

## Buddhist Achievements in Santuk

(21 March 2013 — Unofficial Translation, Selected Impromptu Comments)



21 March 2013 — Samdech Techo Hun Sen with people in Santuk district for the inauguration of Buddhist achievements in the Centre for Buddhism, Culture and Tourism (Kampuchea Thmey)

### National Policies and Achievements in Kompong Thom

I am so glad that my wife and I have the opportunity to join with Samdech, the Buddhist monks of all levels and our compatriots for the inauguration of various achievements in the Centre for Buddhism, Culture and Tourism (CBCT) in the village of Kalmek, commune of Tbong Krapoeu, district of Santuk, Kompong Thom province. I was in this part of the country once ten years ago to inaugurate the Buddhist temple of Pannhaji on April 2, 2003, then before the elections day too. Months ago, I also came to Santuk to visit our cadastre officials and youth-student volunteers, who were here to measure land for the people in the first phase, and to hand out land titles to the people.

Again, in 2008, also before the elections day, I also came to Santuk. Now, 2013, coinciden-

tally, there are achievements for me to come and put into official use again. Roughly, we can say that I come to Santuk once every five-year term and there are always major achievements to celebrate and inaugurate. In 2003, it was the Buddhist temple of Pannhaji and in 2008, it was the inauguration of a Secondary School, from where I made the remarkable Santuk 2002 declaration on the plan to establish a junior secondary school in every commune. This year 2013, over four months before the elections, I am here in Santuk again with so much joy to see new achievements on the land of Santuk district in general, particularly the commune of Tbong Krapoeu that is right next to Stoueng Sen Buddhist pagoda ...

### The Sun under the Full Moon

The construction started in 2006. The cost of putting these two achievements together is

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## A Bridge Over the Basac River at Koh Thom

(25 March 2013 — Unofficial Translation, Selected Extempore Comments)

### Rebuilding the Market of Koh Thom after Fire Disaster

I am so pleased to be able to come and meet our people here in the district of Koh Thoom, Kandal province, to celebrate the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Cambodian-Chinese Friendship Bridge at Koh Thom of 415 meters. The bridge is to connect Jroy Takeo on the eastern side of the Basac River to the commune of Prek

Thmey, at the western side of the river in the district of Koh Thom.

Please allow me to express my sympathy to vendors in the market of Koh Thom, which was on fire in February 2013. However, it is my joy to see and join all of you in putting the market back into business. We are sorry for the loss of property that occurred. Based on the report of HE Sun Chanthol, HE Chhun Sirun, who is

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## NR 6 Enlargement — Kg Cham to Siem Reap

(05 March 2013 — Unofficial Translation, Selected Impromptu Comments)

### NR 6 - First Longest AC Road in Cambodia

It is indeed my pleasure to participate with Buddhist monks and people, as well as Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, in this ceremony to launch the construction project of 248 km of the National Road 6 from Thnal Kaeng, Pha Av Commune, Bathiey District, Kompong Cham Province to Angkroang, Siemreap Province. As a leader of the Royal Government, it has been my intention to give priority to transport infrastructure, in which the NR 6 has played a significant role, among others. HE Pan Guangxie, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, already mentioned that we have launched a number of projects in connection to the NR 6.

bridge, enlargement of 40 Km of the former NR 6A into four lane NR 6, the branch NR 61 which connects the NR 6 through to the bridge of Prek Kadam, which already built with the Japanese assistance too. In all, we have used the preferential loans provided by China to build over 300 km of the main national roads. Once they all are completed, it will be a bunch of long and modern roads financed by the Chinese loans in the Kingdom of Cambodia. The road will be seven-centimeter asphalted concrete (AC) in contrast to the ones that we have these days of only about one centimeter to prevent wearing out too quickly.

I have travelled a number of

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times too on the NR 6 between Phnom Penh and Siemreap province. During the journeys, I always called HE Tram Iv Toek to have his attention on the road condition. At times, there was road repair project but it stopped because of rain. That left the paved road loses easily its durability and bearing capacity because of rainwater causing it to degrade further into road for oxcarts (which is full of holes and muddled paths). I then told HE Tram Iv Toek to send the road construction team back to continue the work to save the roads from worse condition. I then instructed HE Tram Iv Toek and HE Sun Chanthol to work quickly on the project proposal.

I traveled to China's Nanning of Guangxi on 22 October 2011 to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Exhibition. The Chinese friend promised to provide 500 million USD loan for any projects that Cambodia deems necessary. We proposed seven projects and the enlargement of the NR 6 is one of them. In order to ensure their durability and bearing capacity HE Minister Tram Iv Toek already told that we have enlarged the NR 6 segment from the bridge of Jroy Jangva in Phnom Penh through to the NR 61 juncture to Prek Kadam into four lanes, built with the Chinese assistance too, where its width will be between 28 and 30 meters. From the juncture of NR 61 through to Skun of Kompong Cham, we also rebuild the road into four lanes as well. We are doing the same for the NR 5 from Phnom Penh through to Prek Kadam.

There have been miscalculations of population and economic growth of Cambodia. That has led to projected reconstruction of the roads from seven to between nine and eleven only in areas close to the Phnom Penh capital. It turns out now that we have to

make it twice the size for two lanes in both directions, where certain parts of the road there is a garden in between to prevent crossing from one side to the other, and for environment too. Today we are launching the construction of 248 Km (248.525 Km) of the NR 6, where 48.52 Km is in Kompong Cham province and 140 Km is in Kompong Thom and 60 Km in Siemreap province.

### **Building Detours Rather, Yoking Economic Growth**

We need to build a detour road of 2.8 Km around the town of Pha Av as going through the existing road we would have to deal with so many houses in the way since road project is widening the width to 25 meters. The best solution is to leave the old road where it is and build a 25-meter width detour with 20.5-meter asphalt concrete carriageway. Within the 140 Km segment in Kompong Thom province, we will have 2.5 Km detour in Skun, 2.4 Km at Trapang Thmar, 3.2 Km at Tain Krasaing and 16.6 Km at the city of Kompong Thom and again 6.01 Km at Stong district. These detours will be for heavy transportations to avert traffic congestion in densely populated areas.

This road carries so important significance. HE Pan Guangxie already told you that it connects between us in Phnom Penh through the provinces of Kandal, Kompong Cham, Kompong Thom, Siemreap through to Banteay Meanjei and on to Thailand at Poi Pet border point. I also need to have your attention that the importance of this road also rests in its connection to the NR 7, which connects the provinces of Kratie, Stuoeng Treng, Ratanakairi, Mondulkirir and other parts of the county in the areas. One other significance is that the road is linking up with the province of Preah Vihear by the NR 62.

Let me remind you that it also

links with the NR 9, which is under construction with the loan from the People's Republic of China and is running between Preah Vihear and Stoeng Treng province. There is also a bridge across the Mekong River at Stoeng Treng. The NR 6 is like a pillar that bolsters the economic development of the country, so to speak. I am so glad that this has made my dream come true as we are launching the construction today. This will be the first time that we will have over 300 Km asphalt concrete road (a segment of NR 5 plus NR 6 and 61) in our history out of Phnom Penh.

Let me inform you that the segment of NR 6 that we are launching the enlargement will be in two parts – (1) *from Thnal Kaeng to Skun will be four-lane road of 25 meters* and (2) *from Skun to Angkroang will be two-lane road of 12 meters*. They will replace old road that is eleven meters, nine meters or even six meters in some instances ...

HE Tram Iv Toek, Minister of Transports and Public Works gave various reasons as to why the NR 6 needs to be rebuilt. It is true that for whatever reasons we have to rebuild it – whether it is because the road condition is deteriorated, too small and needs to be enlarged, or is a macadam and needs to upgrade it to bitumen, what is decisive here is do we have money or not? We are lucky that we were able to secure preferential buyer's credit loan of 500 million USD from the government of the People's Republic of China for seven projects – four projects of hydraulic works and three projects for roads and bridges.

As far as the roads and bridges projects are concerned, in May we will launch the construction of the NR 44 of 139.61 Km that will run through Kompong Speu's Jbar Mon, Oral, Am-lang and Udong districts, and

on March 25, we will launch the construction of a bridge across the Bassac river at Koh Thom district of Kandal province. I may recall that the Chinese friend offered this loan in October 2011 but the agreement was signed at the time when HE Hu Jintao conducted his visit to Cambodia in late March and early April. We also signed four more projects in June last year when HE He Guoqiang, member of the Chinese Communist Party's Standing Committee, conducted his visit to Cambodia.

### **Vision for More Bridges Along Waterway Areas**

For construction of this road, we have secured some 248 million USD from the People's Republic of China. The project is carried out by the Shanghai Construction Group Co. Ltd., with Guangzhou Wanan Construction Supervision Co. Ltd. as consultant. The Royal Government of Cambodia also provides counterpart fund to the project. According to the report of HE Keat Chhon, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance, Cambodia contributes a sum of 5% or 12 million USD for demining and removal of UXOs. Project impact and included, would be around 12% of the construction agreement or about 29 million USD. As is calculated by HE Keat Chhon, the cost of the project is over 300 million USD.

As you can see now it is very important for us to have and provide counterpart fund to every project. It is good that the Chinese side allows us to pay a smaller amount compared to funding from other financial institutions and countries who condition us to pay between 20% and 30% of the total project cost. It is therefore our responsibility to settle all project impacts such as providing good quality soil needed for the construction, etc. As far

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as the moment of speaking, some projects have already completed and some are under construction still. However, China builds over 2,000 Km AC roads already for Cambodia and put into operation the bridges of Prek Kadam, Prek Tamak, Sekong. Three more bridges under construction are the second Jroy Janvar Bridge, the Takhmao bridge and the bridge over the Mekong River at Stoeng Treng. We also have another project to build a bridge at Koh Thom. We will have seven bridges in all.

We also have the need to build one more bridge at the river of Kroch Chmar in Kompong Cham province. I suggest we include it in the next project too. How long would the bridge be? (Samdech Techo asked the Kroach Chmar and Stoeng Trang district heads). Well, 1,200 meters is not short. We already have AC road and we still have to liberate the ferry-crossing situation. Please do not blame me that I do all this for my hometown. I do not believe in nepotism and/or have preferential treatment for my hometown. This is all because there is a real need there. In fact I have noticed long ago the need for bridges at Koh Thom and Takhmao in Kandal province and Kroch Chmar in Kompong Cham province.

I told the Cabinet meeting that I want not only bridges mentioned above. Along various small rivers or main river branches, like the river of Prek Thnaot, I anticipate a bridge for every three or five Kilometer. I want this to happen for the river of Stoeng Sangke, Stoeng Pursat, etc. We need more resources though we are now able to build some small ones – 100 or 200 meters - by ourselves with our own resources. We do not seek funding from abroad from that. The bridges in Kompong Cham and Kompong Thnom of about 770 meters or 800 meters, for

example, will be built by the military engineering team ...

### **Developing Country Leaders Value Equality and Equal Footing**

In relation to the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, the 12<sup>th</sup> Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference that are in session in Beijing, there will definitely be election of the new President and Prime Minister of the country and other leaders in various levels. I am quite confident that the Chinese new leaders would not change their policies towards Cambodia. As is stressed in the speech of HE Pan Guangxie, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Cambodia, the people deputies that are participating in the congress will discuss various hot issues relating to the people's livelihood. They would propose more inspections and promotion of cooperation with the Royal Government aimed at improving internal unity.

In the foreign relations front, the People's Republic of China is the largest developing country in the world where its new-term government will continue to strengthen cooperation and solidarity, and guarantee wider friendly relations with other developing countries. It will also foster support of political representation and rights in international affairs, while performing its role as friend and partner dependable by other developing countries too. The Chinese new government would continue to collaborate with peace loving people in the world to make tireless efforts in building a harmonious world.

I think not only Cambodia but also other developing countries will be very pleased with the foreign policy of the People's Republic of China, which highly values opinions raised by developing countries. This is surely what Cambodia and

other developing countries want. Among all permanent members of the Security Council of the United Nations, China is the only developing country that gives importance to the voice of the developing countries. As every country in the world would want to be equal and have equal footing among peers, I think that China will gain more friends in the world for its policy.

### **Infrastructural Development – Fostering Still**

I join other developing countries to hail the foreign policy of the PRC. It could have been the case that because we are poor, some of the rich and powerful countries could have ignored our voice. On the contrary, our Chinese friend reserves appreciation and respect with equality and equal footing for the voice of developing countries. Though China is a huge country with the most population, it provides equal treatment to small or big country alike. I am sure leaders of other developing countries have more or less the same feeling because they are also eager to be treated equally and on equal footing. It is in this respect that I would convey my admiration and best wish to the National People's Congress to achieve great success. I wish those will be appointed President and Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China good luck and great leadership for the country. I will attend the April-7 Boao Forum for Asia and then on April 8 will continue my visit to Beijing, where I will meet the new leaders.

I wish to reiterate also that the Cambodian policy is to foster infrastructural development. That does not mean we are not paying attention to the living condition and monthly salary of the Royal Government's officials at all. Yesterday I made it clear already that if we were to focus on luxurious life

of the Royal Government officials and the armed forces, while neglecting millions of people in the whole country who need roads, irrigation, hospital, school, electricity and others basic infrastructure, we would not be able to respond to the demand for country's development. We cannot afford to give priority to luxury while neglecting infrastructural need for development and improvement at all.

### **“No Action, Talk Only” – Cambodian NATO**

There is also a group of “NATO” politicians, in this abbreviation means “no actions, talk only,” who, because of no actions, they just give their one-sided opinion. We look at the whole forest and do not single out any particular tree. Our people could think should they were to receive more in cash but, with high travel expenses because of absence of infrastructure, what good does the money do to them individually. Some of them fooled the people that they could make their water convolvulus cost 15 USD per Kg and eggplants 30 USD per Kg. They criticize the Royal Government for being incompetent in price management and unable to control inflation but they declare they would jack up the prices of water convolvulus and eggplants. Would this not have negative impacts on consumers? I think, however, this will have reversal impacts on growers instead because no one would buy them.

In politics, for a single hair, one has to shred it into thousands. My mother used to say “in order to raise you guys (her children) I have to shred one hair into hundreds.” Long after I told her: “I have to shred one hair into thousands.” If we do not do it, the country would be sinking because we cannot afford to do one and neglect

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the others at all. Take for instance this road would need at least 42 months to complete. However, because they are not responsible, they just say whatever they wish too. If I am not the Prime Minister, I can make promise to everyone too. I could promise to give 500,000 Riel per month, but I were not the Prime Minister, so I would not have to take the responsibility for what I said. As the Prime Minister, with such promise made, one has to fulfill or has to run away. Now look at their promise, have they fulfilled it? Did they build kindergarten as they said already? Did they provide whatever they promised in June already? They promised to offer ambulance service, but they did not say if it is free of charge or not. If people have to pay for it anyway, people now can also travel in taxi. I am sure our people can judge all this ...

#### **Promise No Money but Actions for Everyone**

A road from the town of Pha Av to the commune of Sandek used to be in bad condition. I sent food for labor to rebuild the road. The road has been reinforced with laterite covering already but I would urge including the road into asphalted rural road plan. You may think again, when people was sick in Sandek, how hard it was to get him or her to hospital. You would have one bicycle in front and one behind. A pole tied from one bicycle to another and the patient would be carried in the hammock suspended to the pole. What is the rate of survival for the patient. Worse still, where could the kids go to school? We now have junior high school in Sandek and will in the future build a senior high school. I learn they have house for instructors and there is a clinic nearby too. That is our policy. *We do not promise anyone with so much money*

*but with action that we are doing, it is for everyone.*

It is now the promise-making season. I called them NATO in Cambodia because all they do was talk and no action. Some of our foreign friends already know what it means but some like Thai and Cuban may not know it yet. There are two NATO. One is North Atlantic Treaty Organization but in Cambodia, our NATO is “no action, talk only.” They can talk about just anything from making bolts and nuts for aircraft to giving one hundred cows per family or exporting rice, eggplant and water convolvulus to foreign markets. We have striven hard in meeting the demand of the Chinese market. China offers us 95% tax free items in tariff but exporters to Chinese market will have to guarantee quality and phytosanitary products ...

#### **Beware of Bird Flu**

I would also urge the sub-national authorities as well as our people to work together to prevent the spread of bird flu which has threatened our country in the last two months. Early this year we already had nine cases of bird flu which killed eight people though there was a case that we could save one person. I would therefore announce and urge the people to take active participation to prevent the spread by reporting suspicious case of sick birds to relevant authorities. Refrain from using dead birds from any diseases for food. It is also a precautionary measure to quarantine area of suspicious case of bird flu.

I would also urge large-scale campaign on radio and TV against the spread of bird flu. Having said this people should not refrain from purchasing good chicken and duck in the market. If that happens it would create further crisis. Let me affirm to you that chicken or duck that enters the market has gone through veterinary

checking already.

#### **Coincidence of Electoral Campaign and Buddhist Candle Offering Ritual**

Not long from now we will celebrate the candle offering during the rainy season for Buddhist monks too. It seems that the candle offering will coincide with the electoral campaign on June 24. Maybe we should inquire from the National Election Committee if we can do the candle offering or not? The fact that I am asking is when we offer the candles and necessary stuff in this season, some may accuse us of buying votes. In that case, should we move the candle-offering season to one month earlier or what?

In general, the Cambodian People's Party officials are offering candles the most and Funcinpec party follows in second place because the two are ruling parties. Some may also do too but in a much smaller scale. I emphasize again if the ceremony would be contradictory to the elections law we should consider doing it one month before. In fact officials of the two ruling Parties – the Cambodian People's Party and Funcinpec - are celebrating every seasonal and Buddhist ritual and event according to the Cambodian tradition.

The Extraordinary Congress of the Nationwide Representatives of the Cambodian People's Party to be held on 16-17 March should also take it into consideration for we may forget to talk about it. If we celebrate the candle offering, the Cambodian NATO would say we infringe upon the electoral law, if we do not do it they would blame us of not following the Buddhist tradition. They would blame us for borrowing money from foreign countries to build the roads and they would still say the same when we do not build roads. When we build roads using the

national resources they would say why the Royal Government uses money to build road and not to give higher salary for the staffs.

There is a case that every Buddhist seasonal ritual/event would have less people coming to celebrate. Officials of the Cambodian People's Party are the ones that appear in all of the Buddhist pagodas - near and far. If they lose the support in their area of representation these people may think that people no longer need them. They would no longer feel being needed and obliged to assist in the conduct of these rituals. This can really happen because after serving the people for over 30 years, they are no longer the people's choice, so they could be disappointed. They would continue to go to the pagodas as Buddhist parishioners but they cannot assist them in any way they could like before. In fact, for the Cambodian People's Party officials at every level, we have in all thousands of projects that we support – Buddhist and secular. Once the people deny them, they would not be able to go on with those projects. They would then become an opposition party only.

In instance that the opposition comes to power, they would argue: “look, the Cambodian People's Party have done a lot but they lost the battle, why should we (the opposition turned ruling party) do like them?” In this scenario, the end will be empty from both sides. The opposition-turned ruling party would argue since the Cambodian People's Party officials made great efforts to help and sponsor thousands of projects but fail to convince the people, why should they follow our trail? It would be better that they make the most they can for themselves. This would in the end be what the Khmers says “losing a rabbit and a fish at the same time” ■

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1,262,448 USD. We can call it a new achievement on this land, created by common efforts. According to the booklet, we can see various activities held in the compound of the Centre. Should the Centre turns out at any stage thereafter to capture also tourism and culture, people will gather here to organize various Buddhist rituals. Last night I listened to the story 'The Son under the Full Moon' broadcast on Bayon radio. It is on between 11 am and 12 am during the day and 8 pm and 9 pm during the night. Last night there were many songs played on Bayon radio in relation to the tri-world and tri-characteristic ship.

I walked by that side and talked to a young girl and she told me she also listened to the story. It is a story that relating to our country's phases of development. The story is in all 70 hours. It is now on the Bayon website too. I learn that they also have it on the Kolbot Khmer and Kampuchea Thmey newspaper websites. The songs played last night are famous ones. We had the poem narration by brother Yan Borin too. They all are talking about the meaning of the tri-world and tri-characteristic ship that carry human beings through three fields and four abysses to bring the country to peace and shade of Buddha tree. We have gone through all but perhaps the poverty one. We will make further effort to cross this last one.

### **Win-Win Policy Topped Pol Pot, Dealing with Natural Disasters**

I would like to take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation and thanks for every effort made in this marvelous construction. Looking at this vicinity, I am of the opinion that these achievements and the surroundings will be a great place for the younger generation. We are

doing everything for the next generation. We all are reaping the fruits left from thousands years of our ancestors too. I thank everyone for every effort they are making, especially those of HE Men Sam An, Deputy Prime Minister, and Oknha Ung Sisrom and their families. I thank the common efforts made by the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, the Ministry of Tourism and those of the local authorities. These achievements are here because of the art of sharing that is possible only when the country is in complete peace.

I am so proud of what we have achieved here in Kompong Thom in particular, and in the Kingdom of Cambodia as a whole. After toppling the genocidal regime, we have gradually brought the country on the path of development. Most importantly, we have put into successful operation the win-win policy, while uniting the country completely. We have transformed battlefields into development zones. This area, sitting around the great Lake of Tonle Sap, was common, I am sure, to insecure situation. It used to be a Khmer Rouge's crossing zone. Kompong Thom was once very fierce battle. I told the people the other day that those members of the artistic performance of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts were armed while performing. The other day the man who acted as a giant in the performance and hold B 40 rocket-propelled grenade in those days came to Phnom Penh to perform with 'tro' in Phnom Penh. Now we do not have Pol Pot's threat anymore. We have only one Khmer – no more Khmer Rouge or Blue anymore. We have only political parties that contest in months ahead.

As is reported by HE Chhun Chhuan, the province of Kompong Thom went through natural disasters one after the

other – such as the 2009 Ketsana storm and the 2011 disastrous flooding. Thanks to the efforts made by every institution and authority of all levels, such as the Cambodian Red Cross – central and local, we have saved our people from hunger-related death, except those who had drowning and snakebite accidents. This has clearly illustrated responsibility and efforts of our sub-national level authorities, those of the Cambodian People's Party and the Royal Government of Cambodia. The combined efforts have so far liberated our country from the Pol Pot's genocide, prevented the possible return of the regime and ensured the socio-economic development and reduction of poverty.

### **Reflecting Change of Living Standard**

I think our people should reflect what has changed within one's own family from 1979 through to the present. Those who were born before 1979 and even after that could compare the different progress their families have gone through. They should reflect the time when they were in primary schools and could not find even proper shoes to put on. Now the situation has changed. Those with bicycles now have motorcycles or cars, tractors, pulled tractors, water pumps. I believe that though some people may not like the Cambodian People's Party, they could still like Hun Sen.

Some of our people may have retained their photos taken after 1979. They may compare them with the ones they are taking now. Look at the way they dressed then and they do now. The difference has been noticed in family, at sub-national and national levels. After Pol Pot, no one was left with land since Pol Pot already recognized no land rights. Now people have farmlands of their own. As you know, the

youth-student volunteers are everywhere measuring the land for people and I thank them all every much. Every village, commune and Buddhist pagoda could ponder and reflect changes that they have gone through. The same is true for the Muslims, have they not changed their living standard? At least they now can pray on Friday?

Reflecting all these, we would see the improvement in our living condition in family, village, commune, community and even national level. While in the war, some communes that were not directly involved also had no chance to develop or make thing different. As the war ceased, we no longer need to displace but go wherever one may want or need to. We are making former battlefields into development zones now. We did not have sufficient school buildings but take for instance here in Kompong Thom, particularly the district of Santuk, the policy of at least one junior secondary school in every commune has been implemented successfully. Take for instance in Santuk alone there are 64 primary schools, 8 junior secondary schools and 3 senior secondary schools in only 10 communes.

### **The CPP's Correct Policies**

We are just three days away from the 43<sup>rd</sup> anniversary when General Lon Nol removed Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk from power on March 18, 1970. War broke out in the whole country. That was a big political mistake. Following was the regime of Pol Pot's genocide. They killed people, displaced them and markets were shut down. It was political mistake again. Politics closely relates to the political party and royal government. The issue here is to ensure that people can do business, trade and move from one location to anywhere freely. It is demand-

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ing that we have to ensure correctness in everything. We cannot just make empty promises.

Take for example this area, if we were to build these statues of Buddha but we did not have road access to, how could the people come and celebrate their Buddhist rituals. It was in this thought, I am sure, that first they had to build asphalted road of 8 Kilometers leading to here. For the second phase, as is reported by HE Chhun Chhuan, the Ministry of Rural Development under the leadership of Minister HE Chea Sophara, built a bridge and four Kilometer road that connects the village of Kalmek to the commune of Prek Kuy, Kompong Svay district. I would take this chance to share with our people that we have planned at the national level to build between 300 and 400 Kilometers of rural roads per year to alleviate people's traveling difficulties. These are to achieve with our own efforts and not with promises made by anyone at all.

To be frank, our people who survived in 1979 under the leadership of the Cambodian People's Party enjoyed not a single coin from anyone in those days, but faced with concerted efforts of the Khmer Rouge to bring us down. Still, we survived together and are able to ascertain chance for development altogether. If we do not compare the present to the 1979 period, which has 34 years, we should at least go back to 2008, one legislative term of the National Assembly. In five years, how much do we achieve? What a family had before 2008, and what does it have now? It is important that our people are reflecting clearly on that since in just over four months they will have to make decision. So much that everyone has achieved is not by accident or promises but because of credi-

ble leadership, which creates opportunity and chance for our people, of the Royal Government. The point is the Cambodian People's Party is leading this Royal Government.

Take for example, the Royal Government has returned the fishing lots access to the people, particularly here for those along the river of Sen. We de-regularized six fishing lots and kept only four conservative zones for fish species. The total size of fishing lots cleared for people to fish is very huge. I just seek your cooperation not to fish in the fish conservative zones. They are places for fish to regenerate more. I also encourage the use of only tools that are lawful. The Royal Government also carries out land measuring and titling policies with thousands of youth-student volunteers in the field with cadastre officials ...

#### **Choose Right Man for Prime Minister Job**

I am so pleased with these achievements, which, as I already said, are not happening by chance. There have been concrete plans that help allow people to benefit from chance of peace that they could work on family development, expand their income sources – self-employment, agriculture, farming, handicraft, trading, etc. Children and youth have chance to go to school. As of now, we have in all 350,000 students throughout the country and better educational facilities too. We are keeping constant effort to work on fixing shortcomings and improving the quality of education still.

Facing with problem in the fishing lot management that caused difficulties for the people, on behalf of the Cambodian People's Party and the Royal Government, I take full responsibility before the Party, the National Assembly and the people, who voted for the Cambodian People's Party (or

Hun Sen) in 2008, to de-regulate fishing lots and return them for people's use. This has completed the action that I started by trimming out 56% of them from the state-controlled fishing areas (in the Lake of Tonle Sap). As you can see, it is like a ship or a vehicle that it is important to have skillful navigator or driver to sit behind the wheel. I would see no difference between leading in politics and driving a car.

The main point here is that people led by politics or sitting in a car would depend entirely on the driver. A country can ensure stability and development or not will depend on the driver too. Look at how damaging the drivers - Lon Nol and Pol Pot - did to the country. Since 1979, on behalf of the Cambodian People's Party and other Party leaders – Samdech Heng Samrin, Samdech Chea Sim and I have been careful drivers and driven the Cambodian ship across numerous fields already. One of the fields that familiar to all is poverty. Also familiar is war. As one has to depend on a skillful driver while traveling, one has to make the correct decision in choosing the right man for the post of Prime Minister.

Last Sunday (17 March 2013), in its Extraordinary Congress, the Cambodian People's Party officially approved my candidacy as the premiership for the 2013 through to 2018 term of office. As I mentioned elsewhere over passing 34 years, especially the last five years, I have done everything I can for the monks and people. Is it not possible for you to give the Cambodian People's Party your vote on the forthcoming 28 July 2013? (Applause). I thank you very much. Thank the venerable monk for waving his hands as a sign. I place my life and future in the hands of the monks and people. In order for me to continue leadership, I am calling for your help.

#### **In Love, Pity, Satisfaction and Trust – Vote for Hun Sen**

I have spent my whole life for the country and people since June 20, 1977, when I joined the army of the National United Front for Salvation of Kampuchea to liberate the country from the genocide. I have become a handicapped person. You may listen to the story 'The Son under the Full Moon,' which tells about my life. Though it is a story of a few men, you may realize, it is the general mentality and development that our country and people went through. Father to a dead son whose proper burial was denied, husband to a wife in delivery, who could not take care of her and a man who lost one of the eyes, I have no choice but to take up arms and fight to topple the Pol Pot's regime.

After spending 22 days in prison in Vietnam, the Vietnamese leaders told me that they could provide me favorable condition if I wished to go to a third country. I resolutely denied their offer. I told them if they do not help me, please give us our weapons that we would go and fight for our life with the people. Over the past 34 years, I have done and fulfilled so many works in my duty as a citizen and a Prime Minister that brings about peace. The win-win policy that I put out and had the support of the Cambodian People's Party has brought our people this far. It may now be a time that I am asking for your easy tick.

The other day I mentioned only three words for people to vote for Hun Sen. Today I add one more to it – if people **love**, have **pity**, are **satisfied** and **trust** in Hun Sen, they should vote for the Cambodian People's Party. I have done the best I possibly can, and some ill-willed politicians insulted

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glass ...

### Land Title for Inundated Land

I would convey a message from here to people throughout the country in relation to the inundated bush land area after my instruction for a study some months ago for people who work on land along the Mekong, Basac and Sap rivers. I am not talking about those who work on land in the Tonle Sap area yet. In this area, whether study needs to go on, people already benefit from two of the three rights already. The three rights are the rights to use, to benefit and manage. The majority of people in this area, where inundation is between three and six or seven months, have enjoyed two rights already – the rights to use and to benefit from cultivation.

After issuing on March 8, 2012 the deregulation of the fishing lots in the Tonle Sap area and return them to people to fish them for household consumption, while keeping certain areas for fish recuperation, I emphasized that we should keep the for later the decision on area 3 and 2. People can have two of the three rights.

However, for people in area like lower Sap river, Mekong river, they will enjoy the three rights. This will apply for people in Koh Thom, Loeuk Dek, Sa Ang, Lovea Em, Mok Kampoul districts on the total area of almost 10,000 hectares. I made it clear that people who cultivate in the area will enjoy their full rights. Along with this, I would urge them not to infringe further upon inundated land area. All I need from you now is:

(1) *No more claiming of inundated land area*, while whatever size they have now, let's measure for them. Take for instance people in Tuyo Prasat, they all live, work and die

there. Let's give them the tenure.

(2) *Do not fight each other for land*. Whatever problem they may have, please settle them peacefully.

(3) *Do not place trellis of any sort in your land*. This would create problem for fish circulation and boat traffic as well. Let's sort this thing out so that we all can make business together. We already did that in Prey Veng, where HE Sar Kheng presented the land title already. The situation is more or less the same. If people have the feather mark imprinted paper indicating it is their lands, they can show that and exchange for the new title.

As for measuring the land, we will soon get to the elections day. We may not be able to complete the task. We will proceed with the task after the elections. The right to manage the land is the one that people can transfer their lands to their children free of tax, which we have already placed it in the budget law. This message is very important and not only for people in Kohn Thom but for the whole country.

Now I am saying this again for the third time. With my leadership representing the Cambodian People's Party, people enjoy peace and security. As Prime Minister, I decided to build you roads, bridges, water canals, and people in Koh Thom also will have their market back soon. I just ask you for one vote each on 28 July 2013.

For any problem at all, house on fire, market on fire, broken bridges, etc, people asked for help from Hun Sen. Now, in return, if you really love, have pity on, have satisfaction of and trust in Hun Sen, would you just give your vote to the Cambodian People's Party.

That is not hard to do. With your vote, we will be able to continue to work on more pro-

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me in bad terms - like the blind. If people have just one of the four in your soul – love, pity, satisfaction or trust – please vote for the Cambodian People's Party. It is going to be a vote that will decide on the fate of the Prime Minister. If the Cambodian People's Party has less number of seats in the National Assembly, I will not be Prime Minister. People see and benefit from achievements under Hun Sen's leadership, mainly my bringing peace for the divided country.

Even in this area of the Sen River of Kompong Thom, in 1512, there was a fight and killing to end the reign of Preah Srey Sokunbot by Sdech Kan, after the country was divided into three parts since the reign of Punhea Yat. Later on, Cambodia divided into factions of red, blue, white and pink. As I said earlier, my future rests in your hands. I am sure the opposition politicians are also asking for your votes. Since the National Election Committee does not forbid the opposition from asking for people's votes before the campaign starts, I do not think I am wrong to do likewise. Unless people have no love, pity, satisfaction or trust in Hun Sen, they may not give Hun Sen their vote.

*I want the votes from those who love, have pity on, are satisfied and trust me. I cannot make everyone like me.*

Please remember that wrong conducts here and there at the

jects. This would include the land measuring mission too. If Hun Sen is not going to be re-elected, you cannot be sure that anyone would care to continue the project of measuring land for you.

The rank number of the party listed on the voting paper will take place soon. No matter what number we will get for

local levels are something we will have to sort out together but the forthcoming elections are about deciding on my life and fate. This is not an electoral campaign. I just need to explain our people the difference between the non-universal suffrage to choose sub-national or local leaders and the national elections to choose Prime Minister. The national election is to choose the members of the National Assembly. Please remember, the members of the National Assembly will choose the Prime Minister on behalf of the voters. Therefore, if the Party were to have less number of seats in the National Assembly, they cannot choose a Prime Minister.

The elections this time will decide Hun Sen's fate. People may get angry on this or that commune head but please do not put the anger on Hun Sen. People should instead think thoroughly about the good things Hun Sen has provided for the country and people. People can always vote to remove the commune heads at anytime later but Hun Sen's fate it is closely relating to everyone one. After I leave, opposition politicians may come in and reason that Hun Sen must have feared that he is saying all that. It was on the contrary that

I am seeking people's true support and winning is a good thing. If I do not win for that matter, the next thing to do for me is to go to the pagoda with my wife...☐

the Party, it would not be a matter. Last time when we got number 4, they imitate the voice of four in Khmer (that we) to bringing the Vietnamese into the country. The Cambodian People's Party control over two-third of the seats in the National Assembly and I still believe that it will maintain the two-third advantage...☐

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the head of the Cambodian People's Party working group in Koh Thom, and with me as the motivator, financial contribution for the reconstruction of the market has reached 280,000 USD. In fact, the cost of reconstruction would need only 270,000 USD. Let's build one floor market so that our vendors could restart their business soon ...

### **Firmer Cambodia-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**

... I could recall that in early 1999, I made a visit to the People's Republic of China. In one of the negotiations with Premier Zhu Rongji I proposed to the Chinese friend to provide financial assistance – in grant or interest-free or soft loan to Cambodia. HE Zhu Rongji responded positively and his response has now become the base for implementation in the relations between our two countries ...

I am so happy to see that the Cambodian-Chinese relations have grown stronger from one level to the next since 2010. The comprehensive strategic partnership between Cambodia and China has been in implementation and in the near future the two will put out comprehensive action plan to guarantee success of the strategic partnership. I hope that the Cambodian-Chinese friendship will be as firm as the concrete of the bridge we are witnessing the construction today.

Such relations have long been established and promoted since the time of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk with many Chinese leaders like Chairman Mao and Premier Zhou Enlai, etc. Now it is the time of HM the King Preah Boromneat Norodom Sihamoni and me, and we have continued these relations with the Chinese leaders from the time of President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao to the current

President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang. As for me, I have the chance to promote the Cambodian-Chinese relations with former President Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng, and Premier Zhu Rongji. On this auspicious occasion, I would like to depend on Ambassador HE Pan Guang Xue to convey our thanks for the assistances provided by the Chinese friend to the Kingdom of Cambodia ...

### **Planning Another Bridge for Sa Ang District**

We are so glad to have enjoyed such sympathy. No one knows Cambodia more than the Cambodian does. Though we may have common view on economic efficiency, no country could have known the Cambodian situation better than we could. We have conducted surveys and priority assessments to figure out what we need, where and when we need or what comes first ...

Well, let's get back to our plan, after this Cambodian-Chinese Friendship Bridge of Koh Thom, *under study is another bridge in Sa Ang district between the communes of Prek Koy and Svay Proteal and Troey Sla*. Why do we need so many bridges along the river? You should know that the number of people in Koh Thom district of Kandal province is equal to the number of people in Ratanakiri and Mondulkiri provinces combined.

The number of people in Sa Ang is roughly in the same trend. The economic efficiency from the project in this area is high. More still, my ambition relating to the development of infrastructure for people along the river area is that we need more bridges across the smaller rivers in addition to those for big rivers and sea tributaries ... in addition to fee paid to the ferry service, people also faced with risk of drowning too. More so, for people who are in health emergency,

taking a long time to get to the hospital would endanger their survivals ... My vision to put an end to these hardships for our people. The friend we are seeking help from for these projects is no one but China again.

### **Since Samdech Ov Time, No Pocket Money**

I do not know about others but in my term of leadership, I would pursue these ambitions no matter who would say against it. We do not have policy to give people pocket money. I doubt if any country in the world is doing that. Probably there is none. People who used to say the policy under Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, while he was head of state, was correct could probably clarify if Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk was giving people then pocket money. He did not.

Samech built asphalt roads, canals, community villages and homes. He did not give money to people directly. If they were to blame then Royal Government of inability, those people also blame Samdech Ov (Preah Norodom Sihanouk).

Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk gave out only cloth imprinted with the symbol of Sangkum Reast Niyum (Popular Socialist Community). However, to continue from what was achieved under Preah Norodom Sihanouk, we also have the bridges of Monivong and Jroy Jangva ...

Today is March 25, a week from the date, when Samdech was removed from power. If Cambodia were to be under his leadership, it would have made tremendous progress. Unfortunately, it was not so.

### **Sixteen Bridge Projects – The Hun Sen's Policy**

I must reassure to the Ambassador that building bridge is indeed gaining merit. Please

allow me to say a few words about how many more bridges do we need ...

According to preliminary study, we need *one bridge in Sa Ang, between the commune of Troey Sla and Svay Proteal*. In Cambodia, not to include the bridges along the sea tributaries, *in the Mekong Basin area only, which includes the Rivers of Mekong, Basac and Se San, we have in all 16 bridge projects. Among them seven already completed, five are under construction and four are going to be under construction*. Among them, 11 projects are financed by China.

I may need to illustrate here so that our people understand the policy of the Cambodian People's Party and the Royal Government, especially Hun Sen policy vision in the development of infrastructure in the previous terms. People can imagine, how much more can be achieved if Hun Sen were to be re-elected for another five years in office from 2013 through to 2018 ...

From the bird's eye view, I have seen the Takhmao bridge construction ... perhaps I will be invited to come and close the last gap as usual. That will be fine. I am ready to come. One thing you will have difficulty to do is to invite me to dinner.

Having said that, I may seek an apology to diplomats in Phnom Penh that I am not a chatting while dining man. My dining time lasts about 5 to ten minutes only, while diplomatic dinner last two hours or so. In this instance, I would seek the understanding of all diplomats, from whatever country it may be. I cannot neglect my duty though when I have to welcome my counterparts in a banquet. However, I notice that in China, the banquet goes on from first to last course, there were no walking from one table to the next to hit the

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