

Showering Appointed Buddhist Monks

(17 January 2020 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)



28 February 2020 - Samdech Techo Hun Sen showered the three newly Deputy Directors of Buddhist Monks

Showering Ceremony Indicates Faith in Buddhism

My humble respects to the two Buddhist Sangharajas, Samdech Sanghas Niayuok (Buddhist Monks' Director), and Samdech Sanghas Niayuok Rong (Buddhist monks' Vice Director), and compatriots. I am so happy to be present here with Samdech, Excellencies, Lok Chimteavs, and Buddhist followers to celebrate the showering ceremony for the three new-

ly appointed Deputy Directors of Buddhist monks [...] Samdech Podhivung Am Limheng, the first Deputy Director, Samdech Preah Vannaroth Noy Chroek, the second Deputy Director, and Samdech Uddam Vongsa Muong Ra, the third Deputy Director [...]

[...] Parishioners of the pagoda and Buddhism participating in this showering ceremony for the

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Measures to Manage Covid-19 & EBA Impacts

(24 February 2020 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

In addition to the message on "Measures Taken to Manage Impacts from Covid-19 Related Pneumonia and Suspension of Tax Favor on a Number of Goods under (Everything But Arms) Program," Samdech Techo made the following off-the-cuff elaborations and comments:

Today we are conducting the meeting of the Supreme Council for Consultations and Recommendations (SCCR). Before we are going into the meeting, I have a message to deliver to our

compatriots relating to recent developments [...] I hope that members of the SCCR will benefit from macroeconomic inputs over what we normally discussed about land conflict issues [...]

Supporting Measures for Tourism

(From text: to exercise tax exemptions (i.e. the state will pay for them) that hotels/guesthouses registered for businesses in Siem Reap province for a period of four months from

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Welcome Stranded Westerdam Passengers

(14 February 2020 — Extensive Excerpt and Unofficial Translation)

No Cambodian Infected by CoViD-19

Today I am so glad to welcome you who have been stranded on this cruise ship for days. Though Cambodia is poor, Cambodia is sparing no efforts to resolve, together with international community, the issue (of CoViD-19 infection) faced by the region and the world. Maybe I should inform our compatriots about my decision to allow docking of the cruise ship stranded for days at sea and to enable passenger to continue their journeys back home. As I have said earlier, the real problem is not the CoViD-19 or novel coronavirus as we called it before but fear since when [...] there was one Chinese

infected, got cured and went back already to China.

Treatments Needed for Fear and Discrimination

Days ago, on 10 February, I made a statement that the most dangerous sickness in the region and the world is fear and dis-

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National Road 58 Inaugurated

(26 February 2020 — Excerpts and Unofficial Translation)

National Road 58 – Border City of Poi Pet and Uddar Meanjei's Samraong City

I am so happy to return to Banteay Meanjei once again after my presence last year to join with Prime Minister Prayuth Chan Ocha of the Kingdom of Thailand to connect the rail links and opening of the Stoeung Bot pass – another achievement of cooperation between the Kingdom of Cambodia and Thailand. Today, with Ambassador Wang Wentian and our people here, we are putting into official use the national road 58 of 174 Km running between the border city of Poi Pet and Uddar Meanjei's city of Samraong, under the financial assistance from the People's Republic of China and the Royal Government's counterpart fund.

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Royal School of Administration

(25 February 2020 — Excerpts and Unofficial Translation)

RSA Trained Administration Officials at National and Subnational Levels

I am so glad to be able to preside over once again the graduation, diploma presenting, and opening of new courses ceremonies of the Royal School of Administration. As an honorary professor of the RSA, I do not have chance to give you lessons but only to meet graduates at every closing ceremony [...] I followed the report of Minister of Public Function, HE Pich Bunthin, attentively and I have a great appreciation for the role that the school plays in training human resource for the (administrative) management. The school plays important roles in training officials for

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three Buddhist monks' deputy directors indicated faith in Buddhism [...] (as the first Deputy Director of the Buddhist monks, Samdech Preah Dhamma Likheth Luos Lay passed away,) we did not have a chance to appoint a new one in his replacement [...]. We did not even have time to consult this with Samdech Tep Vong, the Supreme Patriarch [...] a few months back, the Supreme Patriarch Samdech Tep Vong fell ill and hospitalized. As he now is recovering, the Minister of Religious Affairs falls ill and is in hospital [...] showering to bless the newly appointed monks is a custom [...]

Maha Nikaya and Dhammayuttika Nikaya Coexist Peacefully

As Prime Minister, I am doing whatever is required of me to do for the sake of racial and religious harmonization. You may have learnt already that in the world, many countries have had religious conflicts and suffered terrorist acts because of it [...] to manage a state requires racial and religious harmonization. It is a big issue and it helps prevent a nation from division. The good thing about our country is we do not have religious conflict. I have noticed that though we have two Buddhist sects – Maha Nikaya and Dhammayuttika Nikaya, the two coexist peacefully [...]

Cambodia is observing monarchy through appointment. The King does not have power to appoint a regency. The Constitution clearly stipulated it is the job of the Throne Council, which consists of nine people – President and two Vice Presidents of the Senate, President and Two Vice Presidents of the National Assembly, the Prime Minister, and the two Supreme Patriarchs from both Buddhist nikayas. It is on this note that I have instructed concerned institutions to organize seating accordingly [...] to avoid criticism that the Royal Government pays attention to one but not the other [...]

Buddhist Monks to Defend

Peace

[...] Stemming from peace, we have secured the present day situation. Buddhist monks can contribute to keeping peace [...] Cambodia went through long protracted wars of destruction. Religions had been absent in the country under war and the regime of genocide. Dues to protracted war, Buddhist monks also divided, some supported this (political) side and some to the other side [...] we should not let our country suffer division that will bring about devastating war [...]. Buddhist monks should pursue roles of educating followers to defend nation, religion and King. In order to defend religion and King, first, we must have peace and defend peace [...]

Whenever state misleads, there will be negative repercussion on religion. In reality, as they launched a coup to bring down Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk on 18 March 1970, a wrong decision made by politicians, the country plunged into war. Buddhist pagodas, churches, and mosques went ablaze because of bombardments and artilleries of all sorts. On the contrary, in the whole country, we have now 4,985 Buddhist pagodas. With 15 more, we will reach 5,000. How could we have this many pagodas? It was because we have correct leadership of the secular world [...]

Four Indications of Progress in Religions

In relation to progresses made in religion, I could try to suggest four indications. **Firstly, correct political platform of ruling party on religions.** It is very important. For the past 41 years, with its manifesto on religion, the Cambodian People's Party offered chance for every religion to progress [...]. **Secondly, people's beliefs on religions.** People are entirely free either to believe or not believe in any religions [...] religions continue to exist or not would be up to people's beliefs [...]. **Thirdly, people make progress regarding their living conditions.** This suggests a close relation between Buddhist

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spond to your wish [...] if for that dissatisfaction, you wanted to leave Cambodia, you may do so. We do not have right to chase you out but if you feel this country is inappropriate for your way of life, you may leave [...]

We have export a size of roughly 14 billion USD, among which about four billion USD to the member countries of the European Union. Over ten billion USD we export to other countries beside this group. Out

and secular worlds. Should people have difficulties in their living conditions, people would not be able to offer even alms, not to mention contribution to build temples [...], and **fourthly, interdependent relations between Buddhist and secular worlds.** The two go in tandem. With one and without the other, the journey is impossible. As I said earlier, once the secular world went a wrong way, the Buddhist world was in jeopardy. It is a complementary relation, helping each other [...] secular world also benefits from religions because they educate people to exercise good deeds [...]

The Bridges Ready, Areykhsatr and Lovea Em Will Be Phnom Penh's New Khan

The place that we are now was formerly a part of Kandal province. With its expansion of development, we had to include it into Phnom Penh. More will be so in the future. Once we have the bridges (over the Mekong) ready, we would have Areykhsatr and Lovea Em parts of Phnom Penh. There would be a new Khan. Once I have said that, land prices would go up. We are planning to build two bridges. We asked the Republic of Korea to help build one bridge (to cross the Mekong) from Jroy Jangva to Areykhsatr. (We are looking for help to) build another one to cross (the Mekong) at Kdey Takoy on national road 1 to Lovea Em on the other side [...] that is what we have to do because we are in era of development [...].

of four billion USD, we are obliged to pay tax on just over one billion USD goods, since UK already left EU. We export over one billion USD to the UK.

Today, I am delivering a clear message that Cambodia is not backtracking on its commitment for traitors to go on trial. They may have to see this clearly. What they have done they have to memorize it. They had made 29 December 2013 their final assault to overthrow. After their decisions, mayhem happened along the Veng Streng road in late 2013 and early 2014. How many people died? Vandalism caused, who would pay for them? There is no forgiveness. We are a country ruled by law and in a democratic framework, we must be responsible before our nation [...]

I hope that political parties here present share this thought with me [...] we have 40 registered political parties at the Ministry of Interior [...] and in 2018, 20 of them took parts in the elections. As of now, 16 political parties are sitting in here working directly with the Prime Minister and the Royal Government. This is a much bigger power than the one exercised by opposition parties in the National Assembly. They would not have chance to sit and talk with Prime Minister and/or have Minister reported to them as they would do to the CSSR [...]

Even if they decided to take not 20% but all of it, it would be entirely up to them. We cannot trade our law and sovereignty with favor. I have retained my position. We do not beg them to reconsider their decision on 12 August, when they will start their suspension decision. I will not beg. Cambodian sovereignty is not a subject for negotiation. They should not seek to negotiate with Cambodia for a dismissal of allegation or for court to do this or that, or to beg the Prime Minister to seek for royal pardon, I would say no. It will be the Prime Minister's discretion what he wants or does not want to do. As you have already embarked on that

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February through to May 2020 [...]

[...] by tax exemption here, we meant state would pay tax on their behalves. They already paid tax before. We cannot use the term tax exemption here. We talked about “tax exemption” here for the sake of easiness to understand, while in fact the state is paying those taxes exempted on them. We do not exercise it as in general [...] we do it only in Siem Reap province where we normally have foreign tourists coming [...] now tourists’ arrivals declined sharply [...]

[...] let me affirm that Cambodian officials in related institutions must scale down their participations to meetings abroad. Where it is possible, we should send our Ambassador to the meetings instead. Where there has invitation for ten to participate, we may send only three or four officials instead. As for the meetings inside the country, there should be more in provinces, especially in Siem Reap than in Phnom Penh. I think of having the Cabinet meeting in Siem Reap so that the province can host local tourists [...]. The Supreme Council of Consultations and Recommendations may convene meetings in Siem Reap province to offer chance for hotels and restaurants to do businesses [...]

[...] As a number of flights have canceled [...] there is still uncertainty about disease that we are in the state of taking precaution. In this regard, over one million of Cambodians who normally traveled abroad every year should think of touring the country instead, giving priority especially to Siem Reap province [...] to help sustain tourism that is facing decline of tourists’ arrivals [...] I am calling on owners/managers of hotels to consider lowering their room rates [...] rather than keeping their hotels empty [...]

[...] We organized national-level Sangkranta before. Since last year, we no longer hold it at national level anymore. Provinces can continue to do it [...]

Siem Reap can have Siem Reap Sangkranta. I urge music bands to organize concerts in Siem Reap to attract tourists along with religious or sports programs [...] let me affirm to you as to why we do not cancel selling (of tickets to visit the temples) to attract tourists? As you can see, buying a one-day temple tour ticket now, foreign tourists can see our temples for two days. It is already a way of doing so [...]

I may add some comments here before we are talking about garments sector. Our tourism suffered impacts from fear and discrimination. However, as of this moment, no Cambodian has infected with Covid-19. I am sure tourists will regain confidence and return. The fact that Malaysia declared that American woman clear of Covid-19 and confirmation from the US have restored confidence for more tourists’ arrivals to the country [...]

On this occasion, I would have to make a clarification on comment on Facebook of someone going to the airport to fetch his daughter coming from China. He claimed on his account that he and his daughter were not being inspected while they were at the airport and he wrote “oh, my Cambodia.” Let me tell the younger brother and the young niece to go back to the airport to see how we monitor and look for people with possible symptoms. We have wall cameras through which operators sitting behind those walls monitored and scanned passengers [...]

I hope our people can learn about this. We do not monitor temperature with hand-held tool but with face scanning machines. We have scanning machines at every entries and we do not have to hold the tools to point at everyone’s heads. Once they spot someone with symptoms, they would invite the person in for further inspection. I suggest the man and his daughter go back to see it with their own eyes to clear their minds if they should think I or the Ministry of Health are lying. The Ministry of Health has had this experience since 2003 and

we placed those machines even before the World Health Organization declare the virus outbreak, even. I just urge our people to have more trust in responsibility of the Royal Government and the Ministry of Health [...]

I thank the Minister of Health and other health officials for their efforts to fight with the disease. We also have our quarantine officials at every entry – air, land and water, with temperature scanning machines [...] the scanning machines even take picture of anyone suspected of having high temperature and may have escaped. We have his/her picture to look for him/her [...]

Supporting Measures for Garments, Shoes and Bags

(From text: for factories-enterprises that suspend production for a short time because of lack of raw materials, factories-enterprises would pay 40% of workers’ and employees’ salaries (calculated based on the minimum monthly salary of 190 USD for 2020), while the Royal Government covers another 20% of the minimum salary (together will make a coverage of 60% of their salary).

[...] this meant that workers would receive from factories-enterprises based on their minimum monthly salary 190 USD, 40% coverage while the Royal Government would share another 20%. For their minimum salary of 190 USD, Cambodian workers would continue to receive around 120 USD [...]

Let me also add that once you lose your jobs (at factories/enterprises) you must take training courses, where you will receive skill training and 120 USD per month for a period of six months. For the six-months period, you will receive training for four months with 120 USD per month pay and 240 USD for another two months for you to take care of your expenses while looking for jobs.

Having come to this point, people may take note that Cambodia has prepared itself for no return of EBA suspended by the

European Union. Let me affirm to the Cambodian people and politicians that Cambodia would not ask for a return of the 20% EBA. There may not be any lobby on this. Politicians in Cambodia also do not nurture hope that “the ghost would live again.” Cambodia has prepared its mind for the 20% loss. We will continue to export the remaining 80%, whereas we export and pay tax on the 20% they suspended [...]

Cambodia will not trade its law and sovereignty for the 20% favor. They may decide whatever they wish. Hun Sen will not ask for favor, or to veto, and/or to oppose. Let them implement their decisions. However, I am sure they understand, Cambodia is resolute on the path it has selected. Analysts may need to remember that we cannot act according to your intention to trade Cambodian sovereignty for it. This is a country with independence and sovereignty. If we cannot protect and implement our own laws, how could we be a country? [...]

As for workers, I think you should not be concerned. The Royal Government is capable of taking such responsibility. We will keep up exporting of 80% of the goods to the markets and for the 20% goods they suspended we continue to export but pay tax. Excluding UK, tax calculation on goods exported to Europe would tax us around 100 million USD [...] there is no deal to trade sovereignty for 100 million USD. We will not let those who destroyed the nation to go free. Legal procedures will continue [...]

They may implement their laws. We are implementing our laws. In Thailand, they just dissolve a political party with seats in the National Assembly and politicians banned for ten years [...] while they decided to play this game, we must deal with it to defend national independence and sovereignty. If you wanted us to do what the European Commission wanted, we would not be able to re-

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crimination. Now more than ever, we have seen the truth about discrimination and there's demands of effective medicines through the role played by World Health Organization (WHO). May I share with the Cambodian people a fact that if we were to turn them away, where would the more than 2,000 people on board go? [...]

Even with CoViD-19, Cambodia Would Receive Patients for Treatments

Some people or country may ask whether Cambodia would allow docking if people on the cruise ship were infected? I can assure clearly that I would let them in as soon as we could. The reason would be would we leave the infected to die on board the ship? This should bring everyone to see world responsibility, or those as responsible members of the international community [...]

No Time for Fear and Discrimination but Solidarity

Let me inform the Cambodian people that I may be here for a short time but let me send a message to our people in the whole country, the international community that this is no time for fear and discrimination but for solidarity to resolve challenging issue that has been threatening not only one but many countries already.

Cambodia Observes Human Rights Respect

That I am here, I also wanted to affirm to the Cambodian people that should I get infected because of welcoming (stranded) citizens from 41 nations today, it would be a sacrifice that I could make for the sake of humanity. What human rights are we talking about if right to life is not observed?

Cambodia is mainly taking responsibility on respect of human rights. Primarily, we must render respect to life of more than 2,000 people from 41 nations on board the ship. Cambodia is performing actions relating to human rights respect and it is right to life, to no discrimi-

nation, and to return to native country safely. I think our people should understand and take pride (of this action). I thank the Cambodian people for their encouragements and support to my decision to allow the stranded ship to dock in Cambodia.

From Cambodia, the people from 41 nations will be returning to their countries to reunite with families without fear [...] a woman burst into tear because of her joy. Would we be able to leave them castaway at sea? We must take responsibility as human beings [...]

Approved US Embassy's Request for Westerdam's Port of Call

I thank the US Embassy for making contact with relevant Cambodian institutions, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and another quick channel, HE Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister and Minister of Public Works and Transportation, who also managed the port. I approved the ship to dock before 10am on 11 February as Senior Minister Sun Chanthol called me to report about the US Embassy's request and information about denials be previous ports and the ship itself almost ran out of food stock.

Once he finished, I said "welcome" and asked him to prepare for the ship's call and docking as soon as we could. My concern was for people who might be sick. In that case we might have to expedite docking to get them to medical attention and treatment. We must not let them die on the ship. It is our responsibility, at least morale and humanitarianism.

Passengers Can Visit Preah Sihanouk or Continue to Visit Siem Reap

I thank the Director General of WHO for his statement supporting Cambodia and he wished to talk to me on phone. I will meet him when this rescue operation ends. We have more works to do. Today only over one hundred passengers disembark the ship and more will do later. Today, I offer a chance for pas-

sengers on board the ship to visit the Preah Sihanouk province and if they wish they could continue their journey to visit Siem Reap province, we will facilitate their journeys, for instance four airplanes of Cambodia Airways are ready to fly them there.

Cambodian People Should Not Discriminate Against and Fear Westerdam Passengers

I am asking Senior Minister Sun Chanthol and governor Kuoch Chamroeun to make sure they have chance to enjoy bathing and visiting recreation sites as we're proposed by the US envoys [...] hotels and restaurants in Preah Sihanouk must not discriminate against and fear them. Should there be infection, I would be the first to get infected. I have strong hope that the Cambodian people are taking responsibility as a contributor to uplifting right to life, freedom of movement, and free from discrimination [...]

Cambodia Has Not Much Resource but Strong Big Heart

I am asking our people to understand clearly moral and humanitarian responsibility that we must be part of. We may not have much property/resource as other countries but we have strong big heart to save stranded passengers on board castaway ship. How disheartens would we be if we were them that port of call was denied from one to another [...]

I support the declaration of the Director General of WHO that this is the time for solidarity to resolve challenging issue. Cambodia will continue to take part with international community to resolve every issues that Cambodia can. What we have done on this matter has not outstretched Cambodia's capacity. Cambodia can do it. Welcome (Westerdam) passengers to visit Preah Sihanouk city.

Test Results – Nobody Infected; Please Call the Port Again in the Future

We had taken a swift measure yesterday delivering suspicious

medical sample by helicopter to the Institute of Pasteur in Phnom Penh. Twenty passengers with suspicious symptoms were quarantined. None later found to be infected. Please do not fear of spreading infection. May the Cambodian people maintain dignity and hospitality to our guests who are in our country after their fear at sea. If, after their fear at sea, we make them fear on land, I think we do not have pride as the Cambodian nation that is exercising moral and humanitarian responsibilities [...] I hope the ship will call on our port again in the future. We will welcome them.

Safe Stay in Cambodia

I thank WHO and concerned embassies for having confidence in Cambodia to let the ship in and dock at our port. Cambodia is taking every responsibility for passengers' safety while staying in Cambodia. Departures may have been rescheduled because of rearrangements of flight booking. They therefore may have to stay five, six or seven days. I can affirm however that Cambodia would charge them no service fee even if they have to stay one month. We demand no money. All we want is sympathy to support the ship to resolve issue that stranded passengers are returning to their countries safely. I wish you all successes and joys during your stay in the Kingdom of Cambodia. Thank you very much./☐

for me [...]

Central Level Officials Should Not Take Posts at Sub-national/Local Levels

I would remind of servile persons. To keep them out, the best way to do so is for the mayor/governors and the president of the municipal/provincial councils are in tune with each other [...] I am taking a firm stand on this suggestion that no officials from central level should be allowed to take posts at the sub-national or local levels. Let people there work on preparing and arranging their teams [...] let them choose people from their lower ranks [...]/☐

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management at national and subnational levels [...]

Modernization and Reform Start with Human

We are in the mode of conducting reform. From where do we start? No matter how modern our tools would be, without upgraded knowledge and knowhow persons/human, nothing good would come out of it [...] to modernize and to carry out reforms we must start with human resource. To build up and strengthen institutions – both state and private, it demands strong human resource. We continue to provide training for officials from national and sub-national levels, though some of the topics and affairs would not require concentration of officials at schools.

Certain developments requires meetings, researches and short-term training at places to bolster response of officials [...] some foreign friends here may have not had listened to my elaborations and recommendations for officials in this school. Today, ambassadors and others will have a chance to hear what I am going to talk about to the government officials before they return to their positions and responsibilities. Let me first of all remind our graduates that you needed to remind yourselves that you are the servants of the people, and not the boss [...] we are the faithful servants of our people.

Staying Make People Like, Leaving Make People Miss

(Only when we have done so) we are becoming good officials whom people can place their trusts. Otherwise, failing to do so, you may transform to bad ones whom people distrust [...] ego leads to devastation for officials. That is my experience. I came through this for over 50 years already, taking into consideration my struggle started in 1970, and 41 years, involving being in power, whereby 35 years in the office of the Prime Minister [...] ego as officials, lack of moral on people, would lead to people's detests of leaders [...]. There is this saying

“the standing up rice panicle shows no graining, bowing panicle certifies graining.” Once you are polite and friendly to people, you will have their loves as there is a saying “staying to make people like, and leaving to make people miss” [...]

Any Case of Factories Works Suspension, Workers Receive 60% of Salaries

I already made a declaration yesterday that in any circumstances that factories production suspended because of interrupted supply of raw materials due to spread of Covid-19, (workers of factories suspended productions) would receive in all 60% of their salaries – 40% comes from the factories and 20% comes from the Royal Government. In case the factories closed down, workers would receive 120 USD per month for six months. In order to receive the salary, workers would then have to go for training for four months and each month they get 120 USD, plus another two months of 240 USD for them before they could find the next jobs [...]

Two Types of Officials from Force Majeure

While pursuing the task of dealing with force majeure, there comes two types of officials. Firstly, those who report to senior levels and blame those junior level officials. They are no good officials. We must send them to school or put them in certain jobs that requires no high-level responsibilities. I think it is time we are dealing with this kind of officials [...] there is this other type of officials who tries to fulfil their tasks and shared bad and good time with those junior level officials. Procedurally, one must report to senior level but one must see herself/himself on the spot to resolve the problem. This kind of officials must reward with higher appointments [...]

Let me therefore remind you that in leadership and working methodology, it is primarily important to organize a good and certain plan ratifying every

aspects around. You may refrain from organizing plans that are too ambitious to implement. With a good plan, you needed to set for implementation. As I said earlier, the two steps are not yet suffice. We must be preparing to respond to what might happen accidentally – for instance, (in the course of what happened from impacts from Covid-19) we have to think of how to rescue (our economy) in five months. If it prolongs, what shall we do then, for instance [...]

Thinking of Inflicting Harm on China Has Turned On Oneself

Impacts have happened on tourism. It is a tourism season but tourists' arrival is low. This has caused loss of incomes on those who used to benefit from tourists' activities. There have been impacts on productions lines of some enterprises receiving raw materials from China. As far as I know, some countries, not only Cambodia, have imported materials from China are suffering from lack of materials. Some countries are figuring out ways to hinder China while arguing that China's influence would be so and so [...]

This morning I read a piece of news. A shirt brand well known in Europe is no longer available because they could not get materials out from China [...] it is in this note that I have this thought that every developed countries in the world – Europe, US, China, who are locomotives of growth, continue to realize economic progresses. Their progresses would lead to progresses in countries like ours.

Unfaithful Brings about Wrong Judgment

Being unfaithful would bring cloud judgment or bring about wrong judgment. Leaders must be certain and aware of reports as fake facts would deceive them. Once you know that your decision is wrong, you must correct it quickly. I think this is an advice for our officials when they returned to their responsibilities. Ones must continue to learn always. There is no end to

learning. In addition to these, the world evolves fast, especially in the era of industry 4.0 and digital economy. This has required us to follow seriously and make sound judgment, while putting up a comprehensive and effective plan of action [...]

I stand firm over 41 years among politicians and I never used weapons to suppress anyone. Well, we use weapons when it requires [...] under Pol Pot regime, we could not demand right to have favor from them. Right to life from them. We could not reason with them to have food or right to life. The only mean to liberate ourselves from the regime was to overthrow them by arms and we had to prevent them from returning to power [...] I stood firm among politicians in the government and in the Party, [...] where I was only 27 years old then. Did I use arms to appoint myself to get the job of Foreign Minister? Deputy Prime Minister and Prime Minister? None. I have growing support in the Party to appoint me to the post of Prime Minister [...]

Resolving Issues Based on People Interests

As I congratulated officials who finished their studies here, I hope you all will take what you have learned to serve your work and those of you who are in course of pursuing the study we will meet again next year. I will talk the same topic to you before you are returning to your works. Just remember this “I am the people's servant.” Whatever we are resolving based on people's interests, we would do no wrong. You would do wrong only when you are partial and biased to other kinds of interest. If you were to take ten million USD out of the 100 million USD road project, for instance, the project would be in limbo.

I think you have learnt this in your lecture on reforms [...] we are making efforts in the reforms of judicial system, public administration, armed forces, and public financial manage-

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Thank People of Banteay Meanjei for Voting CPP

Before talking more about this road, please allow me to take this opportune moment to thank our people in the province of Banteay Meanjei for always voting the Cambodian People's Party in support of my leadership, especially in the general elections of 2018. I am so glad to have joined with people of Cambodia in the whole country and in Banteay Meanjei, particularly, implement important tasks in search of peace, national reconciliation and development.

With supports of the Buddhist monks and people, the Cambodian People's party has more ability to lead, and I continue to stay as Prime Minister. I wish to take this moment to inform you that my role will not be for one day or two days or by 2023. I have an ambition to continue to stay in office until 2028 or even after that. I hope that our people will continue to support the Cambodian People's Party in the forthcoming communal elections in 2022 and the general elections in 2023.

National Roads 56, 58 and 59 Yield Two Goals

Today, we are putting into official use the national road 58 running from the border town of Poi Pet on national 5 through to the city of Samraong of Uddar Meanjei. The road actually allow me to realize two goals at once [...] after implementing win-win policy, I put into practice two goals for our country's development. Firstly, transforming former battlefields into marketplaces and development areas, and secondly, transforming borderline with neighbouring countries into areas of peace, friendship, cooperation, and development [...]

We are proud that this battlefield has now become an area where there is development. I am glad to have participated with other actors to work for our country's unity and reunification [...] along the national road 5 to its north side, the area controlled by three forces – the

former Khmer Rouge, KPNLF and FUNCINPEC/ANS [...] on its southern side, the Khmer Rouge controlled it from Koan Khla through to Malai and Pailin. KPNLF and Funcinpec could not get into those areas. Thanks to win-win policy, Banteay Meanjei in particular, and the Kingdom of Cambodia as a whole, replaced controls by four different factions by the one Royal Government, one armed forces, and HM the King [...]

Without Peace, No Human Rights and No Democracy

This has been the point that Cambodia is proud and in every international forum, we have shared experiences with friends who are interested in understanding the core formula of Cambodia's win-win policy that brought decades-long divided country together. We could not tell people what to do but we could proudly share our responses to people's aspiration to end war and to bring about peace, national unity and to have no more armed conflict. It is on this note that I always have your attention that we must defend peace at all costs. Without peace, no one can speak of human rights, democracy and development. I hope people will work together to defend peace in the Kingdom of Cambodia. As you can see, it is with peace that we can build national road 58.

Chinese Assistance Helps Infrastructural Development

Our inauguration today shows further close relations between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the People's Republic of China. I wish to clarify to those who have misunderstood this relation. Would we have this national road 58 today, or the national road 59 from Banteay Meanjei to Battambang and Pailin, or the national road 57B from Thmor Kuol to the border with Thailand in Battambang?, if we did not have assistance from China? [...] this year we are celebrating the tenth anniversary of comprehensive strategic relations with China [...]

My visit to the People's Republic of China at its hard time,

while other countries dare not, [...] has brought about in China media and among netizens comments "an elegant man on opposite direction" [...] why on opposite direction? Some countries have discriminated Chinese and even moved their citizens out of China. Some closed down flights. I did none of those. I moved no Cambodians out and closed no flights. Chinese people continue to work in Cambodia without discrimination. I visited the People's Republic of China to show our friendship with efforts and people of China in combating Covid-19 [...]

I think that we have made a correct decision for the friendly relations between Cambodia and China. People may want to see at the end of the day what would happen to this relation [...] today we put into official use the national road 58. On 9 March, I will put into official use the national road 55 from Viel Veng in Pursat through to Thmor Da at the border with Thailand. At the same time, I will launch the construction of national road 10 – a brand new road, from Battambang's Samlot through to Koh Kong province under China's financial assistance. Though in trouble (with the Covid-19), China does not cancel its help to build this over 100 Km road from Battambang to Koh Kong. China continues to loan as well as to grant for other projects in Cambodia [...]

Resolving Demanded Raw Materials from China

Ambassador Wang Wentian talked about supplying 60% of cloths demanded in Cambodia as soon as possible from China. I hope that HE Ambassador will help inform the People's Republic of China to figure out sending needed materials to Cambodia [...] I think China and Cambodia can work it out even if we have to bring in cloths/raw materials via air to save factories in Cambodia from closing. China has many planes [...] this would save our workers from job cancelation or loss because closing factories for lack of raw materials. What

we could send by ship, we do it. What we could send by plane, we do it [...] we can think of ensuring supply by air and sea [...]

Though I declared the other day should there be suspension from work temporarily, Cambodian workers are entitled to a 60% pay from their basic salary 190 USD [...] however, I do not want that to happen. I think the best solution is to ship in raw materials in a timely manner [...] some Chinese officials have come and discussed this matter [...] we may spend more on transportation but we can keep jobs and incomes for our workers as the production lines in factories would be able to go on with profits [...]

A Friend in Need Is A Friend Indeed

I would not wish China to face hardships. Because once they did, other countries would too [...] impact of tourism has shaken the world. There are over 100 million Chinese tourists per year visiting foreign countries. That the Chinese cancelled their trips caused business losses to hotels and restaurants. We also have lost up to 90% Chinese tourists because they are now cautious of making journeys. I hope that Chinese tourists will come back later as there is no discrimination against them in Cambodia. After the Chinese economy recovered from Covid-19, I wish to see more tourists coming to Cambodia [...]

I would go on saying that the real disease faced by the region and world is not novel coronavirus but fear. Fear from Covid-19 is one thing but the bigger fear was fear itself and discrimination. Some have adhered to inappropriate behaviours on the matter. It was quite unfortunate. In good time, they look to China for assistance. In bad and sad time, there seemed to be desertion China. Representing Cambodia, Their Majesties the King and the Queen Mother delivered heartfelt messages and financial contributions to China. I did what the Cambodian prov-

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Interior's Reviews & Directives Setting

(14 February 2020 — Extensive Excerpt and Unofficial Translation)

Strict Measures Protect Drivers' and Other Commuters' Lives

I mentioned the other day in the Cambodian People's Party plenum [...] that drivers would have their driving licenses punched every time they are caught abusing traffic rules. For every punch on license, the fine would double. As they reached their third punch, we could suspend their driving right for one or two years, for instance [...]. I support the move and let you concerned official discuss as to how to go about implementing this.

For a brief moment, listening to this measure, some would think that Prime Minister is thinking of punishing people [...] while in fact, we are working strict measure to protect his life, and life of other people traveling in the street [...] it is safety for all [...] we also needed to ensure that commuters wear helmets. It is the best time now to enact the law [...] we must ensure that rules are implemented similarly everywhere. It should not be loose in once place and hard in another [...] whatever we are doing is for helping people protect their lives [...] many already respect the laws. We must work hard to get the remaining number to do so too [...].

We are seeking means and ways to defend our people's lives. We have made efforts to liberate them from deaths under the regime of Pol Pot. We sought for peace for them to bring them out of deaths from war. Why do we leave them to death now? According to calculation, deaths from traffic accident in 2019 was in average 5.5 per day [...] I think with efforts we make, though we may not guarantee no death at all from traffic accident, but we could improve the statistics [...].

No Diplomatic Dispute with Malaysia, Just Asked for Explanation

Our efforts to help with Covid-19 is not over yet. According to

the Secretary of State for Civil Aviation, Mao Havanal, another 200 passengers (from Westerdam cruise ship) are in departure today. More will follow. As of this moment, Minister of Health, HE Mam Bun Heng, confirmed that none on Westerdam infected by novel coronavirus 2019. We thank Thailand for reconfirming that none infected while they arrived Bangkok from Phnom Penh to connect flights. We also thank the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia for confirming that Indonesian crews working in the ship are virus free. We thanked Japan for sharing news that every Japanese aboard the ship arrived to Japan without the virus infection. We thank our friends for their cooperation, and the World Health Organization too.

As for this case of the 83 years old American woman in Malaysia, [...] I am sure, she will talk the truth after she recovered and returned to her country. The truth will be according to her. As for our part, we did not find the virus on her. Where does she get it? Was it from Cambodia, or was it when she arrived in Malaysia? There have been comments [...] that the matter created a diplomatic row between Cambodia and Malaysia [...] let me assure you it was not a row. Cambodia just seeks for explanation [...] as far as the Westerdam cruise ship case is concerned, the fact that everywhere denied port of call, and that Cambodia (offered to let it docking) was a truly humanitarian action. Should Cambodia did not act this way, there would be a humanitarian crisis [...] where would the ship be at this time and it would have faced these problems of no fuel and food [...].

No Such Thing as Covid-19 Used for Political Gains

Some have commented that Hun Sen used Covid-19 as local and external political games. I think they are fools and they should be fool alone. As of this moment, there has no Cambodian

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ment. Every reform fronts must go on. We cannot stay still. We must reform to bring our step in synchronized momentum with our partners in ASEAN. We cannot stay too far behind. Our officials have the need to respond to not only affairs inside the country but also regional and international affairs [...].

Westerdam Passengers and Crew Left Cambodia

We have fulfilled a humanitarian task with regard to passengers and crew of the Westerdam cruise ship. Those passengers left Cambodia many days back now and they leave us no infection of Covid-19. It is a congratulatory move that they found no Covid-19 in Kuala Lumpur on this American pas-

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senger from Westerdam cruise ship. It was a success of our humanitarian action. Cambodia does not need anything much but it would not accept discrimination and insult. We have fulfilled a humanitarian mission for people of 41 different nationalities aboard the ship [...].

Secondly, anyone with money can now buy houses at 70,000 USD and lower free of stamp duty. They have built homes to sell to civil servants and they still have a lot. They now have open sale for people at large. They have houses at 100, 200, and 300 thousand USD, but also houses at 50 or 60 thousands USD as well, prices that are not paying stamp tax. We are working on this to help property developers and to allow people to purchase houses at more affordable prices [...].

In this regard, I suggest that the (Government-Private Sector) Forum invite members of SCCR to participate to have more understanding of the forum [...] it will be the 19th forum of its kind and we will set out new packages of measures to manage and resolve impacts from recent situations – most importantly, the Covid-19 and the 20% EBA suspension [...].

Supporting Measures for Growth

Firstly, about small and medium enterprises. In our country, small and medium enterprises still have abundance of potential. Let us look at the exhibition of domestic products. We have a lot. They have potential to expand. Those products eventually replace some imports but some are also for export. We cannot depend on garments alone [...] Cambodian economy must diversify. What we needed to do was to encourage small and medium enterprises to act as backbones of the economy of the country. We have plenty of raw materials in the country and we can process them to supply local demands and export [...].

dian falling sick of Covid-19. Some went around scaring people about it. I warn their actions with legal measures. A voice file sent to me on telegram said – “many died, but we hid.” How could we hide this from their families, if what they said was true? The Royal Govern-

ment has nothing to hide.

The Royal Government have had hospitals ready – the Cambodian-Soviet Hospital in Phnom Penh, and others in provinces. We have made this no political gains of any sorts at

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erb says – “a friend in need is a friend indeed” [...]

Good Trade Relation with Thailand

This road is also serving our good trade relation and connectivity with the Kingdom of Thailand. Along the road, there are four border passes – O Bei Juan, Boeung Trokuon, Jub Koki, and Thmor Doan. Among them, three have already opened. O Bei Juan has not yet opened. I think we continue to discuss to ensure good trade relations as our volume with the Kingdom of Thailand is roughly seven billion USD [...] it is true that we bought more from Thailand than Thailand bought from us. We are in need of construction materials [...] raw materials [...] fuels, etc. [...] I discussed with Prime Minister Prayuth Chan Ocha to open the O Nieng pass to have a connectivity to Thailand since we have special economic zone (in Koh Kong) [...]

If Without China's Help, Who Would?

I may convey through Ambassador Wang Wentian my thanks to the People's Republic of China for the non-interest aid and loans for Cambodia to put its infrastructures in place. As of this moment, there are over 3,000 km (asphalted) roads, both completed and under construction projects. We have built bridges in Stoeung Treng, Kandal, and one under construction in Kompong Cham's Kroach Chhmar district [...] we have already tabled projects to build a new bridge at Kratie and a road to run from Kratie to Kompong Thom. We also have an ambitious plan to build a road that will connect the city of Kompong Chhnang to Kompong Thom – a span of nearly four kilometres.

We may ask a question, should China stay away, who would help accomplish all this? If China did not come to help, who would, let me ask. We welcome assistance from Japan with which we have this bridge Kizuna at Kompong Cham and Tsubasa at Nak Loeung. Japan

helped us with the national road 1. Japan is now engaging in the national road 5 from Prek Kadam through to Pursat and to Battambang. We welcome assistance from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank for their parts in our infrastructural development.

We also welcome (Republic of) Korea for its improvement of the national road 3 before we decided to seek financial help from China to enlarge it; the national road 2 and 22 from Kandal to Takeo and to Kompot. RoK also helps us rebuild national road 48, which Thailand helped us improved. We welcome friends: Japan, Republic of Korea, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and OPEC for their helps. However, who would do the over 3,000 km (asphalted) roads and about ten kilometres bridge, if China were to not do it?

China's Assistance Needed Everywhere

If they have no idea what are in stock for future (infrastructures), those analysts who make fool remarks should have at least seen what we have already accomplished. Their extremism caused trouble. We welcome helps from everywhere [...] if there are many to help Cambodia, I think, China is even happier. China also has many other countries to help. ASEAN is in need of capitals from China. In Latin America and Africa, they all needed capitals from China. If more countries come in to help Cambodia, China could channel their financial assistance elsewhere, China's own investment included [...]

Why can they not understand? They always argue in their analysis that (Cambodia) abandon the US and Europe for China. Let me affirm here, I am not abandoning anyone. I needed all the friends I could make. The US is doing business with China. Why do you hate China that much? It would be unrealistic in your way of conducting politics. With this kind of politics, how could you become a leader for Cambodia? Cambodia is exer-

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all. There is no need to do so [...] everything we did was out of purely humanitarian purpose. If political gains come from it, it was just an objective outcome but not our political goal. Let me state it again, our goal was purely humanitarian. I also needed to break the spell of fear among my people. They are scared. I must appear on TV to show them. Masks price that went high has not exceeded

cising international relations irrespective of political tendency. As of this moment, we have diplomatic relations with over 170 countries [...]

Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

Cambodia has become a comprehensive strategic partner with China and strategic partner with Japan. Have they noticed that? [...] we even have one destiny community agreement between us Cambodia and China. I hope people understand the benefits from the road we put into use today and other roads that allow us to connect within our country but also with the Kingdom of Thailand, Vietnam and Laos. It all happens because of financial assistance from the People's Republic of China. I am sure our friends understand the true benefits that we have scored in partnership with China and other countries [...]

No Stamping Duty for House/Home Units Purchases at 70,000 USD and Lower

I have declared a number of economic measures last Monday about exemption of stamping duty for any purchase of houses at 70,000 USD or lower [...]. I forgot to include home units in condominium [...] some may not understand what is home units in condominium. It costs anywhere between 50,000 to 70,000 USD. People who can afford can look up for what they needed [...] at those prices, you do not have to pay stamping duty. This is to clarify the point in the set of policies I declared in times of dealing with regional and world economic impacts because of Covid-19 [...].

demand [...]

This morning, a bad man posted that Vietnamese doctor confirmed that Hun Sen is infected with Covid-19 [...] I talked a lot the day before yesterday and I do it again today, how could I be sick? [...] they even try to split us – Sar Kheng and me on this saying that while Hun Sen telling people not to fear (the infection), Sar Kheng said to fear it. Let me tell you all if you do not know the Cambodian People's Party and its internal solidarity, you may never win over it. You may not in your whole life [...]

We must continue with measures we have taken inside the country and cooperation with partners. The ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers Meeting is convening today and tomorrow to prepare response to Covid-19. If there would be unanimous view to have an ASEAN-China summit, I am giving it my support as the matter is no longer an issue for China alone, but regional and world. It has spread. Two died in Iran – the Middle East, though we have news that many have recovered and in some places infection rate seemed to have stabilized for the past 15 days. In Wuhan, China declared to have used drug for malaria successfully to treat patient of covid-19 [...]

Mayors/Governors to Be Present in Municipal/Provincial Councils Meetings

As of now, the tasks transferred from national to sub-national level authorities are more in numbers. This suggested that there are more responsibilities for those at the local level [...] our problem here is to ensure communication and consideration between mayors/governors and the municipal/provincial councils. I recommended that mayors/governors must be present at the meetings of municipal/provincial councils. I would consider removing them from offices if they are absent up to three times and without proven causes. I would ask Samdech Krola Haom to follow this up

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