



27 December 2012 — Samdech Techo Hun Sen with people during the Inauguration Ceremony of the Sugar Factory in Tpong District, Kompong Speu Province (Kampuchea Thmey).

## Presenting Land Titles in Takeo Pro.

(30 December 2012 — Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

### Systematic Land Registration Started in Takeo in 2000

I am so glad that I have the chance to return to the province of Takeo. I am so sorry that I had to reschedule my presence to hand out the land titles to our people in Takeo province as I was very busy. I then asked Deputy Prime Minister HE Sok An to hand out land titles of 403 land parcels to 301 families in the district of Kirivong. Today is Sunday which is a holiday for everyone. However, tomorrow will be the day for our people to prepare for New Year.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the governor of Takeo for the report that this is not my first time here concerning this issue. The systematic registration of cadastre information index started in Takeo on December 2, 2000, when the first land ownership titles were presented to Mr. An Socheat and Ms. Khieu Sopheap

in the village of Sre Tasok, Jumrah Pen commune, Samraong district, Takeo province.

December 2 has been the day that we established the National United Front for Salvation of Kampuchea, the first meeting for political negotiation between Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and me in search of national reconciliation and political settlement to the conflict. 2 December 1998 was also the day that we put out the triangular strategy, in which the *first angle* was to achieve internal pacification, *the second angle* was to integrate Cambodia in the region and internationally, and *the third angle* was to combine all forces for socio-economic development and poverty reduction.

### With Hun Sen and CPP – Household Farmlands Tax Free

It is not by chance when we say that measuring and titling

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## A Visit to the Crematorium Site

(18 December 2012 — Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

*During the visit to the construction site of the crematorium at the Crematorium area adjacent to the Royal Palace, talking to the construction workers and architects, Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, singles out the importance of doing the job safely and properly since this will culminate in respect Cambodians can pay for their beloved King-Father.*

Dear nieces, nephews and everyone who are involved in the

construction of the crematorium, I consider your works as significant contributions to say goodbye to the King-Father, for whom our people owe the greatest gratitude. I hope everyone who has been working here will make steadfast effort in meeting the schedule of constructing the crematorium. While doing the job, I urge you all to pay attention to safety measures as required by the construction regulation such as putting on safety helmets, (Continued on page 8)

## Presenting Land Titles in P. Sihanouk Pro.

(02 December 2012 — Unofficial Translation)

### No Beach Rest, More Works Done

I am so glad to preside over the handing-out of land titles ceremony for the first time in the province of Preah Sihanouk. After this session, more handing-outs will be conducted with presence of my representative. I was in the province of Preah Sihanouk since yesterday but I was obliged to go back to Phnom Penh for some urgent matters. If I did not return to Phnom Penh yesterday, there would be lot of unaccomplished works. Relatively, I have to be present every day as there are sub-decrees and decisions that need to be made and signed in relation to land issue.

For example, without the sub-decree I sign, the cadastre officials would not know what or have anything to do as every land title there need to be a reference number of each relevant sub-decree or decision. I

failed to stay for the beach but I got more works up and running.

### Many Works Fulfilled by Team 99 and 100, Thank the Family of Mr Di

I have great pleasure that the local authority as well as our people and the armed forces have actively participated in measuring and titling lands for the people. I must single out the excellent jobs that the cadastre officials and the youth-student volunteers have been fulfilling in this province, especially Team 100 of the youth volunteers who are fulfilling their mission in this area. One of the best performances of Team 100 is their effort in put- (Continued on page 2)

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ting together a house for a female widow whose former house was on fire.

Aside from these, they have written a brief history of the village of Svay (mango) and the historic mission of the youth-student volunteers Team 100 according to the Order 01 BB on the land of Prey Nub district, Preah Sihanouk province. Last night, on the Bayon TV, Mr. Thol Koeun said that the mango tree is thirty years old. Let us keep it as a heritage. They also wrote fifteen songs and many poems. Two of the poems are good – about the Village of Svay and the Order 001 BB.

In the Team 99, can I see who Di Puthearith is? He has three brothers joining the land measuring and titling mission. It seems Di Puthearith is the second son whereas his elder brother is head of the youth-student volunteers in Kompong Chhnang province and the third son is working in the same mission in Ratanakiri. I also learned that Mr. Di Puthearith's father has five boys. This has shown the high level of trust he has on the authority and Royal Government that he let three of his five sons, who are in their tertiary education, to work for the mission. Mr. Di also declares in one of his interview to the press that he would be willing to take up the mission too if the Royal Government would need him. I am grateful for his will but at this stage we are not in that need yet.

### **51,200 Hectares to Measure and Issue Land Titles**

According to the report of the provincial governor HE Sbaong Sarat on November 26 and the report he just made, the total land area to be measured is 51,200 hectares concerning three districts, in 19 communes and 47 villages. There are 12,566 families. Among the total land, 4,585 hectares are

relating to 7,021 families, 46,625 hectares are relating to the 2002 forest coverage area and 5,546 families. With regard to the land, a large number of land has been measured already. You have proven to overcome the hardships and get your mission fulfilled. I am sure your speed will pick up further because we have the weather advantage now.

Today there are 471 families in the village of Svay, Choeng Ko commune, Prey Nub district, the Preah Sihanouk province, coming to collect their land titles. They will collect 919 land parcel titles, which is equal to 878.73 hectares, 909 of which, 87,149 hectares, are to be given to 471 families. There is a piece of 1.33 hectare land that belongs to the Buddhist pagoda and is for common use, seven land parcels belong to the public state land and two land parcels, 1.93 hectare, are for community use in burying the dead. As you can see we have the private property and the public state land, like it belongs to the Buddhist pagoda or community. However, I did not see the registration of land that belongs to school in the public state land yet.

### **Get Back to School to Finish the Study**

We need to go on with the work until we finish it. It is true that we need some more time. However, as I said before, I urge those of you who have not yet finished your study to go back to school and finish your study. If I were to let you go on, you would probably abandon your study. That is why starting from December (2012) we will allow to go on with the mission those who have finished their studies. Failing to finish your study would be major and long-term setback for your future. It is to avert this problem that I am urging those of you who have not yet finished your study to

get back to school and finish your study.

While saying so I also have the need to express my sincere thanks to our people for the love and regard they reserve for the nieces and nephews, the youth-student volunteers and cadastre officials. I am sure that we feel secure to have the care provided by the provincial, district and local authorities, and the local armed force.

### **Three Key Events on December 2**

We all know that today is December 2, a great historic day of our country. For me, December 2 has three great meanings. *Firstly*, December 2 is the date of the foundation of the National United Front for Salvation of Kampuchea, for which I have brought here with me some photos and my book of records. Today from 34 years ago, I was with other leaders in the district of Snuol, Kratie province, where the Cambodian Youth Federation has been camping since November 30. They have divided their members into four teams to plant trees, to do research and to talk to villagers.

*Secondly*, December 2 is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the negotiation for peace between Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and me. It is commonly referred as the Sihanouk-Hun Sen Meeting in Fere en Tardenois, France (December 2, 1987). Between then and now, it is 25 years already. Well I do not need to go into detail on this fact but to remind you all that if there were not December 2, 1987, there would not be October 23, 1991 (the day when Cambodian factions signed the Paris Peace Agreement).

*Thirdly*, December 2 is also the first Cabinet meeting of the Royal Government of the second legislature of the National Assembly that put out the Triangular Strategy, which con-

sists of three angles. The first angle refers to the pacification of Cambodia, and it includes also the dissolving of the Khmer Rouge's political and military organization. We were able to integrate all former rebel areas, organized elections in Anlong Veng district, the last Khmer Rouge stronghold, in 1998.

### **2 December 1978— Key of All Events**

... I want to define that if there were no December 2, 1978, there would not be December 2, 1987 and the January 7, 1979 (when Cambodia was liberated from the genocidal regime of Pol Pot). The reason is (without the December 2, 1978) both Hun Sen and the late King Father could have been dead already (under Pol Pot). There would not be a chance for the two to negotiate for peace. That is a historical fact.

Who could ascertain that the removal of Pol Pot could be possible only by applying external pressure and diplomatic means? Who could exercise diplomatic pressure when Pol Pot did not have diplomatic relations with many countries while chasing people out of the city? The late King Father admitted to me during our negotiation that "if it were not because of your army and the Vietnamese army, I would have been dead too." That was clear then that if both of us were dead, we could not find an end to the conflict.

The other day I asked the Queen Mother when the song "Good Bye Cambodia" was written? The Queen Mother told that the King Father wrote the song in 1975 because after the country's liberation from Lon Nol, Pol Pot did not allow the King Father to return. He was so desperate as he would not be able to return to Cambodia. It is not a recently written song. When they could not

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prevent the King Father from entering the country, Pol Pot allowed his return but only to have him and the Royal Family members under house arrest in the Royal Palace.

Numerous children and grandchildren of the late King Father were killed under the regime. If we did not liberate the country then, would anyone expect Pol Pot let (everyone) alive? As for me, even if I was putting together an army (to resist Pol Pot's rule of atrocity), it is not certain that I would stay alive. It is clear that the late King Father, for whom we are mourning and presenting him with the title Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod, and I are the main actors in the peace process for Cambodia.

### **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sihanouk-Hun Sen Peace Negotiation**

I have said it already that there would not be January 7, 1979, if we did not have the December 2, 1978. If we did not have the January 7, 1979 Victory, there would not be the Sihanouk-Hun Sen Meeting in Fere en Tardenois, and even more so, the October 23, 1991. HE Im Chhun Lim, Ieng Moly were members of the negotiating teams and signatories of the Paris Peace Agreement. Some people have claimed that the Paris Peace Agreement belongs to him/her, though there was no his/her signature on the agreement.

As far as the October 23 is concerned, the Paris Peace Agreement had an issue that had yet to get an agreement. HE Ieng Moly may still remember about the issue of decision-making rule by the Supreme National Council (SNC), which there was no agreement at the meeting in Pattaya, Thailand. The point was that SNC would adhere to consensus in making decision, and while there could not be a consensus, decision would rest

with the Head of UNTAC (United Nations Transitional Authority for Cambodia).

Representing the State of Cambodia, I proposed that while it would not be possible to get a consensus, the Head of the SNC should be the one to make the decision. That is the different point. Addressing the issue to the Security Council, I felt like being placed on a chopping board when there was a letter from the late King Father on the table suggesting that it was up to HE Hun Sen and the State of Cambodia to decide on the issue. The late King Father agreed that in case of absence of consensus, the Head of UNTAC would have to power to decide. I was caught off guard and had to affirm to the members of the Security Council and related actors, including also then Secretary General Peres de Cuellar of the United Nations, that I agreed.

This development has put the US in a state of indecisiveness. HE Ieng Moly could have remembered that there were US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon and Siv Sichan, advisor to the US President. In a working breakfast, HE Michael Costello, Deputy Foreign Minister of Australia, told me straight away he had a question from the US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon to verify if what I said in the meeting was valid or approved by Phnom Penh. I told him before the negotiation, I had been granted full rights and what I already decided would not change.

In Pattaya, HE Ieng Moly could still remember too, the tripartite was very clever. They proposed that all factions to the Cambodian conflict should each retain its army of 2,000 men. This way because they have three factions, they would have 6,000 men, while the State of Cambodia, one party, controlling a large area of the

country would have only 2,000 men. It was clearly unbalanced. I then invited the French head of delegation to have breakfast together and I said to him what the permanent five countries would think if I were to demobilize 70% of my army. He happily responded that would be very good.

I reasoned with him that the Khmer Rouge faction would always object to whatever I raised. I requested him to bring the issue to the attention of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk on the proposition for the 70% reduction of the army. I assured him I would support this proposition announced by Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, who then became fully Head of SNC after the meeting in Beijing. In the meeting, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk said that the big countries would find it acceptable if 70% of the army would be demobilized. I raised my hand in support of the proposition, while the rest followed suit.

I always compared this to a scenario in which Hun Sen gives a cake to someone and the latter send it to someone else. The cake would then end up coming back to Hun Sen. In this case I sent the cake to Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk via the Head of the French delegation, and Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk sent it back to me. That is diplomacy.

### **The Triangular Strategy's Fourteenth Anniversary**

Today, fourteen years ago, it was the Cabinet meeting on the Triangular Strategy, in which one of the three angles was to pacify the country by means of ending civil war, through the introduction of the 1996 win-win policy, which is now 14 years. I would like to take this chance to share with all of you again that as early this year I went to Vietnam to

pay my respects to the souls and reset the graves for the 49 fallen combatants. The Vietnamese side approved to offer the land to us for such burial.

We have today the presence of HE Suos Kanan, former soldier from that time too. It is regretful that two have passed away – Keo Samuon, commander of military region III, then my personal secretary, and Ngao Minh, Deputy Chief of Staff. Sar Savoeyun and Uy Sopheap also died last year. However, in the National Assembly, we still have four former soldiers from that time – Suos Kanan, Saom Chen, Neo Sam and Hul Savoan, in the Senate - Peng Pat, Mean Sam An, and in the Royal Government – Men Sam An.

It is a good thing that I have my diary written in sequence until I came to Phnom Penh. The book started in November 1978. General Pol Saroen, Chief of General Staff, before was known as Heng Nith. In my diary I have many records about many people like Di Pheen, Meas Samnang, etc.

### **Formation of the NUFSSK Army**

I was so glad that three other groups accepted my proposal to establish the National United Front for Salvation of Kampuchea. We had then not one but four different groups with three armed forces. The first rebel group belonged to Samdech Heng Samrin and Samdech Chea Sim in the eastern zone. When the leaders had not yet met, five hundred of their troops came joining my team. The second rebel group operated in the northeastern part of the country under the command of Brother Bun Mi and Brother Bou Thang. The third rebel group operated in Koh Kong from late 1974 through to 1975. The fourth group did not have its own armed force was the ones that fled to Vietnam after the Ge-

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neva conference.

In January 1978, I had the permission from Vietnam to assist in the formation of the armed forces. On November 8, 1978, I met with Le Duc Tho, the chief strategist of Vietnam, the negotiating counterpart of Henry Kissinger. In fact, on May 12, 1978, an armed force was formed already. On 22 November 1978, we had a meeting of four groups of delegation, while the fifth one still hidden as secret force in Koh Kong province. On 27 November 1978, we organized the conference of the National Front. On 28 November 1978, we had discussions on map, flag, etc.

These are not fictions. They are hand written. On 29 November 1978, there was the election to choose the Front's leaders. Then there was preparation for the public presentation on December 2. We have here names of various members of the People's Revolutionary Council – Puon Ponloeu, Daok Daan, Sam Bun, Sim Ka, Chan Seng, (Heng) Sam Kai, Heng Samrin and Chea Sim, then known as Salat.

The formation of the first army's unit 125 was on May 25, 1978. By 125 we mean the force was formed on May 12. It was the central force, which helped build 26 battalions and 100 groups of armed operation into the country. Ung Samkhan was one of us who infiltrated from Vietnam to Kratie, Kompong Cham with Meas Huon.

We divided the force into two groups after training. One group was preparing for military operation into the country and one group was for preparing to establish new units – battalion 146, established on 14 of June and 207 under the leadership of Ung Phan, and there were those under Suos Kanan and Peng Pat too.

The regular armed force was the one when I led the secession. They called my group the secession group. In fact this group created a favorable condition for the eastern forces under the commands of Samdech Chea Sim and Samdech Heng Samrin to take up the fight along the National Road 7 and occupied various locations from Sa Am to Meh Mot and to Snuol, where we had the chance to organize our meeting on December 2.

Once the meeting to proclaim the National United Front for Salvation of Kampuchea was over, we then divided into two groups. I belonged to the group led by brother Heng Samrin to visit the armed forces. As is seen in the photo, there were Brother Heng Samrin, Brother Chan Ven, Jey Kannha, Bun Mi and Math Ly. I would have your attention that the person whom Samdech Heng Samrin offered the flag then was General Kieng Savuth, currently Deputy Commander in Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, who was then head of battalion II.

#### Chances and Choices

Please allow me to have your attention that now there are plenty of opportunities for nieces and nephews, the youth-student volunteers compared to the youths I mentioned earlier. Compared to your parents, you also have better chances and educational choices. You can choose what to study and to study it. That was impossible in the past. Objective factors had taken those chances and rights from past generations since 1970. Before 1970, though the country was not pluralistic, our youth had many choices too. They enjoyed the achievements of the popular socialist society before the coup in 1970.

Though I lived my life as a pagoda boy, I had chance to learn and practice Buddhist teachings. However, after the

1970 coup, the Cambodian youth lost their choices and the country fell quickly into two divisions. Each side needed the youth to serve as soldiers, and the people were subjected to wars and displacements. In the city, students and teachers were becoming soldiers. In the regime of three years, eight months and twenty days of Pol Pot, everyone – young or old – lost the rights completely. Now you have the right to choose whom you love and your parents would bestow upon your wish. That did not happen under Pol Pot.

After the coup in 1970, our youth lost their chances and, more importantly, Pol Pot stripped away their rights. Nothing we could do. As I said the other day if I were to lose my temper when my son died right after birth, I could have become a killer. If that happened, my wife and I would not survive. On June 20, 1977, I did not order armed clash with Pol Pot as our force is incomparable to theirs. Fighting would last about a week at the most.

#### Four Historic Photos

Let me show you four photos which testify my past. This one was from 1971 when I was 19 years old. It showed me next to my commander. He is now a two-star general in the military sub-region 4. He was then between 26 and 27 years old. His name is Sok Saroen.

This is the second photo taken in 1973 when I was on holiday. I was then head of the special force and was 21 years old. I did not meet with my wife yet. This photo is from April 15, 1974, one month after I knew my wife. There were rumors about me having a crush on her. I went to see her to sort things out but ended up in loving her.

This fourth photo is from end of 1977 in the 9<sup>th</sup> platoon. A soldier in the group holding

B40 is I, who took part in the struggle at the call of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk.

Here is another photo that shows me in the middle with Nuch Than and Hem Samin and Vietnamese military officers when we started the unit 125. There are more pictures of me lecturing and writing in a course. I also have a tape recorder and a car. I have them all kept.

#### Human Resources Now and Then

On 2 December too, we then set up the radio broadcast of the NUFSK. In those days, there was no chance at all to set up a political party, non-governmental organization or newspaper, but take up arms... The day before yesterday, a young man sued me, Samdech Kong Sam Ol, HE Kep Chuktema and Touch Narath, former Phnom Penh police chief on the charge of the stampede at Koh Pij, which he characterized it as premeditated murder. I think I had better not respond or elaborate on that so as not to infringe upon the independence of the court. However, I need to affirm that as a citizen, in case that they cannot find out my fault, I reserve the right to countersue to defend personal honor and dignity as well as that of the Royal Government. I just wish that he would not accuse us of exerting political pressure. It is now as clear as daylight that in Cambodia there is no pressure whatsoever because even a young man of over twenty years of age and head of a youth wing in a political party can sue the Prime Minister. What other rights do you expect? Where this is coming from? It is coming from 2 December of 34 years ago. It is coming from the rebirth on January 7, when his parents, grandparents survived the killings and gave birth to him. I am sure the young man was born after the regime of Pol Pot...■

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land for people is new action implemented along with the existing policy. After the liberation in 1979, we resolved the land issue once. As you know, then, our people ran away from their lands because of war in 1970 and again in 1975. When Pol Pot took power in 1975, all land ownerships were stripped off. We then were stuck at how to go about issuing ownership titles. Should we recognize the land titles from before 1975 or the current ones? It was a big issue.

We also had resolved the land issue for returnees from the camps along the Thai-Cambodian border. We also resolved the land issue when there was this reintegration of the opposition forces, especially the former Democratic Kampuchea, as part of the win-win policy, which we also recognize their ownerships on properties too.

We then come to the stage that we have to conduct systematic registration of cadastre information index, which is completely different to the one we did before. In the past, anyone with piece/s of lands had to keep a receipt (that clarifies the person has filed request for land ownerships) while continuing to claim and manage the land. They will depend on that to pay tax once a year. As far as cultivation-land is concerned, starting from 1979 and up to the present, I have made it clear that whenever Hun Sen is here, the Cambodian People's Party is here, the farmland tax will not be applied.

There have been suggestions from outside the Cambodian People's Party that (the Royal Government) should impose tax on land in order to achieve economic growth because there are not many countries that do not impose tax on land. I respond that at this moment, not only should the Cambodian

people or farmers not pay tax for household cultivating land but also they should be assisted by building them necessary infrastructural development too. We need to help them increase income and not to take away from them. If we were to take tax on land, the Royal Government will be able to collect some money, for instance, we take only 50,000 Riel per hectare and we have over forty million hectares. With that amount of money we take from them, which is not much, we impose a burden on their already small income.

It is true that we can collect these taxes and contribute to public constructions such as roads, bridges, etc. That the Royal Government does not tax the land means the ruling party in the Royal Government keeps the money, instead of tax pays, in the people's pockets. That the Cambodian People's Party does not have policy to hand out cash directly to people nor impose tax/duty on them means the Royal Government, which is led by the Cambodian People's Party, already keeps the money for them. In fact, the truth is that the Cambodian People's Party has been keeping this money for the people 34 years already. I would suggest that our people think harder about some propaganda that (if so and so gets elected) 40,000 Riel would be given to elderly people. That is just a promise. The truth is you already have benefited from infrastructures, schools and tax-free for farmlands. Think about it. Think of Cambodian proverb that goes "do not empty your jars just because of thunders."

Uprising against taxation in Cambodia is not completely new. You may remember the Cambodians rose against the French resident Bades in a village in Kraing Leav district of Kompong Chhnang, which the French later named the village of Terechan (beast).

The main problem was the French imposed too heavy tax on the people in the colonial times. The Cambodians then rose against them and fought against the French. Now in Cambodia, where the Cambodian People's Party, under the leadership of Samdech Chea Sim, Hun Sen, Samdech Heng Samrin and other leaders, is the ruling party, we uphold the policy of charging no tax on farmlands. We have with us in the coalition government HE Nhek Bun Chhay from the Funcinpec Party who also agreed to this principle, but, if he does not agree, he may have to campaign against it in the forthcoming elections.

#### **Decision for 14 Million Peoples**

The problem of salary increment does not rest on how much you want to give, but whether we have money for that. I do not have the necessity to respond but it is too annoying to listen to their truth-lacking campaign. As far as budget is concerned, let me advise you that there are two kinds – one is the figure on paper and the other is real cash. It does not matter how much you write in the payroll and HE Keat Chhon would just sign it. However, at the national treasury, HE Ngin Khorn responded that there is not any money in the treasury, then the payroll will be just a piece of paper.

To be frank, we just liberate ourselves from this situation in 2004. Prior to that, the Royal Government owed salary to the Royal Government's staff and armed forces. We were able to overcome the situation in 2004. I may share with you that during the elections of July 26, 2003, we had only two billion Riel in the national treasury department. That was why the opposition parties found it a good chance to prolong the establishment of the Royal Government with an

aim to downfall the standby government for cash depletion. I ordered Pen Siman, then head of Cambodian Customs and Excise to improve taxation. We then had surplus of cash and saved up over one billion Riel. We promised to the International Monetary Fund that (1) we do not borrow money from the bank for payroll and (2) we will not print more money.

There is another aspect to the issue. Do we think only about the Royal Government officials or armed forces or the fourteen million Cambodian population. If we do that what can we do for roads, water canals, schools, hospitals and healthcare centers, medications, medical tools, etc.. We cannot afford to make officials and armed forces happy while the whole people are in desperate situation. This year we have over one billion Riel as current account surplus. We can increase salary and we already do it 20% a year. In coming days, we will increase another 20% to the Royal Government officials and armed forces. I signed it already. We can also make it 25% increase, but can we go on using this approximate 400 million USD for roads and water canals?

#### **Make Land and Land Titles Your Gold and Opportunity**

Again, since 1979, the Cambodian People's Party never imposes tax on farmlands and as long as it is power, it will continue this policy. Even if I am no longer here one day, look at these young volunteer students, maybe someone will take over, I am sure s/he will continue this policy. I encourage you not to impose tax on farmlands as this will have repercussion on your parents or relatives. It is not an imagination to proceed with new actions based on existing policy. The policy is there since 1979. Take the case of Mr. An So

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cheat and Ms. Khieu Sopheap in the village of Sre Tasok, Jumrah Pen commune, Samraong district, Takeo province into consideration, the land registration and cadastre information index system started twelve years ago on December 2, 2000.

In order to guarantee safety we have to organize land measuring and titling for people in the rural areas first. People in certain areas have their land parcels registered already and some have even guaranteed safety because they have with them feather-imprint land card or a land-title requesting receipt. It is in this reason that I beg our people to maintain and manage their lands. They should not put themselves in situation that they have had to sell them, either because of gambling or any irrational matters.

Land is in fact your gold, your diamond. Whatever you produce on land would turn out to be cash with which you can purchase gold, diamond, motorcycles, etc. We now have all the information needed in the database to keep track of people's maintenance and management of their lands. We also need to see if the person with information indicated to have land in one place but later appears in another land claiming case. Identification for social land concession will take and compare the information.

### **Redraw Forest Coverage and Economic Land Concession**

... We have now transferred the power to the provincial authorities according to the sub-decree 118. As far as Takeo province is concerned, here we do not have economic land concession case but land registered as under forest coverage area. Even the place where we are sitting is in fact on the map a forest covering area too. That is the difference between the

map and the reality. I must sort this out as I am responsible before the history of our nation.

Look, while registered as forest area, the lands here are in fact rice fields. In Takeo province, to be cut out from forest coverage area in twelve communes of the districts of Tram Kak and Kirivong, is 11,247 hectares of land in 58 villages for 5,826 families who has yet to legalize their land occupations. You may want to ask similar question if we take the land back and replant the forest or give them out to the people. As you can see here we are sitting with rice fields, cashew trees, coconut palms, etc. all around us. How could we define it as forest coverage? Let's measure and title those lands for the people and redraw the map later. We then will have a better figure how much land is under forest, economic land concession, etc. I am demanding our people not to encroach upon more lands.

From now on, our people have their land titles that can pass from one generation to another. The cost of transferring titles will be free except the stamping charge for any land that costs more than 200 million Riel. Take for instance, the owner needs to cut out and transfer title of one hectare of their lands, if the price is below 200 million Riel, the state will impose no tax. As for stamping charge, it will apply for the price of 100 million Riel. Even though the property costs more, for example 200 million Riel, still demander will pay the stamping charge for the set 100 million Riel price only.

### **LMUPC Recruitment Exam, Issue in Ang Prasat and Ream Andoek**

As far as I know, 33 of the 36 youth-student volunteers here have filed for an exam to get a job in the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning

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## **Yazaki Corp. Factory Inaugurated**

(17 December 2012 — Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

### **Jap. Hi-Tech Investments**

I am thrilled that today we have two events to celebrate together. First, we put into official operation the Special Economic Zone of Koh Kong (SEZ-KK) which in fact has gone into operation since 2006. Second, we are putting into official operation the Yazaki Corp. plant, which is right in front of us and already under operation. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation and consideration for all the efforts made by the Koh Kong provincial and sub-national authorities, which has been presented by HE Bun Loeut, Governor of Koh Kong in his progress report.

In fact, starting in 2006, the SEZ-KK has the first in the country. However, we have been waiting patiently for the arrival of factories and investments into the SEZ-KK. As of 2012, the SEZ-KK has accommodated three factories already – the Hyundai Assembly Line, which is not far from here, the garment factory for exports and the Yazaki Corp. plant, which, as the company has told us, is producing the nerve of the car. I urge our workers to be vigilant in the jobs they are doing here because the production will be supplying not only for the Cambodian car market but also throughout the world.

What is happening here today indicates that the hi-tech investment has already come into the country and I wish to bring up some backgrounds with regard to the Japanese investment in the Kingdom of Cambodia. Last year, I presided over the inauguration and official operation of the Minebea Cambodia, which is also the hi-tech industry. Last week, we launched the construction of the 200-million USD mall over some ten hectares of land,

which for the time being, I would call it a gigantic mall to date in Cambodia ...

Only seven days later, we are here to put into official use the plant that puts together the Japanese Yazaki Corp.'s electric wires used in cars throughout the world. These are all hi-tech investment coming from Japan. I would also share with you that Mr. Yazaki, during our previous meeting, told me of his research project in relation to trying out new technology such as solar panel and agricultural machineries, the rice mill also included. He is in search of a way to modify the rice mill using Japanese technology since rice in Japan tends to have roundish shape while rice in Cambodia has a shape of an oval. I am sure if he can come up with the machine there is a good market here.

In Cambodia now, there is a clear and urgent need for rice mill of all sizes – small, medium and large. However, the small size machine is in greater demand. The Cambodian people do not have to de-husk paddy rice by manual pounding anymore. They need to mill them. There are 16,000 villages or 1600 communes. There need to be more than one rice mill in each commune.

### **Safety Standard and Labor Competition**

It is my pleasure to see that the Yazaki Corp. has in fact been operating already with some 600 workers. I have learned from the workers that they earn a total salary of 110 USD per month. Mr. Yazaki has also emphasized on the safety standard as the factory gives high attention to work safety inside the factory and pollution matter. The company has installed solar panel to reduce the

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amount of fossil energy.

I will encourage further study on use of solar panel because Cambodia has intention to apply green development approach. I think that there is a huge demand here for solar energy as an alternative source to the fossil energy. The company, if the product will be in their list some time later, can also look for external markets. I am of the opinion that the company should go on with this development.

I would like to take this moment to appeal to workers in the factory to cooperate with the company and plant so that you can get along and go together in a win-win situation. According to the calculation here, by 2015 the plant will need to increase from 600 to 2,000 and even 3,000 workers. I am sure there would not have enough labor here in Koh Kong. I just suggested to Oknha Lyon Phat to pay attention to issues relating to the workers' residence, which has become a thriving issue not only in sparsely populated area but also in the whole country, Phnom Penh included.

Every company - investing in agriculture, industry and service - must guarantee workers will have their salary and residence, and working conditions will be the factory and company's concerns. We anticipate that there will not be sufficient labor for factories in the SEZ-KK. We are looking forward to welcoming the Japanese Mikaza company to SEZ-KK too. Mikaza Sports (Cambodia) Co. Ltd. will also soon come to Koh Kong province of Cambodia ...

### **Keep 20,000 Ha Forest for Environmental Concern, Energy for Koh Kong**

A moment ago the Koh Kong's governor Bun Loet made a report in relation to issue of the youth-student vol-

unteers in the land measuring and titling mission. Though it is not possible to make a public display of cadastre information index, the mission has already collected information and measured over 10,000 land parcels and measured another 11,000 land parcels too over an area of 17,000 hectares. We are happy that the people will have authentic land titles and we have to look into issue of protection of the environment.

As I have brought it up, according to the study, we have 30 billion USD worth of titanium but exploiting it would have to clear about 20,000 hectares of forestland, where the elephants are crossing too. We decided to leave it underground as unearthing for them would destroy the forest, then land erosion and the seawater will be no longer clear blue but as red as rusty color. Leaving the titanium underground is not going to make it spoil. We can take them when we are reborn three more times. It will not be too late. HE Kuroki Masafumi might be impressed to see vast forest and I told him of a study that there are some 30 billion USD worth of titanium beneath it.

In my next birth I will probably be an activist safeguarding the environment against the unearthing for titanium because as Prime Minister in this life I am against it so after two hundred years perhaps, I will reborn to be activist against the removal of titanium from beneath the forest. As far as electricity is concerned, I am sure you have sufficient energy wired from Thailand. Soon we will have our own electricity generated from A Tai and Ta Tai hydropower electric stations. You also will benefit from the project to generate electricity by using coal. I am so happy to see all these achievements arise in the land of Koh Kong province. I hope that the Yazaki Corp. factory which put together the car's

electric wires will go on smoothly in their operation and I strongly hope that the Mikaza Sports (Cambodia) Co. Ltd., will also come soon.

### **First Come-First Served Investment Policy**

Let me affirm that the Cambodian policy to attract investors is first come first served. Those who come late would find the ship crowded and when you cannot find something to invest in, please do not take former investors as corrupted. You may ask how much Mr Yazaki gave me in order to open this factory and the AEON Mall project the other day. Our policy is first come first served and we do not wait for the big company. We welcome anyone because we need to create more jobs and promote exports.

### **Cooperation Cambodia-Thailand Increases Investors' Confidence**

It is truly honor and happy that today we see the relationship between Cambodia and Thailand is in good momentum because of the presence of HE governor of Trat and commanders of the Royal Thai army. That is what I want. I want to build a border of peace, friendship and cooperation. I am sure this is what our two people want. We should make further efforts so that people along the border on both sides would be able to live in friendship, make business with one another for prosperity.

Now our connection is not limited to only physical structure such as roads or bridges but also electricity, tourism, trade and culture. I wish to see that will continue forever and the cooperation between the armies and police from the two provinces - Cambodia's Koh Kong and Thailand's Trat - will go on for each other's benefit. I am sure this will increase confidence of investors.

I think there are two major issues that are increasing the confidence of the Yazaki Corp. as well as many others that invest in factories in the SEZ-KK. First, they trust in the political stability of Cambodia and second the friendship between Cambodia and Thailand, where it is best not fight each other and resolve conflict by discussion.

### **Jap. New Prime Minister, Same Policy for Cambodia**

As far as I know Mr Yazaki and his company is providing assistance in building a school building of six classrooms in the Primary School of Nieng Kok, Pak Khlang commune, Mondul Seima district. Now Japan has a new Prime Minister, who will take over either today or tomorrow, after winning the elections the night before. HE Shinzo Abe is the head of association that builds school in Cambodia and used to visit our country too. The Liberal Democratic Party of Japan won 294 seats over 480 seats in the parliament. By joining with the New Komeito Party, the LDPJ has increased the number of seat to 325. I would like to take this opportune moment to express my sincere respect to the victory of HE Shinzo Abe who is the leader of LDPJ and will become the next Japanese Prime Minister.

I hope that we will conduct an official visit to Cambodia again. HE Kuroki asked me what I think of Abe and Noda (former Prime Minister). My thought for them are the same. Choosing anyone is the decision made by the Japanese people. However, even though there are changes of Prime Minister and politics in Japan, the Japanese policy for the Kingdom of Cambodia will not alter... I hope that the change of Prime Minister in Japan will not affect its policy regarding Cambodia ...■

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gloves, etc.

I would take this opportune moment to express my sincere thanks to all the efforts and contributions, especially to HE Kong Sam Ol, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Royal Palace, and other leaders, the Phnom Penh Municipality included, so we all can meet the schedule of construction. The construction of the crematorium will have to be ready at least fifteen days before February 1, when we will escort and place the late King-Father's body in the crematorium. It is in this circumstance I hope everyone understands that it is required to work at night sometimes. We all see this as one of the sacrifices that we are committed to fulfill to repay for the great gratitude of the King-Father. Our King-Father used to stay in the forest, worked through various difficulties in order to demand independence for generations of Cambodians. It is that much we can do as part of national efforts to celebrate funeral ceremony for the late King-Father.

I also would like to take this opportunity to clarify to the

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and Construction (MLMUPC). I have a message not only for the 33 but also for all 1,603 candidates that the exam will be conducted in a fair manner. Pass or fail will depend on your knowledge as there are only 600 places available for you to compete. There is an issue left since 2007. Minister of LMUPC reported to me about the case of land in the district of Kirivong where 691 families occupy since when Gen. Pol Saroeun was Takeo's governor. I am declaring from here that we are providing the 691 families in the communes of Ang Prasat and Ream Andoeuk with the land titles and they may come for them...☐

Cambodian public about a scandalous exaggeration. It was to my great surprise when I saw an article in the Cambodia Daily about the cost of construction of the crematorium, which they said to be five million USD. HE Nhek Bun Chhay, Deputy Prime Minister, already clarified but there was no exact figure provided yet. Undeniably, raising this issue is an insult to the late King-Father, HM the King and Samdech Me (Queen Mother), the royal families and the Royal Government...

I would make it clear to everyone in the whole country that the Royal Government has every obligation to make the funeral ceremony a serious affair. We cannot do a lousy job. We will need not less than three months. For previous funeral ritual, like the one for the late HM King Suramarith, it took Cambodians five months to finish the job. In the case of Samdech Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod, the cremation will take place before end of the Year of Dragon on both Cambodian and Chinese calendar. This has called us in a rather short time.

Despite the fact that we have come up with architectural design, it is still a difficult job to find professional builders at short notice. As Permanent Deputy Head of the Committee in Charge of the Funeral Ceremony, together with Samdech Kong Sam Ol and other members, I have the duty to fulfill this job with high responsibility.

Look, you may want to make an estimate of the construction here. Would it cost five million USD? Only people who used to embezzle state fund come up with such estimate. HRH Sisovath Thomico has also made a statement on that (... *I have been told that will cost about \$5 million just for the building ...*, Page 17, *Cambodia Daily*, December 17).

However, I would affirm to you who work here and every Cambodian that the construction of this magnitude, which some has guessed to cost five million USD, is in fact bearing a price tag of 1.2 million USD or less.

One may ask why there was no bidding procedure held for this project. If we did that, the construction site would not have started yet since the public procurement procedures would require advertisement on TV, Radio and in newspapers, which would need no less than two months' time. Now we are begging the construction company, which they complained it owned by HE Kong Sam Ol's daughter, to take up the job and move swiftly.

By involving in the construction itself, you all may observe that this work is more complicated than building other structures. We have to make sure that the body of Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod could rise to the upper deck. It is not a simple matter. Who would be responsible when any peculiar thing happens? I have made an explanation once there was a comparison between the way the Chinese army handled the coffin of Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod and that of the Cambodian army. Our army did not practice carrying the coffin off the plane to the vehicle. In China, the Chinese soldiers carried a coffin without its cover...

I think that their comment is of nasty nature, Prince Thomico included. If they do not know or understand, they should write a letter to the Royal Government to ask how much it (the crematorium) would cost. They should not make irresponsible comments with the press. We circumvent public procurement procedures because we do not have sufficient time for that.

It is in this reason that I would

seek the Buddhist monks and people's understanding on this matter. In fact, even if the cost would be more, the Royal Government would still have to cover for it. However, it is not five million USD (as was exaggerated). As far as security matter is concerned, Deputy Prime Minister HE Sar Kheng has requested for the setting up of fencing around, which would incur another cost. The fence will be for long-term use.

I would suggest to Prince Thomico that if he could not understand, he could write to Minister of the Royal Palace, Kong Sam Ol, to me as the Prime Minister or to Minister of Economy and Finance, HE Keat Chhon, whom I entrust with reimbursing the financial support for the whole funeral event. The incurring cost would not be a burden to the budget of the Royal Palace but to the Royal Government totally. There is nothing wrong about writing (the letter) to find out. The other day, he wrote me a letter to ask for my forgiveness after he gave an interview. I also wrote on his letter and sent back. I sincerely hope that no one would find pretext concerning the demise of the Heroic King Father to attack the Royal Government.

Once again, I would like to express my deep thanks to all leaders involved in the work and let's consider it our merit for spending efforts to show our condolences and farewell to Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod. We all and other Cambodian leaders, have this obligation to make this final stage of funeral in reciprocation to the kind heart that Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod had always bestowed upon everyone, and in honor of our nation. The body of Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod will be removed from the Royal Palace (to the crematorium site) on February 1 and the final ritual will be on February 4...☐