

Summing Up 18th RGC-Private Sector Meeting

(29 March 2019 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)



29 March 2019 - Samdech Techo Hun Sen opens the 18th RRG-Private Sectors Forum at the Peace Palace

In addition to the prepared text, Samdech Techo made extempore elaborations summing up the 18th Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC)-Private Sector meeting with unofficial selection and translation as followed:

[C1]

I thank Oknha Van Sou Ieng for his intervention and proposals. Before I go into summing up on topics and issues discussed by the 18th RGC-Private Sector meeting, I wish to give you a bit of my impression. The three speakers – Oknha Kith Meng, Mr Bret Scaronie, and Oknha Van Sou Ieng have all given their impressions about resuming the meeting and wished it to happen regularly. I accepted their requests with pleasure. Though the concerned working groups (between the RGC and private sectors) have been working together and resolving numerous problems together, a yearly regular meeting of this kind is still necessary. HE Aun Porn Moniroth (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance) and HE Sok Chenda (of the Cambodia Development Council) have to act

on this request and organize the meeting. We should aim to hold the meeting in February or March. February is better [...]

Relating to this forum, Mr. Bret Scaronie has just impressed us that such meeting between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the private sector seen abroad as the number 1 forum of its kind. It is a fact. We have created a mechanism that decisions made in this forum are equal to those made in the Cabinet meetings. The private sector plays important role in making policies and drafting laws. The news (that Bret Scaronie) brought is a flavored coffee to us today for those who accepted the fact but a poisonous herbs for the ones who discredit Cambodia out there [...]

I should remind that in late 1998, after the first Cabinet meeting on 2 December 1998, I have laid down a triangular strategy. The first angle was to realize peace in Cambodia. Khieu Samphan, Nuon Chea, and other leaders had not yet given themselves to peace yet.

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Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville Express

(22 March 2019 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Peace and Good Relations Brings about Expressway Project

In addition to the reports by Public Works and Transports Minister HE Sun Chanthol, by President of China Road & Bridge Corporation Co., Ltd., Company, (CRBC) and HE Kong Xuanyou, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, allow me to make a point on what has brought us all to launch the groundbreaking of this expressway project? Firstly, Cambodia is in peace. With peace in the country, we have achieved development, through which we are working to address numer-

ous challenges such as connectivity, transports, and communication. Secondly, we have welcome investment from a Chinese company. This has clearly explained if there were no good relations with China, there would not be Chinese investors in Cambodia.

First Public Private Partnership Project

Let me reiterate that should there be no vehement decisions to support the project by President Xi Jinping and Premier Li keqiang, we would not be able to set off this two billion USD

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Teachers and PPIU Graduations

(27 and 25 March 2019 — Unofficial Selections and Translations)

(A) Teachers Graduating from National Institute of Education—27 March 2019

Arming Cambodian Peacekeeping Troops with Armored Vehicles

We have started from a foundation that was particularly impossible to become a country with amazing progress in education. A US citizen, Ms Eva Mysliwicz, worked in Mali before coming to Cambodia. The military government closed down her organization there. She heard about Cambodia and its difficulties. She came and lived with us [...] and has become a Cambodian citizen. After democracy restored in Mali, she went back [...] she asked me for help in building a “Hun Sen” school in Bamako, Mali [...] war and terrors continue [...]

peacekeeping troops. The United Nations is in short of fund to provide much needed military equipment required by peacekeeping missions. That has required each country taking part in the mission to take measures in advance. We cannot leave our troops in harm's way without what they needed to protect themselves [...] that is what happening in Mali in the countryside. In urban area, there were demonstrations against police, military, public officials, and taken parts were teachers. That has prompted students who cannot go on with their studies in public schools to take up studies in private schools. Demonstrators then go on to close private schools down [...]

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- ... NIE & PPIU graduations

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They did so on 29 December 1998 [...] the second angle was to realize as quick as we could integration of Cambodia into international fora. Cambodia, since 1970s, fought to occupy the seat at every international forum. That we have united our land and water, we no longer have this issue of fighting for seat. We have acted swiftly and we have fulfilled our aims of being in ASEAN, Asia-Europe Meeting, World Trade Organization, etc. [...] the third angle was to reap the above two achievements of internal and external favors to concentrate efforts for socio-economic development and poverty reduction. That is where we needed to attract private investments [...]

We have conducted numerous meetings between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the private sectors [...] and we had so many issue to tackle. There have been many doors and windows (in business operations and facilitation). It was a headache. However, thanks to the RGC-Private Sector mechanism, we have been able to improve (investment) environment and come to a one-window operations. That was the efficiency realized through the mechanism. It is worth the "number 1" remark given out there. We must make further efforts to keep this number 1 status. We must continue to keep the forum's momentum and efficiency that is not for only consultation by decisions making. We are making decisions together on a number of issues to today for the future of our economy.

We have here today the presence of the Ambassador of Turkey. I thank her for the efforts she made in facilitating negotiation (between EDC – Electricite du Cambodge) and Turkish company (about power ship business) to address shortage of electricity in Cambodia. They have reached a deal. I have instructed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Industry and Handicraft to prepare letters for me thanking the President of Turkey for the support

the Turkish company has offered. To address shortage of electricity, we will bring in a power ship of 200 megawatts to Phnom Penh (to provide us electricity) no less than three years. I will sign the letter here and thank the Turkish Ambassador for delivering it to the President [...]

On the same token, I wish to inform the Japanese Ambassador that I will make my presence in Tokyo, where, as part of a wider working visit, the Cambodia Development Council and Mizuho Bank will organize a seminar regarding investments for about 300 participants on 29 May 2019 at the New Otani Hotel, Tokyo. I have other business to attend to but I will conduct the seminar about investment first [...]

[C2]

Terminal Handling Charge – THC

I urge continued dialogue (regarding THC) because the transport companies have sounded out their possibilities to go down further in prices if the two ports (in Cambodia) are doing likewise. I am asking the two ports to reconsider their prices ranges. We are not after profits making by the ports while neglecting the whole economy. We could go for smaller profit from ports but bigger gain for our economy as a whole [...]

[C3]

Reducing Prices of Electricity

To respond to growing short and medium-term needs for electricity, as I have said, we have sealed the deal with the Republic of Turkey. I visited the country last year and the President has been very cordial. While sending a note of thank you to him, I also prepare to do the same for Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Nguyen Xuan Phuc to sell us an additional 50 to 100 megawatts of electricity op top of the current provision of 200 megawatts. We also have done the same for Thailand and Laos. I hope we will proceed on this

as quickly as it can be. The Cabinet will meet next week, 5 April 2019, to give decision to a number of investment projects (relating to electricity) – a hydropower station in Pursat, gas-fueled power plants, and a number of solar power generation projects [...]

[C4]

Development of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises

Let me add on this point that SMEs must register or they will not receive any incentives as we have already defined. They would not have right to borrow money from banks as well. Being registered, SMEs would benefit from tax favor and bank loans [...]

[C5]

Trade Facilitation Measures under Customs Competency

As far as containers are involved, let me stress that aside from reducing costs of 50% for containers scanning, from 20 USD to 10 USD and 32 USD to 16 USD, we also will have saved time [...] we will apply risk management scanning method [...] companies doing scanning, please think about economic profit for the country as a whole. If they are worried about losing income from applying risk management scanning method, they will not. Gaining time is what we are after here. There might be feeling that why do they take money if they do not scan the containers. Let me ask if you prefer to log horn in a process of two or just in one [...] we are doing this to expedite goods loading process [...] if it is required by some countries to scan, we will do it. Otherwise, we apply risk management scanning method [...] after adding everything up we have come to a figure of roughly 400 million USD of costs reduction [...]

Losing No Independence and National Sovereignty for Favor

If EU decides for our companies to pay taxes, we could just do that. Let us not worry too much. We should not let others

to guide us around what to do and threaten to do this and that on us. In trade, we pay them taxes and they pay us taxes too. Should they keep favor for us, it is even better but we cannot allow that to become an order for us to obey or to be threatened [...] Cambodia's past was so much suffering. Getting out of the Pol Pot's genocide, they embargoed Cambodia politically and economically. Cambodia survived. We stood up from a city of only 70 people. We would not allow anyone to command us what to do. We will not trade national independence and sovereignty with anything at all. We may have to tie our waist to reduce food intake to keep national independence. Any persons bowing heads for favor must not be the Cambodian leader. We are not narrow-minded nationalists [...]

Welcome Inputs from Partners

On this matter, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, the late King-Father, under his rule, asked foreign countries (threatening with aid cut) to sever their assistance instead of bending to anyone's feet. We must follow his teaching [...] we must strive with our own efforts [...] whether there will or will not be favors, Cambodia will have to make own efforts to advance. Cambodia needs partners [...] I have instructed in writing [...] that "concerns of others are not political lines for Cambodia to implement." We thank people telling us their concerns but they are not everything for us to do. We will heed their advices if they are not in violation of national sovereignty [...] my endeavor for Cambodian national independence has made some unhappy. I do not listen to their advices. I will listen to matters that are worth listening for Cambodia. I need inputs from friends beside friends' financial assistance. However, those inputs should not come as violations of national sovereignty. It had happened in the past. They did not release funds for so and so projects. I canceled it [...]

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[C6]

Reducing Listed Goods for Inspection

Sometimes Prime Minister has to decide. Ministries listed goods of nearly 2,000 items for inspections [...] we have now reduced them to about 500 items. Some goods required no inspection [...] taking what we call a process of one commander and chief of general staff, we decided to cut some of them out. We know what type of goods listed for inspections. It is not reasonable (to go on to do so). Some in the private sectors have complained because the process would hold their goods. Trade facilitation is not there [...]

[C7]

Reducing Number of Holidays and Days

On this point, I am asking civil servants, the armed forces, and workers to think of our country's situation. Previously, we had not many holidays/days per year. However, for later observations, we have increased the number of holidays/days. That has now constrained our efforts for national economic progress. We need to save seven days from our current number of national holidays/days. According to our calculation, the seven days saved will ensure a 0.5% gain in our economic growth. With this gain, GDP would stay between 6.5% and 7% in 2020 [...]

[C8]

Factories Inspections

Starting from now, if there are more than one inspections teams, we must put them together. You may remember our meeting at (CDC office) at Wat Phnom, we dealt with this issue that before closing a container, there must be inspections from the customs, Camcontrol, economic police, etc. [...] I decided then to group them all in one, and if anyone in the group is absent, the rest in the group would approve on the absentee's behalf [...]

[C9]

MLVT to Determine Inspections Teams

The Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training (MLVT), from this moment, must determine what to inspect, and what not to inspect. MLVT should not keep to many issues in the inspected list. Factories management already know about their risk managements and we must trust them. They would not allow their factories to fall. For instance, if before the inspections would look at ten things, it would take a lot of time. A reduction of issues to inspect would save us time and not disturb the production process. Let us leave the responsibility mostly to the factories managements [...]

[C10]

Minimum Wages in Garments

On this matter (of preparing minimum wages according to geographical locations), a number of countries such as Vietnam, Indonesia, India, etc. have already implemented it. They have defined minimum wages according to geographical locations [...]

I just have your attention that we cannot take actions on wages for locations already approved earlier. We may do so for new locations where there are nor factories and/or enterprises yet [...] the point for workers to think about here is the benefit of not having to move to other places for jobs though they may get less wages [...]

[C11]

Agricultural Development

Let me trace back a bit. Despite the many favors the state has provided, we need to give more heed to using market potential for exports. We have exported more rice this year compared to last year. That the EU decided to impose tax (on rice from Cambodia) has not had major impacts. It is not because of the EBA thing but the Italian protectionist policy

on its rice that is against the justice principle of World Trade Organization. There have been requests from companies in the Cambodian Rice Federations to sue this matter to WTO.

I would urge Minister of Trade, HE Pan Sosak to look into this matter [...] we must reap market potentials offered by Vietnam and China [...] I just had negotiation with the Republic of Korea for agricultural produce such as mangos. Japanese companies have come to produce themselves and sell to markets in Japan. I will go to Tajikistan for a meeting and will tour the Eurasia region to develop more partners [...]

[C12]

Railway Transport

On this issue, let me clarify a few things to avoid misunderstanding on Oknha Kith Meng. What I had suspected has now become a real happening [...] I had in fact intended to end contract (concerning rail transport development) since 2010 for lack of transparency from the beginning. In order to access 141 million USD fund, we had to run a closed auction for only three companies – Australia, France, and Belgium. They allowed no state-related companies to bid. In that instance, companies from India, China, and Japan had had no chances [...]

When the state managed the railway, though our rail were not in good condition, in addition to the fact that the Pol Pot's forces disconnected it five times a day, we could still keep it running. Why when the country is in peace, we could not get it running? [...] I let it go. Finally, we could only have one direction of rail and not the other [...] Kith Meng just supplied a few locomotives and wagons, while the rest are state's properties. It is not Kith Meng's mistake. The situation had brought us there [...] if we leave it like this, Kith Meng would fall and we would too [...] in fact, it relieved him from a crumbling rock left by Toll Holding Limited [...] conduction of negotiation to compensate his invest-

ments will proceed. Oknha Kith Meng may want to bid for the chance again later. We will not run a closed bidding process as before [...]

I would advise (Deputy Prime Minister and Finance and Economy Minister) HE Aun Pornmoniroth to use reserved fund of the Royal Government to expedite process of acquiring more locomotives. The Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan O-Cha has offered some used locomotives and we must hurry to bring them in [...] Prime Minister Prayuth is to sit in a train to cross the border between our countries together with me. I have taken the responsibility to compose a song. I did. We just wait for the time to come [...]

We are asking the Vietnamese ambassador here to convey my request to Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc to consider providing Cambodia with some wagons since we are using similar length of track gauge. We have the Chinese ambassador here, maybe China can provide us some of your old locomotives [...] I will ask Tokyo for it too. We need to rail goods to and from Poipet to Kompong Som [...] how much time do we need, (Senior Minister and Minister of Transport and Public Works) HE Sun Chanthol?

I need it to get up and working in a speedy manner. We are getting close to the Khmer New Year. I have promised workers and people for a five-day free-of-charge journey to and from their native villages on rails during the Khmer New Year [...]

[C13]

Forthcoming Reforms Measures

Let me talk a bit about economic incentives or impetuses. Economists surely know what it means. For instance, we need to promote agriculture, for instance rubber. If we impose higher tax on cashew nut, while rubber is tax lower, farmers would plant more rubber [...] the same is true for service,

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bank, and tourism sectors. If we provide equal incentives across the board, we would lose the momentum [...] I am not an economist by training but with bare hand, we stood up from war and economic and political embargoes. We moved from a centrally planned to market economy. We are in the process of improving market economy [...]

Running economy in shock would destabilize macro-economy. We cannot lose our mind from hearing about economic crisis here and there and that they will come. We know they will come but we must stay clear and sharp to think about and take risk management actions [...] in 2009, crisis had stopped our growth at only 0.1% [...] one year later, we have recorded growth of 6.9%, and gradually to the present 7%. We must seek ways to evade impacts from crisis [...] we must not be shocked and lose our mind. To lead an economy is no different from to lead an army [...]

[C14]

We talked about inspection and there are many groups coming at different or same times to do their jobs. Now we have this process of registration at one place to avoid repeating same information to different people [...] we are going online to reduce concerns of investors and to increase efficiency [...]

Tax income for March is coming into my phone as of yesterday was 372 million USD. As of now, it has come up to 400 million USD. Some ill-thinking people said I received 600 million USD from my visit to China [...]

Let me tell them I never use foreign money for salary. They even fooled our people on the 700 million USD credit offered by the President of the Republic of Korea [...] my way of accounting is spending 8 while earning 10. We have a surplus of roughly 700 to 800 million USD per annum for Cambodia's own investments. We have to increase capacity gradu-

ally to reduce leaning on others [...]

It has not been a dirty governance. We are not managing our economy the way we called "there are many holes in our basket." We need saving to share a counterpart fund to access and use foreign loans and financings [...] which sometimes requires a sharing of 20% or even 30% to the projects [...]

[C15]

Let me stay on this issue a little bit. The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) has come to a stall after the US (President) Donald Trump decided to leave it. It continues in a different mode though. Cambodia regretted before that they have invited only some ASEAN countries to participate.

As of now, with other partners, we have decided to stick to one common position – if we were to join, every ASEAN member state would join altogether. APEC has divided ASEAN too as some are and some are not its members [...] as for UK in particular, though they are preparing for Brexit, UK sent its envoy to ensure us that UK would go on implement trade regime as it used to [...] let us work together to seek more partners. We are keeping old ones, finding new ones, and extending our market coverage to the Middle East [...]

[C16]

By Law on E-Commerce

On this front, I would like to go not only to e-commerce or e-government, but also to e-people. It is a requirement for social progress. As a state, there must be efforts to promote e-mediums everywhere and civil servants must learn to be ones [...]

[C17&18]

On this note, aside from conducting a regular meeting of the ten working groups (of the RGC and Private Sectors mechanism), I have agreed on conducting another meeting next

year and years to come [...] should there be matters require attentions, we could go for meeting twice a year. I mean, at least, we will have one meeting a year. However, I think one meeting is quite clear and enough [...] in this term of the Royal Government we still have four meetings to go – in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 [...]

[C19]

Cambodia is busy working on internal issues and on international relations based on equality and equal footing. We, in addition to these, are also providing help, under the umbrella of the United Nations, to friends in difficulties. As of this moment, Samdech Pichey Sena Tia Banh is still in New York regarding this issue (of the UN peacekeeping operations). Risk has gone high for our troops in Mali. We just release some 15 million USD fund for the purchase of armored vehicles for our troops. We are taking responsibilities as a state taking part in peacekeeping operation in the world.

I hope that this sounds out to our friends that Cambodia is a country with international obligation at hand. We have taken responsibility of financing our peacekeeping troops while the UN Security Council cannot address it for its financial difficulties [...]

Even though carrying out reforms require financial and human resources, we are still sharing [...] we will not withdraw peacekeeping troops from anyone country that we are in operation. I am of the thought to send peacekeeping troops to Yemen, should they reach peace agreement there [...]

(Probably I can ask) *those countries thinking of punishing Cambodia this question about Cambodia being a member of the United Nations and helping friends in the world?*

If Cambodia were to suffer punishment of some sorts, would it be worthwhile for Cambodia to serve this honora-

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(Continued from page 8) model for every country. Why do they not think Cambodia also has one? [...]

- *The Person under House Detention Warns Others for Reclaim Rights* – someone is still under house detention and comes out warning others for reclaiming their political rights. You will not get yourself freed. We are waiting for the court's trial. The person scolds others requesting for political rights traitors, men of no conscience, etc. I just reiterate to the authority at every level that those with restored political rights must be entitled to full rights of political activities [...]

- *Ad-hoc Commission to Disband Quickly* – I am bringing this issue back up again. The ad-hoc commission that is looking to recruit five people from each commune to prepare for coming of someone, I must warn them to disband quickly. I long for him to try. He said he would come with the UN and/or foreign presences. Handcuff is waiting for the person with verdict of court not foreigners [...] if he decided to come through land borders, he should know what we have there [...] while he is not in good term with Vietnam or Laos, and would Thailand be so naïve to let him use its territory against another country? [...]

Issue 2 – Factory to Allow Workers to Get Back Their Jobs

I am calling on a factory from where workers have gone into demonstration (concerning issue of claiming benefits) and after the matter is resolved, the factory decided to expel workers from their jobs. I have urged the Minister of Labour and Vocational Training to contact and work out with the factory to allow those workers returning to their jobs.

I said very often that demonstration is not a good way to solve problem. While, expelling workers is not too. Let us come to mutual understanding [...] I am calling on W&D factory to allow workers to return to their jobs and end their confrontations [...] ■

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expressway project. For this amount of money, we may be able to build nearly one thousand Kilometers of simple paved roads. For this huge project, CRBC has had to borrow money from the Bank of China at a high commercial interest rate [...] through my works with President Xi and Premier Li, we have come to a solution, in which our Chinese friends provide a sum of 150 million USD to support the project. Should there be no confidence and a friendship nature between the two nations, we would not be able to set off the project today. It is a huge project and we can say it is the first of its kind large-scale commencement of partnership between state and private sector on investment of the P3 infrastructure – Public Private Partnership [...]

To Realize a Fourth Economic Pole

The expressway will be so important for our effort to connect between Phnom Penh – the first economic pole, to Preah Sihanoukville – the second economic pole. Cambodia has determined three zones of development or three economic poles – Phnom Penh, Preah Sihanoukville and Siem Reap. We have a vision for the fourth economic pole in the northeast, which is going to be a strong agro-industrial one. We have already promoted investments in infrastructures, with China financial assistance, in the area.

Cambodia Needs More Roads ...

As of present, our Chinese friends have helped us rebuilt the National Roads and built many bridges – in all over three thousand kilometers, over one thousand Kilometers of which built by CRBC. Let me inform the Chinese Foreign Minister HE Kong Xuanyou that the length of 3,000 Kilometers is just the beginning. We need more. We have sent to our Chinese friends Cambodia's annual plan for construction requirement. This is going to be an important connectivity achieve-

ment. We are going to improve connectivity between Phnom Penh and the coastal areas where we branded “rising star in the southwest” [...]

SEA Games Hosted in May 2023

I am proud indeed of what have happened in the country under my leadership. Let me tell you that this expressway is going to be ready in March 2023. It is in this remark that I wish to take this opportune moment to inform people in the whole country that Cambodia is going to host SEA Games in May 2023 [...]. Since we are going to have the general elections in July 2023, and normally we would have many works to do after that – like forming the Royal Government and so on [...] on this note, the expressway will be ready for the event. There would be sports and events to take place in the coastal areas. Not every sports and events will take place only in the Chinese built stadium (Morodok Techo). In that case, they may be able to use the expressway [...]

Expressway to Preah Sihanoukville – BOT Project

This expressway will serve not only to resolve related interest between Phnom Penh and Preah Sihanoukville. It plays an important part in stimulating economy in the whole country through that fact of bringing the prices of transportation down and reducing the time needed for travelling [...] it is a toll road. People pay toll to use the roads and/or bridges. We may see the benefit from traveling only two and a half hours on expressway to or from rather than a five hours traveling on inferior road and congested traffics condition [...] it is a BOT project. I urge our people not to let themselves believe unconstructive propaganda about us purchasing land for the Chinese company [...] after ending the operation contract, they will transfer the road to the state and we will see what to do with it.

China to Colonize No Country

Some may come around and fool you about China coming to colonize Cambodia [...] even if the Chinese wanted to control us Cambodia, we would not allow them to. I make it clear to you and everyone today. Today, I am talking this in the presence of the Vice Foreign Minister of China. We have seen clearly that China has no goal of putting a control on anyone. Unlike some countries who wish to place commands on sovereign states to do what they wanted those states to [...]

BRICS, AIIB, etc. Help Poor Countries

Many countries of ASEAN along the “one belt one road” benefit from China economic progress. I remember that in 2016-17, there was this meeting on one belt one road and the 21st Century Silk Road in the People's Republic of China. It was my impression then that there have been many connectivity initiatives in the region – ASEAN, East Asia and the Asia Highway linking Asia through to Turkey. However, we have a big problem of finding capital to get them off. President Xi, while announcing the initiatives, then declared a credit fund of 40 billion USD [...] in addition to the BRICS Development Bank (or New Development Bank), Cambodia has become one of the founding members of the Asian Infrastructural Investment Bank (AIIB) [...] that are providing helps to poor countries [...]

Jiang Zemin: “HE Hun Sen – An Old Friend of China”

You may check again minutes of my meetings with our Chinese friends from 1996. When I met with the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China and Head of State, HE Jiang Zemin said a sentence “HE Hun Sen is an old friend of China.” You may check those minutes and you will see that I never asked our Chinese friends to help me buy cars or airplanes for personal use. Never. About 70% of my request for assistance from China is concerning Cambodia's infrastructures – roads and bridges, water canals,

etc. [...] we have attracted Chinese investment in electricity which is one of our four priorities. Declaring in 1987, or 32 years ago, the four prioritized areas – water/irrigation, roads, electricity and human resource – has proved and continued to prove their relevancies [...]

Seeking Loans and Grants for Roads/Bridge Infrastructures

We are working on a four-lane road from Prek Kadam (of Kandal) to the border with Thailand. We are seeking more loans and even grants from friends for our roads and bridges infrastructural development. We even go for a BOT investment like this road, for instance. We are working on promoting interactions in transportation [...] we have means of transportation but our roads are not strong enough to support them. With the Republic of Korea assistance, we enlarged the NR 3 from seven meter width to 12 meters.

However, transportation has so far increased in volume. We needed to seek financial assistance from the People's Republic of China to build it bigger [...] we have to ensure working road network to the coastal areas – like the national road 4, national road 3, the 190-Km expressway we are building now. In addition to those, we are going to make full potential use of railway to address demand for transportation to support our economic growth [...] we are talking millions tons not hundreds of thousands of goods to go in containers abroad as before [...]

Foreign Investments and Loans Welcome

We are in need of more capitals from development partners and China has been one of them. Let me state it clearly that we are open to foreign partners. You are welcome to invest in Cambodia. You are welcome to provide loans to Cambodia. Some say Cambodia has been too close to China and that has made them difficult to conduct business. Let me ask you, have

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you ever done any substantial businesses with us? None. When China comes and seeks for investment opportunity, we provide them with ones. We never deny any foreign companies [...] we have companies not only from China here but also from Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, South Korea, Japan, the US, Europe, etc. China alone would not be able to do it all [...]

Friends in Respects of Independence & Sovereignty

The European banks have offered us loans. We received them. The Asian Development Bank offers us loans. We accepted. The World Bank gives us loans. We accepted. We welcome all. Cambodia does not close its door. However, they should not just talk and do nothing. In addition to that, some of them places Cambodia in their geopolitical endeavors. No way.

Cambodia needs friends who would come to work with us on equal right and footing principles to help us development the country through either grants, concessional financial assistance, or even sending in investors. We hold no discrimination against anyone. We only ask for relation and partnership that respects Cambodia's independence and sovereignty, with equal rights and footing [...]

Water Resource and Meteorology – Rains Throughout the Country

As of present, Cambodia is not alone in this shortage of drinking water and hydropower to generate electricity. However, according to the Minister of Water Resource and Meteorology, tonight and probably from tomorrow – 23 and 24 March – there would be rain almost throughout the country [...] that is a good news. If rains fell (in reservoirs), it would reduce our stressful situation about shortage of water and eventually adjusting temperature to a bit lower [...] the more and quicker rains come, the better chance for turbines to turn and generate electricity [...] a person in

Kompong Chhnang has blamed me about this incident. I warn you not to keep making baseless comments about shortage of electricity or (relevant authority would) invite you for an investigation [...]

A Big RGC Delegation to PRC in April

I will have a meeting with a US senator from the state of Washington. He even came and attended our celebration of the January 7 victory. He also came and observed elections in Cambodia last year [...] we will discuss a number of issues. This morning I met with the Chinese power.

This afternoon I will meet with the US power. I have relations with China. I have relation with the US. I have maintained relations with everyone. The issue is we must treat each other with respect [...] in April, after the Khmer New Year, I will be present in Beijing for this forum of "one road one belt" forum.

The RGC delegation will be a big one. Three Deputy Prime Ministers will come along [...] we have many projects to sort out [...]

An International Conference Centre in Preah Sihanoukville

I am asking a Chinese company to consider building an International Conference Centre in Preah Sihanoukville. I have delegated this task to HE Chea Sophara (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction). I wish to roll out the ASEAN summit, and related Summits in Preah Sihanoukville by end of 2022. We could finish the construction in time. A Chinese company has ensured that the Kong Keng Airport that they are working on extending and enlarging to accommodate larger airplanes would get it ready in 2021 or by early 2022 [...]. In April 2022, we will host the ASEAN members meetings in Siem Reap and we will host the ASEAN summits with partnering countries in Preah Sihanoukville [...] we may not have our expressway ready but we will have French-

invested airport ready and buildings to host summits [...]

Infrastructures Laid for Later Generations

We also need to ensure that our country continue to keep going on the path of development. We are working not only airports in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap. We are also looking at possibilities to have another airport in the northeast – the fourth economic pole somewhere between the provinces of Monduliri and Ratanakiri. That would encompass agroindustry, ecotourism, and other sectors altogether to bring our country from lower middle income to higher middle income in 2030 and higher income vision by 2050 [...] whether I will be living until then no one knows, this would be a roadmap of infrastructures for later generations [...]

Thank You China

I depend on the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China to deliver my sincere thanks to President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang as well as the government and people of China for providing always assistance to Cambodia to address our needs of hard and soft infrastructures [...].

I thank our people for cooperating with this project. I am calling on you to resolve project-related land impacts along five provinces – Phnom Penh, Kandal, Kompong Speu, Koh Kong, and Preah Sihanouk [...] they should not ask for too high price [...] the state has a law on expropriation in hands.

In case we cannot resolve the fact of land prices, we may resort to enacting law of expropriation [...] once the state interest requires to do so, I am seeking your understanding (and not to ask for too high a price for land in your belonging) [...]

Saving to Provide Counterpart Funds

For instance, this segment (of National Road 1) at Chbar Ampo, Phnom Penh, Japan spent 12 million USD to rebuild it but

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ble task? [...] how many standard would there be? They should rethink their moves. Cambodia has its peacekeeping troops in Central African Republic, Mali, South Sudan, Sudan, Lebanon, and is preparing to join a quick operation team too [...]

In ASEAN, Cambodia has had more than ten years history of having troops serving in (the UN) peacekeeping operations. We have fulfilled responsibly this international obligation. Some have considered Cambodia a strange beast instead [...]

I am sorry that I used this language but [...] Cambodia, while engaging in internal affairs and international relations on the basis of equality and equal footing, has, under the UN umbrella, assisted friends too [...]

[C20]

In just a few more days, we will put the Cambodian-Japanese Friendship Bridge, about to finish repairing or we can say almost rebuilding, into official use on 3 April. We will cross the bridge altogether before the Khmer New Year.

Let us celebrate the Khmer New Year this year with joys and well wishing. I wish you all good health and successes [...]

■

the Royal Government had to pay 14 million USD for impacts compensation [...]

As for early this year, not even three months yet, I have signed out spending a sum of nearly 100 million USD as counterpart funds. We are providing counterpart funds of three, five and six million USD to numerous projects [...] in some instances we have had to purchase people's land [...]

It is on this remark that I always hold on to principle of keeping capital in hand to provide as counterpart funds when it is required. Sometimes the share of counterpart fund is up to 30% (of the total project costs) [...]

(Continued from page 1)
Virtue and Moral of Civil Servants, Armed Forces and People in General

Please pay attention to strengthening virtue and moral for students. There have been issues that are inflicting controversial issues on virtue and culture. What have been the most urgent issues are drug and traffic accidents. I think it is high time for us to educate not only students but also the armed forces and civil servants in general. In the last few days, there have been so many problems. It is a good thing that the Kratie military police head brought out his son to take responsibility for his act of pointing a gun at someone in conflict. There was also this case of accusing someone as thief and taking extrajudicial actions [...] these have happened because there were no virtue in them. A car hit a (female) student on motorbike from behind and caused her to die yesterday. Concerned authority must seek for the person who caused accident [...]

French Culture and Language in Cambodia

As we have here graduated teachers of French language, let me have your attention that there are three Francophone countries in Asia – Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam [...] what happened is every time I met with French leaders like former President Jacques Chirac, we conducted dialogue in English [...]. I remember giving my opinion to French members of parliaments and officials when I was Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs [...] I told them the fading prospect of French language in Cambodia as many who know French died, and not many who learnt French.

I advised to reopen the Alliance Francaise or French Cultural Center in Cambodia. A member of parliament then rebuked me with the fact that France did not recognize the Cambodian government [...] I told them it was my real intention for them to keep French language in Cambodia. I told them they

should know that even after 90 years of French rule Cambodia has kept its identity and language [...] and secondly, besides French, we have English and I have sent many Cambodian students to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe too [...] it was until 1990, France hurriedly came with Alliance Francaise. It was a rather late process [...]

French Language Used in Medicine, Law and Administration

There was a time when French language saved my life [...] when I crossed the Cambodian-Vietnamese border in search for support to liberate the country (from the Pol Pot's Democratic Kampuchea). In many of interrogations conducted by Vietnamese military officials, there were confusions and misinterpretation of the number of troops under my command [...] finally I asked if the interrogator speak any French. I just know a few about military unit hierarchy [...] the French term helped us resolved the misunderstanding [...]

However, French is still a language we use in medicine, law and even in administration. We will continue to work with the Francophone community for the progress of French language. In November this year, the Phnom Penh municipality will host a meeting of over a hundred Francophone countries mayors. In Cambodia, we have listed Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Kompot, and Battambang in the list of French-speaking cities community. Should the French came with Alliance Francaise and (school of Rene) Descartes earlier we could still have many French speaking people now. At present, many who learnt French speak English instead [...]

Fewer Holidays from Next Year

I have contributed to National Institute of Education for the banquet and for hosting a journey to Siem Reap to see Angkor Wat. Some of you may have visited it already but traveling there more often to appre-

ciate and to learn more about our temples would not be a bad thing [...] I had to go through an urgent document relating to reforms and I will pronounce the package on this coming Friday (29 March 2019). Let me share with you one thing about it. Cambodia is a poor country but we have observed more holidays per annum than other rich countries do. For instance, in Singapore they observe only 11 days of holidays per year while Cambodia observes 28 or thirty days. We need to readjust the number and way we observe holidays to accommodate business (demands for time and labors), while demanding for high wages [...]

Making Cambodia Independent, Depending on No Favor from Anyone

We have to take measures to ensure that Cambodia will become a country with development whether there is or is not favors from anyone. We are to depend more on our own strength. We must not allow our country to suffer insult from anyone. We must not allow our country to implement things that are concerns of others. They should also learn of the Royal Government and people's concerns. They pressurize us to listen to their concerns [...]

One way to achieve this goal is to cut out whatever is not necessary – for instance, scanning of goods on risk observation only, etc. in order to facilitate trade flow [...] we also removed Camcontrol (of the Cambodia Import-Export Inspection and Fraud Repression Directorate-General) and KAMSAB (Kampuchea Shipping Agency & Brokers) from the process, while bringing down prices of electricity. If countries required Cambodia paying tax for exports to them, we would do it. We will take out the language “this is what I gave you so you needed to do this or I would take it back.”

Not Everything in Cambodia Is Foreign Aid and Loans

In the past, they had done more

to Cambodia. They embargoed us politically and economically. Cambodia under Hun Sen's leadership survived. Cambodia is still under Hun Sen's leadership. Hun Sen continues to lead active economic policies. We had achieved (average) 7.5% growth so far. We will maintain around 7% growth onward [...] I will need a lot of energy on this coming Friday for the two to two and a half hour lecture on reforms that Cambodia is going for [...] currently, not everything in Cambodia is foreign aid and loans [...]

We have invested hundreds of millions of USD from own saving in many projects [...] companies are getting themselves ready to fulfil tax duties since one day that will come when our economy is getting to certain level of achievements. I have laid down terms “exercising internal reforms, making friends abroad, keeping abreast independence.” We are making everyone our friends and trading partners. They us taxes and we do to them too [...] for instance, faced with tough competition on rice quality and marketing, Italy proposed to the European Union to levy tax on Indica rice from Cambodia and Myanmar. We could still export to Europe [...] 300,000 metric tons to Vietnam and 400,000 metric tons to China. Some has said s/he would come and rule when Hun Sen fell. S/he could not do it her/himself. What a nice thing to say [...]

Long-Serving Prime Minister in Cambodian History

In 1998, Samdech Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod, the King Father, said in Siem Reap to many people present that they should accept fate or destiny. Hun Sen is destined to be Prime Minister. Take for instance, the King Father said, “I did not want to be King but they summoned me from Prey Nokor (Saigon or currently Ho Chi Minh City) to be one.” In Cambodia, there had never been anyone holding the post of Prime Minister more than 30 years as I do [...] the Cambodi-

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an People's Party has been in power for over 40 years and Hun Sen has been in power for 34 years. To include four more years (of this term) I will be here in power for 38 years. I would continue until 2028 before going into retirement [...]

Widening Attacks Make CPP and Hun Sen's Supporters Solidarity Stronger

(Those politicians) have now expanded their attacks not only on Hun Sen but also to the Hun family line. Let us go on then. They open attack on my children who have nothing to do (with our fight.) They may go on to my grandchildren.

In seeing that, they may go on with me on this. The more you do it, the stronger solidarity the Cambodian People's Party and Hun Sen's supporters will build. You have widen your targets of attacks and you have caused unpleasant feelings on many.

If that is the way to do in politics, I doubt if in your life you will succeed. What makes the person calls on the military to rise up (in arms against the Royal Government?). The Cambodian people need peace and will welcome the Khmer New Year soon with Ramvong [...]

(B) PPIU Graduation and Diploma Presenting Ceremony 25 March 2019

Widening Capacity to Participate with International Institutions

The more competitions we are in and the more works we are involved the better. We have not made active participations in international institutions yet for instance UN, UNESCO, ADB, World Bank, etc. Our military officials have been working closely now to affiliate not only as operators but also as parts of the commanding and chief of staff positions [...] especially after there was that incident that happened to the Cambodian peacekeeping troops in the Republic of Central Africa. I have made a sug-

gestion to the UN commands in place to reorganize forces [...] to amend the shortcomings.

Last week, I gave my signature to release a sum of 15 million USD to equip the Cambodian peacekeeping troops with armoured vehicles. We request the UN to finance the need but we find out that the UN is in financial difficulty. We cannot withdraw our troops (dues that shortcoming) irresponsibly. We cannot leave our troops without equipment to protect them at works too [...]

Samdech Pichey Sena Tia Banh will attend the UN meeting in New York with the Secretary General and countries who have involved in peacekeeping troops [...] this has clearly indicated our military capability in taking parts in the world peacekeeping missions [...]

Military Police Head in Kratie Must Convince Son to Report Himself

A son of the head of military police in Kratie had used his gun to point at someone. The court of Kompong Cham has now summoned him. The head of Kratie military police must convince his son to report himself to the court of Kompong Cham. If you are to let your son go off on that, you will lose your rank. I would just strip your rank off. Where does the son get the gun from and has he the right to hold one? [...] do not attempt to use your position to conceal your son's actions [...]

I also send my condolences to victims in another case shot dead while accused of being thieves [...] Samdech Krola Haom Sar Kheng ordered arrests and one of them has been caught [...] an armed operation must not use arms to decide the case [...]

Issue 1 – Authority to Distinguish Rehabilitated Political Right from None

Besides what I have to talk concerning education, I have three issues to bring to your attentions as well as to our competent authorities of every levels. First-

ly, I have talked about persons who have accused Hun Sen to purchase politicians at 100,000 USD or 200,000 USD even. I said to them already that if they allow their organizations and men divided by others, it should have proven that they are incapable [...]

My topic today is about authority at every levels to distinguish between those politicians who have their rights rehabilitated and those who have not requested for ones. Those with rehabilitated right must be entitled to a full right to carry out his activities [...]

I am encouraged that many political parties – those members and non-members of the Supreme Council for Consultations and Recommendations, have registered for the Senate elections and get themselves ready for the communal elections in 2022.

Let me remind you that a political party dissolved by law and political rights of 118 politicians banned for five years. We have later amended the law on political parties to allow rehabilitation of political rights prior to the five years mandated by the Supreme Court [...]

- *Authorities to Facilitate Resumptions of Political Rights* – through their conventions of meetings of their supporters [...] HE Real Khemarin (of the dissolved party) arrived at the Phnom Penh International Airport yesterday and said something on Facebook [...] indicating that he is back to his full political rights. He may go wherever he needs to. It is his decision. It is a democratic process in Cambodia. Other like Kong Korm and Kong Bora have already done that.

- *No Activities Allowed Under Dissolved Party* – I reckon there would be another group of politicians to receive their rights and will launch a press conference. They have rights to meetings and gatherings with supporters. I just have to confirm that no activities allowed under the banner of the dissolved political party. They may meet their former supporters under

whatever form they may choose to but not under the name of banned political party [...]

- *Activities without Political Rights Rehabilitated, Illegal* – I wish to clarify that anyone without his/her political rights rehabilitated tries to carry out political activities, s/he will be treated as violating law. Actions taken. Those with rights restored and those who have not had ones [...] if you do not take the chance, you must wait until November 2022 [...]

- *Do They Want Cambodia to Follow Thailand or Myanmar?* Cambodia has dissolved a political party committing mistake one year before the elections. Thailand just had their elections yesterday [...] in Thailand, they dissolved a political party during the elections campaign. What do they think about that? [...] I do not mean to interfere in other countries' affairs. I have made my points to some people and asked their opinions if they would like Cambodia to follow Thailand or even Myanmar? In Myanmar, they have set a 25% quota of seats in the parliament. In Thailand, 250 senators have rights to vote choosing a Prime Minister. A country has had its own particular context [...]

- *(Foreign) Concerns Expressed Are Not Law (for Cambodia) to Implement* – I read a report yesterday [...] about all this and I wrote back “*their concerns are not law for us to implement. Some countries expressed their concerns on this or that issues on Cambodia. Have you in fact listened to our concerns? Our needs? Please do not use this or that to threaten us*” [...] I met elder sister Eva (Mysliwiec) who had lived with us since 1979 before she left a while ago back to Mali, a country she worked before coming to Cambodia [...] with her, I built a school in Bamako, Mali. It has closed down now not by the government but because there was a demonstration against the government and demanding closure of the school [...] there does not seem to be justice in this world. Everyone accepts there is a special

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