

## Kg Cham's Batheay Buddhist Achievements

(24 June 2013 — Unofficial Translation, Selected Impromptu Comments)



24 June 2013 — Samdech Techo Hun Sen with people at the Inauguration of the Buddhist achievements in the pagoda of Kiri Muni Sarvoan, Batheay District, Kompong Cham province (Kampuchea Thmey)

*Followed are CNV selected comments of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen in the above event concerning efforts to keep security for the elections, to find out who caused damages to the opposition Party's signboards and political bothering actions.*

### Security and Patience for the Elections

On behalf of the Royal Government, I am making this political message to the local authority and the armed forces of all kinds in every level and corner of the Kingdom of Cambodia to make steadfast efforts in maintaining security and order for a free, fair and non-violent election. I am grateful to all political parties and people for keeping high their patience. There was an incident in Mehmot district of Kompong Cham in one of the previous elections in which a man in the fight sustained head injury. HE Koem Sophearith and Mao Munivan, who then came to my house in Takhmao, confirmed

that the injured man was not a CPP and sent for medical treatment in Bangkok with the cost covered by HE Koem Sophearith. I have taped the conversation. Dealing with these people, I have to keep the evidence.

I am calling on local authority of all levels and the armed forces, upon receiving this order, to serve all political parties on the occasion that they go meet people and perform their parades. Any political party can go or do anything they want anywhere but they have to go or do it on a different time. I am appealing to everyone to make this work. I also have a political message to party officials to keep up their patience. For whatever that may happen, please refer it to respected institutions – to the police and court, if it is legal matter and to the National Elections Committee, if it is anything to do with the election. I am calling on all of our people and officials not

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## Kompot's Angkorjei Buddhist Achievements

(22 June 2013 — Unofficial Translation, Selected Extempore Comments)

*Followed are CNV selected comments of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen during the inauguration of Buddhist achievements in the district of Angkorjei, Kompot province, on Cambodian chairing of WHC meeting, the 2008-13 achievements under Hun Sen, ... the three fundamental issues in the fourth term National Assembly Royal Government, etc.*

### Cambodian Chairing of the World Heritage Committee's 37th Session

I am glad that H.E. Khoy Khun Huor, governor of Kompot made a report with regard to the

pagoda, which is about 100 years old. Since there is a small temple behind the pagoda, I would urge the Ministry of Culture and relevant institutions to make their protection possible for the temple. It is small but it is one among many on our territory. We are chairing now the meeting of the 37<sup>th</sup> WHC meeting with participants coming from 127 countries in Phnom Penh. HE So An, in his capacity as chairman of the meeting, would be the person to approve admission of any proposed art object in the list of the World Heritage Committee.

In 2009, among the 21 proposed

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## Inaugurating Achievements in Pursat

(11 June 2013 — Unofficial Translation, Selected Impromptu Comments)

### Pursat's Potentials – Electricity and Agriculture

It is a great pleasure that after staying overnight in Pursat in 2012 for the handing out of land title for our people, I spent the night here once again. In just two weeks, I have come twice to Pursat. I also took the time to visit the hydraulic project at Thlea Ma Am, which is under construction. Last time I visited the one at Damnak Ampil. Taking that opportune moment I also inspected the way people are building up their living conditions. We had frank discussion with one another, which, to me, has reflected our affection and respect of each other.

one in the village of Veal, Anlong Vil commune of Kandieng district. Today we also are launching the construction of two roads and four concrete bridges and some culverts. I would say that we are putting into official use some projects but also launching the construction as well. I would express my sincere appreciation and thanks for the efforts made by provincial and other authorities and relevant Ministries of Economy and Finance, Public Works and Transports, Rural Development, Water Resources and Meteorology, etc. for the continued progress of the province of Pursat.

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There are two great potentials of Pursat. Electricity is one of them and it is going to supply to Phnom Penh, Battambang, Banteay Meanjei and Siemreap. Even though some hydropower stations are in Koh Kong, their transmission lines are also running across this province. The second potential of its kind is agriculture, which is making tremendous progress. We have the hydraulic project of Damnak Ampil, Jarek and more are under constructions. This allows people to grow rice twice or even thrice in Pursat. We anticipate more development in this sector thanks to the land titling program for which our youth student volunteers and cadastre officials are here present.

#### **CPP Won All Four Seats in Pursat**

We will continue our efforts to score more achievements on the land of Pursat. It should be noted that the Ministry of Rural Development is having five-asphalted road projects of 80 Kilometres in hand at the districts of Bakan, Krakor and Kravanh. H.E. Suy Sem, Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy and H.E. Keo Rattanak, Director General of Electricite du Cambodge, just discussed with me about building a 40 Kilometre-long road in Krakor that is going to run through a number of provinces and link to a tourist destination. I instructed to list the project in the 2014 development plan. We have planned to oversee the construction of not less than 400 Kilometres of asphalted roads per annum. Thanks to the loans provided by the Asian Development Bank and the Republic of Korea, our people in Pursat benefit from the plan before other provinces.

I would take this moment to express my sincere thank for H.E. Suy Sem and Madame, officials of the Cambodian People's Party's working groups for Pursat for their efforts. I learn from H.E. Keo Rattanak that for

over ten years now they have their heavy construction machines and equipments here for the construction of canals, dams, etc. I hereby express my deepest and greatest thanks to the people in Pursat for steadfastly voting the Cambodian People's Party. In the fourth legislative term of the National Assembly, the Cambodian People's Party won all four seats. Making calculation based on the number of votes during the communal election last year, the Party would take all four seats with 10,000 votes remaining in extra.

I would like to take this opportune moment therefore to express my sincere thank for grandfathers and grandmothers, grandaunts and granduncles, aunts and uncles, brothers and sisters for placing their confidence in the Cambodian People's Party in the national elections, which also means placing their trust in my leadership. In the time coming I anticipate that the people in Pursat will continue to vote for the Cambodian People's Party, bearing number four on the ballot. If you have affection, pity, satisfaction and trust in me to be your Prime Minister, please vote number four.

#### **Like Father Like Son**

It seems that the opposition has planned to win two seats in Pursat. Let us remind them that even before when it won all four seats, the Cambodian People's Party retained three seats always. Some politicians said there would be new voices from the youth, which will change the status of the votes. We may have very simple explanation from where are these youths coming? In our conversation with some members of the National Assembly of the opposition party, who came to my house, like Mao Monivan, Kim Suphirith, and some I do not name names, and I have audio proof, I asked them the way they build their youth network. They said they recruit their youth activists from

families and parents who support them.

I responded to them that it is the same. Take for instance, the rate of support for the Cambodian People's Party is over 60% and since they have more children, their children will follow their parents in voting for the Cambodian People's Party too. Since you have 20% votes, your number of youth would come from the 20% too. In this simple comparison, we will continue to maintain the majority. We may have yet to include those from other parties that are joining with the Cambodian People's Party. Some officials for instance formerly belonged to different parties, but they are now becoming those of the Cambodian People's Party and their families' members are too. For example, HE Serei Kosal, who formerly was a member of Funcinpec and later Norodom Ranaridh's Party, but he now is a member of the Cambodian People's Party. When he becomes one, his wife and children would be too. This would be for the whole family.

It is in this note that the youths that are coming into play are coming out from their parents too. When their parents stand on the Cambodian People's Party side, they will not do it differently. There has been some odd things too that some children may have influence over their parents. In Pursat, there is a case to note that when their parents are for the opposition parties, their children are for the Cambodian People's Party. That is a bizarre case. Along this trend, as I said, no matter how many more times we vote, the same result would prevail. It is a family issue.

The point however is whether voting for the Cambodian People's Party, for which Hun Sen would become the Prime Minister, is going to yield good things or not? Why not when (voting for the Cambodian People's Party) where there used to ferry has been replaced with bridges.

More so that we will have more asphalted roads, schools, hospitals, etc. People will also check on these achievements too as they continue to give votes, and to give an increasing number of votes too. On this note, it seems that their call for change has better effected their inside changes from one Party leader to another, whereas we continue to be a sign of deity spreading flowers. Let us give people their rights to choose.

#### **Be Professional, Press People**

As for today, I learn that our event organizing committee has provided with 12,000 chairs but there are more participants than expected. I would however urge some press people to take their work to a more professional level because if they write something different from the truth, it would otherwise be a detriment to their work. Take this example, you may write Hun Sen talked to a few hundreds of people, where it was more. Readers will see on TV that it was not a few hundreds. If you love very much to downgrade it, you may not need to refer to number but only "talking to the event in Pursat ..." You would not have problem with your boss in this case. It is all because of your unprofessional account and reporting, you would suffer your professional damage and readers would discredit your work. You aim to earn something but you will lose more.

This is no different from the case that some would wish to earn from saying things like "why the Khmer Rouge had been so foolish to leave proof of their killings if they were truly committing the crimes." It is clear to everyone that the person wished to place the blame on the Cambodian People's Party and Vietnam. I also learned that yesterday the same person went to the district of Loeuk Dek of Kandal where he blamed 7 January day. Young people there disagreed with what he said and rebelled

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and he had to rush into his car. I am calling however for our people to be patient. No matter how nonsense his words were, words, and not stones, should be the response. As the ruling party, we must maintain social order as any bad thing happens, we will be responsible for and I urge the opposition party to be considerate while they insult the Cambodian People's Party. I warn them of mass reaction.

### Let's Be Patient

There has been a story of two women in conflict. The bigger woman chased and gave the smaller one a fight. The small woman escaped and took shelter behind the monk who just arrived. The Buddhist monk then said to the big woman to keep their patience high. The big woman could not approach the small woman who hid behind the monk anymore. She could not give here a fight with hands. She then picked up a piece of soil and threw. The soil missed the small woman and hit the monk's head. Losing patience, the monk said to the woman hiding behind him that would you hold my sack for me, I would give the woman a good fight. From the one who told the conflict partners to be patient, being hit right in his head, he also lost his patience.

I am placing an appeal to the opposition party and others to advertise your own products and not to insult others. The Cambodian People's Party, known to everyone, liberated the country from the Pol Pot's genocide and restored country as is reflected by achievements in Pursat. I still remember this grandfather Soh, a Khmer Islam, who went from here to look for me in Takhma, Kandal province, asking for help for the construction of a mosque.

Responded to my question "how come are you coming this far to see me?" grandfather Soh said where else could he go when the boss is here. He was the one who gave the answer about who

was born before whom between Ala and Buddha. Grandfather Soh said they both were born at the same time – 7 January 1979.

### Two Life-Devoting Missions

It is emphatically true. We were about to die altogether under Pol Pot. On 7 January 1979, we all survived and so do our religions and faiths. Buddhism and Muslim came to existence one again. Together we worked hard to achieve peace. I traded my life for the liberation of our people on 7 January and for peace negotiation with the late King Father, and finally we realized the national reconciliation.

Once again, after all this, I traded my life to go into former Khmer Rouge's areas of Pailin, Samloat, Kamrieng, Phnom Proek and Mealai for the sake of final integration of our country. I can still remember when my late mother and my grandaunt came into my room and warned me in their concerns of my safety for doing so. I said to them "Mom and grandaunt, if I were to die, it would be a death of me along with my entourage, but if I were to get back, we will get the whole country together."

Would anyone dare to do what I did? Where were they? Some of them would just run out of the country quickly when something happened. One of them dare not return to the country and blame me for that. I sacrificed everything, with other leaders of the Cambodian People's Party, for peace and the people. I fulfilled a proud mission – to liberate the people from the genocide regime of Pol Pot and with the support of the Cambodian People's Party leaders, to conduct negotiation in every corner of the world for peace and national reconciliation until we achieved the Paris Peace Agreement.

It is everyone's knowledge that the United Nations Transitional Authority for Cambodia (UNTAC) withdrew from Cambodia after it spent over two billion USD and left the country

under the control of two governments. Once again, that called for my sacrifice for final national integration. I did what had to be done for the sake of our people and to make peace. I was committed to do what other people would find it difficult to do. I had to take the job in my own hands to convince our people in Samloat, Pailin, Phnom Proek, Sampeo Loun, Kamrieng and Mealai or even Taken Koh Sla of the mission. It was far from simple matter.

### Win-Win Policy Results in Economic Growth

Implementing the win-win policy, Cambodia has changed its status from being a country under many factional controls to one that is residing under one King, Constitution, legislative, executive, tribunal powers and armed forces. We have since then scored growth in our economy, for which the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank are bearing their positive expectation. In between 2004–2007, the country scored two-digit growth, let alone in 2005, the growth shot up to 13.3%. We suffered however from the world financial crisis and economic downturn. It pulled us down. We however managed to pulled through and again mark our achievement of 7% growth per annum.

In 2011, despite severe flooding and border war, we could still achieved 7.1% growth, and in 2012 7.3%. We have good indication that we may achieve above 7% growth still. Take this into a picture for the people of Pursat, started in 2008 and progresses on, what have you seen at your doorstep? You have more bridges, roads, schools, hospitals, religious shrines and most important of all changes to the status of your families. This would exclude people who like to gamble and mortgage their belongings. Some people sold their houses, mortgaged their lands in order to secure one's

candidacy being in a Party's list. Some people failed in the election so they had to live with debts in their lives.

### Causing Division in Opposition

Today I may want to clarify one thing. There are statements by the opposition recently that the Cambodian People's Party is applying the policy to cause division among them. Have people listened to the abuse and grotesque terms used by the opposition leaders when they competed with each other? Was that what caused by the Cambodian People's Party as well. They insulted each other grotesquely. They even cursed each other to dissolve. Was that my work too? Should you let me causes division among you, you may consider that you are politically impotent and leading a country is even far from fact.

When you said that other people cause division in your rank, you may reconsider if you are animal or human being. For example, a flock of animals in the same farm fought each other because some of them have been coloured differently. It is shameful to say such thing. Trading their words, they accused each other as puppet of Hun Sen. Both of them talked to me on different account and said about each other as facedown opposition. This should reveal the nature if they could be future leaders of the country. After a long fight and insult, they now are embracing each other. I wonder if it is not a time bomb between them. There have been examples of big and strong party that consequently broke into pieces.

I just want to send a message to them that it would be best for them not to continue to brag about the Cambodian People's Party dividing you because it would reveal that you are weak and your claim to be future political leaders of the country would be in big question.

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### **Koem Sokhon on His Brother?**

Secondly, you also said that the Cambodian People's Party uses your brother Koem Sokhon to discredit you. It is absolutely the right and freedom of H.E. Koem Sokhon. He said while talking to the people that when he himself could not live with his brother, who else would be able to live with him? He is blood brother of the opposition leader and he pulled over when he could not take more of it. There is one more brother who said if ever anything happens, please do not include me with him since he is good at telling lies long ago. That brother works at the Custom House and is with the Cambodian People's Party all along. It would not be my place to prevent H.E. Koem Sokhon from exercising his political rights.

H.E. Koem Sokhon possesses his method of speaking and no one has instructed him of what to talk about and/or how to talk it. It is absolute normalcy that as a member and official of the Cambodian People's Party, whether you like it or not, he is going to protect the Party's policy. Why do they say that the Party uses one brother against the other? If that person did not speak, we also would not have his visual and voice for the media as well. It is absolutely worth thinking when H.E. Koem Sokhon said who else could live with him when his brother could not even do so.

### **Hun Sen's Pressure on Thailand?**

There is a third part to this story. Yesterday I affirmed in Kompong Chhnang that when that person left Cambodia, I did not chase him out. Should he choose to return, I also would not prevent him from doing so. He then said that if he were not present, the election would be illegal. Why does he not come then? You can come in by any flight. Days ago, he was not allowed to enter Thailand. He then went on

to Singapore. According to law in Singapore, he could stay but could not perform political action. He then left Singapore for Kuala Lumpur and I doubted why not to Paris? His plan was to have a meal with the opposition (party in Malaysia). He was not allowed to get off the plane so I guess he could be on his flight back to Paris. We just get the news. Malaysia did not allow him to enter because the opposition party in Malaysia has been causing a lot of trouble and they would not risk allowing this.

Let me now take you back to Thailand. The opposition leader in self-exile and a convict has accused me of putting pressure on the Royal Government of Thailand. Let us stay on this matter a bit. He seems to have given me very high value in saying so. The reason so is because according to what he said I have the power to place order not only in Cambodia but also on the Royal Government of Thailand.

It is absolutely the Royal Government of Thailand's decision and authority when it decided not to let anyone in their country. No one could force them to do so. Thailand is a sovereign nation and no one can make this decision on its behalf. I would see that as an insult on the Royal Government of Thailand, whose Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, is in Cambodia for a meeting.

### **Hun Sen Should Go On To Be Prime Minister**

My dear fellow country citizen, as someone gave me this high value, should I not accept it? It is widely written in the Thai newspaper as well that in the time of Techo Sen, the Thai or Siam requested help from Cambodia. It was for hundreds of years that Cambodian sought after help from Thailand. We have the history of the spirit of Khleang Moeng and Chumteav Khan Khieu, under the reign of Preah Chan Raja. If they considered Hun Sen to be this strong, it

should be correct to vote for him to continue to lead the country. Were they to said so for the Governments of Singapore for keeping him in the hotel or Malaysia (for preventing him from entering), I think they should give me the votes.

Some major powers could not put pressure on Hun Sen but it turns out that Hun Sen could tell other countries to do what he wants, according to what the opposition leader said. Would it not be good for me to lead the country and represent this nation? For you, denied entry and entry with no political activity put you far away from the value. It seems after all that after serving for almost thirty years, I am the best candidate for the post of Prime Minister.

I would urge foreign countries not to include me with the opposition when it comes to this political naivety. At least I have led ASEAN Summits twice, including one that many leaders of world powers participated.

I played the role of coordinator between ASEAN countries and the European Union in what is called the Asia-Europe Summit. They chose me as vice president of the meeting of the non-aligned movement. I gave my discourse at the United Nations National Assembly. I conducted various negotiations with the UN Secretary Generals – Peres de Cuellar, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Kofi Annan and Ban Ki-Moon ...

### **A War Secretly Declared**

As the situation on issue of the border with Vietnam is now clam, they have once again made fire about demanding Kampuchea Kraom, Ho Chi Minh city and Koh Tral. We have no choice but to replay the recorded main statement and elaboration on the demarcation of land boundary and maritime delimitation between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. As I said yesterday, if we were

to gain them back by filing the case to the International Court of Justice, the late Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk would not leave the matter for your or our concern. He could have done it long ago for the sake of regaining lands of our ancestors and national development ...

What we should say more is that why this was not done under Lon Nol then? Lon Nol hold power for five years. Why did he not file the case to the ICJ to gain those lands back and why in 1993, the Constitution was written using the map of the present scale? Now that you are demanding Kampuchea Kraom, Ho Chi Minh, etc., a war is already declared and in waiting, and I would held you accountable for that since I have your tape recorded here from many places where you talked about this.

All TV stations have made different versions and lengths (of the presentation in the National Assembly of main statement and elaboration on the demarcation of land boundary and maritime delimitation between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam) to prove the historical aspect of the issue. I could not allow them to scold us younger generation for the lost land.

I have to return to Phnom Penh a bit early because of two reasons. First, my father's health which is irregular. Today we may have to fly in the medical experts from Singapore. We have infused blood already but it seems his condition has deteriorated. Last night, in conversation with my wife, we may have to fly in a group of medical experts from Singapore to examine him since we cannot send him to hospital anymore. On another front I have a scheduled courtesy call of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Thailand, accompanied by various ministers and governors of the provinces along the Thai-Cambodian border ... ■

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to retaliate to acts of insulting (from opposition parties).

If they insult us, please either walk away or take the time and patience to tell them your opinion on whatever the matter was in a polite way. For instance, if someone brings up his/her opinion that is detrimental (to the Cambodian People's Party), you can just keep your head cool. Let them say what they think. You just kindly and politely respond: "For me, I think the Cambodian People's Party is good because it saved people from the genocide regime of Pol Pot, rebuilds the country. I wonder if I have seen the opposition party has done anything for the country so far."

#### **For Integrity of Authority and CPP**

There is this case concerning signboards of political parties. There has been accusation that the authority and some activists of the ruling party were damaging billboards of other Parties. We have to find out what really happened concerning this accusation. No matter how long it would take, months or years. It is important to conduct a thorough investigation in order to insure integrity of the local authority. Whoever did it, members of the Cambodian People's Party also included, must be held responsible for their actions. It was obviously a systematic act since all signboards in question had been defaced with spray paint. It is so suspicious.

I would like to make an appeal to whoever had done it to come forward and s/he would be rewarded as s/he would reveal the chieftain, who ordered for this action. Whoever that person behind may be, whether he is in the Cambodian People's Party, will be held responsible. We doubt it very much that (these politicians) may also apply this trick. In that case, I must warn them that this will not be long in hiding. Take this case for consideration, HE Serei Kosal, who brought in the former Khmer

Rouge's force into hiding in Phnom Penh, made it no secret anymore when he joined the Cambodian People's Party... My common sense tells me 100% that this case of defacing those signboards with spray paint were not at all actions of the Cambodian People's Party. Why should we do that?

#### **Elections for National Unity**

I would recommend to all political parties to build their signboards firm standings or they may risk being blown down by wind that local authority would be held accountable. I also call on all parties to refrain from turning on their campaign VDO and audio equipments too loud that would disturb each other and/or other social events. There could be wedding parties and funerals or other religious rituals. I would in this case call for your assurance not to create disturbance to other events. There has been disintegration (from the opposition party) of a candidate for member of the National Assembly and other activists in the Muslim community in Kompot and Siem Reap provinces. If all goes according to plan, there will be disintegration of candidates for member of the National Assembly and certain leaders (the opposition party) in Kompong Cham and Kandal too.

These people are in fact exercising their political choices and please do not take this as political disturbances. Secondly, as far as the lawsuits filed by Jum Mei and former mother in law and second wife (of the opposition leader) are concerned, please do not consider them political disturbances since there are more cases filed before the court, insults in various places included. While some of them may go to court and some may go to the National Elections Committee, they should not be treated as political disturbances.

We must reason out and refrain from insulting one another. We should keep the election from breaking our nation, society,

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pride of such an international effort. I may stress here that this also indicates that Cambodia has been putting foreign assistance into effective use.

Should we fail to achieve that, I am sure you understand, no country would want to assist us. That is one truth and no one could ever fake it. If we fail to make good use of their money, I am sure you understand that the Japanese or French Ambassador would not be quiet and their parliaments would not ignore it too. They adopted the decision to provide funds to Cambodia. They would not rest if we do not properly use the fund. Today's achievement can be a symbol of appreciation of the two major democratic and good governance powers ...

#### **Confidence in Current Political Stability**

Without waiting for period after the elections, I thank the governments of Japan and France for making these decisions. It is true that the two countries, which are major economic, political and democratic powers, have been sure in their predictions about Cambodia's political stability in the period before the elections. Frankly speaking, in absence of confidence, there would not be these developments.

The signing of more assistance for Cambodia prior to the elections signifies their confidence in Cambodia's political stability. It is different from the elections in 2003 when some countries understood that they had

village and family. We should not have a fact that on one side of the village stands on one party and the other side of the village stand on a different one. In the past over 20 years, we have made a good example that after the elections, our people participated in the water festival's boat race altogether ...

to wait for the elections and some even decided to wait until we had a new government in place as Cambodia stuck in a political impasse. That is a true story. Please do not judge it as a political message ...

I would affirm, in this instance, to HE Ambassadors of Japan and France, and other development partners that we would not disappoint them. While friends help us, we will have to do likewise in return. We understand that our friends may have difficulties if we were not using their funding transparently, in which case those governments may have to face with questions from their parliaments. The Royal Government will continue all its reforms to promote developments where good governance is at the centre of the rectangular strategy for growth, equity and efficiency ...

#### **Voting Yourself the Cambodian People's Party**

I thank senior citizens, brother and sisters who live in Phnom Penh for always providing support and participating in the city development. No development could have achieved without people's participation. I am grateful for their generous understanding and support for the political platform of the Royal Government of Cambodia, the leadership of the Phnom Penh Municipal and my leadership as Prime Minister all along. I hope that we will go on receiving this support on 28 July 2013.

I have contributed in my leadership for this achievement that we are witnessing here today. Voting for the Cambodian People's Party is voting for me and you will get the benefit from your decision. I am sure you do not vote for turmoil and war. Voting yourself the Cambodian People's Party to maintain peace, stability and further development ...

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country candidates, Cambodia was elected second after Switzerland. Cambodia also had the chance to host this very important meeting. It is to everyone's knowledge that Cambodia has a great number of heritages. They offered Cambodia the chance to host its 37<sup>th</sup> WHC session. It is indeed an honor not only for the Royal Government of Cambodia, H.E. Sok An, who chairs the meeting, but also the people of Cambodia in the whole country. We all are proud of it.

### No Campaigning for Me

Please allow me to say something in Kompot today. I will appear once again on June 24 in Batheay of Kompong Cham before I will disappear for a while. I will not say anything during the campaigning period. There could be some prepared text but perhaps it is the best to just stay at home and fulfil routine work of the Royal Government. I will leave it up to the members of the National Assembly and members of the Cambodian People's Party to engage in it. I think I have spoken a lot already. It has been a habit that I pursue since 1998 and all along in 2003, 2008 and now 2013.

### 2008-13 Achievements under Hun Sen

Please allow me to say a few things. Since 1979 up to the present, I have compared the different status that we were at the brink of death and that we survived from it with bare hands. We have made it this far. Look around you, what has happened? What did we have in 1979 and what do we have now. It is necessary to make this observation before you make decision as to who deserve the votes to continue leading this country. In between 2008 and 2013, people can ponder what have the Royal Government and the Cambodian People's Party done for the people in Kompot, Angkorjei district in particular, and in the whole country in general. Has

the Cambodian People's Party-ruled Royal Government led by Samdech Techo Hun Sen made any progresses?

Just in this pagoda, we have seen a new Buddhist temple and many accessory buildings. We also see the school buildings and the national road 3, which have sprung up in the fourth legislative term of the National Assembly Royal Government. The road has not yet completed. The inauguration will be in the fifth term of the National Assembly Royal Government. We just had hydropower in the fourth term too. All this should clearly indicate our progress from term to term and serve as firm bases for our people to make their decision to give their votes to the Cambodian People's Party.

### Proportional Representation Voting System

I would like to express my sincere thanks to our Buddhist monks and people in Kompot province for voting for the Cambodian People's Party in 2012, when it received 63.08% of the votes. This shall secure the Cambodian People's Party five seats. We already had five seats from the elections in 2008. With this number of votes, we will continue to occupy its five seats. With our electoral system, unlike the one they use in Singapore, it would be impossible for us to gain all six seats (for Kompot). However, if we were to use the electoral system like the one in Singapore, the Cambodian People's Party could have occupied all 123 seats in the National Assembly already.

We are using the proportional representation system. With this system, for instance we need 5,000 votes for a seat. We have 50,000 votes means we have five seats. We still have 4,998 votes left. We would not get the remaining seats if the other party in contest has a single vote more than our remaining votes. I am so grateful for the elections in 2008 in Kompot that the Cambodian People's Party won five

seats. The number of votes in 2012 has also indicated a rate of up to 63.08% will secure the five seats that we have. We should aim for that. I am calling on all of you, who benefit from the leadership of the Cambodian People's Party and my premiership, to continue to vote for the Cambodian People's Party, which ranks number four on the ballot sheet, symbolizes with a deity spreading flowers. I am grateful in advance to your love, pity, satisfaction and trust for the new term of Prime Minister.

### Kompot's Key Role in Bringing Peace and Land Measuring

The people in Kompot may have seen already the key relationship to peacemaking in the country. In fact, Kompot achieved full peace about the same time as those in Pailin and Mealai. Why is that so? I may recall for you that the integration of former Khmer Rouge areas from Phnom Voar. Taken Koh Sla all the way to Oral of Kompong Speu province happened only in 1996 like in Pailin. You could have remembered when Pol Pot's soldiers came out and attacked the train in Phnom Voar, where three foreigners – Australian, English and US were killed. We have put a stop to all that through the implementation of win-win policy. In Kompot as well as in every corner of the country, people can go wherever they wish free from harm.

According to the report of H.E. Khoy Khun Huor, governor of Kompot, our youth volunteers and cadastre officials have measured a large number of land parcels already. However, I have given order for them to return to home (in light of the forthcoming election). They work hand in hand very well in measuring land for people in the province of Kompot. They have measured land for about 38,000 families. They have helped in handing out land titles for 2,900 families in 12 villages. I am sure our cause has let people to gain con-

fidence in their production on the land where they legally own.

### Three Fundamental Issues in the Fourth Term National Assembly Royal Government

In the last five years, here or anywhere in the country, we have encountered uncountable difficulties and scored many great achievements. However, there had been three fundamental problems that we had made stem encountering and resolving:

### *New Industrial, Agricultural and Sectoral Progress after the World Economic Crisis*

Shall we compare the situation between the time before the election in 2008 and this time before the election in 2013, we would see the differences. In 2008, we had this world financial crisis and economic downturn coming with high inflation that affected severely our people's living condition with regard to the price of foodstuff but also less order for garments from Cambodia as well. In 2009, a number of garment factories had to close down because of the severe blow of economic crisis in the United States of America and Europe. Those who fancied three pairs of new dresses per annum had to go with less. The impact had been tremendous on the part of the Royal Government who had to do everything to guarantee the balance of the macro-economy, prevent shooting prices of electricity, fuel, water, etc. in Phnom Penh.

These hazes have yet to be over in Europe or the United States of America, though it seems to have grown a bit better than before. We have evaded successfully the effect of the explosion of the economic bomb, thanks to our strict economic management. The Royal Government had been doing anything it can to increase income and prevent excessive expenses or even move it off the list. We have finally brought our econ-

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omy back on track and generated a new growth, after it fell from 10% to 6.8% and then 0% in 2009, to 6% again in 2010, 7.2% in 2011 and 7.3% in 2012. We anticipate our growth to be somewhere above 7%.

On my way here, I noticed many factories along the national road 3, and there are many on the national road 4 as well. You may like to remember that your children could find jobs in those factories because of no other party but Hun Sen and the Cambodian People's Party. Their basic salary may have just reached 80 USD, which is still low, but if we compare it to those in India, Bangladesh, Laos or Myanmar, we have done better. As the economy grows, our export has widened and grown too. We have recorded a 4 billion USD from garments export and roughly about 8 billion USD including other products.

### **Agriculture and Service Sectors**

We have ensured a sustained growth in agriculture over these years, despite the fact that we encountered so many crisis. We suffered from Ketsana storm effect in 2009 and high flooding in 2011 but we had secured the ability to export a surplus of about two million metric tons of rice, according to the report of HE Chan Sarun. Cambodia used to import food from other countries. We now are exporting our rice to other countries. We are now in the state of needing to improve our milling and packaging capacities. This has brought about the chance for traders from Vietnam and Thailand to come and buy our rice. We are calling on our people to make more investment on rice mill, warehouses and increasing purchasing price that give more value added to our farmers. Once rice is purchased and milled locally, we would have the use of more rice brand, broken parts and husk, which can be used for

other purposes.

With regard to tourist sector, last year we received 3,500,000 tourists. In the last four months of this year, we already registered 1,500,000 tourists in the country already. We expect to receive some four million tourists this year. There is no doubt that some of them may make their ways through to Kep and Kompot's Bokor. Having said so, I would assure you that our country has once again benefited from growths in agriculture, industry and service sector. In fact, when you sit at home watching cable TV or making call is also a type of service. We could be sure that all this would not be around if Pol Pot were to stay on.

### **Salary Increase of 20% Per Annum Implemented**

There is one remarkable achievement that the Royal Government has scored despite world economic fever. The Royal Government has continued to fulfil its promise to add 20% as an increase to the salary of our civil servants. Since we started in 2008, but we go slowly. We are concerned that going fast would result in bitter experience like in Greece. In Khmer we have a saying that goes "galloping slow is better than fast" or "drop by drop the bucket is full, a great down pouring could come to half-empty bucket." I still subscribe to my term "frog leap development" rather than "a great leap forward." We will in the forthcoming time change our increment strategy from 20% of basic salary per annum according to the growth of the economy.

### **Leadership Decision on Border Defence**

Though there was a hard hit of the world economic crisis, we averted it and stood up again. The second difference was that before the 2008 election, the Thai army invaded the Buddhist pagoda of Keo Sekha Kiri Svarak and the area of Preah Vihear

temple. The situation dragged on until almost midterm of the Royal Government before it improved in 2011, when there is a change of government in Bangkok. What lies here is how to make leadership decision? I have the necessity to bring the difference between the role of Prime Minister and of Minister or district/commune leaders. A wrong decision made, like in the case of Preah Vihear area, we would have a war disaster that we might also need to send in soldiers from Kompot too.

The country was in its election campaign. On the 15 of July, the Thai army invaded us. As incumbent Prime Minister with full command rights over the armed forces, what decision should I make? Let me explain how I did it. I also wish to have your attention on the fact that if Hun Sen were not to be present, what actually could have happened?

I urgently convened the meeting of leaders of the Cambodian People's Party and the Royal Government to study the various options placed on the table as how do we go about resolving the issue. At my house in Takhmao, my house in Phnom Penh was under reconstruction, I consulted with others that we had better choice but only the least bad. We could not anticipate the good option. We came to three different options – firstly, we exercise patience, though the possibility of having armed clash was imminent, so as to contain the situation from raging out into larger scale.

Secondly, the possibility of having armed clashes in the Keo Sekha Kiri Svarak pagoda area, the Preah Vihear temple and adjacent areas, for which we would have to disengage relevant election offices as people would not be able to go to vote. The third option is to have armed clashes along the Thai-Cambodian border while postponing the national election completely. Among all three

options we pondered, we decided to keep with the first one – to exercise calmness but to stop them from further intruding. It was hard to figure out the correct one.

Used to be a soldier who fought in 105 battles and wounded five times, lost one eye, I almost could not hold myself seeing that they stepped on our sovereignty but we could not fight back. Time proved that my decision was correct. Some people said why Hun Sen did not command General Hing Bun Hieng to get ready for war. Now we could see that with a correct decision we avoided armed clashes and did not have to cancel the election in the region. However, some military officials and commanders could not make it to help with the elections. We later had some fights, though, in the area. In Bangkok, the Thai politicians used the issue of Preah Vihear to downfall the Royal Thai Government that was close to Thaksin. In Cambodia, (opposition politicians) use the issue to cancel the election because they were sure that they would not win it.

You may agree that, if it were other person holding the post of Prime Minister, the situation could have gone on a different direction. The same is true for the forthcoming election that our people should be considerate in making their decision with regard to such important decision. Some may want to exercise defence rights and war followed.

We not only handled the military move effectively but also prepared all relevant materials ready for the UN Security Council. Would you the voters give some thought on it whether three-pronged strategy that I used was not relevant? Firstly, we used military to resolve the problem on the spot; secondly, we put into practice the diplomatic process through ASEAN to the UN Security Council; and thirdly, we activate our legal process to the

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## Phnom Penh's Nirot Water Treatment Plant

(04 June 2013 — Unofficial Translation, Selected Impromptu Comments)

### Japan and France Midwife Cambodia's Water Treatment Plant

I am so glad today we have the chance to get together with the Buddhist monks to celebrate the inauguration of the Nirot Water Treatment Plant, Phase-I in the Sangkat Nirot, Khan Meanjei of Phnom Penh. It is especially important for me today since it is my fourth time to put into official use such major project for clean water provision in Phnom Penh. It should be reminded that in 2000 and 2003 I also involved in putting into official operation of the water treatment plant in the village of Prek, financed by Japan. In 2006, I was present at the inauguration of the water treatment plant in Jroy Jangva, financed by the Republic of France.

This is my fourth time to put another water treatment plant into operation, especially this one, financed by the Republic of France and Japan, into operation. I would argue that it is the first of its kind project in the form of trio cooperation – Cambodia, Japan and France. That is what Cambodia would like to see. We have also incorporated partnership in development issue, harmonization of development in Cambodia included, into the meeting agenda with our partners. We could also compare this project to one that Cambodia is a woman in labor, for whom Japan and France serve as midwives.

Everyone remembers that Japan and France were co-chairmen of the International Committee on the Reconstruction of Cambodia (ICORC) after the achievement of the Paris Peace Agreement. Its meetings took turn between France and Japan too. The two countries held very important and active roles in finding po-

litical solutions, reaching the Paris Peace Agreement on 23 October 1991, to the Cambodian problem.

### Roles of Japan and France in Cambodia's Peace

Maybe it important for me to clarify why do we have to celebrate so many inaugurations for so many water-supply systems in Phnom Penh? Our capital had been quite uniquely different from other countries' capitals in the world. We cannot compare it with others. After the liberation of 1979, Phnom Penh was without water supply. The Polpotists evacuated people from Phnom Penh since 1975. People returned only in 1979. We had to restore the country from scratch. To go back a bit, we may ask ourselves question like what would happen to us if there were no liberation on January 7, 1979 to set us free from Pol Pot? Would we all survive into today? Our elderly people who went through the time could have answered this question.

(It is clear that not) if we leave Pol Pot to be (in power) for another 34 years, even in three years, we would not have chance to be set free and survive till today. Without these senior fellow citizens, how could we argue for the existence and survival of the younger generations? How could they when their parents and/or grandparents already died. Henceforth one could also pose a question if it were not for the 7 January 1979 liberation day, what would happen to Phnom Penh? Let me remind you that when I was came to Phnom Penh, around the central market and independence monument of Phnom Penh already as tall as I was. We could have foreseen then that Phnom Penh would definitely be a coconut and

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International Court of Justice.

At present, the Cambodian relation with Thailand is now improving. Let me assure you that having a good neighbour is like having gold or mine if otherwise. When Thaksin was Prime Minister and now Yingluck is the Prime Minister, we reap the situation like gold because we did not have to pay for war. It is on this note that Cambodia is making every effort possible to build peace, friendship and cooperation with our neighbours.

### The 2009 Ketsana Storm and 2011 Flooding

Coming to the third issue – flooding of 2011, which prompted us to divert expenses to rescue our people and fix damages of infrastructure, all of which have reassured our generation of growth ...

I have talked a lot already now. I would just advise others who are candidates for the Prime Ministers to review their qualifications. They should know that (this candidate) used to lead the country through numerous hardships, like preventing the return of the Pol Pot's regime. We built the

banana farms.

Now we have brought remaining leaders of the regime to justice. I am talking about our efforts to resolve the Cambodian problem and to seek for peace, in which Japan and France had been playing significant roles. Everyone knows that I conducted numerous meetings with the late Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod, while the international conference held in Paris. With helps of former Foreign Ministers of Japan and Thailand, we were able to set up the Supreme National Council or SNC in Tokyo. The Paris Peace Agreement mentions about the restoration and rehabilitation of Cambodia, where Japan and France took turn as

country with on one hand and fought to keep Pol Pot away on the other. This Prime Minister conducted negotiation and formulated the win-win policy leading to a complete national reconciliation. In the recent five years term, this Prime Minister has resolved the three tests – the world economic crisis, the Thai invasion and the natural disasters.

These should have illustrated efforts made by the Royal Government to resolve for the people consequences of these tests. Some politicians did not help the people but demanded to foreign countries to suspend their assistances. My dear people, you may ponder that those assistance provided by foreign partners were not for any particular person, for example the European Union's assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture the other day.

If those countries were to suspend their help, and stop buying Cambodian products, who would suffer? It would be no one else but our Cambodian people. What would happen when they no longer buy our rice/cassava, close factories? ...

co-chairman of ICORC.

### Putting Foreign Assistance to Good Use

We all have witnessed (this achievement) with our own eyes. The two countries' contributions have noted to extend from the time when Cambodia was in search for peace to the present redevelopment stage. Today we put into official use a new component of the Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority (PWSA) financed by Japan and France. HE Ambassador of France already indicated the model of cooperation between the French Agency for Development (AFD) and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which I have so much

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