

Cabinet on Dual Nationality & Reopening (08 & 22 October 2021 — Extensive Excerpts and Unofficial Translation)

Pchum Ben Covid-19 Status Monitoring (06 and 19 October 2021 — Extensive Excerpts and Unofficial Translation)



His Excellency, Lok Chumteav, my gratitude toward the provinces/capitals, as well as units of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and all networks that attended today's meeting through videoconference and physical meeting of our Council of Ministers!

Due to COVID-19, we postponed the cabinet meeting for a while. Nevertheless, after the vaccination reached both in the city and in the countryside, our situation improved and we hope to arrange meetings in our new way. As always, our cabinet meeting only sits at this one table, but now we maintain social distancing and wear masks. That's something we can do.

Today, our Council of Ministers convened a plenary session focusing on (1) the Draft Constitutional Law on the Amendment of Article 19, Article 82, New Article 19, New Article 82, New Article 106, New Article 119 and New Article 137 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Article 3 of the supplementary constitutional law aimed at ensuring the normal functioning of national institutions, (2) The draft law on public-private partnerships. As for the three-year rolling

public investment program draft, I would like to postpone it to later date.

Since we do not have enough time to meet today, the draft law related to the amendment of the constitution must be thoroughly examined with the law on public-private partnerships. On the other hand, other issues also require me to comment today.

So, let's move the public investment program to next week with other agendas. And in the fourth week of this month, the Financial Management Law for 2022 will be passed, so we will have the meeting another time.

There is also other issues including the request for the approval of the Council of Ministers to seek the approval of the legislature on the draft law on the approval of the agreement in addition to the agreement between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the United Nations regarding the adjudication under Cambodian law of crimes committed during the period of Democratic Kampuchea on the arrangements during the transition and termination of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia.

Before entering the agenda, let

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"3 Dos and 3 Don'ts during Pchum Ben" 06 October 2021

Today is (the traditional Buddhist ritual) Pchum Ben Day when people are performing their merits and celebrating almsgiving, even if they had to do it in a new way so that together we can prevent Covid-19 spread.

At the same time, people have been moving from one place to another and to various tourist sites since the past few days. (People are in mobility since yesterday, (and some are doing it) today, (and will be doing it) tomorrow and possibly days after.

This is a big test for our country in the new situation as (we completed) second dose and (are providing) boosting dose vaccinations. We will monitor the (consequences) of the test. While we can say it is not a risky test, we cannot say 100% sure that it is not a problem. We are prepared to accept the dire situation that may arise. In India, after the religious ceremonies, the epidemic raged and caused a great deal of contagion and death.

For Cambodia, we are prepared for the worst case that can happen to public health as well as the health of our people. I hope that every monks and nuns in the temples, as well as those of you, who travel to the tourist sites, exercise precautions.

At this point, **the test will let us (know) whether after Pchum Ben, we will have a serious infection or not. If there will be a serious epidemic, our planning to reopen the country in all sectors will not be**

possible. On the contrary, if you can protect yourself and the number of infections or deaths is not serious, then our people will get together to reopen the socio-economy, especially schools activities as well as domestic tourism, which is a part of the national economy.

Agriculture and industry have been performing in full swing in our economy. Our exports in agriculture and industry are growing well.

However, **the impact on services, especially tourism, has slowed our economic growth, although the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank recently forecast that our economic growth would increase from 1.8 percent to 2.2 percent. We have worked hard to improve our economy, which, earlier this year, we set (to achieve growth of) 4.1 percent. However, the lockdowns during the months of April and May reduced (our ability) to realize it [...]**

(We) have just seen that after (full and booster dose) vaccinations, infections reduced. In this regard, there have been re-evaluations and projections that our economic growth could move to 2.2 percent.

If we can resume economic activity by the end of this year, especially domestic tourism, our economic growth could exceed the 2.2 percent estimated in September. **I would like to appeal to every monks and nuns (in every monasteries), compatriots who visit the various places to maintain the "3 Dos and 3 Don'ts" measures**

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me take this opportunity to send my thoughts and appreciation to the provincial and the capital (authorities) and all kinds of armed forces who have worked hard during Pchum Ben to protect the people. Given the number of COVID-19 infections and COVID-19 deaths as of yesterday, the number of deaths (from COVID-19) was lower than the number of deaths from traffic accidents, which is unfortunate.

On the other hand, our people were also visiting various place, which I have posted (a voice message) to remind that this is our big test in order to reopen all areas of the country.

Supposedly in 10 to 15 days, our situation remains the same; in that case, if the infection rate is the same every day, and the mortality rate is similar to now, I think it is time for us to reopen the economy and society in all areas. However, we need to follow a new path (of life) with our Three Dos and Three Don'ts approaches that will lead to the recovery of our economy.

The IMF, the World Bank, and other financial institutions have projected our growth rate from 1.8% to 2.2%. Nevertheless, last year we had a meeting here to forecast 4.1% economic growth, but due to the pandemic, there was a renewed forecast which we will fall to 1.8%, and now it is predicted to be increased to 2.2%.

However, if we can open (our economy) in the last two months of this year, especially domestic tourism and other services, our economic growth may be slightly higher. National budget revenue will be able to return to a better condition.

Well, I thank all the actors involved, especially those who have worked hard to protect themselves and their families, because the COVID-19 problem starts individually from them. I also realized that two-thirds of the previous deaths

were not vaccinated because the vaccination hasn't reached their areas. Nevertheless, yesterday, out of 10 deaths, five of whom were vaccinated and five of whom were not vaccinated.

Last night I asked for what reason they did not get vaccinated? In Phnom Penh, two cases have been found: the stubborn group, to be honest. As a result, one person died last time because the team refused to be vaccinated.

Last night it was reported that this person was not vaccinated as a woman and was probably in the group that refused to be vaccinated. So, I immediately got information that both her husband and father also did not get jabbed.

So, this is where we can educate them to accept the vaccine because anything will require vaccination in the future, not only in Cambodia.

Furthermore, let me tell you – **“Vaccine Obligation” was originated from me, I hold the intellectual property rights to it, but now it is being used around the world.** Let's be true, and it does not mean I am proud of myself. Initially, NGOs in Cambodia asked me to withdraw the sub-decree, saying that I violated their rights.

However, now the French president has taken legal action to cut the salaries of more than 3,000 medical staff who refuse to be vaccinated. US President Joe Biden has ordered the vaccination of federal officials, and Los Angeles is now ordered its students to be vaccinated ... **it is true that Hun Sen said it first, but all countries will play this obligatory vaccination game, and (those who did not get jabbed) are not going to be allowed to enter those countries.**

This is why I think we have to work together to find out about a group of people who have refused to be vaccinated and propagandized others not to get vaccinated. Although we have already vaccinated 13.5 million people with a cov-

erage rate of over 84%, we do not want to let those who believe in this propaganda later unfortunately die. We want them to live.

So, I would like to send a message through the televised broadcast asking the opposition to see the example. In Phnom Penh, there are two cases. The previous case was a 42-year-old former worker from Phnom Prasih, who was hospitalized in Phnom Penh and died. Yesterday, there was another death in Phnom Penh, so I asked why they had not been vaccinated. They seem to be biased towards the team refusing to be vaccinated.

And I asked the research team to find out whether the father and husband (of the deceased) were vaccinated or not? All of them were not. So, we do not want the father and husband to die because the vaccine has helped reduce the severity of the disease. However others, including grandparents who are from 70 to 90 years old, and have a chronic illness, refused the vaccination, that's one thing.

Still we have to find out why those people refused to be vaccinated while our vaccine was in stock, with 11 million doses left for the third dose. Other people have already started to inject the third dose while you are not. So, who are you going to live with in the future? Maybe your house will be closed in the future since it was infected. This is an issue that I would like to appeal to all those who believe in the incitement of the illiterates.

What we are most proud of is the children from 6–12 years old that I was mostly worried that they would be scared of needles, but in the end, we check the numbers that I received every night; this number is more than the number of older children ... We look at the coverage rate of vaccines.

I would like to confirm that ... the vaccination for people from 18 year old has reached 99.14%, for children and ado-

lescents aged 12-18 have reached 89,68%, and children aged 6-12 years has reached 93.78% [...]

So, it is not a small number that we have injected up to 13.4 million out of 16 million people, and the coverage rate is 84.81%. The rest could be those children from one to 6 years old, and some who refused to inject. They will become the ones who will isolate themselves; in the future when they have to go to school or work, they will not be accepted. They will not be allowed to walk in.

So, I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to those who were fooled. We open the vaccination site everywhere, do not be ashamed; you cannot return from death, and not taking the vaccine will make your family members become victims later. This is just an appeal.

No one will die for you, let's be clear with each other. We have tried to find vaccines with little financial resources, we dared spending money for them, and we also asked (other countries) for vaccine grants.

But what I admire is that our armed forces and officials have worked so hard during this period of COVID-19; they have given their all, especially our medical teams, who have worked so hard.

And today, we pass the draft constitution on amendments. Some questions may raise, **why do it so fast?**

Please note that the reason for that is (1) we work, do not sleep, simply put. You work one month, I work only three days, because a few articles to be included in the Constitution are studied, so it is not complicated to work without sleep. (2) your reason to end Hun Sen's position as easily as possible. When the articles came into force, Hun Sen's position would be terminated because of allegations that Hun Sen had dual citizenship. But if Hun Sen does not have dual citizenship, Hun Sen will

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continue.

I posted on Facebook, If you want to play, do not get angry, if you are angry, do not play. The door is closed forever, and for those who have dual citizenship and try to take the position, or so-called search for the top three positions, especially the position of Prime Minister is permanently closed because it is included in the Constitution, you can wait until your next life to find the two-thirds vote. So, we need to make it clear and fast, who is the one with one nationality and who has dual nationality?

The problem lies ahead, but it is beneficial for Cambodia to avoid foreign interference and loyalty to the motherland.

Why not dare to take just one nationality? ... And this is a conflict of interest. Foreign interference in this important position could happen because dual nationals have to pay taxes abroad, and they may threaten that if you do not follow them, your property abroad may be confiscated or others.

Hence, you are likely to be under their influence. But by doing this we intended to affect only four people ... **Dr. Seng Sary, who was interviewed, said he wanted (this new law) to cover from the Under-Secretary of State, which means that all political officials are covered and excluded only public officials. But if we do that, it will affect other people who were forced to flee abroad (in the past) and came back to contribute to building the country as the current officials.**

If we close the gate like this, it will be too conservative, while our country is different from other countries. (For instance) if you want to become a Singaporean citizen, you have to say goodbye to your Cambodian citizenship; I have signed those proposed document ...

But we leave the opportunity for those with dual nationality to become senior ministers, ministers, vice presidents of the national assembly, vice

presidents of the Senate, but only limited to our four people. Wait and see!

I'm waiting to see who opposes this, are those who wants to be the Prime Minister or support the person (with dual nationality) preparing to be the Prime Minister in order to get a position as his/her minister or secretary of state. We will wait and see because it affects four people only: the President of the Senate, the President of the National Assembly, the Prime Minister, and the President of the Constitutional Council.

Thus, for the long-term interests of Cambodia in the future, we need to be Khmerized on more issues later. Until then, we will think more, but now it is not time.

... HE Prak Sokhon must do an excellent job with the state of Cyprus, since this is a state-to-state relationship. Both states suffer the same. For the Royal Government of Cambodia, it affects the Cambodian leader, most importantly the Prime Minister of Cambodia. Cyprus itself was tarnished by using the Cypriot name to denigrate Hun Sen's purchase of citizenship and passport.

Well, both states are equally affected by The Guardian. That press has indeed changed, but we have to confirm between state and state together.

If necessary, HE Prak Sokhon or HE Keut Rith need to meet with the Minister of Foreign Affairs or the Minister of Justice (of Cyprus) through a video chat to clarify the matter. This is not the end because we have requested cooperation on behalf of the state and the state. We cannot be silly or treat it as unimportant since it is a matter of a slandered national leader. In Cyprus, it tarnishes the image of the Cypriot Government, so we have to do it [...]

Let our ambassador in Beijing meet with the Cyprus ambassador. If he does not answer, we will send a note verbale to the ambassador.

We must seek cooperation. Now we have sent a note verbale to the EU Ambassador in Phnom Penh, sent note verbale by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Justice to the Ambassadors of the European Union, including the United Kingdom because the newspaper is British-owned.

So, it needs to be done quickly because the support is so significant. The other day I asked you to study whether to draft or propose a law? But now, we take the draft law approach.

The Prime Minister has the initiative to draft a law. The Constitution permitted that, and the Prime Minister has written a letter to the King requesting that the Constitution be amended. The King asked the Constitutional Council.

The Constitutional Council gives its opinion to the King. The Constitutional Council will examine whether it affects what the Constitution prohibits or not; in particular, constitutional monarchy and multi-party liberal democracy. If not, we can do it.

The King receives the opinion of the Constitutional Council, the King will confirm to the Royal Government, and the Government will send it to the Parliament. Then a constitution can be issued. This is why today, we need to remove the agenda related to the Public Investment Draft Program and set it aside.

Now, journalists, please leave here and broadcast this audio./📢



Resuming Previously Canceled Programs; Re-opening Aairs; No More Lockdowns
Cabinet Meeting, 22 October 2021

Three Agendas of the Cabinet Meeting

Today, the Council of Ministers convened a plenary session to pass the agenda of (1) **the draft law on financial management for 2022**, (2) **the draft budget**

settlement for management in 2020, and (3) **other issues**, requesting the approval of the Council of Ministers on the ASEAN Protocol draft law regarding the strengthening of Dispute Resolution Mechanisms. As before, the issue as such in relation to the adoption of the ASEAN Protocol, I ask the Council of Ministers to sign and send it to the National Assembly. There are many works to carry out this week. Next week, with the National Assembly meeting to pass the amendment of the Constitution, the by-elections, we will have a three-day ASEAN meeting, at which time Cambodia will receive the hammer of ASEAN chairmanship. As far as I know, this hammer has arrived in Phnom Penh because it cannot be sent online. It must be here (to prepare) for Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship 2022.

Living with COVID-19 ... Resuming Previously Canceled Programs

By November, we still have works to do. I would also like to inform you that in the course of learning to live with COVID-19, we have to have person to person meeting here. We will meet in person wherever and whenever possible, and when the possibility is not there, we meet by Zoom. This week, I held two Zoom meetings with the provincial/municipal governors and the anti-COVID-19 commission to discuss some issues. My next step is to get the Ministry of Land Management and Urban Planning inaugurated, set for November 8, to resume preparation. If we are still in the cave, when we let the students go to school, it does not look good and it does not fit the chain of work.

Next, we need to check some other programs that we have canceled, such as the inauguration of the Cambodia-China Stung Trang-Krouch Chhmar Friendship Bridge, the inauguration of achievements in Sihanoukville, which we have done a lot and spent a lot of money [...]. Programs postponed in the past, we can reor-

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ganize them as His Excellency Hang Chuon Naron, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports already announced that from this November, the schools are to reopen. If we do not open everything in general, economic death may be more difficult than death by COVID-19 [...]

Examine Possibility of Reciprocal Principle with Thailand on Tourism

I would also like to ask His Excellency Thong Khon to check (on this matter). I received a list (of countries) from the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Tourism, Sochetra, that the Thai side has submitted a list of 46 countries, including three ASEAN countries: Cambodia, Singapore and Malaysia, whose citizens can enter and exit Thailand. If it is the case, we must figure out reaching this principle of reciprocation with Thailand. Why do that? Let me give you a scoop for consideration. Some countries do not have air relations with us. They (cannot come and go) since we ourselves are closed because the time is too contagious. When people came from Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, there were infections. As of now, we have direct flights from Singapore, China and Korea.

If Thailand starts to implement (this policy), we can start to have a principle of reciprocity with Thailand. We may go into quarantine while going to Thailand. When the Thais come, they also have to do quarantine. In this sense, we can start having direct flight again. For example, while tourists arrived and are welcome in Thailand, they may come to Cambodia because we have a common VISA policy for two countries. Thus, it is possible that Thai tourists and investors are coming to Cambodia and tourists from other countries who came to Thailand can visit Cambodia too. Let us consider that issue to seize the opportunity we have.

Reopening Air Routes with Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines Considered

We are looking at the possibility

of reopening air routes with Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta or any particular location in Indonesia and the Philippines with Cambodia. We have done a good job with our airport, and we have reduced the amount of time for quarantine, which could be sources of attraction and will lead to the reopening of safe and vaccination tourism. This is just a thought to give us a vision for the economic process that we need to discuss today.

I have seen and learnt the experience after the (Buddhist ritual of) Pchum Ben festivity. (We) allowed people to go places and then there was no explosion (of infection). In other words, COVID-19 infection does not rise. The experience is therefore a clue for us to re-open schools and to re-open businesses. The impacts so far have been on agriculture and industry, which are now in full operation. As for the service sector, which provides income and employment for our people, has weakened from the impacts of anti-COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions.

85% of Population Vaccinated

... Many countries have achieved their vaccination plans, and especially in Cambodia, we have a coverage rate of up to 85% for a population of 16 million. I received a report sent to me from HE Prak Sokhon that in Thailand, it seems they have reached a figure of 72 million people. I was not sure. 72 million is more than the number of Thai population. It must perhaps include our Cambodian workers in Thailand. Now, we can hardly find people over the age of 18 in the ten million group for vaccination, as our census puts the number at more than 10.8 million. We may ask where these people are. They may be in Thailand, in South Korea, or any given foreign countries. That is why I insist that we have to take the rate of injection against the 16 million people. Worldometers however puts us at 17 million already, while our statistics rests at 16 million 8

hundred thousand people.

What wondered me is that we have now accomplished (vaccinating) children from 6 to 12 years of age more than those at the age between 12 to 16 years [...] (we have vaccinated) 99.67 percent of those the 10 million people of 18 years of age and over. For 1,969,931 children aged between 12 and 18, 90.53% of them vaccinated. For children between 6 and 12-year-olds, 99.91 percent injected. That is strange. Where do the children aged 12 to 18 go? [...] The group can go with their parents and family to work in Thailand. Their number could have been more than what we counted. Statistically, only 9% more we will accomplish 100% of vaccination and there are more children to vaccinate.

Only Infected Persons Taken for Treatment, No Lockdown Anymore

For us, the current vaccination coverage rate is 85.27 percent in general, which is one of the highest number of vaccinated countries in the world. It is about time now to solve long-term problems. Our biggest loss is in education as children and people in general could not go on with their studies. Human resource training is our main goal and it hits with a problem. From now on, the way we proceed is, for example, when a factory has two or three infected people, to take the infected persons to hospital for treatment. We do not close the whole factory. Previously, when there were infected people in a factory, we closed the factory. We closed the market when we found infected traders. We do not do that anymore. We only take those who are (COVID-19) positive to the hospital, spray disinfectants to the areas and let them go on with businesses. We do the same for schools. Infected students are to go for treatments. Uninfected ones, fully vaccinated, go on with their studies.

Anyone in Doubt, Test Yourself

We also do the same for those

who may need the (COVID-19) test. In the past, we forced people to take tests because at that time we did not have vaccines and/or vaccinate enough ... When you find out the persons in doubt are negative, we turn back to 14 days before [...] there is no need to do that anymore. Previously, in one village, three people infected, we quarantined the whole village. We now entrust the responsibility to each individual in the family. If you find symptoms suspicious, they may seek help with test. We no longer order tests anymore (by) locking down the village or factory for tests. Anyone with doubts can come and take the tests. If the test is positive, but the symptoms are normal, give him/her medicine to go home for treatment. If the symptoms are sickness, we take him to the hospital.

No More Sampling of Corpses outside/in Hospital

The Ministry of Health announced yesterday about taking no more samples of bodies that died outside the hospital or inside the hospital but died outside the framework of COVID-19. Previously, when someone died at home, we sent specialists to test for COVID-19. Whoever died, s/he died because of all COVID-19 from the rapid test because what is the rapid test device for [...] it is not a test for diabetes or any neurological disease, it is a test to find COVID-19 [...] sometime did the test on the body is 90 years old [...]. There is a need to distinguish between death by the real COVID-19 and those for other reasons ... This is what we have learnt gradually from our experience in managing (the infectious disease). In general, we managed well and the provinces met and discussed with me. We listened to each other on how to manage and solve problems involved, the case of corpses included.

Today we start working directly from person to person. On October 25, the National Assembly will convene the session to adopt the amendments of the Constitution and the by-election

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to ensure that after our festivities there are no disasters after our happy celebrations.

On the other hand, if we do our best not to spread the disease, even if we are not going to organize the Water Festival, our people will have chances to enjoy more (as) the situa-

[...] if we do our best not to spread the disease, even if we are not going to organize the Water Festival, our people will have chances to enjoy more (as) the situation may allow them to travel places during the Water Festival [...] as domestic tourists grow, in addition, we are working on planning to receive safe tourists or fully vaccinated tourists from abroad [...]

tion may allow them to travel places during the Water Festival [...]. As domestic tourists grow, in addition, we are working on planning to receive safe tourists or fully vaccinated tourists from abroad [...]

I call on the authorities everywhere to pay attention to the accumulation of people and try to keep social distance of one family from another and from strangers ... Family members living in the same house can stay close together. The key to prevention is to ensure social distance in overcrowding places. We have no way of knowing who got the disease and led to the infection. Wearing a mask in the public places where we are walking is necessary, washing our hands, after holding or touching anything, with alcohol or gel is also necessary.

... This is a huge test between disaster and safety. If we do it right, the disaster will not happen, and it will not fail us from reopening the country ... Safety will be possible depending on the individual and each family during this trip. (Should we have) safe post-Pchum Ben days, we would be able to reopen the country in all fields, from restaurants to other service-related businesses allowing our economy to re-open in full, either agriculture, industry or services bringing the country in a new normal way

to pre-Covid-19 life. As you know, we have to live in a new way – wearing a mask, washing our hands, keeping distance with one another as required by the health sector.

... I do not dare to go out. I am staying put to monitor this situation everywhere through the provincial and capital authori-

ties as well as the Ministry of Tourism, who regularly report me developments in the fields. I must keep a close eye on it. The anti-Covid-19 Commissions at the national as well as sub-national level are monitoring the situation in their respective provinces. In general, we need to do this work well. Be happy and do not bring misery to yourself and your family through Covid-19 infection. We must enjoy the festivities and our country is still peaceful, giving the Royal Government the opportunity to make a decision to reopen the country that I hope it will improve the lives of our people.

(In other words) the test (we are taking) is not to risk the lives of the people. It is because we trust the participation of the people, combined with the fact that we have vaccinated (enough), we allow our people to travel. We truly believe in the understanding and participation of the people. The authorities everywhere and in all monasteries must take high precautions. People protect themselves, protect their families, and there should not be Covid-19 out-breaking infection after Pchum Ben [...]

Thank you to all the monks and nuns, compatriots, who participated in this important Buddhist event that will bring us to a remarkable outcome – either we will face with the pandemic disaster after this festival or we

are safe, allowing the opportunity to reopen the country to promote Cambodia's socio-economic development. Thank you./☐



Situation of COVID-19 after Pchum Ben 19 October 2021

After Pchum Ben, our people visited many places, and we observed that the number of cases did not increase. On the contrary, the number of cases decreased and the number of deaths was fixed and downward. These are the extensive tests I have mentioned to compatriots before about our efforts to reopen the country in all areas. Even though the transmission has declined, the number of deaths was fixed and with a downward, but the risk is still high, so adapting to living with COVID-19 is inevitable because we do not know when COVID-19 will end.

Our vaccinations campaign has

[...] Our vaccinations campaign has done well, with more than 13.6 million people have been vaccinated so far, accounting for more than 85% of the population ... All in all, we can say that vaccines are a solid foundation for protecting the lives of our people, reducing infections, and if there is an infection, it does not lead to seriousness. Now, after the second dose, it is time to give the third dose according to the area where the injection was given before and after, and it is starting in Phnom Penh [...]

done well, with more than 13.6 million people have been vaccinated so far, accounting for more than 85% of the population. With this number, those who are affected will not lead to seriousness. Most of the people who died due to COVID-19 were seriously ill in the past, and when they arrived at the hospital, they had already started to have serious problems. All in all, we can say that vaccines are a solid foundation for protecting the lives of our people, reducing infections, and if there is an infection, it does not lead to seriousness. Now, after the second dose, it is time to give the third dose according to the area where the injection was given before and after, and it is starting in Phnom Penh. The gap between the second to the

third dose is about 4-6 months.

Our privilege is that we have had enough vaccines to vaccinate our people with the help of friendly countries, especially the People's Republic of China, the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom, and COVAX. We also bought the vaccine, and the total number of vaccines we have received so far is about 38 million doses for our people.

From yesterday's data, we observed that with the mortality rate of 12, 8 were those unvaccinated. Generally, the death rate of those who have not been vaccinated is very big. They have different reasons not to get the vaccine, which I would suggest for our medical teams, the authorities, and our citizens to strive for the vaccine. Even the vaccination in some provinces has already ended, but we still leave some for our people; we may create a campaign to vaccinate people in the village at home if our people cannot travel to the vaccination place. I

ask our authorities at all levels to take care of this matter at the local level.

As for treatment, we have observed that in the past, many patients were sent to Phnom Penh, while the Royal Government has strengthened the capacity of treatment in the provinces and regions that can already respond with treatment for our people in the provinces. Building treatment capacity for COVID-19 in the provinces has been going on for a long time, and it can respond to the problems in the provinces. Still, it is not uncommon for our people not to fully trust the provincial hospitals. As a result, our people have just sent their families,

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parents, relatives, and friends to Phnom Penh for treatment. Transferring COVID-19 patients to Phnom Penh is not a good way to save their lives. According to the meetings that I held with the provincial governors and other leaders yesterday, this point was found, the provincial health department or the provincial level did not send those patients to the city. It was their family that sends them to Phnom Penh. We can understand that Phnom Penh is more capable than the provinces. Still, in the case of COVID-19, we have already strengthened for more than a year regarding the ability to treat it in the provinces with the participation of doctors from the central committee.

I ask for attention; according to medical research, doctors have shown that if this patient travels a long way in a car with air conditioning, it will worsen this patient. The patient, even if those with regular health travel a few hours by car to the hospital, makes the patient's condition severe and upon the arrival at the hospital, their condition will also be challenging to recover. At this point, I would like to appeal to our compatriots to trust the provincial hospitals, which we have worked hard to build to strengthen the medical capacity of the hospitals in the provinces. Doing this is to avoid the jam packed of patients in Phnom Penh, but that is a secondary issue; the biggest problem is protecting the lives of patients to prevent accidents due to irresponsible delivery and will make the condition worse. Sending them to Phnom Penh is not necessary since the province can also treat the disease.

On the other hand, about the infection at the current level ... in the past, when there was infection in one village, we had to close the whole village and took samples across the village or throughout the factory, for example. Now we do not do that anymore, but we set up a sampling site. When in doubt, each individual must be aware of their responsibilities to go to those places organized by the

health department. When the health department finds that you are positive, the health department also has to check and discuss with the patient to decide whether the patient can undergo home treatment or at the hospital according to whether it is a severe or mild condition.

On this point, I already mentioned concerning the treatment at the hospital in the province or Phnom Penh, and I would like to refer to the treatment at home, which is the responsibility of the family and the whole community in common. At this point, we have implemented quarantine at home and have been involved in community outreach to assist in the screening, prevention, and treatment of the patient when the house is in the same village and help each other in times of need. Please avoid discrimination that leads to shameful patients. In some places, they have developed a culture of helping each other since last year when the community transmission has taken place along with quarantining, and our people have come together to help take care of those who are victims. Now, in the case of home treatment, it is no different than the quarantine; let our brothers and sisters

[...] We have to live with COVID-19 on a new trajectory with Three do's and Three don'ts and avoid discrimination of the COVID-19 patients. Instead, we must be united in the fight against COVID-19 to achieve socio-economic openness in all areas, with efforts to implement the Three Do's and Three Don'ts, accepting the vaccines, eradicating discriminatory diseases and creating a culture of solidarity as we go through this pandemic [...]

take care of each other in arranging home treatment to keep an eye out and support the family in the village where the patient lives. If we do this well, our country will be united between the sick and the normal. It's like a wheel and spoke; sometimes we are sick, sometimes they are sick. Caring for each other will then create a culture of sharing, a culture of helping each other in difficult times, because we encourage home treatment, it is a great way to reduce hospital admissions and isolate from family (to avoid spreading to them). If

encouraged and supported by the neighbors, it will make the patient feel better and recover faster.

I want to emphasize that those who recovered from COVID-19 will later become a great source of anti-COVID-19. In some countries, people who recovered from COVID-19 are being used as a serviceman to serve those infected with the disease. Since you recovered from COVID-19, you have established antibodies against it. Therefore, discrimination against a COVID-19 patient is wrong. They need to be treated, after they are recovered, they will be the ones to help those who have not been contracted the disease yet.

So hopefully, all of our work, both in Phnom Penh and in the provinces, for instance home treatment, will go well so that we can begin to learn to live with COVID-19 and that we will be able to reopen our country. We are at a time when agriculture and industry are doing well, and the service sector is likely to be reopened, as we had tested during Pchum Ben. On Saturday and Sunday, we had about 140,000 people traveled domestically. Then, we can begin to open more services to

reopen our country in all areas. Schools also need to be reopened so that our children and grandchildren can get into school. Whether with the closure or opening, there are still new cases. We have given two doses and started booster dose, we now have more than 10 million doses in stock for those who have not injected and those who are in need of the third jab. For the booster shots, we have already injected more than 1 million people according to the plan across the country. In Phnom Penh, there are almost half a million people who have already injected.

Please do your best to do what I have just mentioned. First, avoid bringing patients to Phnom Penh for treatment, as it poses a risk for patients, and keep trust on provincial hospitals ... However, referring patients to Phnom Penh by car with air conditioning or without air conditioning is a risk for patients. So try to keep them treated in the provinces.

(Second) in the case of testing, we do not use the method of testing one by one, testing the whole village, or placing one village in quarantine any more. Those who have suspicion should be responsible and go to have his/her sample taken, and when the doctor finds him/her positive, he will consider whether the patient should be sent to the hospital or give medicine for home treatment. And this home treatment also requires the participation of people in the village to help take care of the patients to avoid discouraging them, which could lead this patient to recover faster with the encouragement from community. We should develop a culture of helping each other in difficult times of COVID-19, avoid discrimination against the patient or the family of COVID-19 patient; while considering those who recovered from COVID-19 as a force in protecting other from COVID-19 since they now have immunity.

On the other hand, if you have not been vaccinated with first or second dose, you must take them. I also asked the authorities and the medical team to conduct a geographical examination in a remote area that has not yet been vaccinated fully. Please inject the disabled patient and others who are not able to get the vaccine by going to them directly at their village/home. I admire the grandchildren who injected at such a fast pace compared to the elderly. Now children between the ages of 6 and 12 have been injected more than 95 percent, which is a high number, even if they have injected last, but still inject in large numbers. So do not hesitate with the vaccination; so

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Building Sustainable Digital Future

(25 October 2021 — Extensive Excerpts and Unofficial Translation)

First of all, I am delighted to deliver the keynote remarks at the Closing Ceremony of the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit 2021 under the theme “**Building Our Sustainable Digital Future**”. In parallel, I would like to congratulate the handover of chairmanship of the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit from Brunei to Cambodia, and highly appreciate the achievements made under the chairmanship of Brunei in 2021.

The Covid-19 pandemic has not only impacted public health and endangered the lives of our people, but also disrupted the development of ASEAN as a whole. However, the global economy is expected to gradually recover in 2021 and 2022, supported by the steady increase of trade in commodities while trade in services is also slowly growing. In general, this clearly shows the effectiveness of the implementation of measures to fight against COVID-19, as well as policies laid out to revive socio-economic activities; particularly the global Covid-19 vaccination Remarks by Samdech Techo HUN SEN, At the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit, October 25, 2021 Page 1 of 4 campaign, which is the key to restore trust of private sector toward the resumption of economic activities and reopening of the countries.

In fact, the Covid-19 pandemic has also provided us important experiences and lessons, for which we have to consider and incorporate into policy and reform agendas at both national and regional levels. In this spirit, ASEAN has set out key initiatives and frameworks for implementation, including **the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework**, the “**Bandar Seri Begawan Roadmap**”: on ASEAN Digital Transformation Agenda, **Framework for Circular Economy for the ASEAN Economic Community**, and **Non-Tariff Measures Cost-Effectiveness Toolkit**, etc. In addition, the theme of our summit is indeed relevant and necessary for ASEAN in the context of learning to live with Covid-19 in the new normal, i.e. enhancing the development of digital ASEAN and sustainable ASEAN with the aim of promoting equitable and inclusive socio-economic recovery.

The evolution of digital economy has brought vast opportunities; as it has not only provided new source of economic growth, but also increased economic productivity. In this context, in order to promote resilient and sustainable development in the region, ASEAN needs to advance digital transformation, particularly encourage business enterprises to harness digital technology, by initiating the arrangement of joint governance for digital infrastructure development, including standardization, regulation, privacy, data sharing and digital connectivity, through the implementation the **ASEAN Digital Master Plan 2025** as well as other key initiatives.

Concurrently, accelerating regional and global integration is also one of the top priorities in supporting recovery and sustainable socio-economic development. ASEAN must continue to adhere to multilateralism, strengthen globalization, and strive to advance the regional integration agenda in line with **ASEAN Vision 2025**, aimed at strengthening greater connectivity between social beings and economic dynamism. For that, we need to pay utmost attention on a number of important tasks, including: fostering comprehensive and in-depth liberalization of trade in services and investment, facilitating safe cross-border movement of travelers, and enhancing the capacity of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), etc.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to highlight the roles that private sector can play so as to contribute to achieving the priority works and work plan of ASEAN in 2022 as follows:

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Ten Millionth Job Found

(31 October 2021 — Extensive Excerpts and Unofficial Translation)

Today, in Cambodia, we have vaccinated 10 million and 88 people against Covid-19, which is more than 100% of the 10 million people who have been vaccinated. This is a massive success within the framework of protecting the health of our people. Even though we vaccinated more than 10 million people, the equivalent of 100% of the initial plot number, there are still tens of thousands of people who have not been vaccinated yet. We need to keep vaccinating and cover all people. In addition to the population over the age of 18, of which we have vaccinated about 10 million, we also have vaccinated children and adolescents from the age of 12 to 18, approximately 1,788,802, equivalent to 97.89%, and 1,920,599 children aged 6 to 12, equal to 101.22%.

In total, we have vaccinated 13,709,487 of our compatriots, equivalent to 85.68% of the total population of 16 million. Our next task is to complete the injection of the second dose and for those who have not yet received the first dose. It is even more critical that we continue our efforts to vaccinate the third dose to our people; it is a must. So far, we have about 10 million doses of the vaccine in hand, and people have been vaccinated for the third dose by about 2 million people. The vaccine will continue to arrive.

Tomorrow, November 1, 2021, we will start to Inject the five-year-old children of more than 300,000. I would like to extend my appreciation and gratitude to all stakeholders who participated in the vaccination campaign against the Covid-19; I call on our people to continue to implement preventive measures recommended of the Ministry of health, especially the health measures, Three Do’s and Three Don’ts because vaccine alone, no matter how many doses you inject, it will not be entirely preventable of the disease if you neglect the Three Do’s and Three Don’ts measures.

I would like to congratulate Aunty Sok Phat, 89 years old, residing in the village Training, Sangkat Slor Kram, Siem Reap City, Siem Reap, who received the ten millionth job. Lok Chumteav Or Vandin will bring 10 million riels and other materials to award her in person. I would like to wish my compatriots happiness, prosperity and avoid Covid-19 disease./■

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of members of the government. I will go to the parliament [...] we are working directly person to person. We start working in person in all frameworks. Where there is a suspicion, let us conduct a rapid test and so on. Where there is a need for PCR to perform analysis, we do not prohibit it. Let us protect each family or individual institution to ensure safety in the workplace [...]

Now each person knows how to do it (rapid test). I just do not dare to swab my nose myself [...] I did not do a rapid test. I did the test with my PCR [...] Indonesia, infection rate has fallen from more than 120,000 people to a few hundred a day – 600 to 700 people – and it has been for 10 days [...] at the same time in Singapore yester-

day, more than 3,000 people were infected and 18 died [...]

As long as there is no safety in any one country, we are not safe. However, when there is an economic opening in Thailand, there is tourism in Thailand, as (Thailand has) put Cambodia (in the group of countries to enter Thailand) without taking obliged quarantines, we must take a reciprocal approach. If Cambodians go to Thailand without being in quarantines, we also have to let Thais come without quarantines too. We are observing this relation with the reciprocity principle. This is my introductory statement. Now, I invite (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance) HE Aun Pommoneith to introduce the draft law on finance for management./■

Cambodia ASEAN Chairmanship

(28 October 2021 — Extensive Excerpts and Unofficial Translation)

Your Majesty the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, Chair of the Meeting;

Excellencies ASEAN Leaders;

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

At the outset, on behalf of the people and the Royal Government of Cambodia, I am indeed proud that Cambodia is taking on the ASEAN Chairmanship for 2022. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my great appreciation to Brunei for leading ASEAN in 2021 under the theme “**We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper**”. Particularly, I wish to commend Your Majesty the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah for the wise and effective leadership as well as achieving many fruitful outcomes, including the Summits that have just been concluded.

As the Chair of ASEAN in 2022, Cambodia will steer ASEAN’S collective efforts to accomplish our important tasks, especially expediting the building process of an equitable, strong, and inclusive ASEAN Community, which are in line with core spirit of ASEAN: **One Vision, One Identity and One Community**. In this regard, Cambodia would like to underscore key priorities for 2022 as follows:

1st. Political and Security Pillar: Cambodia will focus on strengthening the ASEAN Centrality and ASEAN Unity, for both regional mechanism and external partners’ cooperation, based on ASEAN Way and Principles stipulated in the ASEAN Charter, Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, and ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific. Also, ASEAN must be resilient and strong against the pressure and influence stemming from rising geopolitical competition, transnational crime, terrorism, climate change and infectious diseases, etc. to ensure our way forward in peace, security, and prosperity.

2nd. Economic Pillar: Cambodia will promote effective implementation of all initiatives and measures agreed as well as leverage trade agreements to the maximum so as to expedite the recovery of economic growth while we are living with Covid-19 in the new normal, and ensure that ASEAN remains an attractive and dynamic hub for trade and investment by enhancing both physical and digital connectivity; strengthening the capacity of MSMEs; and promoting the entrepreneurship amongst women and youth; as well as other priorities aimed at narrowing the development gaps and advancing regional integration.

3rd. Socio-Cultural Pillar: Cambodia will strengthen the development of human resources to respond to the needs on the ground for community building, promote the participation of women and youth in building and maintaining peace, and develop an inclusive social protection system. Another key priority is strengthening people-to-people bonds to enhance the spirit of One ASEAN Identity.

By and large, Cambodia will continue to mobilize support and cooperation to achieve the goal of building the three ASEAN Communities, in line with the ASEAN COMMUNITY VISION 2025. In addition, we will expedite the development of the **ASEAN Community’s Post-2025 Vision**.

As the Chair of ASEAN in 2022, Cambodia is committed to leading ASEAN under the theme “**ASEAN A.C.T.: Addressing Challenges Together**” for harmony, peace, and prosperity in the whole region. I look forward to warmly welcome to you all to Cambodia in 2022.

Finally, I wish Your Majesty the Sultan, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, success in all the endeavors and be safe from Covid-19.

See you all next year in Cambodia!🇰🇹

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1st. seizing full benefits of the existing ASEAN Free Trade Agreements, especially **RCEP** that is planned to enter into force in early 2022, to boost trade and investment activities, particularly foreign direct investment, so as to create jobs, increase income for our people and stimulate economic growth.

2nd. contributing to human resource development through the transfer of technology, knowledge and know-how, particularly the development of digital skill as well as the enhancement of science, technology and innovation through collaboration with business and direct investment from abroad, which would contribute to narrowing the digital gap and developing digital economy in the region.

3rd. heightening collaboration between public and private sector, especially through Public-Private Partnership mechanism, aimed at mobilizing financial resource for the development and implementation of various initiatives as well as for fulfilling the financial needs for sustainable socio-economic recovery.

For Cambodia, I would like to inform the meeting that, with proactive spirit to promote the participation of private sector in reviving and promoting national economic growth, the Royal Government of Cambodia adheres to the approach of turning the crisis into the opportunity through launching and implementing key policies and measures, including: **Cambodia Digital Economy and Social Policy Framework 2021-2035, New Investment Law** as well as the conclusion of the “**Law on Public-Private Partnership**”, “**Cambodia-China Free Trade Agreement**” and “**Cambodia-Korea Free Trade Agreement**”, which are planned to enter into force soon.

More importantly, on containment of the spread of Covid-19, along with strengthening the implementation of education, administrative and health measures to protect health and lives of people, as of October 21, 2021, the Royal Government of Cambodia has vaccinated 13.6 million people, equivalent to 85.27% of the total population of 16 million. On this basis, the Royal Government of Cambodia has been intensifying the resumption of socio-economic activities toward full operation in the context of the new normal, and also planning to launch the “**Strategy for Recovery and Promoting Economic Growth through Learning to Live with Covid-19 in the New Normal**” at the end of 2021.

Finally, as Chair of ASEAN in 2022, Cambodia is committed to providing full support and facilitation for the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit to attain more achievements. At the same time, Cambodia will continue to enhance the building process of ASEAN Economic Community, trade and investment, and cooperation between ASEAN and its partners in order to restore growth and transform ASEAN into a region of peace, resilience and development. I wish you, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen good health, safety and success in all your endeavors.🇰🇹

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far, we have not had any victims from getting the vaccine; hopefully, we will all overcome this situation, which sees the infection rate and death rate drop. We have to make this decline continue, even if we do not dare to say zero COVID-19 death or zero COVID-19 transmission, but the number of infections and the number of deaths must decrease for us to reopen the country. We have to live with COVID-19 on a new

trajectory with Three do’s and Three don’ts and avoid discrimination of the COVID-19 patients. Instead, we must be united in the fight against COVID-19 to achieve socio-economic openness in all areas, with efforts to implement the Three Do’s and Three Don’ts, accepting the vaccines, eradicating discriminatory diseases and creating a culture of solidarity as we go through this pandemic [...].🇰🇹