



Samdech Techo Hun Sen Welcomes Visiting Vietnam Communist Party's General Secretary, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam HE Nguyen Phu Trong in Peace Palace

Interior's Stocktaking & Directives Setting

(14 February 2019 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

In addition to the prepared text, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo also made the following exerts:

RGC Meets Private Sector in March

[...] On this particular point, let me ask the Cambodia Development Council and related sectors to organize an RGC-private sector meeting in the coming March to discuss further on issues relating to reforms that we are holding on to speed up our economic growth.

Let me share with you that the economic growth figure that we have claimed (by end of 2018) to be 7.3% has now been reconfigured by IMF and related Cambodian institutions to be 7.5% – it is a remarkable achievement [...]

Losing Favor Different from Losing Markets

Let me now talk a little bit about EBA – anything but arms.

Losing a favor is different from losing a market. What is happening here is the fact that we are not doing what others wanted us to do.

The clock then starts ticking from reviewing favor. It will take roughly 18 months from now to when they make actual decision whether to withdraw or not to withdraw (the EBA favor).

That will be until in the mid of 2020. That is a procedure they are taking normally.

What I wish to say now is that we need to survive with our own oxygen.

We should not depend on oxygen provided only by others.

I have written this in my
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National Day Clean City 2018

(25 February 2019 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

In addition to prepared text, Samdech Techo Hun Sen made comments on the following topics, which CNV provides unofficial translation:

Wi-Fi without Internet Access

Relating to this Wi-Fi thing, let me have your attention that what we have done on this project in Phnom Penh does not seem to be effective. Usually, traveling to places where they said offering free Wi-Fi, we never have access to internet.

I am having your attention on this because I wanted you to make sure the company will provide the service of both Wi-Fi and internet access [...]

The other day I went to golfing with Samdech Pichay Sena Tia Banh and I could not get a posting going [...] I then had to use hotspot option to tap on internet access of another phone to get it posted [...]

I have seen on various occa-

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Meeting Workers in Kandal

(20 February 2018 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

All Aspects of Internal and External Policies Concerned with Prime Minister

Let me begin by asking how many of you have received your payment on a bimonthly basis?

Well, it seems that many of you have had your pay this way now [...]

I just wanted to check against a report by the Ministry of Labor and Vocation Training that about 83% of factories have exercised bimonthly pay [...]

Today's meeting is the end of my first round marathon meeting that started in 2017 and through 2018 to 2019.

We will have a second

round as I said [...] you have been the last group of workers/employees I am meeting in Kandal province [...]

That you are the last to see, I hope you understand that my works are busy since every aspects of internal and external policies concern Prime Minister [...]

Increase Salary, Maintain Macro-economic Stability and Purchasing Power

In the course of (the first round) meeting, I am very pleased to see progressive

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speech last night in between
midnight and 2am.

I have underlined that to
have or not to have EBA,
we will not die. It will not
make us rich either.

Trade No Sovereignty for Aid/Assistance

In business undertaking,
paying tax to and fro is a
matter of equality and rea-
sonability.

We do not wish anyone to
make use of such favor to
command us what they
wanted us to do at their
wills.

I have said it from the be-
ginning that we cannot
trade our sovereignty with
aid or assistance from any-
one.

It is in this endeavor that I
wish to affirm that EBA –
sooner or later is going to
leave us.

When our economy ad-
vances to a certain develop-
mental stage, we will be
losing such favor automati-
cally.

It seems that we may be
losing it a little early. We
must bear with this.

What will happen will be
that (business that) make
more profit before will be
making less.

It is not a closing down of
market but a procedure to
ending a favor.

Hold On to Jobs/Incomes, Concern of Who Says What

On this point, we all must
be understanding, especially
those of nephews and niec-
es workers.

They may be observing fact
that as long as they continue

to hold on to jobs and make
incomes, they should not be
concerned about who says
what.

As long as they are getting
paid from the state, civil
servants, armed forces, and
retirees should not be con-
cerned about who says
what.

Those people (longing for
such undertaking) may be
of the thought that when
there will be such decision,
impact will be as strong as
to have no more money for
salary.

Let me assure you that as of
this moment, even there
will not be new income, the
RGC is going to be able to
sustain a twelve month pay
(for civil servants, armed
forces and retirees).

We would be able to man-
age with just income from
customs [...]

Stripping off EBA, Suffocating the Opposition

On the contrary, I already
instructed concerned au-
thorities that stripping us off
EBA would be tantamount
to suffocating the opposi-
tion too.

Any illegal acts carried out
in Cambodia must meet
with legal measures.

We are making every ef-
forts to make steps towards
independence in politics
and economy.

We are not seeking to desta-
bilize relations between
states.

We are going to continue
state to state relations
through doing business and
paying taxes to each other.

Please do not be confused
that withdrawing such favor

means severing diplomacy.
Some politicians are fooling
around with this to our peo-
ple.

Hosting 13th ASEM in 2020

Let me affirm to you that
we are to host still the 13th
Asia-Europe Meeting
(ASEM) to which heads of
states and governments in
European countries will
come to Cambodia in 2020
as planned [...]

As a hosting nation to such
meeting participated by
many dozens of countries
we are working with part-
ners – in this case the Euro-
pean Union, on topics and
procedure of such meeting.

We will continue such rela-
tions with states member of
the European Union and
will ensure such bilateral
relations getting to a better
level.

This shall be clarifying to
everyone about our rela-
tions with Europe.

Are there countries in Eu-
rope that sever diplomatic
relations on Cambodia?
They have been making
deception on that.

Let me reassert to you that
in ASEAN, only three
countries receive such favor
– EBA. Why?

Countries receiving EBA
are considered least devel-
oped and for that matter
they have determined that
Laos, Cambodia, and My-
anmar are countries in that
category.

Once those countries passed
their stage of least devel-
oped status, they would lose
such favor. It is just a matter
of time.

They have also threatened
to remove such favor from

Myanmar.

Deputy Prime Minister HE
Prak Sokhonn also had a
discussion with HE Aung
Saan Sukyi and other lead-
ers of Myanmar about such
threats [...]

No EBA – Not Dying

What I wanted to say today
is we must be making own
efforts.

I will meet with workers
next week and I will keep
talking about that fact that
we are still keeping jobs and
incomes and there is no
need to concern about other
people's pestering com-
ments.

I am waiting to see those
who waited for the death to
be alive again and to get
paid.

What faces are they going
to wear when their plan to
get us dead is a failure?

It is not a rebuke to anyone
but that is a fact to reckon
with. I do not respond to
anyone.

It is my task to explain
things to the nearly sixteen
millions Cambodians that
Cambodia is not going to
die from EBA withdrawal
and we are not going to be
rich because of the favor too
[...]

Opting for Deeper Re- forms, Challenges to Op- portunity

Once we are a little better
off, they would take that
away.

In this understanding, we
must make efforts to be-
come rich by ourselves.
That would be a better way.

If we are to be poor, others
will insult us and boss us

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around.

We must opt for deeper reforms and transform challenges into opportunity of (and ensure) advancement of our economy.

We suffered unjust political and economic embargos in the past after the fall of Pol Pot's regime.

At present, we have trade relations with not just a certain countries but with countries in the whole world.

Losing a fraction of favor would not cause us death.

My message is we are not making enemy out of this with anyone but also allowing no one to insult us.

We must, as I have said it on numerous occasions, know the time when we must hold things in our hands and decide by ourselves on what other people say to us.

We must not subdue to wrong advice for which we cannot implement our laws. What state sovereignty would mean then?

Taxing Cambodian Rice, Italy and Spain Sell Theirs

I hope that everyone understand this issue. We have seen with our own eyes now what damages does it do to our people's living conditions [...]

Talking about rice, it is not an issue concerning EBA. There has been competition on rice produced in Italy and Spain with rice from Cambodia and it has happened a few years back till now.

Italy and Spain produced

rice and they have difficulties selling it against the tasty Cambodian rice.

To prevent Cambodian rice from infiltrating into markets, they must find ways to impose tax on Cambodia.

As a consequence, those suffered from such actions are not the Cambodian farmers alone but people in Europe, Cambodians overseas included, who would consume Cambodian rice.

Minimize Production Costs

That Cambodian rice cannot go to Europe without having to pay tax is not a political issue.

It happens because Italy and Spain demanded it because they needed to sell their rice. When Cambodian rice, with tax, is to sell at a higher price, they will sell theirs better [...] That is indeed something that some people wish to happen [...]

Because of this action, some who used to buy tasty Cambodian rice at one price have had to pay higher.

Once this tax imposed, the burden will not be on Cambodia alone and customers will have to bear the cost as well [...]

As for Cambodia, we must do our best to minimize cost of production so that business people would continue to profit and pay tax to bring their goods into those markets.

Make Efforts for Early Withdrawal

That would be the matter of importance than the favor issue in the years to come.

Losing (EBA) favor will be a fact once the United Na-

tions or the World Bank determine that so and so country is out of its status as the least developed [...]

While we are going to still lose it, making our own efforts to be prepared for earlier withdrawal would not be too much of a problem.

On the contrary, it would make us stronger. If they keep it (EBA favor) for Cambodia, Cambodia will be even stronger.

If they withdraw it (EBA favor) Cambodia will not be dead [...]

Please Stay Home on March 3 for Census

Let me from this event call on our people to stay home on March 3 for census. We will count people staying in homes to figure out how many people Cambodia truly have.

We have estimated to have nearly 16 million people according to figure roughly collected and provided by the Ministry of Health reviewing birth records and other registrations [...]

Laos and Cambodia have had a different trajectory (as far as population growth is concerned).

In 1979, through a Cambodian delegation visiting Laos, Laos had about five million population – a figure roughly equal to Cambodian then.

At present, while Lao population grows to about seven millions, the Cambodian population has grown to about 16 millions. It is unbelievable. The trajectory has doubled that of Laos [...]./■

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one.

Thirty member of this law firm would not be sufficient. I think there need to be at least two lawyers per province. We need fifty of them [...]

Any woman needs legal assistance in cases they may look for the firm. I will see that it will come soon. I have a clear objective – to provide legal assistance and protection to vulnerable women, which could include female workers too [...]

Losing or winning the case will depend on judges but the firm will provide lawyer for free [...] We are in process of recruiting lawyers now [...]

Suffering No Brain Disease

Some make judgments from what they see. Their political practice is to wish for other (opponents) to die.

What an animal like they are. If they wait for Hun Sen to die to gather resistance to take power, they may have to wait next life. Hun Sen would not die easily. No one in Hun Sen's family has brain disease [...] my grandmother lived to 92 years of age and my father to 90 years of age [...] as for Hun Sen, you may not want to wait for my brain disease to happen.

No one would know what Hun Sen's thought would be. That is the point to score success. In English they say "most races without win." I win every time I race. Some couldn't defeat me, they burn effigy to make me angry. But I am not [...]./■

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sions that access to internet is a problem, even in the United Nations. We must be sure that we pay for service that we have asked for [...]

Rabies Vaccines – Bitten First Priority

Please allow me to take this moment to address this matter that has concerned us in the last few days.

A number of people have concerns about rabies and have been flocking the Institut Pasteur du Cambodge (IPC) to wait for rabies vaccination.

It is not necessary to do that. People who have not been bitten by dog or cat or other animals have come for rabies vaccination causing difficulties to those bitten and actually have to continue their vaccinations.

The Ministry of Health has already issued a statement and we are making efforts to provide rabies vaccination to those bitten [...]

What has troubled the service provision is that those not bitten are crowded to demand vaccines. Some even used bad words against IPC and the Ministry of Health [...]

As is advised by the Ministry of Health, the best protection against rabies is to keep yourself safe and away from those animals.

You may not want to play with them. That is the best way to protect yourself from rabies.

Having said that I do not mean that you avoid taking (vaccination).

In rural area, sometimes, a mother dog could bite peo-

ple because she was protective to her babies. People bitten needed to have vaccinations urgently.

I am asking the Ministry of Health to make sure referral hospitals, and private clinics too, have such medicines in store [...]

I am calling our people who have been appalled to learn of a young girl died of rabies [...] to stay calm and allow people who have been bitten to receive their vaccinations. As you are not bitten by any animals, you may want to consult with a specialist as to what type of vaccination you may need [...]

Clean Our City and Living Areas, Folks

I wish to take a little time to elaborate on tourism and I continue to encourage efforts to work for clean cities to guarantee safety and wellbeing of our people, and sanitation in our country.

All in all, it is about us ourselves. We must work together to ensure sanitation. We have hundreds of people who are making cleaning their jobs but millions are leaving wastes out and about and not in bins provided.

We must make efforts and take actions together to ensure our cities, our communes, and streets are clean. We cannot leave the job to only janitors and cleaners. Their jobs is to collect waste from bins and not to pick them in the streets.

Some people have blamed authorities for not taking actions to clean cities but sometimes they themselves

are not putting waste in bins and leave plastic bags out and about [...]

We must make sure that “clean, safe and wellbeing cities” is becoming a national movement. We must all work together – from children to elderly people.

When we get that together we will be able to attract tourists to our country as they would not fear of infectious diseases in Cambodia [...]

Preventing Infectious Diseases in a Timely Manner

In fact Cambodia is proud for what it has done take for instance the SARS. I could recall that that happened when Cambodia was taking a rotary chairmanship of ASEAN – 2002-2003. SARS burst out in the region.

Former Prime Minister of Singapore HE Goh Chok Tong called me and proposed an initiative for an ASEAN urgent meeting on that matter. I told him it is absolutely important to get together.

Former Prime Minister of Thailand HE Thaksin (Shinawatra) took the responsibility to organize the Bangkok meeting, which HE Thaksin and I co-chaired with the participations of form Premier of (the People’s Republic of) China Wen Jiabao, former Chief Executive the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region – Tung Chee-hwa [...]

SARS did not make it through to Cambodia at that time. We did have bird flu though.

However, Cambodia pro-

duced from Kompong Cham some six million pairs of special clothes for operation against SARS.

Other than that, no deadly infectious diseases made their way to Cambodia or from Cambodia to other countries.

We have taken stringent control and inspection measures. We invited persons suspected of having SARS to have treatments until we were sure s/he could continue her/her journey [...]

Tourist Destination Free of Terrorism and Peaceful Community

Concerning peace, political stability, security and social order, I am calling on concerned authorities to ensure that terrorism takes no place in Cambodia, whether it be tourist site or village, factory, and community.

I met with roughly 900,000 workers from over one thousand factories. I told them to help make their factories a peaceful community, where there were no gangsters, drug distributions, and/or HIV/AIDS infection spreading.

We would be successful in our safe village/commune policy if we were able to make that happen.

Tourists now are traveling far and large in our country where we are building roads and other necessary infrastructures [...]

Let’s Tourists Come Back with Friends

No one in his/her right mind would risk to tour Syria, Libya, Yemen, etc.

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They are vulnerable spots on earth. We continue to attract a tourist by every means we have done so far.

To tell the world about tourism in Cambodia through media such as on TVs and so on is one good way of doing it.

However, to make sure tourists who have already come will come back again, and come with his friends, is more important.

As traders, we wanted customers to buy our products and return again next time, and with his/her friends. That is a successful way to do it. We must be hospitable [...]

Exercise Hygiene and Sanitation, Attract Tourists with Street Food

We also must remember that food hygiene is a big issue to make sure that tourists are coming to Cambodia to seek for good and safe food. We have laid out this street food development and competition. Once they can make safe and taste-good food, tourists will come day and night.

We also must make sure that we have good and clean road. This is like we got two birds with one arrow. If every street in Phnom Penh sell safe and taste-good food, and every street is in good condition, there will be competition and tourists will not flock to just certain place [...]

Tourism Boosts Agriculture, Encourages Green Belt

We must think of using tourism to stimulate agriculture to a next level. I have talked about having a green

belt in/around major tourist sites.

We must explain and help people to grow vegetable, and rear animals, whose meats will supply to hotels. We are using foreign currency to buy those stuffs from outside.

It is in this meaning that I have said it for a few years now to make effort to export to internal markets.

People may grow vegetables, rear birds, animals, and fish, and they can sell them to consumers such as hotels and restaurants to eatery demand from growing number of tourists.

This point is so important that our people can benefit from it. Tourism will tug agriculture along [...]

More Grades to Hotels Consuming Most Local Products

There are numerous things that we can supply to hotels and restaurants in tourism.

It is in this meaning that we have been encouraging, if you could remember my recommendation from the last meeting, to give more grades to hotels that are using local products [...]

I am repeating it. In Japan, agriculture shares only 1% of GDP but what Japan produces serve local demand and also export to markets throughout the world. In Cambodia, we have consumed many Japanese agricultural produce like mandarins, melon, etc. [...]

More Training for Farmers in/around Tourist Sites/Areas

I urge for training of farmers in/around touristic sites

so that they transform their extensively and water-consuming rice-growing habits to growing vegetables.

On commercial front, we must orientate markets as hotels and restaurants for our farmers to supply their produce. When we are able to work them together, our economy would not be resilient to external uncertainty of trade war or other causes.

We have markets for our farmers' produce. The six million tourists coming to Cambodia did not bring along their rice. They surely consume our rice and bread.

We must bake good bread to serve bread-cultured people. These are interrelated [...] With rise of tourism, we have hope not only in non-fiscal income from visas, visiting Angkor Wat, etc., but also in direct and indirect job creations for our people.

We have started from none tourist. Now we have a record of 6.2 million tourists. It was just in 1994, we had this incident of three tourists – a French, an Australian, and a British, held up by the Khmer Rouge who ambushed the train at Phnom Voar.

Before 1999, as far as I knew, the government of Japan allowed the Japanese nationals to visit only Siem Reap and Phnom Penh. It is a normal practice that every government is responsible for safety of their citizens [...]

Multi-Sectors Economy Never Dwindles Down

After successful conduction of win-win policy in 1998,

we have reunited the land and water.

We demined and destroyed them. We built infrastructures and connectivity. Tourists are all over and from every direction now.

We will see to the fact that more roads will be built and that would include the road from Thmor Da of Pursat to Pailin on one direction and Koh Kong – along the border, on another [...] our ecotourism is fantastic and attractive.

Multi-sectors economy never dwindle downs or meets its darkness. As I have said it, agriculture has got so many sub-sectors and a number of them are serving local tourism [...]

I am asking the Ministries of Commerce, Agriculture, Tourism, and related institutions, especially those of you at municipal, provincial, district, and communal levels to work on this endeavor and do not take this work as something to be carried out only by the Ministry of Tourism.

We are working on policy at national level. You at local levels will be the ones to make it happen and take care of public order.

I am so happy to have journeyed with you all from when Cambodia recorded none to today at 6.2 million tourists. We also have millions of locals travelling inside the country and about one million who had traveled abroad.

I will continue the journey with you. We are working together to attract tourists to Cambodia for its peace, political stability, security, and public order [...].

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trend of workers'/employees' monthly salary from 153 USD (2017) to 170 USD in 2018, and 182 USD now [...]

What has made this possible? It is joint efforts by which we provide jobs for our people to receive regular incomes.

The Royal Government focusses not only on improving salary for workers/employees but more importantly works to maintain macro-economic stability, to keep inflation in check and to maintain purchasing power for you – workers, civil servants, the armed forces [...]

Efforts have been made to ensure that market prices are not going up higher than the salary we have increased.

If the prices of goods go up along with the increase, our efforts to increase salary for workers/employees would be meaningless [...]

20 Years of Localizing Factories to Provinces

Reviewing incomes in Kandal province, the figures have ensured us successes of this policy to localize factories to provinces and not to concentrate only in Phnom Penh. This year is the 20th anniversary of the policy to orientate investments projects to outside Phnom Penh.

It was in this effort that we have put so much investments in infrastructural developments wherever we could to ensure connectivity to/between provinces.

We have factories along the national roads 4, 3 and 2 [...] and in many other

provinces [...] it has been a vision from 20 years ago.

It was our policy to attract investors to Cambodia. We started with none investors to thousands companies now [...]

In 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s, we built schools in rural areas to serve needs for education.

You must have had your education of some kind in those schools [...]

Rice Production, a Successful Story, Exporting It, Not Yet

At a later stage, to promote agricultural production, we issued a policy on rice production and export.

Finally, among the two objectives – (1) production of rice and (2) export of rice, we are successful only on production side.

We have transformed Cambodia from being a shortage of rice for consumption to become a country with surplus of rice for export.

This year alone, we have a surplus of 5.5 million metric tons of rice for export [...]

However, because of the fact that rice market has many tough competitors, our export of rice has not yet reached our targets [...]

Bring Down Price of Electricity, Reduce Cost of Production in Agriculture

RGC has had to set a guidance for the Electricité du Cambodge (EDC) to work on setting up lines to areas where there are water sources so that people are able to use electric power rather than fuel-energized water pump machines to pump water for their agri-

cultural production.

As you can see that there are Hun Sen branded water pump machines along the river of Prek Thnaot from Konpong Speu through to Kandal province.

We are now transferring from fuel-energized water pump machines to using power of electricity which is only around 410 Riel (per KWH) at dawn [...]

This would allow us to minimize production cost and improve competition of agricultural produces.

(We also carry out) researches to produce fertilizer in the country so that our people would pay less for it in their production.

This would also help in our competition [...] one very good point for Cambodia is we have a rice species – winning first class many years in a row – that is reputationally recognized in markets.

Utilize Market Potential to Restore Rice Price

What are we doing now that the price of rice has gone down? Ministers of Agriculture and Trade must work harder to utilize potential of existing markets – 30,000 metric tons to Vietnam, 40,000 metric tons to China – both are 70,000 metric tons of rice or roughly over one million metric tons of paddy rice.

We must look for and utilize existing market potentials to figure out ways to restore price of rice for our farmers.

It would also be helpful if farmers could keep rice while price goes down [...]

Attracting Local Material/Resources Processing

Industry for Export Final Products

We may not be able to grow richer investing only in agriculture.

We must make efforts in other sectors such as industry and services.

In industry, we must work to attract industries that use local materials/resources in their productions [...]

Those relating to drying, storing and exporting rice, for instance [...]

That we are exporting final product of rice would give us more benefits than exporting whole paddy rice [...]

We have also seen that our market potential for mango and banana is growing wider. There are demands abroad [...] we have attracted some high-tech companies to Cambodia.

The other day, I talked comparing Takeo as a “hidden flower” because there is this high-tech factory producing parts of smartphones there [...]

We also assemble trucks and manufacture wire-harness for automobiles for overseas market [...]

Seasonal Market Demand Syndrome

I have presented to you an overall framework of an economy as a country that we cannot depend only on one field.

(Our economy) must be multi-sectoral. In agriculture, we are not working on just rice as they did under the Pol Pot's time – “as long as there is rice there is

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going to be everything.”

For what we do we are serving local needs and demands in markets.

However, we must be cautious that when we are after the market demands too much there would be stumbling blocks as well.

For instance, some grew rubber because the market in that particular moment demanded.

Later, when price of rubber went down and price of cashew nut went up, some decided to get rid of rubber and grow cashew nut instead [...]

That is not productive. I ask the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to explain to our people so that they understand and would not overreact to market demands that are seasonal [...]

In Thailand, when rubber price went down, they just did not collect latex because they would not be able to cover operational costs. They did not resort to replacing them with other crops. When price of rubber goes up, they will collect latex [...]

Open Up to Investors, No Local Partnership and/or Share Needed

We are up to light and heavy industries. We are working on handicrafts and manufacturing. We are attracting investments from abroad, not any one particular country.

We have in Cambodia – locals, Chinese, Koreans, Japanese, Americans, etc. Cambodia is open up for investments from every-

where, except terrorists.

Yesterday I met with a US law firm that is interested in setting up a law firm in Cambodia. They are welcome [...] investors may come to Cambodia to do businesses under the roof of peace and liberal pluralistic democracy.

We do not discriminate who from who or locals from foreign.

Foreign investors are entitled to 100% business undertaking without having to make partnership or going into shares with locals [...]

Some countries make these conditions for investors. Cambodia does not. We do not limit investors' transfer of profits abroad [...]

They are most welcome to reinvest to broaden their business in Cambodia [...]

Morning Star or Huseconomics

We have defined and compared our economic policies to a morning star that is never glimmering or setting. We have morning star every morning. It is Huseconomics, if you like.

Forty years have passed, especially the 34 years under this Prime Minister (from the time we had to survive and overcome the genocide, the embargo, and the war), your parents and grandparents could not even find shoes to match their feet, have taken a long and arduous journey with me (and with the Cambodian People's Party).

We all must be thankful of them. After the fall of the Pol Pot's regime, you must have seen already pictures of our people walking with-

out shoes returning to native places [...]

It was very heartbreaking to see them shouldering between a child in one basket and their basic utensils on another [...]

Voting for Keeping Peace and Development

Please allow me to take this opportune moment to express my gratefulness to people in the whole country who voted for the Cambodian People's Party through which I continue to be Prime Minister in the present [...]

As you can see clearly now that voting for the Cambodian People's Party is in fact voting to keeping peace and development, and more so, voting for own self [...]

You have fulfilled two major tasks in July 2018 – firstly, taking parts in the elections that means you are fulfilling obligations to support process of liberal pluralistic democracy.

Over 83% of registered voters put their ballots in boxes. This signifies that democracy is functioning and regular according to the Constitution.

Secondly, you have voted for keeping peace and development [...]

Let me have your attention here that no one miraculous person or dignitary politician to achieve successes without people's participations.

Lon Nol fell because he did not have people's supports. Pol Pot because of his regime's brutality fell in just three years eight months and twenty days (of being in power). People did not

support them.

The Cambodian People's Party stays in power over the past 40 years clearly indicates overwhelming participations and supports of the people because the Cambodian People's Party belongs to the people and serve the people [...]

Fall to No Violent Attempt

The Cambodian People's Party never and will never ever abandon them. You may look into Hun Sen's face and those of other leaders of the Cambodian People's Party.

These people will not abandon you. I hold no foreign nationality. I have no home abroad.

My only option is to hold the ground with the Cambodian people. Everything I do is for progress of the Cambodian people.

I escaped in the past (to another country) to form a resistant army to overthrow the regime of Pol Pot. I was offered options to go live in a third country [...] I did not choose that option.

I decided to return to the country to be with my people and family. I had to leave my family and the country when I was not even 25 years of age yet and my wife was in pregnancy.

We started from five men and we have now over five million members of the Cambodian People's Party.

This is a value reflecting clearly that no malicious person can overthrow Hun Sen through violence [...]

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**As Long As You Have
 Jobs and Get Paid**

I wish that some people do not get confused here. From now on, as I said it days ago, as long as you have jobs and get paid, you should not bother to concern with what some people are bragging.

People will go on working and making incomes. Those words are just distracting propaganda.

While in fact, I am so encouraged and pleased to see that our people are not intimidated by this psychological warfare.

You still have jobs at hands [...] and it is almost payday again because we are implementing a bimonthly payday system [...]

**Pursuing the Ten
 Recommendations**

I advise the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training and related institutions/authorities to continue observing the ten recommendations that I do not need to reiterate here.

I am calling on factories and their managements to continue to attend to working condition of workers such as regular wages payments as defined by law and agreement, setting up medical assistance sections and dining areas for them to have lunch. Female workers with pregnancy should be leaving work fifteen minutes early [...]

After delivery, mothers are taking a three months leave with 120% pay of their salary plus 400,000 Riel or 100 USD for one child.

If they delivered two babies,

they will get double. If they delivered three babies, in addition to the 1,200,000 Riel they are entitled to, I will offer them five million Riel more [...]

I am calling on factories and managements not to take extreme measures such as expelling workers (in conflict). Dialogue between managements and trade unions, and workers representatives is the best option [...]

**HIV/AIDS at 0.6%, Same
 Sex Love**

[...] I am so happy to see that HIV/AIDS infection or carriers figure has lowered to only 0.6% and we are working to get to our target of 0% by 2025.

However, we have new concern here. People who love same sex person [...] please allow me to remind third sex people that I have no way of prohibiting you and I am calling on their parents to understand them.

I am calling on society and community to avoid discrimination against third sex people [...] It is an issue that is not well correctly and widely understood.

When coupling with HIV/AIDS, matter will get worse. I am begging you from my affection and sympathy (to protect yourselves).

This should be a political message to society, parents and to third sex and same sex love people themselves.

We are not up to drafting any law on same sex marriage and many countries have been in deep disagreement on the issue [...]

**Attending to People's
 Need for Water**

In the time to come, I wish to place an appeal to provinces facing with shortage of water, I already brought this up once at the review meeting of the Ministry of Interior, to leave no people in water shortage difficulties without assisting them.

Authorities at every level must seek every means to help them through.

We must prepare trucks to carry water to them and look into possibility for more pond/well diggings.

On 28 March, there will be this annual meeting between Prime Minister and members of the Royal Government of Cambodia with members of the Supreme Council of Consultations (SCC) coming from 16 political parties (that contested in the 2018 national elections).

I told Deputy Prime Minister HE Bin Chhin to prepare a VDO conference so that provincial authorities, armed forces, etc. have chance to hear findings of SCC members and their suggested solutions [...]

We have decided already that decisions come out of such meeting is of equal value to those made in the Cabinet meeting [...]

Inputs and solidarity spirit of political parties contested in the national elections but won no seat in the National Assembly can contribute also to national construction with the Royal Government on national needs [...]

**RGC-Private Sector
 Meeting on 29 March**

You now have interests in hands. You must hold on to it. In 2008, there was a financial crisis and economic

downturn.

Garment factories suffered reduction of order from outside. A number of factories closed.

We then had to take immediate measure to provide our people with vocational training and create fund accessibility scheme so that our workers can find a new jobs and/or do new businesses.

Such difficulties is no stranger to us in between 2008 and 2009 [...]

Come what may, we are to keep factories going. We must work together to prepare for such endeavor and on 29 March, the RGC and private sector will go into further discussions [...]

**Annual Meeting with
 Tricycles Drivers; Law
 Firms for Poor Women**

Well, it is about time to have annual meeting with tricycles drivers association. Let us have a meal together.

The Tricycles Drivers Fund offers each driver 7,000 Riel (less than 2 USD) a day – 2,000 Riel for renting the tricycle rickshaw and 5,000 Riel for food. They also have two pairs of clothes [...]

Let me also inform the Minister of Women's Affairs that I have decided officially, as I have raised some 2,000 million Riel or about 500,000 USD, to let the law firm commence its work.

I asked HE Ky Tech, head of the RGC lawyers group, to help me go about doing it. The fund is not from the RGC's pocket but a raising

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