10 September for foreign missions.

[End of Off-the-Cuff Speech]

Finally, I wish you all – Samdech, Excellency, Lok Chumteavs, President and Vice Presidents, members of the National Assembly, the four Buddhist blessings, and successes in every tasks you are undertaking in services to nation and motherland. †

Off-the-Cuff Speech at the First Cabinet Meeting of the Sixth Legislative -Term National-Assembly Royal Government, 7 September 2018

[Start of Off-the-Cuff Speech]

Today the Cabinet is convening its first full meeting which I wish to affirm that we will have two parts. One part of the meeting, we will go live to send message to our people about the Royal Government's political platform and an abridged version of the rectangular strategy. After the first part of this session is over, we will take a break for group photo. We will return to resume our meeting to discuss matters about job divisions among us.

46-Members Royal Government

Before starting our prepared schedule, I wish to take this opportunity to bring your attention to one matter. In previous Cabinets, as defined by the Constitution to enlist position of Secretary of State as member of the Royal Government, we had up to three or four hundred members. However, in practice, Secretary of State is a position that is not responsible before Prime Minister and the National Assembly. It is the ministers that are taking responsibilities before the Prime Minister and

the National Assembly. We have amended our Constitution to no longer list Secretary of State as member of the Royal Government. In actual number, we have 28 ministries and one Secretariat. This makes 30 members of the Royal Government. However, we have Deputy Prime Ministers, three of who hold no ministerial portfolios but committees. We also have 13 Senior Ministers who will take special missions (delegated by Prime Minister). They will add up number to 46 members of the Royal Government, including the Prime Minister, who are responsible before the National Assembly.

Reform Is to Achieve Work Efficiency

I should affirm one other point. As you can see that no minister has been replaced in this term. Some people have thought that reform is about changing people (in decision making level). There have been lots of comments. I wish to assert that if reform is about just to change people (in leadership), it would not be different from killing oneself. In a national strategic framework, (reform) is not about aiming to change people (in leadership) but more importantly about ensuring work efficiency. Many have waited to see how many young people will be composed in the new Cabinet [...] I do not care about that. All I am concerned about is how to achieve work efficiency.

Some have compared in their comments (on composing the new Cabinet) to placing the same old wine in new bottle. I asked Khieu Kanharith yesterday in the Royal Palace what wine is the best? Everyone says that the long-kept red wine would be the best. Why do we not have experienced officials to keep working? [...] in this regard, I wish to affirm that if one is making a career in politics and/or calling reform only about change people (in leadership), that political party or its leader would be isolated [...]

Keeping Old Ones, While Making More New Ones

Hun Sen's successes starts from five men. It has now come to millions living with Hun Sen because of my method of "keeping old ones, while making more new ones." That is Hun Sen's way. We must be aware that people have chosen the Cambodian People's Party from among twenty contested political parties not because of Hun Sen's efforts alone. It is true that the majority of them voted for Hun Sen. However, Hun Sen alone could never achieve what we have now without efforts and contributions from ministers and institutions.

In fact, people have choices. Firstly, they could have boycotted the elections as guided by the outlaws. Secondly, they could have invalidated the ballots; and thirdly, they could have just voted for any other parties. We must be clear as to why they have voted the Cambodian People's Party. It is a big victory for us all who have worked together as a nation and family.

Not Everyone Satisfies With CPP

I am not surprised about figures of people who did not vote for the Cambodian People's Party. For those people, they would never ever vote for the Cambodian People's Party in their lives. If the Cambodian People's Party could ensure everyone's satisfaction, we may not need to have other political parties. Even in religions, no one particular religion wins everyone's heart and mind [...] Christianity and Islam are the religions that have the most followers in the world. Hindu has some one billion followers and Buddhism has roughly 500 million followers [...] the same is true for the Cambodian People's Party, we are aware that not everyone satisfies with us. There certainly are people who like other parties. It is their rights.

It Is About Winning a War

Another point of thought is if we were to abandon officials who have fought to bring us victory, where would Hun

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Sen's respectability be? I had a word with Samdech Krola Ham yesterday about how many of our officials would have stayed on till the end of the sixth legislative term? [...] (If people who have) made efforts to win, and in the end get kicked away, who else would Hun Sen be able to associate with? I do not need to win a battle. I must win every war through my way of commanding "to keep old ones, while making more new ones too." For people who have joined Hun Sen, not many of them would back away. More are coming.

Our officials have been working five days in their offices and spent two days of their weekends in their party's constituencies. If through this victory, they were to be kicked away, who would have done the job? They would think that no matter how hard they try, they would be kicked away in the end. Having said that does not mean that I would embrace officials who could not perform their functions/duties. Take for instance, HE Keat Chhon, we cannot force him to go on. HE Chan Sarun, despite his health has in fact been improved, is still not strong. It is reasonable to let him sit in the National Assembly [...]

Work Even Better

The point here is not about changing people (in leading positions). However, we must ensure that officials are working more efficiently. It is my experience that one must try to stand up where one has fallen [...] I would leave it to our officials who have done good jobs already to work even better. Those who have not done a good job must make efforts in the new term of the Royal Government to work better. We must be of thought that there could be reshuffle in the time to come. When and if we are seeing the need to make adjustment, for instance in mid-term or at a convenient time, because we must ensure that our journey will continue in an energetic manner [...]

The Experienced Lead,

the Novices Follow

It is necessary to have this situation of mixture between the old and experienced ones and the novices of younger generation to follow. When the old ones leave, the novices will resume. Take for instance, Aun Pom Muniroth, in 1992, he finished his Ph D in the former Soviet Union. He came to see me with Roth Sandab. They became my assistants. I gave them each one bike for travelling to/from work. Later I sent them for on-the-job training with HE Keat Chhon. Now, (Aun Pom Muniroth) has become a Deputy Prime Minister [...] it is in this note that those who have joined Hun Sen would stay on. Those who could not stay on with Hun Sen would not make a good association with anyone [...]

Fifty Thousand Riel Present for Phjum Ben

I have one more message for our people and the Ministry of Economy and Finance will have to take note on it to prepare for implementation. As in the previous year, the Royal Government will provide present of fifty thousand Riel for civil servants – including also village heads/staffs, armed forces, and retirees for the celebration of Phjum Ben – Buddhist festival [...] this is the first point and I am asking concerned institution to prepare the sub-decree on that matter.

Secondly, normally we start payday from 23rd of every month. However, we will have this Buddhist ritual in October. Therefore, in the first week of October, we will have the October monthly payday, plus the present [...] as for November, we could aim to have the November payday in the second week of November, since money would have been spent and there will be Water Festival too. While doing all this, please figure out when will be the payday for December? The date should be rolling. We could aim for the third week of December, and by the time we reach January, we must be ready for bimonthly payday [...]

[End of Off-the-Cuff Speech] ☐

(Continued from page 1) for Support of CPP

I have said it before those joined demonstration never reached more than 10% of those who support me. It is a true story in America, in Europe, and in Australia. In 2016, when I joined a meeting in California, there were many supporters. We also have so many today. This evening I will stay for wife session with whoever wish to do so since you are here to see me, and to provide supports for the Cambodian People's Party, and the Royal Government [...] according to what I have heard, "they" have threatened to remove nationality (from those of you) who would dare to join the Cambodian People's Party. I may ask President (Donald) Trump's administration where political right would be, if nationality were to be removed if they were to support the Cambodian People's Party. If it was true, would that define this country - a father of democracy - a fully democratic? That was not said by the Donald Trump's administration but a small number of people, in opposition to Cambodia, who are taking shelters in the US and declared they would launch a mass demonstration [...]

Thank You for Supporting Democracy

I thank our people for expressing their supports and encouragements on social media [...] even singer Chhaom Chhovin from California. It is encouragement for people inside the country and also for me [...] I have come here to deliver a statement at the United Nations. If I were not that busy with works inside the country, I would have done it once a year. So far, I did it in 1999, in 2005, 2015, and this year 2018 [...] our works at the United Nations have not yet finished but I will leave them to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and our Ambassador [...] please allow me to express my sincere thanks for our compatriots, some of whom had bought air ticket to cast his/her vote and some sent in messages on social media and/or

call to their relatives to vote for the Cambodian People's Party.

In so doing, you have fulfilled two important works for our nation – firstly, you implemented correctly democracy and liberal pluralism by either going to vote by yourselves or encouraging your relatives to go to vote to support democracy. The opposition leader, then he was in the US, was (working to launch) "clean finger" campaign [...] however, as everyone can see, over 83% of registered voters had fulfilled their rights [...] that would be the first job that Cambodian overseas have participated in supporting democracy and elections (in Cambodia) [...]

Thank You for Voting to Safeguard Peace and Development

Secondly, you have chosen correctly to join together to keep peace and development. Voting for the Cambodian People's Party is voting to keep the present peace and development. You may know that if the Cambodian People's Party were not in power, we might not be able to predict what could have happened. Look in 2013, they hold demonstrations in almost one whole year aimed to overthrow (the elected Royal Government). They lucky that the VDO clip in which they presented their treason and they aimed to realize by 29 December was not made available to us. If it were delivered to us on time, there would be a funeral for them. I would not forgive anyone for destroying Cambodia. I have said it clearly that at whatever cost at all I will not allow anyone to lead Cambodia back to war. I have been unfortunate. I became a soldier when I was 18 years old. In 105 battlefields I engaged, I was wounded five times and lost one eye and many of our people died [...]

29 December 1998 – Ending War and Unifying Country

I had to trade my life once again by entering the Khmer Rouge stronghold [...] my mother and grandaunt came to me and said

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before I left (for the mission) that I was to go to their area, did I not think of being killed? I replied to her “Mom, Grand-aunt, if that happens, only I and a few of my me who accompany me would die. However, if we did it, we would have the whole land back.” It was not a folklore. It is a true story. This year we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the day when we ended war and unified our country. We have defined 29 December 1998 as the day we ended war through win-win policy. We will throw a big ceremony. We have been building a palace named after the win-win (policy). You may wanted to visit the palace. We have gathered and collated historical facts and displayed them there so that visitors can understand how hard it was to fight a war, to find and secure peace [...]

For the Sake of Uniting, Not Dividing Cambodians

Dear compatriots, if anything that we can do we must not hesitate for the sake of uniting and not dividing Cambodians. When they accepted it was their mistakes, and if it is possible to forgive them, we should. In the framework of power given to Prime Minister, I have the right to pardon when the court’s decision goes into force. If the case is in the court’s hand, it would be a different matter. The prison law stipulates that Prime Minister has right to request pardon (for the convicted) from HM the King. Take for instance the case of Um Sam An. Let me remind him not to forget the letter he wrote. Meach Sovannara and other people should not too [...] this year I wish for a large scale pardon to take place at the Phjum Ben traditional and Buddhist ceremony, the Independence Day, and the 20th Anniversary of the day that we ended civil war in Cambodia. The Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice have been working on this [...] I wish that Cambodians no longer insult one another [...]

Imprisoned Cambodians to Send to Cambodia

Cambodians living in the US have rights to vote for the US President, the congressmen, etc. [...] let me talk a little but about the state of the Cambodian-American relations for you to understand (the cause of its present condition). It all started from philanthropy of the Royal Government. I am sure members of the Royal Government would see it as a pitiful thing for our people who have been jailed in the US and sent to Cambodia. Serving the prison term was one punishment but to be separated from family after that was another [...] five of them killed themselves. It was in this understanding that I told Minister of Interior to reconsider and consult with the US on possible amendments on some points (of the agreement) [...] I had gone through a time of separation and I know what it was like. I brought this issue up with the US but no amendments have been made and we also have not yet taken actions unilaterally to end this. However, it was beyond our comprehension that the US places us in a group of countries that do not cooperate.

That has pushed me to respond. The US has 91 soldiers missing and/or dead in Cambodia. We have accounted 41 of them. We still have 49 more to look for [...] they reacted further to allow no visas for the Cambodian diplomats to the US. I declare then to suspend this search for MIA or dead US soldiers. The US may want to reconsider since the Cambodian diplomats do not have ability to tour the US. They are here to perform their duties in Washington and New York only [...] however, the US should think of their citizens who have been waiting for their sons’ remain to come back to them. It all came from this problem. It was nothing to do with the treacherous persons [...] I help mobilized Vietnam and Laos to cooperate in the search for the US soldiers remains. I do not wish to see my humanitarian efforts since 1994 (failed). I did this matter with the National League of *POW/MIA Families* led by Ann Mills Griffiths since when Cambodia

had not yet resumed diplomatic relations with the US [...]

Priority One – Maintain Political Stability

Let me now share with you some work priorities of the Royal Government. I would pick only a number of issues for you to get a gist of the whole efforts we are making. Firstly, our priority, not only for the present, but also in the future, is to secure political stability and macro-economy. They are two strings of one knot. They cannot be separated. Without political party, it is clearly impossible to develop a country. Without stable macro-economy, we cannot ensure political stability. It is in this understanding that the Royal Government must pay attention to defending political stability, security, and social order to guarantee that our people can live peacefully [...]

Priority Two – Maintain Macroeconomic Stability

We at the same time must pay attention to macroeconomic management. The economic bomb would kill more people than the traditional kind. The B52 bombs killed but not the whole country. However, the economic bomb would affect many, even babies in mothers’ wombs. Inflation would go high. You may want to follow what happen in Venezuela for that matter. The Royal Government has been taking extra precautions on macroeconomic management. As always, Hun Sen adheres to two strategies – political and macroeconomic stability. We have done many things to ensure purchasing power of the money that our people have earned [...] while we are releasing a large amount of Riel currency into the market (cause of early payday for Phjum Ben), we may have to reschedule payday of November and December upwards [...] starting from January 2019, we no longer pay once a month but every two weeks. We also are negotiating about basic salary of our workers, which I will decide upon my return [...]

Works to Do After

Seasonal and Rainy Flooding

Let me return to what I said about the first job for the Royal Government to do, not for the first 100 days but for over 400 months that I have been doing this job as Prime Minister [...] this year, Cambodia has been hit by flooding [...] the seasonal flooding this year has not been as high as the one in 2000. Though flooding in Soeung Treng, Kratie and Kompong Cham was higher than warning level, flooding in Chadomuk, Prek Kadam, Bassac, and Neak Lowung were at a normal level. More so, the level of water in Tonle Sap is lower than expected. Infrastructure and crops destroyed and we are facing with efforts to restore them. We must focus on providing our people with seeds they need. We must work with micro-financial institutions on post-ponement of their loans to the people. We have areas affected by rain water such as Phnom Penh, Prek Thnaot, Kandal, Kompong Speu, Kompot, Kompong Som, Koh Kong, Pusath, Battambang, and Banteay Meanjei. The most severe damages have national roads and dirt roads. They will ask for lots of expenses. We must do the job as soon as water recedes [...]

7.2% Growth, 3.1 Inflation, Packaging National Budget in October

This year however the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) has just forecast Cambodian economy to achieve a 7.3% growth, with an inflation of 3.1%. We have set our goal to realize only 7% economic growth and a 3.5% inflation. In light of this forecast, our economy is still in good momentum [...] as for the third work to do, the Minister of Economy and Finance will have to stay in the country – he cannot accompany me to foreign countries – to ensure packaging our budget to seek approval in October. You may see that Deputy Prime Minister (and Minister of Economy and Finance) Aun Porn Moniroth will not join me on trips to Ja-

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pan, Indonesia and Europe. The main goal of our budget law is keep the pace of our macroeconomic management at 7% growth [...]

Incomes from Custom and Domestic Sources

As far as our income infrastructure is concerned, in the 1990s, about 80% of our incomes came primarily from customs, and about 20% from domestic sources. We have now transformed that. Incomes from custom source stays at 40% and from domestic sources has gone up to 60% [...] in the time to come, our domestic sources of income will continue. We need it to increase to a certain level. When we sign a regional free trade agreement with ASEAN, or what we call comprehensive economic partnership ASEAN + China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia, and New Zealand, our incomes from customs will be smaller. We then need to quantify our incomes from domestic sources. However, having said that, I am not going to increase tax on agricultural land. That may have to be something for the next Prime Minister to do. As for me, I am not going to tax the Cambodian farmers.

Four Lifetime Heritages from Hun Sen

I have left at least in my lifetime four heritages (for Cambodia) – firstly, I overthrew the Khmer Rouge regime and saved our people; secondly, I took part in negotiation to secure the Paris Peace Agreement; thirdly, through win-win policy, I ended war in Cambodia and unified our land and water; and fourthly, I took part in building this country from scratch, from centrally planned economy to free market economy, and I have left Cambodian people with ownership titles of their land and tax-free agricultural land. I am also working now on social protection policy, and the first beneficiary is women in pregnancy [...]

Addressing Disequilibrium of Demand and Supply

We have a lot of works to do and ground to cover. Disequi-

librium to address in national construction are far too large and extensive to cover. We have made efforts to address them to respond to the people's aspiration. However, those disequilibrium have now changed too. Where we may not have not sufficient food, and people are in need of it. We may have less number of schools than number of children to take up studies or there are higher demand for healthcare services than we can provide. They have now changed dimensions. Take for instance, for the sake of comparison, we now have more cars than our road can accommodate [...] more people are in need of travelling and we could not provide them with (affordable public) transport means. From one stage to another, such disequilibrium have transformed to a different challenges [...] we have done the best we can to find money to expand our small roads, and even to borrow money from other for that matter.

Difficult To Explain US Debt to King, People, and National Assembly

Speaking of which, can someone check for me how much a US citizen owes foreign debt? Over 40,000 USD? In Cambodia, foreign debt is only at 400 USD per person [...] the debt ceiling has been allowed at 40% of GDP and ours is at 23% of GDP, including the Lon Nol's debt to the US. We have asked the US to convert it to development aid for Cambodia. I brought this matter up with former President Barack Obama when he was in Cambodia. He said it was difficult for him to explain to the US congress. I said to him in fact it was me who has difficulties to explain it because the Lon Nol government supported by the US overthrew then head of state Preah Norodom Sihanouk, whose son is now in the throne, firstly, Secondly, what should I tell my people who suffered from the US bombardments? And thirdly, what can I tell the National Assembly? [...]

Poor for Wrong Leadership

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Winning Four Gold Medals After 64 Years

(September 2018 — Transcript, Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Waited 64 Years to Score Four Gold Medals

You have indeed given Cambodia hope. We have been waiting for this glamorous achievement 64 years already. Sixty years ago, we sat waiting for our heroic sportswoman Sorn Sievmei to return with a gold medal in 2014. In 2018, sixty four years now, we are sitting here to welcome and congratulate two more gold medals, and a bronze one. In sixty four years, we have just made it to four medals. I am so proud that you two – Khan Jessa and Saly Ou Moeut – have joined with Sorn Sievmei, together with supports given by relevant institutions, for such creation of history for Cambodia.

I hope that history will keep you in record for what you have done for this country. It is not just anyone has the power and authority to write history [...] however, for what we have done, no one can falsify or change it. However, before a historian can do his/her job, it is you individual who will have to make efforts to create personal achievements. Today, Khan Jessa and Saly Ou Moeut create such historic achievements and historians will write them down. It has taken, I repeat, Cambodia sixty four years to (make all this happen) [...] it is more than half a century. We are making efforts to stand up [...]

To Score Olympic Medals

That we have just won again gold medals (after more than half a century), we have no better way of quantifying our joy and pride. For whatever we have for the first time, it brings us all a great moment and joy. For instance, that we have built the first flyover at Kbal Thnol, I went out and tell people around me with joy and pride. Some said I was overjoyed. There was nothing to be proud of. In other countries, they have more than they could remember them [...] it was because that fact that it is the first flyover ever built in Cambodia that cheers us. Why

countries with so many built already be proud to talk about them? [...] only for the ones who actually do it will know how valuable it is. When we have more than we can count on our fingers, we would not have to brag about it [...] Sorn Sievmei brought Cambodian one gold medal before and we have two more now [...] it is a good thing that after sixty four years (of absence) Cambodia is now back on stage and scores medals again [...]

I wish to remind foreign trainers here that the whole nation and me personally thank you for your relentless efforts to train our sportsmen for the sake of Cambodian sports development. This has indeed reflected progress in the field of sports. It is not the last and only efforts of our country. We will try to make further progress in gradual steps. In the past, it was not a common thing that our sportsmen win medals from even Southeast Asian Games. Now we are scoring medals from Asian Games and on some subjects from world competitions. We have yet to score medal from the Olympics. We need to make more efforts.

Thanking Khan Jessa's Parents for Allowing Her to Compete for Cambodia

I am so happy that Khan Jessa, who is like a grandchild to me since she is 17 years old as my one of my grandchildren, has become our heroic sportswoman in the women's *ju-jitsu* Newaza 49 kg category [...] she is born to a parents of American Cambodian father and American Mexican mother, according to information I have here. Whatever nationality would not be a matter. According to law, a child would carry a father's nationality. Both of their parents are American citizens and live there. However, Jessa decided to compete for Cambodia. That is a great fortune for the country. Through Jessa, please allow me to thank your parents who have allowed

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**(Continued from page 6 A)
and Weak Human Resource**

We have the need to develop our nation and to do so we need human resource. Without human resource, we would not be able to achieve this wish. Let us see our country – they call Cambodia a Sovana Phum (the village of gold) but we are still very poor. Two main factors that continue to suffer Cambodia are (1) wrong leadership and (2) weak human resource. These are the two causes that we must see. We do not blame former leaders. I did not make mistake in the past. I was a victim of the leader - Lon Nol, who decided to launch a coup to overthrow Samdech preah No-

rodom Sihanouk. I never imagine too that I am the one to extinguish the flame of war (made by the previous generation).

**At 7% Growth, End of Term,
Per Capita Income Will Be
2,000 USD**

After liberating the country, we stood up but was one of the poorest nations with incomes less than one hundred USD per annum. We have now become a lower middle-income country, for which income level has been readjusted to 1,200 USD per annum. Our country has come to 1.560 USD per annum and I hope that by end of the new legislative term Royal Government, Cambodian people per capita income will reach

2,000 USD. Based on our growth of 7% per annum, to achieve this goal is not too hard. We will go on with strict economic management, reform and fight against corruption and unproductive phenomena that are causing backwardness to our economy [...]

**Development Causes
Environmental Impacts**

Between development need on the one hand and environmental impact has become a question. On one side our people are in need of land for agricultural purpose and they need to remove forest. We have to let them have land for agricultural purpose. To allow that, we have to let them clear forest. We have

a growing population. We have changed mode of production from extensive to intensive farming to feed more people with available land of cultivation from the past. We address our farmers' need for irrigation and for seed to allow them to cultivate rice more than one time per year.

Despite these efforts, demand for land for cultivation continue to increase. It is understandable, because soon enough Cambodia will reach 20 million population. You may want to do the math, at 400,000 birthrates per year, time ten years, we will have another 4 million people. By the time I retire, we will have about 20 million [...]

(Continued from page 6 B)

you to take this competition on Cambodian behalf [...] it is quite fortunate for Cambodia that your parents encouraged you to take this competition for the honor of Cambodia. I hope you will continue to compete on Cambodia's behalf and we are also having more competitions in SEA Games 2023 (that Cambodia is going to host). You will still be of a good age to take part [...]

Thank You – Saly Ou Moeut

Saly Ou Moeut, a jet skier, he is from Boeung Seh, a place not far from where I used to live. According to his personal information, he also used to live at Po Pel, also not far from my place. He also went to Bun Rany Hun Sen Secondary School in Meh Mot. We have been neighbors. With great affection of Jet Ski, he has taken a turn in his life to score such a proud achievement for the country. This has indeed contributed to elevating pride of our nation. Honors that you two – Khan Jessa and Saly Ou Moeut – brings for Cambodia today are not for you two personally, but those of our nation [...] we have welcomed you and honored you with escorts in honor (from the airport) because you have carried along with you the country's fame and honor. That is what the country has to do to repay you. It is a whole nation's

achievement that every one of us must be proud of.

Political Parties Should Congratulate Sportsmen/Women

[...] it is my wish that political parties should also congratulate Cambodian gold medalists who competed and won such fames for our nation. In the recent past and memory, no political parties in opposition congratulate them. They would see doing that as hailing successes of the Hun Sen's government. That was not a matter for me (or CPP) alone. It is a common issue for the whole country. HM the King also sent his greeting and congratulation upon receiving the news. HM the Queen Mother also has a great joy learning about your achievements. I hope the whole country will honor you for the fame you have created for Cambodia [...]

... That we are born in a poor country, some have looked down on who we are. However, I must warn you, it is not sure that their brain power is no match to us [...] Sometimes I am tired of being insulted by rich countries. I wish to send them a message that to me you are just lucky fellows who are born in countries that are already rich. However, it would not be certain that your brain works better than ours. Our ancestors built Angkor Wat from more than a thousand years ago. Some of the coun-

tries/races were not even there yet. We are not taking too much pride in our hands but we wish not to be bullied by anyone [...] as far as medals scoring is concerned, I would summarize that at the beginning of the fifth legislative term of the National Assembly, Sorn Sievmei had brought the country one gold medal. Towards end of the term, which is two days away, Cambodia has two more. Could we call this an achievement that comes out of our joined efforts under the Royal Government of the fifth term of the National Assembly? [...]

**Prime Minister of
The Sixth Legislative NA
on 6th September**

Towards ending the fifth legislative term of the National Assembly, everyone knows that Hun Sen is going to be the Prime Minister for the following term. I am now a Prime Minister designate or Prime Minister elect to compose the new Royal Government. On the coming 6th September, I will be the Prime Minister. We are going to end the fifth legislative term and change to the sixth term, as some have predicted (about change). As of now, new or old, we are working on packaging a new budget. We will continue to journey together without interruption [...]

Taking this opportune moment, please allow me to express my

sincere appreciation and thankfulness to trainers concerned, who have made their relentless efforts to train our sportsmen/women by every ways s/he know of [...] thanks also go to those who have given their supports to every sports and/or sportsmen/women. I also thank the Cambodian Royal Ambassador Hor Nam Bora to Indonesia, Jakarta, for doing what our diplomats, as diplomats in other countries would, do to assist and encourage our sportsmen/women, according to information I received [...]

**Hate Not US, Just Those
Who Bully Cambodia**

... Some have had their bad mouth saying that (Jessa) is a Cambodian-American and that she has won a gold medal, would Hun Sen welcome/congratulate her? I wish to make it clear here. I never hate the US. I only detest those who bully, acted in aggression on/against Cambodia [...] I detest anyone sending their troops to invade, and even to bring Cambodia down. I never have bad feeling for the US people [...] in 1970, Richard Nixon ordered bombardments on Cambodia and destroyed it. Could we say that Nixon was good to us? [...] I also had my son studied in the US. He was the first Cambodian to have learnt and trained in (the United States Military

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actions are a serious assault on the will of the Cambodian people.

Madam President!

I would like to draw the attention of all UN members to the vitality of the United Nations Charter. It depends on all of us to provide a proper respect for this crucial document by avoiding the interference, damaging, or disrupting sovereignty of an independent state. We are heartedly regretful to highlight the fact that human rights nowadays have become “**a mission to impose civilization**” for some powerful nations or, perhaps, as their operating standards as the pretext for the interference under the name of political right protection.

As a result, the imposition of unilateral sanctions has become a popular weapon of powerful nations in managing their international politics, which is completely driven by geopolitical agendas. This is nothing but a use of the brutal force of a particular state to impose its will on other sovereignty states. In a world, where the eras of imperialism and colonialism became the history, we have to acknowledge that not all nations in this General Assembly shall follow the governing model of any country. Big countries should not attempt to install their administrative system on other small countries, because those small countries also possess sovereignty and legitimate aspiration to maintain their own identities. In the modern-days of interdependence, such an old style coercive mindset should be put to rest. Together, both big and small countries, must respect one another and uphold the rules of the international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

Madam President!

Currently, the world is facing severe instabilities while the threats to peace are coming in many forms, more than what we have witnessed in the past 25 years. We are all living in a world faced with fragility, unpredictability, complicated

changes, as the challenges are coming from various fronts, including the increase in persistent conflicts and unprecedented humanitarian crises.

We are deeply concerned by the tensions made by a first world class superpower in the diplomatic circle and by the conflicts happening in many places thank to the interference by this superpower. We are also deeply concerned by the rush decisions made by this superpower to urgently withdraw from major international agreements that threaten the core legitimacy of international legal order. This unilateral actions have undermined the state-to-state relationships and caused tension in the international community. Yet, what puts the most pressure is direct attack on multilateralism. Undoubtedly, in our globalized world, all things are connected. if we begin to adhere to the protectionist policy, unilateralism and trade war, we are closing the door by not welcoming any trade and investment opportunities which have provided prosperity to our countries, both small and big ones, for many decades. Eventually, we all are poorer; our economies will decline; financial capital will shrink and the ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as, addressing the challenges caused by climate change would be seriously affected. Those factors will make poor countries suffer prolonged poverty, and thus we are more vulnerable to the dangerous ideology of terrorism, extremism, and regional conflicts.

Cambodia, as a small economy, believes in the interests of the rule-based international cooperation. As a matter of fact, we all have been prospering because of the globalization. We all are thus convinced that the global trade should not be hindered by the imposition of unilateral tariffs; yet it should be enhanced and supported through the adherence to conductive policies for trade and investment, as well as, the provision of special preferential treatment to developing countries. Stability and diversification in the financial

sector need to be further encouraged to promote innovation and development. All in all, we need to jointly maintain and strengthen “**multilateralism**”.

In fact, peace without development is not sustainable. In this context, “**Sustainable Development Goals**” of the United Nations play a pivotal role in guiding toward prosperity for the people. Cambodia views the SDGs as an important opportunity to mobilize efforts in achieving poverty reduction, as well as, sustainable and inclusive development. The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) soon will approve “**Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals (CSDGs)**” which has been fully localized, and we will use those goals to shape our medium and long-term policies and plans for Cambodia.

Moreover, the conflict prevention is precondition for a long-lasting peace. The UN peace-keeping forces play a vital leading role in these efforts. As a result, Cambodia greatly welcomes the vision of **H.E. António Guterres**, the UN Secretary-General, on peace-building and peace-keeping, particularly further paying continued attention to the conflict prevention. Cambodia is a consistent supporter of the architecture of peace and security of the United Nations. For instance, for the last 12 years, Cambodia has sent thousands of Blue Helmet forces to join peace-keeping missions under the umbrella of the United Nations. However, peace-keeping is facing unprecedented challenges since the non-state actors have waged rebellion wars against our peace-keeping forces, which have caused many lives and disabilities. We are sincerely indebted to the sacrifice of the UN peace-keeping heroes. Nonetheless, their death and sacrifice have not distorted our commitment to further contributing to the cause of this great mission.

Another severe and complicated threat which is the barriers to the long-lasting peace is terrorism. They have disintegrated

communities, worsened the conflicts and weakened the stability of the whole region. Currently, the battles against terrorism have become even more complex and modernized since the terrorists are turning to the cyberspace for their malevolent operation. Profoundly, the cross-border nature of terrorism requires us to build a multilateral cooperation with concerted coordination, including “**countermeasures**” and “**preventive measures**”.

Addressing climate change is another key element for the success of the 2030 Agenda, which requires urgent and focused attention from the global community. The fundamentals for action on climate change are undoubtedly rested upon the Paris Agreement. In this spirit, Cambodia will provide full support to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to organize the Climate Summit next year to foster the inspiration to further address climate change.

Finally, I would like to emphasize that Cambodia fully supports the UN’s global leadership, and commits to implementing our shared responsibility to build a peaceful and equitable human society who enjoys sustainable and inclusive development. ■

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Academy at) West Point. The US also helped my other son to finish his study in the National Defense University (NDU). It was not my request. The US offered it. Hun Many got his master degree in political science in Australia and had a scholarship to go to NDU [...]

Befriend With Whoever Wish To Be

I have never hated the US. I dislike some specified Americans who look down on, hate, and insult Cambodians. Even if we do not hate those people, they would also hate us. That would require us to reciprocate in kind. They caused us trouble, how could we stay idle. If they wish to be friend with us, so do we [...]