



13 January 2014 — Samdech Techo Hun Sen with visiting Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung at the Inauguration of the Phnom Penh Cho Ray Hospital (Kampuchea Thmey)

A Cambodia-Vietnam Border Bridge

(14 January 2014 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

I would like to take this opportunity moment to express my sincere thank to the Vietnamese people who live and are present also on the other side of the river for this occasion. I am so happy today to be able to come here with Prime Minister HE Nguyen Tan Dung for the launching of the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the 428 meters Chrey Thom-Long Binh Bridge – a historic indicator of the history of the two countries relations.

Bridge of Peace – Friendship, Cooperation and Connectivity

I would take this opportune moment to say a few things about the meaning of this bridge. I think Prime Minister HE Nguyen Tan Dung and seniors leaders here present would not object the idea that I would signify the Bridge by three meanings – peace, cooperation and connectivity. The construction of this bridge is possible thanks to the fact that

the two countries are having good friendly relations. Without friendship, the construction of a bridge as such at the border point would be difficult. If the two countries were in animosity with one another, you may know of a normal natural fact that each side would have their weapons installed at each other. It is because of friendship and solidarity that the two countries – Cambodia and Vietnam – are putting this bridge, which stands one side in one country and another side on another country.

Our people may ask where the borderline of the two countries lies. Does it lie on the shore of the river on the Cambodian side or on the shore of the river on the Vietnamese side? Cambodia and Vietnam have signed an additional agreement in relation to the border between the two countries along the river and tributaries, which, according to the French demarcation, in certain places, the

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Selected Monthly Recaps & Newsbreaks

Cambodia Creates Working Groups to Directly Work at Localities

January 29, 2014

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has decided to create national working groups to directly work at localities in the 25 provinces and municipality across the country in order to examine and support the implementation of the RGC's political platform and Rectangular Strategy Phase III. In the meeting to disseminate the decision, Samdech Techo Hun Sen enlightened that the establishment of the mechanism aims to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the political platform and strategies for the interests of local people. He also certifies that the mechanism will encourage cooperation in organizing public forums, which provide opportunity to local people to express their views, con-

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The SOS Children's Village — Kratie

(18 January 2014 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Welcome and Thank SOS Children's Village International

I am so glad today that we meet here together to put into official use of the Cambodian SOS Children's Village in the province of Kratie. It is indeed a motivated feeling to see more achievements mushrooming on our land as is stipulated by Mr. Siddhartha Kaul, President of the SOS Children's Villages International, which is partner of the Royal Government of Cambodia. This is indeed the ninth project and Mr. Siddhartha Kaul has invited me to the organization's tenth project in Kompot too. I would like to declare that I accept the invitation to preside over the forthcoming inauguration in Kompot. May I present to our donors from Sweden who donated the sum of 1,333,484 USD for the construction of the SOS Children's Village in Kratie. The Cambodian people

warmly welcome and thank you.

I would assure them that their assistance is in good and effective use. I have just held two babies in my arms – one came to the village a few months now and another only 26 days ago. There have been a number of other orphans, who stay and benefit from care of the SOS Children's Village in Kratie already. These kids are now surviving and making progress in life thanks to help provided by the SOS Children's Village with generosity and donation kindly offered by donors from Sweden. I am so glad that the Ministry of Social and Veteran Affairs, and Youth Rehabilitation has been

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line runs on Cambodian land leaving water area to Vietnam or vice versa. Through various negotiations, especially the additional agreement of 2005, the two sides have decided to observe the principle of placing the borderline in the deepest water stream and/or middle of the rivers or tributaries.

Which in that case our people ask where is the borderline? The borderline lies in the middle channel of the river. Previously, in certain areas, Cambodians had to ask Vietnam for permission to fetch water from the river. Since when we have the agreement, each side can fetch water without having to ask for another's permission.

Concept of Cooperation

Why did I say it is a bridge of cooperation? I have the honour to work with Prime Minister HE Nguyen Tan Dung in the initiation of the bridge. The two of us are working closely to make cooperation work in the construction of this bridge aimed at further promoting cooperation and development between Cambodia and Vietnam. The cooperation concepts revealed through the stage of conducting site study, design and working out the loan credit for the construction. It took us a while. We could have fulfilled the project long ago if Cambodia were to have money. As is affirmed by HE Nguyen Tan Dung, being a poor country, Vietnam has done its best to work out a financial scheme that each country will carry half the cost.

However, the part covered by Cambodia is in fact the loan that Cambodia asks from Vietnam. As for this bridge, we split the cost in half but for the Cambodian part, we need to spend more because we have two more bridges to build on our side and also to demine the site. Cambodia will then carry the part of 20,590,000 USD from the total amount of 38.5

million USD. Cambodia's loan from Vietnam and the counterpart fund of 1,830,000 USD has rounded up the Cambodian amount to 18,760,000 USD, while Vietnam will take care of 17,800,000 USD. It is in this sense that I am revealing a concept of cooperation concerning the construction of this bridge.

Concept of Connectivity

Another major concept is connectivity as it links up Cambodia with Vietnam at this boat crossing point. We have replaced those activities with a long bridge so that our two people – Cambodia and Vietnam can go to and fro. It is in this meaning that I am bearing the concepts of cooperation and connectivity to the bridge. As far as connectivity is concerned, we have done quite a number of them. Take for instance the connectivity in term of electricity, which we did in over twenty places. Yesterday we had more discussion about (electricity) connectivity, in which Vietnam will sell us 200 MW of electricity. The transmission will exit Vietnam at its border point with Cambodia's Takeo province and run through to Phnom Penh.

However, by the time the rainy season comes this year, Cambodia would be able to sell to Vietnam 100 MW electricity. Take for instance we have the connection of electricity since 2005 for this area at a gradual increment of supply from one MW through to three MW, which is not yet sufficient when we also need to light up two more districts – Koh Thom and Sa Ang. According to increasing demand, we may request for five or seven MW electricity for the above districts. I would consider it a grateful gesture if Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung could advise the electricity company (of Vietnam) to sell Cambodia between two or four MW more.

Sending Sudan More Medical Staff

Connectivity is in other word ability to complete one another. We do not wish to see shelling at one another but transporting to and from one another. People can go to and fro. Let us not create animosity among us. For the concept of connectivity, after finishing the construction, the bridge will play very important role in connecting tourism between the two countries, transportation, exchange of goods and many more as discussed yesterday.

As of last night, for your information, in mid of the banquet, I had to issue a decision to send more medical staff to Sudan as fighting are happening there. Cambodia has a hospital to run in Sudan. There are two Sudan – South and North. Now the war breaks in the South. We have our troops there. We are quite worried for our troops. However, over two thousands people came for treatment in the Cambodian hospital there. We even helped with the delivery of 73 infants. There is a need for the gynaecologist and we will send some there.

From Battlefields to Development Zones

I have a high ambition in my leadership to transform former battlefields into development zones. This is what I have been pursuing since when we successfully implemented the win-win policy. Along with this, it is my commitment to change border areas into zones of peace, friendship, cooperation, and development. We have achieved most of this with Vietnam in areas where there used to be war in 1960s, and between 1970 and to 1975. Places where there used to be heavy rocket launchers have now become markets and industrial zones. We are conducting joint studies now to build a number of border mar-

kets where there will be goods to exchange and enterprises to operate.

We also have achieved some along the border with Thailand. We need to make a borderline of peace, friendship and cooperation with all countries – Vietnam, Laos and Thailand. Having achieved that people along the border would have no more fear of war or armed clashes between the armies of the neighbouring countries. While ending their fears, the achievement would also make people affluent.

Learning from the history, especially in the Chinese folklores, those who committed crimes and served death or life sentence would end up being sent to the border. Generalizing that concept, many prisoners were living along the border, according to the Chinese stories. Lacking of strong bond of relation, people would live in fear and experience poverty and difficult communication. Looking into one other aspect, we could also help save patients in Kandal province when they need medical assistance because it would take them shorter time to go to Vietnam than to get to Phnom Penh. I am sure the Chrey Thom-Long Binh Bridge will serve these perspectives.

NR 21 to Be Reconstructed

I would express my sincere thank to our people who had to keep up with the impacts of the construction project. I would also like to inform you that we would go about the construction of the road from this bridge all the way back to Takhmao, total 65 Kilometres in the near future thanks to the credit loan of the Republic of Korea. The road will be built larger and with high standard. We have 77 bridges – big and small to build. The segment of NR 21 of 65 Kilometres we would need to spend 52 million USD because there are

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many bridges to build over tributaries and waterways.

We need those tributaries and waterways for water for irrigation and fish population. It is true that once we are building more roads and bridges, we would have to meet with some changes. However, to have is better than not to have. I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Ministry of Transport and Public Works, the Ministry of Economy and Finance as well as the Kandal provincial authority of Cambodia for their efforts to work closely with the Vietnamese counterparts, the An Giang province also included, to create a favourable atmosphere for the construction to happen. In just 30 months to go, we will have a bridge to travel to and fro.

In or Out of Power – Through Constitution

I am so glad today that we are meeting here and I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Cambodian people who have supported this road and bridge projects. I am grateful to the people in Cambodia as a whole, in Kandal province in particular, for voting to elect the Cambodian People's Party and place confidence in me to continue to be Prime Minister for the coming five years. I will perform my duty responsibly not only as Prime Minister of those who elected the Cambodian People's Party but of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

I have the mandate from the people, the National Assembly and the Royal Decree of HM the King. Five years is not a long time (for the opposition to wait). They call for me to go down. Why should I do that? I come to power by constitutional mean. If I were to go down, it would have to be according to the Constitution. There is no other way to do that.

Basic Salary Higher than India, Bangladesh, Laos and Myanmar

We are today 14 January. You may recall the 7 January 1979 event. One week after liberation, some places were liberated and some were not. Places liberated were joyous but massacre continued in places yet to liberate. In general, what did we have under Pol Pot? They took everything from us – cooking pots to ploughing animals. They chased us out of our native villages. How many were there extermination sites in Koh Thom? There are numerous.

After liberating the country, we had to neutralize Pol Pot's mode of production, which is collective working and eating manner. We had to take back what they took from us. Often, we never got all they took from us. Most of us were empty handed. Samdech Chea Sim, Samdech Heng Samrin, myself and other leaders have survived starvation altogether. As Foreign Minister, I was entitled to a ration of 16 Kilograms – 10 Kg of rice and 6 Kg of corn.

In shortage of food, I went to look for banana in the yard behind my house. I came face to face with the Pol Pot's soldiers, who were there surviving on banana. They did not know who I was. We captured them. The place has now become my Cabinet.

This is the reality. We have made our journey step after step and made our progress real. Vietnam did not encounter similar genocide as we did. After the liberation of the southern part, Vietnam reunites as one and overcame tremendous difficulties to this day.

I asked the Prime Minister of Vietnam yesterday how much a worker in Vietnam earns. He said over two million (Vietnamese) Dong or about roughly more than 100 USD. The fact that we have in-

creased the (basic) salary to 100 USD (per month) is comparatively close to Vietnam's, but higher than in India, Bangladesh, Laos and Myanmar.

A Poem of Comparison in Facebook

There has been someone writing a short poem and posting it on facebook. In the poem, the man told children to be patient though they were hungry. He said because the family is poor, dad can give one extra spoon of rice for each and everyone. He promises they will have more when they are better off. It is a good comparison. He went on to say today you do not have much meat in your meal, but 35 years ago, dad had a fight with the dogs for bone. As you can see, we have brought this country, as is said in the poem, out of its most difficult situation.

Can you tell, if any Prime Minister or leader would not want their people to have better lives? (The fact that we have yet to get there is because) our resource ability is still impossible. Unfortunately, those who instigate the protests in demand for basic monthly salary of 160 USD have in fact paid their drivers only 60 USD.

This year we celebrated the 35th anniversary of the liberation of Cambodia from the regime of genocide in the whole country. The visit of and the activities conducted here by Prime Minister of Vietnam partly hails the victory over the regime of genocide. In those days, we were not able to liberate the country with our own force. As one of the army commanders of Kien Giang province, HE Nguyen Tan Dung then joined the liberation of the province of Kompot. In early 2012, HE Nguyen Tan Dung with other Vietnamese leaders secured a piece of land in Vietnam for Cambodia (to keep their fallen combatants).

There are 49 young Cambo-

dian men died without the knowledge of their families and are buried in Dong Nao, Vietnam. If we could identify their families, we would have brought the remains of those men for them. The fact that we could not find them, (we could argue that) the genocide exterminated them too. Now, no matter what, we are making steps forwards. Despite some obstacles, we can still make steps of development like the construction of the bridge of Chrey Thom-Long Binh. I think I have more to talk about but because HE Nguyen Tan Dung has to pay a courtesy call on HM the King before his return to Hanoi, I had better hold them for another time.

Vietnam to Produce Nuclear Powered Electricity

As I notice from what the Prime Minister told me, Vietnam still has so much power left, especially in the northern and central parts of the country. I would request between 2MW and 4MW for the southern part of Cambodia. I think he will not have problem with that. It is good that the price of electricity from Vietnam is affordable for us. Vietnam is going to produce electricity using nuclear power. I think the country has that potential and capacity. It is possible that among ASEAN nations, Vietnam could be the first one to achieve technology for nuclear powered energy.

Once again, I would like to express my sincere thank for HE Nguyen Tan Dung and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for providing Cambodia with the loan needed to jointly build this bridge, a symbol of solidarity between the two countries. In efforts to achieve even better connectivity, we will conduct further joint studies in other areas where there are tributaries or waterways along the border if we need to build more bridges...☐

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a partner with the SOS Children's Villages International in this work.

In previous inaugurations, along with my presence were those of Mr. Helmut Kutin, retired President of the SOS Children's Villages International and HE It Sam Heng, former Minister of Social and Veteran Affairs. Today, we have here the presences of Mr. Siddhartha Kaul and HE Vomng Saut, new Minister for Social and Veteran Affairs. I am glad to see that the Ministry of Social and Veteran Affairs and the SOS Children's Villages International sustain partnership and projects started by the former leaders.

Taking this opportunity, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Cambodian people, especially those of us who are benefiting from the SOS Children's Villages International throughout the country, I am expressing my sincere thanks to the SOS Children's Villages International and their generous donors for making fund available for the construction of these achievements. With proper care and maintenance, I am sure they would last for dozens of year to serve the need of vulnerable people, especially our orphans. Last year I had the opportunity to visit the SOS Children's Villages in Ratanakiri province, where I spent a night there as I handed out land titles to people. I would do the same if I have chance for those orphans and teachers in other SOS Children's Villages in Siem Reap, Battambang, etc.

The fact that we have achieved all of these is not by chance. According to Mr. Siddhartha Kaul, after this project in Kratie, the SOS Children's Villages International will move on to Kompot and then to Prey Veng province. If they were to have more projects for

other provinces, we must be ready to find a piece of land for them. The SOS Children's Villages International would need only to raise fund to build the villages, while Cambodia will take care of proper land on which the projects are to be implemented. I am recommending the Kratie provincial authority to build concrete access road to the SOS Children's Village Kratie.

Children's Safety

I agreed with the proposal of Mr. Siddhartha Kaul about the children's safety. It is not a peculiar matter for children in this particular place but with children everywhere. It is partly a reason why the Royal Government has been putting out and implementing the safe village/commune policy. That issue here is that the local authority makes it their task to keep an eye on safety for children in this village as well as in others. However, as I said, safety has been in general a matter of concern in the whole country. We cannot afford to neglect it.

According to the setup, the SOS Children's Village not only raises the orphans but also nurtures them so that they become learned persons despite the fact that they are parentless. I think that Mr. Siddhartha Kaul's impression on the concern for children's safety is correct. A small baby is to be raised by a mother in the village. She may be a mother herself or may not. If she is a single woman, she would not have the experience of raising a child. However, I am sure the SOS Children's Village staffs are doing their jobs pretty well.

Weather Differs

As of this time of the year, the weather has been quite cool. It is rare that in the later part of January, the weather is staying at 20 degree Celsius. It is not very often that the cool weather in Cambodia extends

from December through to January. In 2013, the flood surge in Kratie was 23.10 meters, exceeding the 22 meters emergency level. It was over one meter above the emergency level. It was a good thing that the football court of the town and this village location were not flooded. The Samaki Market also was safe. The 2013 flood was bigger than that of 2011.

Flood has come with both challenges and opportunities. For those of us living along the river, we would be happy to see reasonably high flood that brings silt into our rice fields and farms. Flood also exterminates certain insects and predators like rats, etc. However, too high a flood is not good for other matters. From the province of Stoeng Treng to Kratie, Kompong Cham, Kandal, Prey Veng and all the way to Svay Rieng, Takeo and even Kompot provinces had been under flood causing damages to crops and housing of the people. I noticed people along the Mekong River restore their traditional medium and long-term crops. The flood brought them damages but gave them silt, which is good for new cropping too.

For areas with water reservoirs, it seems that their between rainy and dry-season rice are growing pretty well and scoring grains. Other crops also grow green and fast, especially provinces that never experience flooding before like Pailin, Battambang, Pursat, Banteay Meanjei and Uddar Meanjei. Infrastructures in these provinces suffered serious damages. The multi-pronged campaign over a certain period by the Royal Government and concerned authorities, the Cambodian Red Cross had actually rescued the people from the most difficult stage, while giving our people chances to restore life. The campaign also focuses on the rehabilitation of infrastructures

such as roads, school buildings, hospitals, etc. affected by flood.

The segment of the National Road 7 from Kratie to Stoeng Treng has been in very poor state. That is the targeted infrastructural area that I have made recommendation to the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Ministry of Public Works and Transports to pay attention to in our rehabilitation efforts. In fact, damages to that part of the National Road 7 were not by flood alone but by (1) neglected quality and (2) overloaded transportation. That is why I made my recommendation clear that the Ministry of Public Works and Transports and the Ministry of Economy and Finance should focus on restoring and reconstructing because in certain segments, fixing the road would not last more than three months. It would be a better idea to build it anew.

State and Business Move On

The year 2013 has left us with so many works to do in 2014. What we need to pay attention to the most is to normalize the on-going process of the state and people. (We) cannot afford to allow any group or person to hold the country hostage. What is urgently important for us now is that every household economy of the community and nation keep going and do not allow hostage taking by any group or person. Schools must go on with the business of studying and teaching, taxations and payrolls are to proceed normally. We need everything to proceed in normalcy.

Cambodia is the country that has a Constitution. Nothing should be done in contrary to the Constitution. Any act against it is nothing else but a coup. Take for instance, there is this suggestion by some that HM the King should abdicate and take the post of Prime Minister or the suggestion to

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establish the provisional government, etc. These actions would be against the Constitution and a coup in it itself. It is unacceptable. The country must go on. I wish to reassure our people that our revered HM the King would not be under the influence of those instigations.

Written in English and I acquired a copy, among the three options, the first one they even suggested for Samdech Me (the Queen Mother) to be the Queen and HM the King to take the post of Prime Minister. HM the King does even bring the letter to my attention. The third option suggested was that HM the King would acquire special power. Those were unconstitutional. In Cambodia, the National Assembly of each term will be for five years. It cannot be dissolved before the end of its term, unless, within a respective legislative term, the Royal Government has been dissolved twice within twelve months.

Get Ready to Respond

The National Assembly of each term would be incumbent until there is a new National Assembly to take over. The new National Assembly is to take place from the election results. No one should mess up with the process. Any demand that is contrary to the Constitution is unacceptable. Let those of you who voted CPP get yourselves ready to respond to the reckless actions that bears the nature of a coup. No matter whom you voted for, if you are aware of (the consequences of the) unconstitutional actions, bearing the coup nature, holding the country hostage, let us not allow these actions to happen. We must find solutions for every problem through negotiation and in the National Assembly. We should not do it on the street.

Again, the importance here is

the political, social and economic life must all proceed in normalcy. In Phnom Penh, people need to carry out daily business, and to enjoy their free time. Demonstration and road blocking had led to general discontent. We have said our words. Though we do not talk much, any overdo would meet with resolve. It is not a threat. It is the resolve to implement the law, defend the Constitution. We have allowed them a lot of time already. Whether you come to the National Assembly or not is up to you.

Take for instance we have a class of 123 students. On the opening of the school day, 68 of them come and 55 are absent. The school has not removed the 55 absent students from the list, unless they wish to do so. If they request for that, it would be a different matter. Therefore, in the school list there are still 123 students. They try to belittle me for begging them to join the National Assembly. Yes, but it is my good intention. I want everything to resolve with their presences in the National Assembly. The fact that they chose not to, Cambodia is still here and move on. If only they reach to plot the coup, the law will have to see to that.

Cambodia is not like Egypt, Libya or Tunisia. Those who do not support reckless actions, which holds the country hostage, must stand up and get ready. If they dare to take risk, they must match with law. Day after day, they demand that I step down. The other day, I asked the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Cambodia, that "please give me a short answer, they demand me to step down, do you think it is right? Should I step down?" He said "No." As far as reelection is concerned, there is no such law for a reelection.

They even plan to make a pup-

pet of me and burn it. I must warn you that that is unacceptable by the Cambodian superstition. I am not going to do anything to that but I cannot guarantee tolerance from members of the CPP. From before elections, they proclaimed that they join the elections but they will not recognize the results. They have done so. Let me remind the negotiation on September 17, the opposition agreed to three points (1) no longer demand to establish an independent fact finding commission on the so called electoral irregularities, (2) recognize the electoral results of 68 (for CPP) and 55 (for CNRP) and (3) support Samdech Hun Sen as Prime Minister.

However, when they walked away from us, they demand that I step down and reorganize the elections. How could they give us a version of their mind and gave a different one to their supporters? They demanded the post of President of the National Assembly. It is not a practice in the world that the opposition party takes the post of President of the National Assembly. It is clear that what in fact they are demanding is the post of President of the National Assembly and half of (the twelve) permanent commissions of the National Assembly. They do not really demand for addressing of the electoral irregularities (as they said they do).

Confrontation – RGC's Concern

Then we come to the question whether we can go on. Yes, we can. If we could do it before, we can still do it now. Let there be no doubt about it. Everything must be according to the law. In Thailand yesterday, unidentified person hurled grenades from above and maimed 28 people. That is the concern of the Royal Government of Cambodia. We have photos of unidentified people

infiltrating into factories. If the opposition has used own supporters, why the CPP cannot? We have our supporters too to be able to stand in power. However, we do not want to do that because it may lead to confrontation between people. We are longing for solidarity among our people, no matter who voted for whom.

Voting for any political party is up to the individual and it is his/her own right. His/her vote is confidential. On the contrary, they mobilized their supporters for thumbprints (to support them). As for the voters' list, (for instance the National Elections Committee) has been very careful about how to write people's names, their thumbprints, duplications, etc. (In the process of collecting supporters' thumbprints) They do not have the mechanism to oversee the process. They went after people in the field for thumbprints. That was contrary to the principle of confidentiality in a voting process and they gave the collected thumbprints to foreign embassies.

Surya Subedi Should Tell Opposition to Join National Assembly

Surya Prasad Subedi twice suggested, in our three and half discussion, that he stays as a referee. I told him that Cambodia is quite mature. There is no need for foreigners to hold our hands to negotiating table. Then he asked what does he need to do then? I told him to go tell that political party to join the National Assembly. That was what I told him. I did not ask him to be a referee. I did not propose that. The role of referee is in fact that of our revered HM the King. However, if the gap between the two is still far between, there is no need to disturb HM the King. Wait until the two parties narrow their differences, we then will give the mediati-

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ing role to HM the King.

As far as salary of workers is concerned, it is a separated matter and not relating to politics. (Political) leaders tried to mobilize the workers in factories. When workers did not come out as they told, they threatened and broke doors. Who would be responsible for those? The court summoned them. I told Subedi that if we were to leave no door for political reconciliation, we could have arrested them already because they have been caught red handed.

Subedi said to me about my role in the national reconciliation. I responded to him that there is a need to distinguish between those who observe and those who do not as far as national reconciliation is concerned. I also wanted to give out this message. For HE Sam Rainsy to get a pardon from HM the King, I must exercise my right as Prime Minister to sign my letter to HM the King. Even though he did not serve two/third of prison time brought down by the court, I signed the letter to seek his pardon, while I was still in tears of my father's passing away.

So, when Sam Rainsy came into the country, did he implement the idea of national reconciliation? The theory of where there is "Sam Rainsy" there would not be "Hun Sen" and vice versa started since when? It was not mine. When Sam Rainsy said he would not take any Khmer as enemy, why had he led the movement to topple Hun Sen? In our negotiation, HE Sam Rainsy and HE Kem Sokha said "Samdech, we should stop fighting each other. Let us exercise good deed for the people." I reminded them to record their speech and I reaffirmed that on my side we would love very much to have national reconciliation. I also reminded

them to remember having said that once they get power, they would arrest and sentence other leaders.

Politician Forget His Own Words

Now, he forgets his words. He mobilizes people everywhere to go against any person voting for the Cambodian People's Party, support the Royal Government and accuse them all as Vietnamese. Are these national reconciliation actions? They scolded me "the blind," etc. The border of one's freedom will meet with another person's freedom. One cannot and should not violate this. Violence does not infer only to using force. Using derogative terms also denotes violence. Please scale them back down. I would like to send my message to civil society and rectors who sent me the letter that I have received them but I cannot reply. To establish provisional government and to re-organize elections one or two years later would be unconstitutional. Therefore, I cannot reply.

Anyone who wishes to contribute, please refer to law and the Constitution. Some say it is possible to do so by organizing a referendum. In Cambodia, though by mean of referendum, we also need to go into the National Assembly to work on the law for a referendum and its mechanism. If we were to have the approval from the people to have elections before end of the term, we also have to come back to the National Assembly to discuss amendments to article 78 of the Constitution, which stipulates about the five-year term of the National Assembly. This is to state about who has the power to dissolve the National Assembly and to organize the referendum mechanism. Everything is possible through law. One cannot deviate from it. We must sit and discuss in the parliament.

They also accuse the armed

forces of stealing the votes, while at the same time they declared that 70% of the armed forces voted for them. If 70% of the armed forces voted for them, why they did not steal the votes for the opposition? They said the Cambodian People's Party stole the votes. If it could do that, why did they not make their votes to get 100 seats?

Memoirs of Kratie

As I am here in Kratie, I would not forget to remind about the fact that I reported to the Marquis at the appeal of Samdech Ov (Preah Norodom Sihanouk) in 1970. First, they sent me in to liberate Snuol. When we came close to Kratie, they said Kratie surrendered. I returned to Snuol. The resistance force then mostly came through the border along Kompong Cham and Kratie. My group came through the area called Mountain of 5,000 (Phnom 5000). It was then 1977 and mid 1978. From when the force actually engaged in the toppling of the regime of Pol Pot, it is now over 35 years already.

Take for instance this achievement of the SOS Children's Villages happened 35 years since 1979. As for Kratie, in 1985 or 1986, there had not been many people. I slept listening to owl's hooting at the provincial headquarter building. From here I proceeded to the district of Sambo and then to Chhlong, Prek Prasab, where we initiated the land reform for the first time. The landscape has changed now. The Samaki market stands on where it used to be the old market and where Pol Pot used to store rice. The building of Samaki market, after the old one was on fire, cost 700,000 USD, of which 300,000 was my contribution.

Now they forced the ones who built market, who gather investors to create works for people to step down. The ones who

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tion rather than getting married otherwise at 15 years of age and quit school. All these sound exactly like what had happened in Cambodia before.

French is the language of instruction that unites them. English is introduced in 4th grade. In addition to the national curriculum, which is based on the French education system, the school offers computer science, education for peace, civic education, environment education and a sports program. The school also offers some modules on Cambodia so that students will be informed and feel proud of the partnership between Cambodia and Mali.

Ms. Eva Mysliwicz, author of **Punishing the Poor: the International Isolation of Kampuchea** and former Director of Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI), asserts the school is very important because Mali is one of the poorest countries on the Human Development Index with regard to quality of life. Mali has one of the highest illiteracy rates in the world.

Since education is key to breaking the cycle of poverty, and to peace and stability, she stresses, Cambodia has so many positive experiences in this case to share with Mali, especially in the education sector. Cambodia's example of overcoming adversity, reducing poverty, and making education accessible to all Cambodian children is a source of hope for other nations facing similar challenges, starting with the true case of Mali. ■

just promised they would give this much and shouted about increasing salary are the ones who reaps all the values. We are guilty because we built schools for children and for teachers to have jobs. They get where they are only because they promise to give one million in salary ...■

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cerns and challenges, and to promote the accountability of the ministries, institutions and sub-national administrations in providing public services and developing localities effectively. According to the RGC's resolution signed on January 27 by Samdech Techo Prime Minister, the government's members ranking from general director to deputy prime minister will be members of the working groups. Provincial governors were also appointed as permanent vice-presidents of the working groups in their respective provinces and the working group's duties and roles are set in a government's directive.

DPM Sok An Rejects ERA Report

January 29, 2014

Addressing to some 1,500 representatives of government ministries and institutions, National Assembly, Senate and media at the Office of the Council of Ministers yesterday afternoon, H.E. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers, rejected the Election Reform Alliance (ERA)'s report on the 2013 Cambodian Elections. He also affirmed that the ERA report was to distort the facts, to mislead national and international milieus and to satisfy the opposition politicians only. The Cambodian DPM also explained the participants of the real political situation in Cambodia and the election process, which was conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner.

The Joint-Report on the Conduct of the 2013 Cambodian Elections issued by ERA makes the accusation that the NEC is not neutral in its work. However, the NEC has successfully organized eleven elections, Deputy Prime Minister Sok An pointed out, which were highly praised and dubbed a "miracle on the Mekong" by some international election observers. While charging that the broadcast media are unbalanced, the Joint-Report deliberately fails to mention Facebook or YouTube, which have been used by CNRP activists in an apparent attempt to disseminate false and manipulated information to cause sabotage and unrest in the society.

Furthermore, the CNRP daily broadcast for many hours through Beehive radio, Mohanokor radio, Women's Radio, Voice of Democracy, as well as VOA and RFA, and run negative news in the Phnom Penh Post, the Cambodia Daily, Moneaksekar Khmer and Nokor Thom in its attempt to discredit the Royal Government and the Cambodian People's Party. During the one-month period of the 2013 General Election campaign, the NEC allocated equal time for all political parties on state radio and television stations.

The Joint-Report acknowledges that Cambodia has sufficient legal instruments to ensure transparency and neutrality of the participation of civil servants and armed forces in the electoral process and political parties, but alleges these standards are not complied because they still participate in political parties' activities. Such a claim contradicts the laws and procedures of the NEC as well as other legal instruments concerning human rights. Even Mr. Surya Subedi, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in Cambodia, also confirmed that civil servants have the right to participate in political activities outside their working hours.

The Joint-Report endorses the NDI's claim that the NEC had removed 1.04 million names from the Voter List, and COMFREL's allegation of 1.25 million missing names. In October 2013, during the updating of the Voter List throughout the country, only 187,111 people came out to register their names, includ-

ing Mr. Sam Rainsy. Furthermore, these newly registered names included youths who have just turned 18. If the claims made by NDI, COMFREL and the CNRP, as a pretext to reject the results of the election were true, where are the more than one million people whom the opposition party accuses the NEC of excluding from the Voter List? Why didn't these two organizations and the CNRP mobilize those people to register their names on the Voter List in October 2013?

The Joint-Report alleges that over 50 percent of citizens showing up to vote found that their names were either not on the list or already used by someone else at one polling station in Wat Sunsom Kosal School, Sangkat Boeung Tum Pun. According to the CEC Chief of Sangkat Boeung Tum Pun, on election day, a well-arranged group of nearly 100 opposition activists, among whom 4-5 only are residents of Sangkat Boeung Tum Pun, showed up and caused chaos by distorting that their names were missing, no names, and the ink was not indelible ...

The Joint-Report alleges that duplicate names allow multiple ballots to be cast, through someone else casting the ballot on behalf of the owner or polling station officials marking the ballot and stuffing it in the ballot box. According to the electoral procedures, a name cannot be removed, unless there is a request by the person to whom the name belongs or a third party with genuine evidence. Furthermore, according to LEMNA, every year all political parties have the rights to lodge complaints to include missing names or to remove the duplicate names. In 2012, why did the opposition party boycott the process?

How could ineligible people vote under the others' name? How could polling station officials mark the ballot and stuff it in the ballot box? How could these happen when there were six polling station officials, seven party representatives and COMFREL observers, while there were only two CPP representatives at a polling station? The CNRP's leaders accuse the NEC of committing election fraud. This accusation of fraud however would apply also to their representatives and COMFREL observers who endorsed the process. Are they all thieves?

As people often lose their identification documents, Blue Cards are issued to safeguard the rights of the citizens who are eligible to vote. The number of Blue Cards issued for the 2013 General Election amounted to 1,860,491 among which 272,447 cards were issued before the election. The Joint-Report draws its own conclusion that the number of Blue Cards issued during the last phase of the election period was close to the number of votes that the CPP gained over the CNRP to mislead the public that the NEC issued 280,000 Blue Cards to the CPP supporters. They imply that is why the CPP won the election by a margin of 280,000 votes ...

The Joint-Report states that the number of eligible voters was estimated in 2008 at 9,442,802 compared to the 9,675,453 names on the Voter List. The registration process was done manually, which could not be 100 percent accurate, and figures could be different because – firstly, citizens have moved from one place to another, many of whom register their names in their new communes, while neglecting to request the deletion of their names from the previous ones. Secondly, most of the local officials either are not able to use computer or do not have access to the Internet, making it difficult for name verification. Further, Commune/Sangkat authorities cannot have one's name deleted without his/her request or an appeal from anyone supported by genuine docu-

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The Samdech Hun Sen School Complex - Cambodia-Mali & South-South Partnership



On January 4, 2014, in Bamako, representing Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Cambodian Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, Hang Chuon Naron, and the Malian Minister of National Education, Jacqueline Marie Togola Nana, put the “Samdech Hun Sen School Complex” into official use.

Considered a wonderful and rare example of South-South cooperation, in this case between Cambodia and Mali, the Samdech Hun Sen School Complex, funded majorly by the Cambodian Prime Minister, is at the disposal for Malian children in accordance with the Malian formal education curriculum.

Ms. Eva Mysliwicz, Director General of the school, told CNV by e-mail that the school has partially opened since October 17, 2013 with 24 students - 11 girls and 13 boys between the ages of 6 and 16, ranging in grades 1 to 9. In spite of the inauguration, the school will be operational fully only in September 2014, when it expects to enroll between 250 and 300 students.

Students from diverse economic and ethnical families' backgrounds have access to the educational facilities offered by the school. Among the 24 students enrolled so far, one boy is an immigrant from Togo, another boy is an orphan from the northern region of Mali, whose parents died when returning from a refugee camp in Mauritania, where they had fled during the armed conflict. Three of the young girls and another young boy are displaced children from the same conflict zone.



Two other young girls were rescued from their village in the south by a widowed aunt who wanted them to finish their educa-

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ments and evidence.

The Joint-Report raises, as a criticism, that among the 15,075 polling stations where they had observers, 77 polling stations had between 100 and 500 invalid ballots. According to the data circulated by the NEC, throughout the country, the highest number of invalid ballots was 137 in polling station number 0326 in Siem Reap province. The Joint-Report raises, as a criticism, that in 2012, more than 50 percent of voters' names in 24 polling stations in Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey provinces were deleted. This is misleading because the authors did not conduct serious research while indeed the deletion was due to the fact that the majority of the voters in those polling stations are members of the armed forces, many of whom were deployed to other bases, and thus had their names deleted from the previous communes and registered in the new ones...

The Royal Government acknowledges that, despite considerable improvements in the electoral processes to date, shortcomings still exist but do not significantly affect the election results. Globally, no electoral system is perfect, and electoral reform does not mean that the existing electoral system is erroneous. Yet to better the electoral system, Samdech Prime Minister is highly committed to undertake further electoral reform and has requested assistance from the Japanese government which has agreed to support such an endeavor.

The last 35 years was a bitter experience in which some countries supported the Democratic Kampuchea regime. Likewise, currently some countries and publics basing their understanding of the electoral process in Cambodia on this Joint-Report have believed and supported the CNRP to accuse the Royal Government, the electoral system in Cambodia, and electoral mechanisms of being unfair and not transparent.

In various forums, the Opposition keeps inciting the overthrow of the Royal Government and demanding for Samdech Prime Minister to step down. Samdech Prime Minister reiterated that he took office in conformity with the Constitution and would step down only in conformity with the Constitution. The CNRP's problem is their unrealistic promises with the supporters and demonstrators through fabrications and manipulations. The CNRP's tactics are:

- *misleading people into believing that the NEC committed election fraud to allow the CPP to win.*
- *continuing its inciting and exploitative tactics to maintain support through psychological warfare.*
- *attracting the CPP's supporters to turn to the CNRP.*
- *seeking to disseminate its extremist ideology, manipulation and fabrication about election fraud and other issues among the youth to mislead them*

Each country has its own history, people and culture. Based on these, Constitution, laws and all kinds of legal instruments are put in place to ensure the smooth running of the government. In addition, each citizen has rights and responsibilities defined by the Constitution. The Rule of law must be respected by everyone. Unfortunately, the CNRP has done otherwise – by creating anarchy and violence, destroying public and private property as well as disturbing peace, security and public order– with the crowds in their countless rallies in Democracy Park and in the streets. One may wonder why some foreign countries and NGOs support this kind of the behavior and dictate changing to a “non-rule of law” way to run this country. Is it because it is not their own country? 🗳️