



28 June 2014 – Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen and Samdech Chakrey Heng Samrin Preside over the Meeting to Celebrate the 63rd Founding Anniversary of the Cambodian People's Party.

## AEON Mall Phnom Penh Inaugurated

(30 June 2014 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

### Welcome Foreign Minister Kushida Fumio, Japanese Consensus on Cambodia

I am so pleased today to be able to return to this place once again after my presence on 10 December 2012 to launch the construction of the AEON Mall in Phnom Penh. We are here today to put the mall into official opening. I have a great pleasure and thank HE Kushida Fumio, Foreign Minister of Japan, for conducting his visit to Cambodia at this inaugurating ceremony of the first biggest mall in Cambodia. HE Kushida and I have taken this chance to inaugurate jointly the mall, a Japanese investment, which is a clear message to the people of Japan about the advancement of relation between our two countries.

I could recall that at the launch of the construction of the mall on 10 December 2012, which is six days before the elections of the House of Representatives in Japan, I was making a

statement about Japanese investors' trust in the Cambodian situation. I also made a statement that no matter who would take over in Japan, the (Japanese Democratic) Party of HE (Yusihiko) Noda would stay in power or the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan would take over, I was affirmative, there would be a political consensus on Cambodia and/or on ASEAN.

I stressed further that it would not happen in such a way that if (the LDPJ of) HE Shinzo Abe takes power, he would pull out the investment made by the ruling Party of HE (Yusihiko) Noda. I made it clear at the time. It is true. What has evolved so far has been nothing else but positive development. The construction of the mall has been smooth.

### Thank You AEON Mall Company and Municipality of Phnom Penh

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## International Day Against Drug Abuse

(26 June 2014 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

... Once again, I would like to express my deep thanks to foreign friends and development partners for providing always their financial and technical support to strengthening mechanism and taking measures to raise high work efficiency against drug trafficking in Cambodia at both national and international level ...

### Measures Taken to Facilitate Flow of Undocumented Workers Returned from Thailand

I am sure some of you here might have been sleepy as there was a football match at 3 am. Maybe there are many of

you, because it is the World Cup football event, which happens once in four years. For the World Cup event this time, it seems many European countries have failed to make it to the final. While Spain and Italy finished with disappointments only France, Switzerland, Greece, etc. are the remaining teams for the moment for the European continent.

Cambodia has also met with a big problem. It is like a breaking down of a huge dam. After the coup and the implementation of the martial law, that caused influx of undocu-

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## A Visit to Handicap Soldier Centre Koh Sla

(10 June 2004 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

It is tremendously a great pleasure for my wife and I as well as other leaders to meet you – handicap soldiers, families, teachers and Buddhist monks again today. Please allow me to excuse myself for being absent on 7 March 2012, when you organized the inauguration ceremony of a temple in your Buddhist monastery here. It was because I could not leave my late father then as he was in critical health condition. I had to ask HE Say Chhum, Vice President of the Senate, and HE Chea Sophara, Minister of Rural Development, to represent me in that very important religious ceremony.

### TVD in a Little More than Six Years

I have just heard the report of General Tit Meng Long con-

cerning the initial commencement of the Techo Village Development (TVD) and its progress over a span of six years. Let us think it over a little here. Six years ago, would anyone have thought that there would be referral hospital, Buddhist monastery and development centre right in the heart of this forest? I am sure there would not be. The progress has in fact indicated our carefully planned development. As of now, we have more teachers than we thought there would be. According to the report by HE Kun Kim, Joint Chief of Staff, we have

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I would like to take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation and thanks for the AEON Company in its efforts to realize this project according to plan. It has taken the company only 1 year and 7 months to finish the plan as scheduled. In addition to this, I also thank the Mayor of Phnom Penh, former Mayor Kep Chuktema and current Mayor Pa Socheatvong, for the coordination and facilitation efforts they have made relating to this project. I also thank the Cambodian Development Council (CDC) and related institutions for holding on to their key roles in realizing this project and this inauguration ceremony.

I may address to Foreign Minister HE Kushida Fumio that this mall is so small compared to those in Japan but it is a gigantic mall in Cambodia for covering an area of 10,000 square meters. The good point is that it is not only a market where people can shop but also a leisure, studying and sport centre. The multiservice complex provided by the mall clearly illustrates the company's trust in the Cambodian situation. I would like to take this opportune moment to express through Foreign Minister HE Kushida Fumio to leaders of the AEON Company for their involvement in the last two decades in various sectors – school construction, culture, museum, environmental protection and people-to-people relation.

### **2,500 Workers in AEON Mall, Direct Flight from Japan**

I could recall that in 2011, representative of the AEON Company came to see me. We discussed on many things. At one point, the representatives had my attention on the purpose of setting up a market place but also their concern about human resource. I told them there are

many Cambodians who have finished their study. I recommended the AEON Mall Company to recruit and train them so that they can do the job the company anticipates. My recommendation has become a reality now as there are 2,500 workers employed by the mall. The company recruited and trained them before putting them in the jobs and I am sure they are going to get more training and exposure along the way. It is one way of addressing the need for human resource.

I also could recall that at the launch of the construction, we also talked about the counterpart fund project partly paid by the Company and partly by the Phnom Penh Municipality to build an access road to the mall. I also promised that I would come to the celebration of the mall. Usually I do not inaugurate the market for there could be this feeling of jealousy among other small investments. In fact, I presided over the inauguration of the Minebea Company's and the Yasaki company's projects. As for AEON, I made my presence twice. From now whoever makes big investment I would take the time to preside over inauguration ceremony or otherwise Deputy Prime Minister Keat Chhon could do that. This project is rather big with a total investment of 250 million USD.

### **Cambodia-Japan Relations – Strategic Partnership**

The construction of the mall has taken only one year and seven months but it spanned across two terms of the Royal Government of Cambodia. It started in the later part of the fourth legislative term of the National Assembly Royal Government and opens in the early part of the fifth legislative term of the National Assembly Royal Government. Hun Sen presided over the construction ceremony and today Hun Sen

officially opens the market. The only difference is that when I came to launch the construction, there was only leveled land but now we have a big mall.

Later in the day, Foreign Minister Kushida Fumio will conduct negotiation with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, HE Hor Namhong. I will also meet with HE Kushida Fumio this evening before the signing ceremony on a number of agreements before HE Kushida Fumio will call on HM the King at 5pm. In my visit to Japan in December last year, the two countries agreed to promote relations to strategic partners. Among the many topics of discussion with Prime Minister HE Shinzo Abe, I had presented him the idea of having a direct flight between Japan and Cambodia. Now, the flight has started on a trial basis.

I am sure that the direct flight between Japan and Cambodia would increase confidence and there will be many Japanese coming to Cambodia and to the AEON Mall Phnom Penh. It would be very helpful as the direct flight would allow investors, economists and tourists from Japan to come to Cambodia and go to Japan without having to waste time going via a third country.

I am confident that what has been a promising discussion, between me and my Japanese counterpart HE Shinzo Abe, would be realized in the near future. Days ago, I also signed a delegation of power to the Secretary of State for Civil Aviation to countersign with the Japanese party. I have a strong hope that the direct flight will bring more Japanese guests to Cambodia.

Just now, the Japanese Foreign Minister HE Kushida Fumio also mentioned in his speech that the Cambodians should

also visit Japan. I am definitely sure that there will be reciprocity in people-to-people relation. The Cambodians also have the need to go visit Japan. What we need to carry on from now is to mobilize more investments from Japan to Cambodia. It is a matter of high consideration.

### **Spend More Time with Japanese Investors**

I could say that among foreign investors, I have spent a lot of time meeting with the Japanese investors. I have offered to conduct meeting in various forms in order to explain to them the investment environment and to draw them a visit to Cambodia. It seems that good results have gradually appeared through latest investments in recent years. I hope that after opening this mall and with encouragement from the Japanese government, there will be more Japanese companies coming to Cambodia.

At the same time, Cambodia has to improve its investment environment to attract more investments from Japan to the Kingdom of Cambodia. Along with this, I just learned about an issue relating to the Acacia slices exporting to Japan. I am sure the matter has been brought to the attention of HE Aun Pommuniroth, Minister of Economy and Finance, already. I just learned that exporting Acacia slices/chips to Japan has been taxed ten percent. The explanation was because the item was classified in forestry products, which include both planted and naturally grown trees.

Today, the Minister of Economy and Finance declares delineating separately the two different products. We have grown so many Acacia trees – along the dirt roads, water canal and people's own cultivation. Having resolved this issue, we also encourage our people to grow more Acacia

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trees. We are looking forward to potential companies from Japan to purchase Acacia from Cambodia to Japan and, at the same time, AEON Mall brings goods from Japan to Cambodia. That is a two-way trade in action. In the forthcoming negotiation between the two foreign ministers, in relation to trade issue between the two countries or between Japan and ASEAN, I would urge Japan to offer more chances for more goods to be purchased from ASEAN, Cambodia also included, to be purchased from Japan.

### **Reversing the Cambodian Situation – A Criminal**

A matter of fact, wholesale or retail market would depend on peace and stability in the country. Would there be anyone like going shopping when the country is unstable? This is a very important point. If the country is in war or division, there are to be anarchic action in the street, who would come to shop in AEON Mall? It is in this sense that keeping peace, exercising national reconciliation and maintaining political stability is important. Achieving the three tasks will ensure not only the need for the growing business of AEON Mall but also for the country's development in general. Whoever attempts to reverse the Cambodia into civil war or instability is nothing but a criminal.

It has taken us on a long and difficult journey to get peace for the country. It was since when Japan was under the leadership of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu. In 1990s, we signed the agreement to establish the Supreme National Council in Tokyo, Japan. Japan was under the Premiership of HE Toshiki Kaifu, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada. There was a story about conducting a peace talk

in Japan. The Cambodian factions met in Japan and the Khmer Rouge factions led by Khieu Samphan and Son Sen boycotted the meeting. Thailand was also convener of the meeting.

The question then arose if Prime Minister Kaifu, Foreign Minister Nakayama and Vice Foreign Minister Owada would let the forum fail, when there had already an agreement between Hun Sen, Sihanouk and Son San already. HE Owada and HE Chavalit Yongchaiyudh came to see me at the New Otani Hotel in Tokyo. They said to me that it would be illogic for Your Excellency, but would you accept this illogic thing. "I accepted because I could not leave Japan in failure," I said. The signing ceremony then happened at night. I think HE Ieng Mouly also was present. There were two formulas for the formation of members of the SNC then - a six + six or six plus two + two + two formation. No process should be left deadlock. The process in Cambodia should not too. AEON Mall does not stall as some would want it to. The market is in operation and people come shopping.

### **Everything Happened as It Should**

There was one other story. In a peace negotiation dinner, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, HE Son San and Khieu Samphan all sat at one table with the presence of Foreign Minister Nakayama. Hun Sen and his team were at another table with the presence of Vice Foreign Minister Owada. By the time the dinner reached the third course, the Foreign Minister and Vice Foreign Minister of Japan had to swap the table. When HE Kushida Fumio has to conduct a visit to Cambodia, it happens. HE Shinzo Abe had to come to Cambodia, it happened. As I had to visit Japan, that happened too.

I am sure that some of you were startled last night with your hair stand on end that Holland football team almost lost the game. I would say a word about penalty on Mexican team. In fact, Mexico led with one goal already. It was unbelievable. However, the last minute penalty took away the Mexican chance of winning the game. Those of you who bet on Holland and Brazil had your hair stood on end. The ball is round. Nothing can be sure. Spain, England and Italy already went home. Japan, though not made it to final, still represented us Asia. Overall, I am sure that HE Motoya Okada clearly figures out (1) Cambodia has to have stability and (2) income of the Cambodian people is higher in order to go to his mall. We need to find out ways to help people to generate income and to attract more foreign investments.

### **Thanks Japan for Peace Building and Strengthening**

Since this is the first time for Foreign Minister Kushida Fumio to visit Cambodia, I may have his attention that as travelling to and from your hotel you may notice many motorbikes or cars and other means of transport, there were nothing from 35 years ago. As I said in my earlier presence that I had a photo of myself with my children in this area, where there were only bushes of reed. After the liberation, we had people living in the city. Now we have more people living in the city than the infrastructural designed can support. We have some 300,000 cars and roughly 1 million motorbikes – Honda, Yamaha, Suzuki, etc. all Japanese made. On 31 (July) we will put into official use new overpasses and underground passes, which will help relieve traffic congestion.

Please allow me to call on our people, especially the youth who are staff of the mall, to

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will be resolved. I agree for them to have a TV station, but why did you not write a letter to request for it? Is not it because you lack the will to resolve the problem?

Now it is up to you but you must not spread rumors of my death or I could pretend to be dead for a few days and wake up again. I would wait until everything is out of control and I will become alive again. In that case, they may find themselves in danger. They always say that they win the election. They win where and on what ground. In fact, they never win in their life. When they see that the Cambodian People's Party lost some seats, and they gained some, they lust for re-election. There is no law for you to do that. Doing thing illegal is tantamount to launching a coup. I defend the Constitution, nation, religion and King. If you mess with us, it is because you ask for it...☐

pay special attention in their work and to further their study to improve their working capability for the progress of the mall. I would advise that once the mall operates in profit, you would also have your pay better. You do not have to go on strike or demonstrate to create damages to the mall. We have come across too many incidents already.

Through HE Foreign Minister Kushida, I would convey to the Royal Government and people of Japan my sincere thank for their contribution to peace building and strengthening, many more achievements and assistance, which also include the on-going construction of the Neak Loeung Bridge - important for Cambodia and ASEAN. This evening there will be a signing ceremony to build the remaining section of the road that connects between Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh city via Phnom Penh, Cambodia...☐

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mented and some documented workers back to Cambodia, the impact has been beyond our estimation. According to the figures provided by the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, as of 23 June, Cambodia registered a figure of over 240,000 returned workers. The figure may have reached 250,000 as we speak. It is a big figure and we had to take immediate action to resolve the situation. Without waiting for instruction on paper, national and local institutions, especially the Cambodian-Thai border authority, have illustrated their responsibilities. The province of Banteay Meanjei is the one that is facing heavier impact.

On behalf of the Royal Government, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the authority stationed at the Cambodian-Thai border, including also relevant competent authorities, the armed forces and concerned parties, for their efforts to face with such an enormous task we have ever met. In the border war in 2011, we had only a couple of thousands of displaced people. In this state of emergency, sometimes in just one single day, we had to accommodate 40,000 people transported by Thai side to the border area without prior notification. We had to take immediate measures to help our compatriots resolve their hardships.

The operation has been rapid and inclusive. Thanks to use of all out measures and means, we have been able to resolve the incremental flow in of undocumented workers from beginning to end. With request from the provincial authority, I have allowed the Thai trucks to come and drop workers off inside Cambodian territory. Initially, lacking of information from the Thai side, we only advised leasing local trucks and the service provided by the

International Organization of Migration. Their capacity was not a match to the flow. As Prime Minister, I ordered immediately to the Ministry of National Defence to release transportation intervention unit of the armed forces – military, police and engineering teams, to make it up to the job.

We have over three hundreds trucks and each one of them has run thousands of Kilometres now in this operation. It is worth noting that we have carried out this enormous task in a responsible manner. Initially the step taken firstly by the provincial authority along the border areas – Battambang, Pailin, Uddar Meanjei, Preah Vihear and mainly Banteay Meanjei, with participation from all levels of concerned parties. This should be a good lesson to learn and be prepared in the time to come. We cannot trade blame on one another. We must take it to the task right on spot.

It is an experiment in real-life leadership as unforeseen circumstance would call for and surface the capacity of our officials in resolving problems. It is quite ordinary to work in a routine condition in which everything happens according to plan. However, unforeseen circumstance is in fact the determined factor to judge national and sub-national leaders' capacity and responsibility.

Despite the fact that we have had to deal with this unexpected event, I am taking much pride with our people on our responsibility, especially every concerned institution – governmental, Cambodian Red Cross, scout, Union of the Federations of Youth, civil society, Buddhist monks, charitable people - that intervened with necessary assistance from food, transportation to management of the facilitation and flow. They have done a great job receiving them at the border but also carried out follow-up

action inside the country. Local authority has gone on to visit them at their destinations and review their movements. I am taking this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to those efforts.

### **No Political Extortion**

The task has indeed reflected our sincere responsibility. We take no consideration on who might or might not have voted for the Party. We did not extort the situation for political gain. Irrespective of their political inclination, we offer them similar assistance. There have been some casualties and deaths in the course of transporting on the Thai side. On behalf of the Royal Government and my own behalf, I am grateful to every effort made as well as cooperation responded by returned workers as they accepted the service provided and managed by the Royal Government without hesitation.

As circumstance commands, I have ordered even heavy trucks without roof to help with the task from engineering team of General Kheng Samet. Our people have been patient despite the fact that they had to continue their journey in those trucks. If we were to ignore the call and indecisive in handling the matter, as of this moment, we might have noticed some making their journey homes in in-disciplinary manner.

### **Local Jobs Availability Information**

For the time to come, we must figure out two points. The first point we are looking at is to find local jobs for our workers. We have carried out preliminary works at the provincial level. Demand for workers in Thailand has prompted emigration of short-term workers from Cambodia. Mostly they left at the start of dry season and returned at the start of rainy season to cultivate rice. We also have families in

which a number of members migrated for jobs in Thailand and when they returned, their families do not have rice field large enough to cultivate for their need. Many jobs are available in the country. It may be true that they may earn more in Thailand than the job they do in the country. However, as far as expense is concerned, it would cost them more in Thailand than in Cambodia. Therefore, the fact that you would earn more in Thailand would not be better as you also have to pay higher cost too. It is safer to work in the country as you have rights and freedom.

I would urge the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training give more attention to this situation. I also learn that in the province of Kompong Chhnang, they have found thousands of jobs for our workers already in the field of agriculture, industry and service. I would also advise that authorities and relevant institutions at the sub-national level, including provincial office of labour and vocational training, should do what they can to provide information on job availability, in addition to sole reliance on the Ministry.

Some radio stations broadcast job information for workers to migrate but no information about local job availability. I think this is the point we should pay more attention. We have plenty of jobs in rubber companies and plantation, for example. Information on job market is very important. The Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training must carry out this task with participation from involved sectors.

### **Legal Migrant Workers for Jobs in Foreign Countries**

The Royal Government of Cambodia also leads in seeking external job market, Thailand included, for our people too. Some said Hun Sen has

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failed to resolve demand for jobs inside the country that many workers migrated to foreign job markets. I accept this version of criticism. However, they should know how big the Cambodian job market is and if allowing people to find jobs in a foreign country only happens in Cambodia. I would not want to trade words with anyone here but just remind that the Philippines seems to be the leading country in exporting millions of workers to foreign market, like in Hong Kong, where they work as housemaid, nanny, etc. There are many Philippines in Malaysia and Singapore too.

Thailand also exports their workers to foreign job market, especially the Middle East and Taiwan where they can find better pay. It is in this instance that there is a higher demand for workers in Thailand. There maybe three countries in ASEAN that do not export workers to foreign job markets – Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei. As for Cambodia, in order to have access to the South Korean job market, I have worked with and through a number of Presidents – Kim Youngsam, Kim Daejung, Roh Moo Hyun and Lee Myung Bak. The president of South Korea now is Madame Park Geunhye. There has been a tough competition from Thailand to send their workers to Korea.

Job market of South Korea has demanded workers from Thailand, Vietnam and other countries. It is important for our workers to learn Korean language along with a skill to get a job in Korea. Our purpose of sending workers to Korea is not only better wage but also better technical skill when they return to Cambodia.

In my recent visit to Japan, I also made a request to Prime Minister HE Shinzo Abe to

consider allowing Cambodian workers access to the Japanese job market. In Malaysia, we have transferred Cambodian workers from undocumented to legal ones. We make effort to establish a memorandum of understanding on migration for jobs in Thailand. We will also try to transfer them from undocumented to legal workers by, in cooperation with Thai authority, sending working team to register them on spot.

### **Crisis to Opportunity, Support to NCPO**

In my opinion, we must transform this crisis into a new opportunity. Initial transportation of workers to the border was in part a mistake from Thai side as it was a violation of rights. However, when there was immediate intervention of the Cambodian embassy to Bangkok and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Phnom Penh as well as concerned sectors, The Thais have taken measures to respect human rights in the transportation of workers to the border. General Prayuth Chan O Cha, who leads Thailand in his capacity as Chairman of the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) and commander-in-Chief of the Thai army, sent me two letters – dated 12 June explaining me the situation in Thailand and dated 18 June addressing the workers issue.

I think both sides are close to same frequency. Let me read parts of the letter for you: “I would guarantee once again to Samdech and the people of the Kingdom of Cambodia, we do not have intention to use force or issue order to chase out migrant workers ... NCPO is seeking cooperation with companies to gather lists of documented and undocumented workers to establish an appropriate process to ascertain they can continue to work legally ... with protection of their rights and wellbeing while working in Thailand.”

In my response, I have written in two important paragraphs: “... I would inform Your Excellency that over the past weeks, thousands of Cambodian workers, mostly undocumented ones, abandoned their works in Thailand because they fear of crack down on illegal workers ...”; and “... I wish to express my support to action and measures taken by NCPO to guarantee that rights and well-being of the migrant workers are protected in Thailand.” Currently, Thailand does not yet have either a government or Prime Minister. General Prayuth Chan O Cha is currently taking care of Thailand as a Prime Minister.

Since the current Thai leaders have been taking measures and actions against human traffickers, while legalize migrant workers from Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos, it is a great opportunity for us to establish legal status of our workers who find jobs in Thailand. It seems now documented workers return to Thailand. That is fine. However, we still have undocumented workers left in Thailand. The Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, must carry on with the task to help them attain legal status. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent me a report of the work realized between our Ambassador to Thailand and General Thanasak (Patimaprakorn), Vice Chairman of the NCPO on 23 June 2014, in which it requires active factor from both side in order to fulfil this task of legalising our workers.

### **Passports for Workers and Students Free of Charge**

As both sides have shortcomings so far, now either side tries to improve. On our side, in relation to passport, we have decided that the state will issue passports for workers free of

charge. Each worker requesting for a passport will only pay four USD for taking photo. As far as this point is concerned, if the person already possesses photo, s/he also does not have to pay the four USD mentioned in the sub-decree (applause). As I see that the Thai Ambassador is here, I wish to share with him that we are now getting close to one another. While on Thai side, you take certain measures, we, on the Cambodian side, also take some measures.

As Thai companies and enterprises recruited illegally Cambodian workers to work in Thailand has been usual practice, they not only cheat the Cambodian workers but also the Royal Thai Government. The duration required for the issuance of passport would be twenty days for both migrant workers and students who win scholarships to study abroad. Students to go abroad on scholarship will need to present confirmation from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

Yesterday there was a meeting led by Acting Minister of Interior HE Em Sam An as HE Sar Kheng, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior was absent. I instructed HE Sar Kheng to decentralize passport issuance office to local level that those who need to apply for ones do not have to come all the way to Phnom Penh. We should start with prioritized target provinces like Kompong Cham, Prey Veng, Takeo, Kompot, etc.

In order to simplify this matter, it is best to localize passport office all 25 provinces and municipalities. Well, may be Phnom Penh and Kandal province could be treated as one. However, as a commencing step, we need to focus on the mentioned provinces. I am sure the Ministry of Interior will work it out together with

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the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training. The issue here is not to do a favour for those who go to work or study in Thailand but for a general case. We must consider it a very important public service provision for the people. We must carry out this job very well to respond to the efforts made on the Thai side to convert undocumented workers to legal ones. It is also our intention for our workers to work in Thailand legally.

### **Treatment for Workers and Release of Those Arrested**

I would seek to propose to the Thai Ambassador here openly to take good care of the remaining Cambodian workers and that are being transported to the border. Please look after their health and condition. Secondly, documented workers who have come to the country because their spouses have not been documented, and are now considering of going back, would you please provide them favourable condition for them to be together. This should also include thousands who have been applying for working visas to Thailand.

Another case in point, I am urging the drop of case against ten Cambodians, who may face trial even, since the Thai court decided that they have been guilty in creating fake paper. People with fake papers must be arrested, like what happened in the Sra Keo province of Thailand. You may learn that there have been cases that my signature and stamp has been forged. Applying in the case of the Cambodian workers, how many of them could have lost money in pursuance for paper that they would not be able to distinguish between genuine and fake?

While thanking the Thai leaders, I would convey this issue through you to General Prayuth Chan O Cha for his con-

sideration. On July 1, at 4pm, I will receive HE Sihasak Phuangketkeow, permanent secretary of foreign affairs as envoy of HE Prayuth Chan O Cha.

### **Working Visas in Thailand**

I wish to add that with only passport it is not yet legal. You need to have a working visa issued by the Thai authority or your Cambodian passport would be useless. You would be illegal still. So, as you have passport in hand, you should not consider it legal to enter Thailand. You need to ask for visas from Thai embassy in order to legalize your stay and work in Thailand. As to how to proceed with the issue, the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training has been in contact and work with over forty companies that are dealing with exporting workers. They have to guarantee with workers while processing passports, visas application and go to Thailand in discipline.

I am calling on all concerned parties, starting from the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, the companies involved in exporting workers plus those who authorize passports to act in tandem to help our workers return to work in Thailand legally. Workers from Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia have all contributed to the profit of Thai businesses.

While many have left Thailand, those companies and enterprises suffer losses because they could not find replacement to guarantee full-swing operation. I urge everyone involved in this business of exporting workers to job markets either in Thailand, Korea or in Taiwan, a province of China, to reconsider their action.

As General Prayuth Chan O Cha wrote to me his wish to legalize the matter, and as both sides have the same wish, it is high time to move on this mat-

ter and I am calling for direct cooperation from workers themselves with the facilitation provided by concerned players – Interior, Labour and Vocational Training, etc.

### **Thanks All for Assistances**

Talking about transportation, I would like to express my sincere thank to the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China for giving Cambodia those trucks when the US slashed their assistance to Cambodia. While declaring that they slashed aid to Cambodia, in fact, they gave us still. However, when they declared doing that I went on to see HE Hu Jintao in Shanghai. He then offered 257 trucks. It is lucky that we have them and used them to help transport our workers. Even if we were not given, we would have to buy them anyway because we need them at hand. I am so content with the fact that there has been high responsible works done in this matter or we would have many workers left stranded not arriving home yet. I also thank relevant institutions and groups, political parties included, for sharing the load according to their own energy.

Thanks to the working result of HE Thanasak and Cambodian Ambassador Ith Sophea, the Thai side affirmed that they would lower the price of a working permit in correspondence the Cambodian effort in providing passport for the workers. This sounds very much like a common point and I would urge both sides to work fruitfully to resolve the matter smoothly. I am also reiterating my call for the civil society organizations – national and international, the UN agencies and donor countries to continue the spirit of concerted efforts and participation aimed at uplifting further the wellbeing, development and reduction of poverty among our people...■

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thing unlawful, try it if you want and you will be handcuffed. If you are really defiant, do not run into foreign embassy. Upon our meeting, he said: "Samdech, we are growing old now, let's fight no more and let's do good things". I responded: "Excellency, that is what I wanted the most. The fact is you only said that when you meet me and when you are out of here, you scold me again."

### **On TV Station for the Opposition**

They told me they wanted a TV station. I told them to ask a company to write a letter to ask for permission to run a TV station. I told even before the electoral campaign (for the commune councillors' elections) through an agent. I made it clear that the Party cannot own a TV station because if we have 50 political parties in Cambodia and each party wants one TV station, what can we do? I assured them to set up a company with appropriate trade registration. He promised me he would do that. I asked Information Minister Khieu Kannharith if we can give a channel for them from the National Television Kampuchea.

He should just write a few words on the company's request, which could serve to protect his interest with the company at a later stage and I would be able to instruct giving a channel for the requested TV station. Up to this moment, because they wanted to shut out completely the result of the election, they leave it undone. May I send a message to supporters of the opposition that I have allowed the set up of a TV station and (the fact that it does not happen is) because the person is disrespectful. The US diplomat told HE Sar Kheng if we allow the opposition to have its TV, everything

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here 12 new comers – medical and teaching staff, who would need to build homes, though the Centre has in fact provided them with housing lots already.

I urge the speedy construction of their homes. As those who have come before, we also offer each with a motorcycle. I would urge the Ministries of Health and of Education to consult and study local demand before sending more staffs here. I also learnt that some of the students who finished their upper secondary school education have also gone on to tertiary education sponsored by the scholarships provided by the University on my behalf.

You may have remembered what I said at Kien Svay district before we moved our handicap soldiers to this place. I will not abandon my plan to keep monitoring the development of your livelihood in this settlement. It is true that it is immature to set up a University here but we are quite realistic that with the primary and secondary school education here, children and/or grandchildren of our handicap soldiers would have the necessary foundation of education to go on to University.

### Connectivity Infrastructure

HE Chea Sophara has made me a report about a development plan that covers not only this village but also the whole area adjacent to it using the funding of over three million USD from the Republic of Korea. The project starts in the commune of Treng Troyoeung, Phnom Sruaj district, Kompong Speu province and the commune of Trapaing Plang, Chhouk district of Kompot. The project has provided communities with 25 hand-pump wells, two water ponds in Kompong Speu and one in the Techo Village Development. It also built a water reservoir of 100 meters by 100

meters in TVD and asphalted a road leading from the National Road 4 through to TVD in the commune of Techo Development in Chhouk district, Kompot province.

It has taken my convoy, led by a siren car, one hour and thirty minutes to get here from Phnom Penh. I would urge the Ministry of Rural Development to conduct a review study of the remaining four Kilometres of this road linking the TVD to the National Road 4. Connecting TVD on another side to the National Road 3 at La Ang, Chhouk district and the Ang Duong road, we also have to see to it too.

Having said that, for the immediate phase, we need to connect TVD to the NR 4 and I am urging the Ministry of Public Works and Transports to figure out the second phase of connecting TVD through Damnak Ampil to Angduong road.

### Facebook War of Words, Salary in Time

General Tit Meng Long also said that Electricity of Kompot has planted electric poles, which he thinks will wire electricity sometime in December this year into the area. I am urging the Ministry of Energy and Mines to speed up the working process of this front. This is the Techo era and the TVD has a beautiful pagoda. Some politicians, while enjoying their bathing at sea, flirted with children on the beach “which one is better Techo and Toek Cho (water rises)?”

I cannot believe it really to have heard they made such analogy. In facebook, someone who must be CPP supporter returned the analogy of Rainsy and Angke Si (mangy) while asking which one is better. I wonder why the person always thinks and does things that are insulting others.

I have noticed that we have something beautiful in the pa-

goda. What is that? That is the rows of cucumbers. I learnt that our handicap soldiers are planting them. We have a problem here. We have a good pagoda but we still have fencing to finish. To help finish the fence, I am providing the remaining financial need and the military engineer team will be responsible.

I noticed that the manager of TVD was a one star general when I met him at Kien Svay district’s Handicap Soldiers Centre. How long has it been now? Four years, right. HE Tia Banh, Minister of National Defence, should consider his seniority and the important work he has been doing.

Do you get your salary in time? You do, that is good. On what day do you normally get the pay? (Was it) on the 29<sup>th</sup>? That is good. On the 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> of the month is what we have been working to achieve. It is our goal that government servants, armed forces, handicapped soldiers, and retirees have to get paid at end of the month.

The Ministries of Finance and Economy and of Public Functions have been working on that but the ministries concerned should also give further attention to that. Over the time I had not come there seems to be more children born here. I notice that we have newly born of 200 over that span of time. We started with 12 teachers and now we have 64 of them.

### Spread of Lie of Hun Sen’s Death

Maybe I should talk about something. It must have been ghost talking now. There had been spread of news in Australia that I died of stroke. A person called but I missed his call and he texted me later for confirmation. This morning you may find a picture of me receiving former Foreign Minister of Singapore. I need to convey a message advising those

who fabricated the tall tale to care for their own health instead. As educated human beings, they should pray for someone’s life, not death. I may advise them too that even if I were to have died of natural cause, they may need to pack. Frankly speaking, there is only one man, at this time, who can apply inclusive force in Cambodia. By praying for my death, you may have no one to prevent harm from happening.

We need a man who can control the Cambodian situation. Some foreigners even whisper among themselves that Cambodia cannot go without Hun Sen yet. While those people spread information of my death, I and Deputy Prime Ministers with concerned officials were on a visit to the Royal Palace to present the report to HM the King.

On Saturday, I had 18 holes golfing. I also had another the next morning. I wish to convince them I am from a family that never betrays the nation, does not have gene of leprosy or mental disorder – both from my mother’s and father’s side. My father had a good memory until his last minute. Why have they been so poor manner in politics? They never recognize their electoral losses. When they cannot win by elections, they resort to praying for their opponent’s death. They should know that that is a cheap move.

My death would leave them in packing mode. To be frank who else would control the situation. Please look at the Constitution. When the post of Prime Minister is vacant for permanence, there is a need to set up another government. That is the trick. It will not be that Deputy Prime Minister Tia Banh or Bin Chhin or Sar Kheng or Ke Kim Yan to take the post of acting Prime Minister. That is why I am telling them they should think of that.

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Who would control whom in that case? The strong will definitely do. That is the point of death. Do read the Constitution attentively. When the Prime Minister is dead or the post is in permanent vacancy, the Royal Government also ceases to function or dissolves. While going to the National Assembly for a meeting (on setting up a new government), who then would control the situation as no one would be in official posting. I just want to enlighten you this issue.

### CPP Agrees to Add NEC as Chapter 15 of the Constitution

I wonder how people could have believed in them when they could do all the tricks and posting lies in Facebook. If they could lie this much, I wonder what else that they would not go an extra mile to lie about it or do anything worse. I may warn them to measure their actions and words accordingly or they would meet consequences. I have allowed them to go extra miles for quite sometime now. I just cannot understand how cunning these guys can be. They negotiated with us. We reached an agreement. They then rejected the result and swapped their negotiators and topic of negotiation. That is why I asked (the CPP) negotiating team to send the taped negotiation and text to them.

They should be clear that while they possess the rights to hold protest, our side also do. Every time they threaten us with protest. The other day I learnt that there was a protest against them in Anlong Veng. While you have the rights to protest, your opposite has too. I could fathom that the Electoral Commission is to be stipulated in the Constitution but I never understand when they talk about it being a constitutional institution. I am telling you now that the Cambodian Peo-

ple's Party agrees to include the election committee in chapter 15 of the Constitution, which stipulates about the organization of the electoral committee, its role and duty as well as the committee's members selection process.

However, they should not go further to divide the power of the Constitutional Council or any other institutions. I have reported to HM the King that Cambodia could face anyone of three situations. I am sharing two with you – (1) your participation, which is a good option and (2) if you continue to stay outside, we will go on until the elections in 2018. The military dismissed and took power from elected government in a neighbouring country. In Egypt, they arrested elected President. The one who arrested the President is now the President himself. We have come from the election with approval of the National Assembly and HM the King, why can we not resolve the problem. You may go on staying outside because there is no law in Cambodia to carry you in.

After the elections, we have to proceed according to the electoral process and any problems must be resolved at the Constitutional Council. I told them since September-16 meeting that I do not have the right to talk with them on any of those issues as the Constitutional Council already gave its final decision on the matter. If I were to bring that matter up, I would face the law too. You challenge for a re-election, on which law should we do that, if we were to agree to do so?

Even if you wanted to do a referendum, you would also have to sit and discuss in the National Assembly whether such a law would be necessary.

We have been patient. They should measure their move to a moderate mode. Otherwise, patience would wear thin. We have gathered and collated

documents on incitements. We will send them to all embassies. When the time has come, you would not have a chance to escape. You do not have (parliamentary) immunity too. There is no need for immunity removal from the National Assembly. The court can just file an arrest warrant.

Having said that, they would say in the course of negotiation, we threaten to arrest them. We do not arrest them and let them conduct the negotiation but they behave even more disrespectful. I heard that by staying out they have made better fortune. Months ago, they bought a plot of land in Mehmot, two plots in Chamkar Loeu, and houses. There are also those who have gone into debts since the elections and are in need of salary.

I dictated for him in the telephone conversation what we have agreed and should go on. The parliamentary elections will take place in February 2018, I dictated and he repeated in his writing on the other side. We have shifted the voting day from July to February, a cooler month and people are free from their cultivation. If you do not take it, we will go on with the existing schedules. If you do not join the National Assembly to help with the amendment of the Constitution, it will be up to you. My priority will then concentrate on whether people have sufficient water to grow rice and if they live in peace, whether the royal armed forces and government officials get paid in time, or how to go about increasing salary for workers.

I need to warn them though, this time any protest will not go without anti-protest. They cannot deny us of our rights to protest. They say it is their rights when they protest against us. When we do to them, they say it is not rights but disturbance. An embassy sent a message to my son and

my son responded: "rights of CPP supporters must be guaranteed equally as those of the opposition's". Look! What do they do in Ukraine? They launch military operations in Donetsk, Luhansk, etc. The Kiev government does not allow secession. You may want to try here. The first to take out would be the top. They have insulted my life beyond anyone could endure.

Charges of incitement for turmoil and loss of lives, damages of properties have yet to start and I am asking that foreigners should stay away from Cambodian internal affairs. What have they done in Egypt? The elected President stays in prison and the one who put him in prison has become the President. Have anyone ever said anything about it? Some have even declared getting ready to work with the new President. They do not say a word when thousands died of crackdown and hundreds died from trial. In Thailand, HM the King issued a royal decree for Gen. Prayuth Chan Ocha to lead the country. We have no choice but to work with the General. When they have a government, if they choose to visit Cambodia, we will have to answer to that.

As for me, CPP wins the elections. HM the King approved my appointment (as Prime Minister) and entrusted me with the task of forming the Royal Government, which we then presented and sought for approval from the National Assembly.

With approval of the National Assembly, HM the King issued a royal decree endorsing the appointment of the Royal Government. Every RGC member has then had to take oath before the throne. Recognizing or not is your rights but in Cambodia you shall have to abide by the law of the country. If you choose to do any-

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