

Samdech Techo Hun Sen Visited People in Flood Affected Phnom Penh's Dangkao District on the Night of 15 October 2020



Koh Pich-Koh Norea & Koh Norea-NR 1 Bridges Groundbreaking

(26 October 2020 — Extensive Excerpts and Unofficial Translation)

New Achievements on Land of Peace

[...] I am glad to join with our people to launch the groundbreaking ceremony and to allow use of underpass (at Chaom Chao) – two achievements in one event. Firstly, we will have, as reported by Mr Pung Khieu Sae, two bridges built – one concrete bridge of 60 meters length and 21 meters wide from Koh (island) Norea to the national road 1, and another cable suspension bridge of 824 meters length and 24.5 meters width from Koh Norea to Koh Pich. Secondly, the mayor of Phnom Penh requested that I inform our people of provisional use of the underpass at Chaom Chao, which is 488 meters in length in the district/Khan Po Senchey, Phnom Penh.

We are here today to launch the construction of a new infrastructural achievement, which will serve development requirement but also solve issue of traffic congestion. Some say it is a new achievement on the land of peace. It is a good way to put it. It is true. Were there no peace, we would not have been able to do that. Under the lead-

ership of Samdech Preah Baat Norodom Sihanouk, Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod, in between 1970 and 1975, we have this bridge at Jroy Jangva as public property and interest. The war has blown out the bridge. In 1995, we rebuilt it. To say it is a new development on the land of peace is correct. It is the same land but, for once, it was under war. Now, we are working on the land of peace [...]

Private Sector Plays Important Role Ever in Covid-19 Time

I do not understand when some people said we are getting poorer [...] how could life any poorer that when we were under the regime of Pol Pot. In Banteay Meanjei, though affected by flood, our people came in nice clothes to the gathering for humanitarian assistance. They came either with their means of transportation or with our helps. We may still be poor but we can say we are in two favorable conditions. Firstly, we are poor in time of peace that we no longer run from fighting for life. We are stable in mind for what

(Continued on page 2)

Visiting People Affected by Flash Flood in Banteay Meanjei Province

(24 October 2020 — Extensive Excerpts and Unofficial Translation)

Location 1 — O Jrov, Banteay Meanjei

Heroic Actions of People, Authorities, Civil Servants, and Armed Forces

I am coming back again today to meet with more people whose livelihood have been affected by flash flood [...] please allow me to take this opportune moment to bring you messages from HM the King and the Queen Mother who always care about your conditions. Please allow me to also share with you all hardships caused by this flash flood, which according to the governor Um Reatrej, among the 39 people lost their lives, 22 are in Beanteay Meanjei, [...] where

Waterpark Garden City Trial Operation

(16 August 2020 — Extensive Excerpts and Unofficial Translation)

A Golf Course, Five-Star Hotel and Stadium in Former Khmer Rouge Hideout

Today we are pleased to join together to put into trial operation the garden city waterpark – an investment by Oknha Ly Yong Phat. It is a pride for us that this investment takes place in a former Khmer Rouge guerrillas' hideout from where they shelled the capital city of Phnom Penh. In 1989, when the for State of Cambodia celebrated the tenth anniversary of its foundation, they were able to shell as far as somewhere near the former warehouse where we stockpiled fuel at Russei Keo. We sent in the 1980s youth and civil servants in Phnom Penh to help clear the forest to take away their hideouts. Later, the area has

(Continued on page 5)

in Malai, it happened to a two years old child [...]

To life is now safe and we can gather here, flood consequences will be the challenges for our people in every households to restore their families' livelihoods and economies. We are alive though. While coping with difficulties created by flood, we also continue to fight with Covid-19, which, I think, is an enemy harder to conquer. While we can see from where

(Continued on page 3)

Prince Manor Resort Inauguration

(07 October 2020 — Extensive Excerpts and Unofficial Translation)

No Foreign Tourists Allowed, Only Business People, Technicians and Diplomats

The resort would create an environment for people to frequent their holiday and recreation. One can throw in a question as to why, in time of Covid-19 and fall of tourists' arrivals, we turn to putting into official use such resort. Covid-19, let me affirm, has caused (socio-economic) damages to us but it has no ability to stop everything. At this stage, tourism sector has had a bad impact. From having received up to 6.6 million tourists in 2019, this year Cambodia recorded only over one million. We do not hope quick recovery of international tourists' arrivals as Covid-19 has not yet subsided [...]

(Continued on page 8)

In This Issue

- . Phnom Penh Bridges
- . Flash Flood
- . Waterpark Garden City
- . Prince Manor Resort

(Continued from page 1)

is happening in the country. Secondly, we have moved far away from the sort of poverty in 1979 situation, when we had nothing but bare hands. We did the best we could to stand up against unjust punishment from foreign circles, who by then continued to recognize the Khmer Rouge at the United Nations [...]

That the private sector has made such contribution in this difficult time is very helpful to our efforts. While giving a talk at the World Economic Forum on partnership between state and private sector, I made my point clearly that in this circumstance the private sector has played important role more than ever. In Cambodia, particularly, private companies are doing the best they can to avoid going bankrupt or closing down productions. We have taken numerous measures, including those of taxes, so that companies can go on. That they go on with their production, the Cambodian people will continue to have jobs and incomes [...]

We have so far about 300,000 people who have lost their jobs [...] while new jobs created. In this development, some of the 300,000 people losing jobs can also find new jobs. This is what I called important role played by the private sector. While avoiding bankruptcy, closing down, they are continuing to provide jobs and income for people. Secondly, there are also new investments. I noticed there was not much slowdown in construction in Phnom Penh [...] in this phase of construction the project has offered jobs for over 700 people. When it is in full swing mode, the project will provide up to 7,000 jobs. When the operation phase kicks in, there will be about 10,000 jobs more.

Covid-19 Cancels Water Festival, Takes Lives, Destroys Economy

[...] Covid-19 has destroyed not only Cambodia but also countries in the world. Many hotels closed down. In 2019, we received 6.6 million tourists. As

of this time, we do not have foreign tourists anymore. We still have local tourists though [...] on 30 October, it will be the Cambodian water festival. As we cancel the boat-racing event because of Covid-19 in Phnom Penh, people may still celebrate other activities such as praying to the moon and eating flatten newly harvested rice. Civil servants and workers are going to have their holidays. There will be some touring the country.

Our economy will continue to keep going though in a less impressive mode. We still have incomes that is able to support payrolls for the Royal Government and the armed forces, and to cover other expenses. In the first six month of this year, we have had a surplus of nearly 200 million USD. In the second six month, the amount has decreased to making both ends meet. Covid-19 can do us damages but it can never kill us. We must not underestimate its destructive force, though [...] we must continue to protect ourselves from it. Covid-19 not only takes human life, it also destroys people's livelihood and economy of countries in the world. However, impacts have not yet reached a level that stops us from going forwards [...]

Voice of Ho Van Commanding Demonstration at (PR of) China Embassy

We continue to make our journey. It requires peace. We must keep peace. I should take this moment to send a message to Ho Van [...] that he should think of his wife and children in Phnom Penh. (We have) his voice commanding on phone [...] to demonstrators against (the so called) presence of the Chinese military (in Cambodia) at the (PR) China's embassy [...] that he has presented himself a traitor (commanding from abroad), why else can we not take actions against those inside the country? They received order from the traitor. The authority or the court can take actions. It is legal [...]

Why are they organizing demonstration in Phnom Penh

and abroad on this issue of the presence of Chinese military in Cambodia? Does China really have army in Cambodia? Since when did Cambodia allow China to do so? It has been so annoying that some foreign countries, plus those Cambodians, are trying to cook up the situation. Why can they not listen to the Prime Minister? Do you have proof to reveal (what could be the) Cambodia's secret agreement with China to have 30 years exclusive access to the (military) port at Ream? If you have no proof to make your case, it means that you are telling a lie. In the Cabinet meeting, I reminded people of the coup in 1970 against the King Father using this pretext of the presence of Viet Cong in Cambodia. Now, what is your intention towards me when you keep talking about (the so-called) presence of Chinese military. The group of traitors also incited people to rise in action against the Chinese embassy [...]

Let me send a message to his wife that she should not involve in distribution of money (among demonstrators) [...] we have Ho Van's voice recorded (when he ordered the demonstrators) on Zoom [...] they are leaving no chance to cause trouble at all. This time, (the demonstration he commanded) does not demand for rights but withdrawal of Chinese troops from Cambodia, while there were no Chinese troops at all. We have Chinese people who are technicians and investors. Other countries in the world have them too [...] while people are suffering from flood – lives lost and livelihood of tens of thousands affected, not a single word uttered except “to bring (me) down.” They may wait for another life [...]

Chaom Chao Underpass Operational, Post-Flood Actions of Four Ministries

Let me take this opportune moment to inform our people that we have allowed provisional operation of the underpass – 488 meters in length and 8.5 meters in width that we allowed the Cambodian Expatriates

Company to build as part of the Chaom Chao overpass project [...]. I think the telephone company should figure out how to secure their signal through the underpass to ensure connection while going through. I think Cellcard could take the lead this quest [...]

We have here today ministers from all four ministries – Public Works and Transport, Water Resource and Meteorology, Rural Development, and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. We have quite a number of roads – national, provincial, district, and bridges damaged by flood. A number of dams fell apart. As the situation of this size is not normal, it requires also an abnormal procedure. The said ministries must not wait for report of assessments from their subordinate levels. Each ministry must send out its own national level team in co-operation with the Ministry of Economy and Finance to work with local authorities as immediate as the flood recedes.

We must get to work on repairing and restoring the damages [...] to allow our people to transport their produces. Most of the works in flood-affected areas concerned the Ministry of Rural Development. It is not over with our presence to offer them relief packages. The main task here is to help them to get back to their ability to go on with production again [...] we must be swift to make sure that people, after suffering one hardship, will not face with another one [...]

We have reserve fund, which also include the amount reserved every year for disaster management. We have not used it yet. Normally, we will let go of the fund only in December, when we are sure there are no more threat of unknown disasters [...] I will monitor. Where there is slow response, I will make my presence there [...] We have budget. We have money to fix damages of roads and water canals. Our plan to spend 150 million USD for the infrastructure at Siem Reap will also take off on 16 November [...] /.

(Continued from page 1)

flood came and where it went, we have no way of knowing where Covid-19 is. We have been fighting Covid-19 ten months already and as you can see here, that everyone is having mask on her/his face [...] this is not a disease particularly happened in Cambodia, but the world over.

Every time hit by hardship, heroic efforts of our people, the civil servants, and armed forces to overcome appear. Everyone work hard together to save people and to help provide relief assistances to affected people. Banteay Meanjei is the hardest hit province that required intervention from national level. The Prime Minister has had to come see and meet with people [...] and my colleagues, when I returned (to Phnom Penh), will continue to take on this assistance effort. We are sorry for what has had happened but I am sure our people settled down to have seen joint efforts we put together to deal with the consequences [...]

RGC Emergency Stocks Useful; Cash for Labor from 100 to 160 million USD

What we have tried to do to deal with the flood situation in the whole country not only in Banteay Meanjei, where over 40,000 households suffered, has been remarkable. Financial contribution from generous people have now reached over eight million USD and we have released relief assistances from the RGC emergency stocks of rice, instant noodle, drinking water, fish and soy sources, salt, etc. We are refilling them too. Our efforts in making sure we have these foodstuffs when needed have paid. Capable leadership is to make sure that we do not fail to do what we can. That is how we have been living together and sharing for over 41 years with our people [...]

Let me take this moment to inform you that yesterday the Cabinet convened a meeting to approve the financial law for the management in 2021. The law has detailed our efforts to fight

with Covid-19 challenges and to restore livelihoods after the flood receded. We titled the financial law for the management in 2021 “*a budget combative to protect people, to keep socio-economic balance and livelihood, to orient efforts to rise up in the post Covid-19* [...]”

In this context, in order to address jobs and income for our people in rural areas, the 2021 national budget has earmarked an increase of cash for labor from 100 million USD to 160 million USD. People can dig small canals, rebuild their village roads, and paid at a market labor prices [...] I directed clearly yesterday to channel the reserved amount to provinces affected by flood. Our estimation has been that the amount would create about one million jobs [...]

Farmers to Receive 100 Kg of Rice Seed or Six Varieties of Vegetables/Crops

In time of Covid-19, there have been people losing their jobs and their incomes hit hard. The state has laid down budget to help more than 60,000 households or roughly three million people. We will continue the cash provision program for another three months – in October, November and December, at a rate of about 30 million USD per month. People receiving help from the program could join the cash for labor program to earn more [...]

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance sent me a message informing that the amount of rice seed we have in hand is not sufficient to respond to the scale we are meeting. We will need to purchase 2,000 metric tons more [...] I approved that farmers whose rice destroyed will receive 100 Kg of rice seeds and those who grow crops other than rice would receive six different seed varieties – crops or vegetables. The Ministry of Agriculture and related institutions will figure out who will need what [...]

Those Acting Against Nation/Laws in Different Tunes with

Prime Minister

The day that I visited people at their homes in Mongkul Borei of Banteay Meanjei province, my bodyguards helped me to go up and down a house. Some quickly picked me of ageing [...] they should not insult elderly people. If their life stars are not bright enough, they may suffer the bad luck themselves. In 1998, the later King Father said to a meeting that everyone should accept fate. He said he never thought of becoming King but was taken out of school in Prey Nokor – now Ho Chi Minh City, to be one [...] he added later what could you do fate has it that Hun Sen becomes the Prime Minister. Some have dreamed of this position [...] but fate does not choose or let him be. The King of the deaths has not got on to me yet. He satisfied that I stay on to keep them away. Those acted against the nation and laws would never be in tune with the Prime Minister [...]

People and RGC to Restore Livelihood and Economy Together

As you can understand that households may have different ways of earning and supporting their lives. They may have grown different crops, for instance. However, we must work efforts together. From the part of the state, four ministries will play major roles. Firstly, the Ministry of Transport and Public Works will take inspection on nation and provincial roads damaged by flooding in the whole country and reparation will be to restore connectivity and transportation. The Ministry of Rural Development also will look into smaller roads [...]

The Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology will [...] take actions regarding water uses so that everyone will benefit from the water system without conflict. Fourthly, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries must take urgent measures to inspect and assess impacts on every households and provide rice seeds and other crops/vegetables. National Assembly members

are also coming to you with more. It is not over only with this relief assistance packages [...]

I am calling on the authority to pay attention to education sector. Some schools have reopened but closed back down because of flooding. We must make sure that those flooded schools will be safe for kids to go back in. I allow concerned authorities use of budget reserving for schools to repair if there needed be. We will launch a new school year 2020-2021 on 11 November, after we prolonged for sometimes. We must make sure that flooded school buildings will now be safe for kids to go back in [...]

Relief Assistances from Thailand and Japan Thanked

We have some Thai friends coming today. I received a message they have provided us with milk and blankets [...] I thank them for their generosity at the time that we really are in hardship. This is a kindhearted help from our neighbor. It is very precious at the time that we needed the most [...] let us send milk for people in hospitals and blankets to people needing ones at the safe grounds. [...] I learnt that Japanese reliefs has also arrived last night. We have assistance from outside. However, we must make own efforts. More helps are on the way [...] we thank every country for declaring that they will offer helps [...]

Location 2 — Malai, Banteay Meanjei

“True Love at Times of Poverty, Good Friends at Times of Hardships”

Please allow me to bring you HM the King’s and the queen Mother’s messages to you at this very difficult time. My condolence to families who lost their members, and here we have this case of a two years old kid. It is a pity and we are sad of what happened. Covid-19 pandemic has not yet taken a single life in our country but flash flood took away 39 lives, 22 of

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

whom are in Banteay Meanjei – the hardest hit province. As we are here to share your hardships, I am glad to learn about heroic actions of authorities at every levels and the armed forces to rescue our people from flash flood. Life saved, we are here to show our solidarity in the whole country and generous people have come with their assistances of anyway they could. In time of difficulties, helping each other is important. An old saying goes “one can see true love at times of poverty, and good friends at times of hardships.”

Banteay Meanjei People Voted CPP; 29 December – Ending War Day

[...] Let me thank people in Banteay Meanjei for voting to support the Cambodian People's Party and from the support, I have been given this Prime Minister position. From the district of Malai of Banteay Meanjei, allow me to thank them for their supports to my leadership. I hope that in 2022 and 2023, our people will continue to choose the Cambodian People's Party so that we can go on together. People trust in the Cambodian People's Party and me. I will not leave them in disappointments. My presence here today is not a demagoguery one. Very rare that I appear when people are at peace and happy but surely I do when people are in hardships [...]

We have here today presences of Ee Chhien and Sok Pheap [...] I would say it with pride that without their roles, the win-win policy that I set out would not have been a success. Ee Chhien led division 415 at Pailin and Sok Pheap led division 450 in Malai rose up in rebellion (against the Pol Pot organization). That was where a large-scale secession (from the Pol Pot leadership) took place for the sake of bringing peace and unifying our land and water altogether for the first time in hundreds years of history.

Founders of peace was not me alone but many more actors – from the Royal Government side and from the secession

groups (from the Pol Pot leadership) to the Royal Government. Since 1996, when the integration took place, it is now 24 years. Malai has transformed from a fighting bed to an area with development. This has really marked a pride of our nation. Were there no integration through win-win solution and participations from involved actors seceding themselves from the Khmer Rouge's political and military organization, we would not have chance to see each other as we are now.

War would rage on and development would not have been possible – not only in Malai but areas around [...]. Wars have not ended in some countries in the region [...]. Cambodia ended completely armed conflict [...] and we have chosen 29 December 1998, the day when Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea came to my house, to declare it our day that we ended the war and brought about a complete peace for the country.

Order from Those in America to Demonstrators in Phnom Penh

Let me clarify this point that I have the ability to extinguish the armed conflict but I could not teach a group of people who wished to bring destruction to their nation through attempt of color revolution. Some foreign ambassadors talked to me about my ability to resolve issues with the Khmer Rouge guerrilla and why do I not try it with those people. How could I do it when they label anyone at all working with Hun Sen Vietnamese? [...] there policy has been “with you, without me and with me, without you.” They have no faith in uniting [...] I really wanted you to hear a message (of someone in) America sent to demonstrators in Phnom Penh telling how many to stand where at the Chinese Embassy and then at the US Embassy [...]. I could control and end conflicts of armed groups unifying them to build the country. However, for these people's ways of discrediting and insulting attitudes, I do not know how [...]

Win-Win Monument Sala Sataing (Credential Hall)

Yesterday was the 29th anniversary of the Paris Peace Agreement for which UNTAC (United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia) spend two billion USD (in its peace keeping operation) but could not enter Pailin and Malai areas. Hun Sen was here having lunch somewhere. Where could I point to Sala Sataing? Please keep it. We will build a monument in honor of win-win commencement. It would not be about illustrating (my role) but about marking it in our history for the younger generation on how the country went through war and left war to peace [...]

We finally take back the whole country and realize national unity. We ended the war left from the former generation. None of us here created it. However, we Cambodians, particularly in this area, contributed to put out the flame of war and embarked on national integration. I always say it is not a surrender or confession but an obligation for every Cambodian children to share this burden to put out the war [...]. We did great job. People in Malai now has connectivity by paved roads to Banteay Meanjei, to Pailin, to Kom Rieng Phnom Proeuk, and to Bavel. We have good schools for our children too [...]

RGC/Agriculture Plans Help with Plowing, Seed Sowing Machines, Seeds

All we needed to do now is to stand up and make every effort to restore livelihood damaged by this flash flood. I am confident that we can do it. I just received a message from Minister of Agriculture about its prepared intervention not only providing people with seeds of rice and other crops/vegetable varieties but also servicing plowing by tractors and seed sowing machines [...]. It has planned to send to each location needed help with five tractors, five pulled tractors and three to four seed sowing machines. The Ministry scheduled to send out its intervention team on 29 October to the district of Rukha

Kiri, on 30 October to Pursat, and 1 November to Banteay Meanjei [...]

With Peace We Will Overcome Hardships

We have moved away from the kind of hardships (that we had in the past) and that we can do that is because we have the hard-won peace, which is now 24 years old. War broke out when I was not even fully 18 years old. Together we ended it. I can make peace (from this armed conflict) but I do not have the ability to make peace with poisonous fellows who caused us troubles and disturbances. Day in and day out, they call on me to step down. I am telling you, I am getting up here constitutionally, so I would only step down constitutionally too. That people elected me to take this post, I am giving it up only through elections too [...]

Some have been expecting political solution. I am telling them I will have political solution with no one. They must face and resolve their problems with law. There will be no political negotiation. Those who committed crimes/wrongdoings will have to resolve their matters in the courts. (If found guilty,) they must serve jail sentence before we can go on to talking about anything else. After serving prison term, the person can create political party. It is his/her right. That someone have been waiting for a political solution, let me declare that – “that will depend on Hun Sen. He does bother talking to/with, and that is it” [...]

Yesterday was the Paris Peace Agreement anniversary. Born out of the 2-December-1987 Fere-en-Tardenois meeting between Samdech Preah Sihanouk and Hun Sen, it had taken us thousands of hours of negotiation to bring about peace. UNTAC (United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia) organized elections [...] and spend two billion USD in Cambodia but could not enter Malai area. [...] we started when there were only five million people ... we have now over 16 million populations [...].

(Continued from page 1)

become a development zone in which Oknha Ly Yong Phat developed a golf course and a five-star hotel to begin with. We also built a monument in memory of win-win policy, and selected this place to develop infrastructure for hosting the 2023 SEA Games. Before us, not long from now, this stadium built with assistance from the People's Republic of China, is going to be ready along with other infrastructures necessary for the games and for hosting sportsmen/women [...]

BOT Roads/Bridges Purchased for Use by People Free of Charge

I must say that I admire this long-vision of Oknha Ly Yong Phat for choosing to invest in this area. Not many people could have thought on this issue of building roads, bridges, which later the state bought up to help reduce costs of transportation and travelling of our people. Everywhere in this world, not only in Cambodia, travelers would have to travel using BOT built roads/bridge. As of this time, Cambodia has purchased them all back as state properties. At the time that the state was short of capital, we invited private companies to invest in infrastructures. Oknha Ly Yong Phat had invested in a bridge in Koh Kong, a bridge at Prek Phnov, and there were companies that invested in national road 4, Sar La road, and a road at Koh Ker [...] the state has now had to maintain those roads and bridges. We are working on more infrastructural construction projects as this would not only reduce people's expenses on traveling but also speeding up socio-economic benefits, and time for our people [...]

Working in New Normal Practice

According to a study (on its capability), this waterpark is one of the biggest in ASEAN with its 4,500 square meters and its wave making capacity is up to three meters high. The waterpark can entertain 300 visitor in one session. With waterpark

entertainment spreading on an area of 8.6 hectares, the park also has six hectares for other activities and 2.5 hectares reserved for parking area [...] as Covid-19 strikes, things have changed. Today, with presence of the President of the Senate, the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers and senior officials, workers and staff, we have been practicing a new normal working procedure. We are having masks on [...] the old ways of thousands of years have changed because of Covid-19 [...] people no longer shake hands but raise their two hands together to show respect or to welcome without having to touch each other's hands [...]

Covid-19 Impacts More Devastating Than World War I and II

Some have used their elbows to touch each other because shaking hands would be one way of transmitting disease from one to another. As you can see in here, we sit in distance from one another and we do not shake hands. We also have our faces protected by masks. This practice is not the way only in Cambodia but the world over since the pandemic impacts is far more devastating to human than the ones caused by World War I or World War II. The world war devastated countries involved. Countries that were not directly involving in the fights would have no deaths or other incurred problems. As for Covid-19, hundreds of countries have reported impacts [...]

Online Booking Could Be Helpful

As for this waterpark, an investment of 44 million USD is a huge project. I learnt from Oknha Ly Yong Phat when he came to see me that the park has between 6,000 and 7,000 bookings already. If the park is also providing online booking service to customers, I think, so that they do not have to come in persons, it will be easy to manage with number of visitors each time/day [...]. As for this area, even if some who live far off the city, should they wish to come visit or bring along their

families to see what features are there in the waterpark and to enjoy the zoo – they can stay in its five-star hotel [...]

Golfing in a Few Holes Course behind the House

There is also a golf course here and I used to come play too [...] however, as I was in mourning of my mother in law I played gold at my private course behind my house, I would continue to do so [...] I am sure my wife and children would be happy. My bodyguards too in that matter because if I were to go out playing in other gold courses, they would have to wake up very early. Some would have to clear the area for security reason. In that case, for the sake of good health, I could just do it at home [...] In fact we have planned to launch this trial operation of the waterpark since April (the Khmer New Year) but the concern of Covid-19 pandemic then reached a high level. I decided to pull off every schedules I made in advance – meeting with sportsmen/women, small and medium enterprises, Chinese community, and even the Asia-Europe Meeting in November (this year). Even the UNGA also had to go on videoconference. The forthcoming 24-August Mekong-Lancang Cooperation meeting in Vientiane, planned for March and was cancelled, also will resume through videoconference. The canceled ASEAN Summit in April also meets through videoconference [...]

Workers Returned, Civil Servants Travelled, Reasons to Cancel Khmer New Year

Today is one day away from the make-up holiday for the Khmer New Year for our workers and civil servants. I would take this chance to reaffirm the fact that we canceled the three days holiday of the Khmer New Year in April was because we were concerned about preventing and controlling this unknown scale of Covid-19 pandemic. In fact, there had been requests to postpone the Khmer New Year holiday since March but I did not agree to them [...]. As

Samdech Krola Haom Sar Kheng alerted me about over 90,000 Khmer workers coming back from Thailand taking quarantines in their local communities, while civil servants and workers in Phnom Penh would also travel to their native villages, in serious consideration of what might have happened then if the pandemic broke out, we decided to cancel the holiday [...]

Some Factories Go on Working

Those in the armed forces are taking turns to observe the holidays. Civil servants, workers, employees, etc. are taking holidays with pay. I know that some factories, because of their agreement with workers, continue to work as usual. We allow that. That is not a problem as we make up this holiday for the one on Khmer New Year that we did not observe. In April, if people stopped working for holiday, they also have the same benefit. In April, if people did not stop working for holiday, and worked with pay too. Now that we are able to control the pandemic outbreak, we can now allow out people to take holiday [...]

Fight to Prevent Imported Cases, Community Transmission, Provide Treatments

It is true that lately infected cases in Cambodia has jumped to over 100 bringing the total infection to 273 cases from not even 100 in April. One thing is clear that there has not been infection or transmission in community. That is why we decided to allow our people to take holiday. All 273 cases are imported and none has been a community outbreak [...] in this development, we continue to observe the three battles so far – to prevent imported cases, to prevent local community transmission, and to provide the best treatments [...]

Rescheduling Rotation of Peacekeeping Troops

Relating to these three tasks concerning combating Covid-19, I proposed to Deputy Prime
(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation during the Cabinet meeting last Friday to contact the UN Secretary General to consider our request to postpone rotation of UN peacekeeping troops in the coming days. We will have over 400 of them on rotation. According to a report of Deputy Prime Minister HE Prak Sokhonn, the Cambodian Permanent Representative to the United Nations already brought the request to the attention of the UN Deputy Secretary General in charge of Peacekeeping Troops. We have our troops in Mali, Central African Republic, Lebanon, South Sudan, and in Sudan, there happened to be a high risk (of Covid-19).

In high consideration of possible impacts, Cambodia requests the UN to reschedule rotation of peacekeeping troops to later dates as transporting from outside to inside Cambodia and from Cambodia to other countries as well. The Cambodian troops to take up the task would have to have a fourteen days quarantine in the host countries and those returned would have to go through similar procedure at home also [...] we just had one case that a blue beret returning home in Kandal had had Covid-19 even after procedural tests. We had to call all of them back and stay in one place for a quarantine again [...]

I am calling on HE Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations, to have his consideration on Cambodia's request regarding postponement of rotation of the UN peacekeeping troops. If they could not do it for other countries, we are asking them to consider the case of Cambodian troops. We do not mean to keep our troops there for years but for a period of time that we are working to contain infections cases from abroad [...] I am sure our troops in Sudan, South Sudan, Somali, Central African Republic, etc. are watching live my speech here [...] I am asking for their understanding on this evolving situation. If they had had to stay on, I am sure they and their

families will understand. I am seeking understanding also from those who are prepared to take over [...] if the UN agreed to our request I am asking our troops to solicit understanding of this development at this crucial time [...]

May Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines Understand Cambodian Measures

We have only one case that a two-star general died of Covid-19 in Mali after only five days of infection. In fact, the blue beret found to have Covid-19 after procedural tests back in Cambodia also recovered from Covid-19 in Mali. It relapsed while arriving to Cambodia. I am calling on the UN Secretary General to review this matter and if possible consider rescheduling the rotation of all the UN peacekeeping troops to avoid movements of people from one place to another as infections can happen while traveling by air together in one plane. We are asking Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines for their understanding of Cambodia's measures to cancel flights from the three countries as lately the infection rates have been very high. We are asking for understanding from our friends [...]

Be Safe from Covid-19 and Traffic Accidents

As we are taking a long holiday, and many have already left for their native villages, I am calling on our people to keep themselves safe. Firstly, they must keep themselves safe from the pandemic. I have reminded provincial authorities and others through the videoconference during the Cabinet meeting already. Tourist sites, hotels, guesthouses, restaurants must keep up with the safety standard instructed by the Ministry of Health. Should there be any signs of infections, lockdown measures taken immediately of the place and search for everyone involved. As tourists, our people must also be prepared and this preventive measures starts from everyone as an individual. Each individual must exercise sanitation/hygiene

because an infected individual would cause everyone in the family a difficult time altogether [...]

Secondly, I am calling on our people to take care of their lives because in this long holiday, traveling long distance and in crowded streets would normally record traffic accidents. I am calling on our people to keep safe their lives and lives of others. There has always been high percentage of accidents caused by drunk driving. We do not forbid people from enjoying their lives and parties [...] but they must refrain from drunk driving [...]

Comfrel Poll – 78% Arrest Was Legal

I do not have political messages but I should bring up one matter. You may check for Comfrel Facebook Page in which they run a posting asking people to take part in its poll about whether arresting a person (relating to border issues) was a respect or a violation of law and right. They have decided to poll for seven days. While in three hours the poll will close, 22% of respondents agreed it was a violation of law and rights. However, 78% said it was not a violation of law and right. I hope that Comfrel and Foreign Radios broadcasting in Khmer Language will share this finding. Let me remind you that this is not a Facebook Page of or supporting the Royal Government. The page administered by a non-governmental organization and always opposed the Royal Government [...]

Unalterable Border Drawn by the French, not the Cambodians

What are they talking about now? This issue has been implemented according to law and agreements between the two governments, for which the National Assembly ratified and HM the King already signed. The border issue has been a meticulous work. "Swapping land is a treacherous act," as they said it, I have on this issue spoken for over five hours in the National Assembly. Let me say a few things here. The bor-

der left from the French colonialism – unalterable border, stipulated in the Constitution. We have a number of border markers with Vietnam, Thailand and Laos.

While working out the borderline, we noted that there are Vietnamese villages locating inside Cambodia and Cambodian villages locating inside Vietnam, for instance the village of Samdech Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly. We were not the ones who drew the map. The French did. HM the King has done nothing wrong. Even the former Kings, they had no ideas as it was the French who drew borderlines concerning the Trol island, Cochinchina, etc., and it was the French Assembly that adopted it. It was not the Khmer National Assembly.

Swapped Land Given as Social Land Concession to Army and Police

What choice do we have? If we follow the official borderline drawn in the maps that HM the King deposited at the United Nations, and we are using those maps now, the village of Samdech Heng Samrin is locating inside Vietnam [...] one choice was to observe the borderline in the maps and offer the village of Samdech Heng Samrin to Vietnam [...]. Another choice was we moved the village of Samdech Heng Samrin inside Cambodia to observe the borderline, and find him a new land. While another choice, we redraw a new borderline where the village of Samdech Heng Samrin, about 500 hectares, is locating inside Cambodia and find a similar size elsewhere for Vietnam.

As of this moment, along the Cambodian-Vietnamese border, Vietnam will have to provide Cambodia a size of 2,000 hectares and I have already commanded that once the land offered, we must place them under supervision of the provincial authorities and they must be categorized as land for social concession given to army and border police. I already instruct-

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)
ed on this paper of HE Var Kimhong, (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Land Management, Urban Planning, and Construction) HE Chea Sophara gets ready to issue the over 2,000 hectares to be provided to Cambodia by Vietnam to the provinces concerned. We will give the land to the army and police who has no land as we did in Svay Rieng [...]

No Incitement for War on Border Issues

Why dare you say it is a treacherous act? I ordered your arrest. While I led the Cabinet meeting, I instructed concerned institutions to follow a leader of a political party who was going to issue a statement (regarding border issues). Should s/he make similar statement to the one before her/him, s/he is to be arrested. As I left the Cabinet meeting, live on The Cambodia Daily, the person said swapping land was a national treason. If it was, it meant HM the King, the National Assembly, the Senate, the Royal Government all were. Let me stress here that border is not a joking matter. I am telling you not to incite a war because of your messages about this or that place with neighboring countries. You have kept saying loss of land from one meter to a hundred meters every day for 41 years. Where the current border would be if what you said was true [...] border is not a joking matter. A border war would be because of your mouth to incite turmoil at the border [...]

27 August – Official Maps to Provincial Authorities Bordering with Vietnam

They have been slanderous as far as maps are concerned. This could have been because the border committee has not explained them clearly. Originally, we used this 1/100,000 scale maps printed by the Indochina Geography Group together with the US UTM 1/50,000 scale maps. However, to ensure location for border markers, we needed the 1/25,000 scale maps that was printed in Denmark, not in Vietnam. We have veri-

fied them together [...] Vietnam and Cambodia received the same number of copies. On 27 August, Samdech Pichey Sena Tia Banh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, on my behalf, will offer those maps to provincial authorities bordering with Vietnam. They are official border maps and the army will use these same maps [...] let me send them a message. They should not mess up on this border issue. It is not a time for opinion debate. This is purely legal matter. The National Assembly ratified not once but twice – in 2005 and in 2009 [...]

Border Defined by Negotiation and Guaranteed by International Law

That I spent five hours in the National Assembly (on this matter) was it not a debate/advocacy. Have they watched it? The Cambodian National TV should replay the tape. You have just started a new political party and you pick up this border issue saying it an advocacy. Debate must be in the National Assembly not when you drove your bikes around (here and there) [...] we have built good roads now along the border. How could they ride motorbikes on those roads for a brief moment and say this many meters or that many meters? We have taken times to stay in the field, with the help of GPS, and satellite. It is not a matter for fun. I ordered arrests of Hong Sun Huor and Um Sam At – member of the Senate and the National Assembly in flagrante delicto. Whoever said things like that will also face arrest in flagrante delicto. Border is not where your mouth says it to be. Border is where involved countries negotiate and guaranteed by international law [...]

Local Tourism Observing Health Measures

It is a good thing that we, despite Covid-19, have work to do. Here we have 185 workers and more are working in golf course and hotel. Though tourism affected by absence of foreign tourists, we can see now

local tourism is on the move with instruction for strict observation of health measures [...] I denied Minister of Tourism Thong Khon's request to open discotheque. I think we should hold on to that for a bit more time because those places would have difficulties in observing social distancing [...]

Cash Assistance to Workers and Poor Households

The Royal Government is busy providing assistance to some 20,000 workers from factories closed down because of lack of orders and/or raw materials, and some 60 households of over three million people that are in poor and vulnerable situation. We spent about 24 million USD last month. For this month, we may spend up to 28 million USD. We helped them to acquire some cash to help with their daily food needs in this time of difficulties. As for some who wish to go to jail (because of their actions mentioned above), we may allow them to. There was one other person who, that he could leave the country because I allowed him to do so, called for demonstration to take place [...] he called on workers and farmers to launch demonstration in order to change in this time. If he would come himself, I would send him a private jet to lead the demonstration in Cambodia [...]

Calls for Locals to Withdraw Money from, and to Make No Payments to Banks

Maybe I should say a few words on this topic. Some foreigners have talked about credits given through microfinance saying that Hun Sen encouraged confiscation. On this matter, no one could have been generous than Hun Sen. I called on microfinances and banks to have understanding of difficulties of those who owed them and I asked them to reorganize their credit schemes for hundreds of thousands of households. While we were trying to get flexibility from microfinances and banks in time of Covid-19 difficulties, there was a movement from abroad for

people inside the country to do two things – (1) mobilize locals to withdraw money from banks with an aim to collapse banking system, and (2) mobilize local Cambodians who owed microfinances and banks to deny payment obligation. In response to their tricks, I declare that whoever followed their chieftains and deny obligation to pay to microfinances and/or banks must face with confiscations. They went muted.

Now, I continue to say that too. I am asking the banks and microfinances to foster understanding in such difficult time to reschedule their credit schemes. I said the other day, if for an asset of 20 million USD worth deposited before they (banks) give five million USD in loan, I am asking them to consider giving them more. Some may need them to reorganize their businesses in time of Covid-19 new normal too [...] though we now allow reopening of schools in late August and early September, and Baccalaureat exam taking place in December, we have to be precautionous. Should there be worrying signs, we must cancel again.

On this note, I am asking those who write about this issue to listen to my explanation if they are conscientious [...] since the guerrilla leader/s launched this campaign to mobilize people not to pay back to banks and even mobilized demonstration in Battambang, I must issue my warning message. Those in debt to banks/microfinances must decouple themselves from their bosses and seek a workout with banks for their understandings [...] those who followed their leaders' tricky appeals to deny payment obligations, they would face with confiscation. As for those who are not following them but have lost their incomes, I am calling on microfinances/banks not to fine them or exercise confiscations [...] Those who followed their calls may want to stay away from demonstrations. If they would join one, and were to have missed banks' obligations, it would then be up to the banks to deal with them [...].

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We have asked our friends for their understandings that we decided to cancel flights from their sides into Cambodia as each flight coming in had brought us Covid-19 infected cases. They had caused rampant pandemic cases. We have not yet allowed incoming arrivals of tourists but business people, technicians, and diplomats to Cambodia. They needed to be in Cambodia to manage their business and investments. That is why we have daily flights to the country [...]

As for foreign tourists' arrivals, Cambodia has not yet allowed them in and they have no wish to travel too. We have kept very few flights in and out of the country. We now have flights to and from the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, Taipei, and there are some occasional charter flights from this or that country in case of necessity [...]

(External) Objective Diversion, Internal Subjective Adaptation

Well, why are we inaugurating this resort to attract tourists then? Tourism does not necessarily mean foreign tourists alone. It also means local tourists. Before Covid-19, nearly two million Cambodians traveled as tourists to foreign destinations. In Covid-19 time, the Cambodian people have more chances to visit tourist sites in the country. That is what I would call "an objective diversion." While there has an objective trend of diversion (out there,) we also have the need to have internal diversion subjectively.

Provinces in the country must make further efforts to attract local tourists to visit. For instance, last August, we allowed people to take five days holiday plus two weekends – one before and one after – nine days in all, over 1.6 million people traveled for recreation everywhere in the country. For the Phcum Ben (Buddhist ritual) holiday, 1.1 million traveled for tourist purposes [...] at the Waterpark resort of Oknha Ly Yong Phat,

[...] the Ministry of Health allowed entry of seven thousand people at one time. The resort allowed people to go in alternately – some in the morning and some in the afternoon, for instance. This alternation has allowed more than 10,000 visitors for one day [...]

Growth Anywhere at -1.9 Territory

[...] they have predicted that Cambodian economic growth would have fallen between 7% and 9% [...] we did our calculation and we come a prediction that it would fall to anywhere at 1.9%. As of this time, major financial institutions such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, etc. have readjusted their predictions [...] the World Bank updates its growth figure to anywhere at minus 2% and our figure was 1.9% – there were almost no differences. Previously, they looked at our situation from a different angle [...] as we are standing up, keeping Covid-19 under control, maintaining socio-economic balance, while improving people's living condition, and in addition to these, bigger chance offered to Cambodian farmers in agricultural sector, (they have updated their figures) [...]

Apology on Lack of Proper Protocol Attention to HM the King and the Queen Mother

Yesterday, I sweated at the International Airport of Phnom Penh at Po Chentong. I already posted it in my Facebook account. It was a lack of proper protocol attention from my part. It should not have happened. Normally, my eyes are light sensitive. I put on my dark lenses sunglasses. Once Their Majesties the King and the Queen Mother arrived, I went out to greet them. I forgot I was in dark lenses sunglasses. I have two habits. Firstly, I never wear dark lenses sunglasses when I am with HM the King or with the people. I put them on only when I travel alone. Secondly, I never put on red color tie to see HM the King or the Queen Mother [...] for that improper attention to the protocol from

my part,

I have sent a message of apology and posted one on Facebook too. It was purely unintentional. I knew of the dark lenses sunglasses only after Their Majesties took off, when I pulled out another pairs of sunglasses, which I thought they were dark ones, to replace the ones I was wearing. I immediately sent an apology to HM the King on WahtsApp [...] people might have noticed lack of proper protocol attention from my part [...]

Covid-19 Imported Cases

The world has had no way yet of knowing what will be happening next in the time of Covid-19. As of this moment, we have not had a clue yet as to where does Covid-19 come from. Some countries have claimed of finding vaccines and the World Health Organization has not yet approved anyone of its effectiveness. Treatments so far has been conducted using medicines found to have cured patients through different medical practices. We cured all 280 patients, only four left [...] though we have not had widespread infection yet, we must not underestimate the rampant possibility and must continue to exercise healthcare and protection measures.

We must apply medical protection using alcohol, gel, hygienic practices because we have no way of knowing who would and would not have Covid-19. We also must observe social distancing. Covid-19 is here with us and we have no way of knowing where it is. Even the White House, it found its way to infect the President and the First Lady. I with President Donald Trump and the First Lady quick recoveries from Covid-19. On Monday, I saw he returned to the White House, where he will continue to have treatment while attending to his works. Everyone on this note must be careful. People must take parts in every measures instructed and physicians must also protect themselves [...]

Cash Support Three More Months for Poor/Vulnerable

and Workers Losing Jobs

[...] I am informing the Cambodian people that the Royal Government will continue in the next three months (program to offer financial help) to those roughly 600,000 poor/vulnerable households or about three million people that are benefiting from it, until December, when it will be the sixth round of the state intervention. [...] they are workers who lose their jobs in tourist sector will receive a cash support (within the specified period) of 40 USD (per person/per month). Those in garments would receive 40 USD from the Royal Government and another 30 USD per person/per month from factories. We also have social protection program to offer financial supports for female workers and women with pregnancy in poor households and the support with continue for each kid until s/he is two years old. Cash for labor has also increased from 50 million to 150 million USD. With this program, people can build small hydraulic dams and dirt roads that benefit the local community, and support their incomes too.

150 Million USD for Siem Reap City Infrastructure

The Royal Government has approved allowing 150 million USD for 38 roads development in the city of Siem Reap. For the immediate benefit, we have a better infrastructure in our tourist city after we have nearly completed our project at Preah Sihanoukville city. I will preside over the groundbreaking ceremony for the project at Siem Reap in November. A fair amount of this 150 USD sum will go to workers and people who take parts in developing the roads. This is what I call "state management in time of uncertainties," which means things are not stable. We have to work out together to ensure that our economy is hanging in a stable balance [...] ./■

Note:

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