



23 September 2014 – Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen and Samdech Kittipritbandit Bun Ranyoffer at the celebration of the Phjum Ben ceremony at Kompong Speu's Vang Jas pagoda.

## BBU Graduation & Diploma Presenting

(29 September 2014 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

### Refugees to Come to Cambodia Voluntarily

... I would continue to appeal for continuation of effort to strengthen quality of education. Each school or university needs to work on quality of education because our human resource will have to compete in job market locally, in the region and in the world. I am ambitious. Today there will be clarification by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Interior on issue relating to the agreement signed with Australia to allow voluntary resettlement by certain refugees to Cambodia. It is an obligation that Cambodia has to fulfill. There is of course differing opinion in Australia on this issue between the ruling and opposition parties. Here, we also have those who staged demonstrations at the embassy. They have not had access to agreement. However, there is a point mentioned in the deal that the resettlement will be on voluntary basis. No one is to be forced to come to Cambodia.

(The press) can go interview those people. In older days, we also had refugees from Cambodia to foreign countries. Those people also gave interviews to the press. They said Cambodia is not fit for those refugees. If it is not up to the standard yet, let those refugees decide. It is up to them. If they decide not to come, they do not come. What else can we say? That is the principle of making decision on voluntary basis. However, Australia thinks Cambodia has the required standard to a certain extent, according to the previous visit of the Australian foreign minister. They want to sign the agreement as soon as possible. The Ministries of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Interior have been working on this issue. I think they will throw a press conference to enlighten the issue today.

Please understand that we will not just accept without making  
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## CUP's Grad. & Diploma Presenting

(25 September 2014 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

### One-Year Anniversary of the First Cabinet Meeting

I am so glad today to be able to participate with all of you in this ceremony to present diplomas for graduates of the Chamroeun University of Polytechnics. Today, as everyone could recall, is the first anniversary of the first Cabinet meeting after the first parliamentary session on September 23 of 2013 under the presidency of HM the King. It also falls on the Phjum Ben day or the fifteenth day of the Buddhist ceremony. Our Phjum Ben day this year falls on 23 September 2014, when last year it was the day that HM the

King summoned all 123 members of the National Assembly for its first meeting. Only 68 of them were present. On 24 September 2014, we started the process of establishing the Royal Government, which was yesterday. On the 25 September 2013, we held the first Cabinet meeting when we launched the Rectangular Strategy Phase III.

Just now we have taken a bit of time when a bodyguard came blocking me when I pay my respect to the Buddhist monk. I had to pull him aside. When you block me like that, it was

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## National Strategic Development Plan

(18 September 2014 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

*In addition to the prepared text pronounced at the dissemination and launch of the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) for 2014-18, Samdech Techo Hun Sen made the following impromptu comments.*

### Just a Question of Time

I wish to say a little more here. Some of you here, including also those of you who are foreigners living here from the year before, may have remembered the situation from last year. After the negotiation failed, the situation in Phnom Penh was in turmoil. On 16 September, the negotiation seemed to have made some progresses but on 17 September, it failed. However, I was still optimistic. At least a few foreign ambassadors met me then. I do not have to present

them. I told them it has become a habit in Cambodia that everything will evolve it is just a question of time. When I was saying it was just a question of time, I was in fact looking for a ladder to let them go down after they made so and so promises. The ladder was in fact showing what sort of solution we came up with.

Taking the time into consideration, in the span of one year, we have starkly different situation. As of today, people are celebrating the Buddhist tradition of Phjum Ben (offering

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**Continued from page 1 ... BBU** a thorough consideration on the matter. No one is going to come voluntarily to Cambodia without knowing what the country is like. I just bring this issue up to enlighten us the need for Cambodia to improve its human resource and work closely and in a timely manner with its socio-economic evolution and those of the region and the world over. No one could in the current circumstance stand idle.

### **Top-to-Bottom Reform of Education**

As far as education is concerned, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports will have to figure out its reform strategy in tertiary education. The Ministry will implement educational reform from bottom to top and in reversal order. We cannot make sudden jump from a normal pace. Let me give you an example about the secondary school exam. I hope those of you who will take the retest have been studying hard. I am urging every student to pay attention on the study. They cannot afford to just learn and pass the exam in their last year in school. When it is time to jump, because of the speed you have made from afar, you will be able to make a move.

The other day HE Dr. Hang Chuon Naron said "students who learn well pass their exams." It means you have to have knowledge to pass. There will not be irregular chance for diploma any more.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports has also prepared lessons for our students to study for retest. They post them in the Ministry's website. You can download them and make a good study. Someone has proposed through CNC TV that the Ministry should limit the exam subjects for retest to ten only. No matter what, they have got to learn them all.

### **Flash Flood in Phnom Penh, Message to Farmers**

I wish to talk a bit about the fact that we have finished with the celebration of the Phjum Ben ceremony. Yesterday there was a heavy rain. I had the feeling that our people in Phnom Penh might have some temper. I am seeking their understanding that flash flooding, especially when we had down-pour between 70 and 80 millimeters like yesterday, flash flooding is unavoidable. The golf course that covers a free space of hundreds of hectares was also under water. I am seeking our people's understanding. We are taking more measures to extract water through newly widening drainage system.

According to the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology, rain will continue through to mid of November, with a longer cool period than normal year to follow. Against this prediction, I would continue to encourage our people to take personal measures to retain water in reservoirs for irrigation purpose. I wish that you do not let the water off the reservoirs on knowledge of predicted more rains.

Those living along the river would know that it is important to have their water reservoir full at this time of year. Please look after the dam as before soon the time when fish jump out of the reservoir will come. Kids like to widen the waterway out for fish to get through out of the reservoir. That would lead to losing water for fish and will create problem for rice cultivation.

Talking about this, I should raise here that after deregulating the fishing lots on 8 March 2012 and allow the community to take control of their water resources and cultivation need; we seem to have achieved a harmony between those who needs to let water out for fishing and those who need to

**Continued from page 1 ... CUP** easy if something were to happen. I bring this matter up so that the commanders of the bodyguard unit can talk about slightly figuring out method in providing protection. However, as I said, I am so happy today that it is the first anniversary of the first meeting of the (fifth legislative term of the National Assembly's Royal Government) Cabinet. Everyone may have learnt already what have happened in this one-year period.

### **Quality Education**

Just now Dr. Saom Somuni, rector of the Chamreoun University of Polytechnics (CUP), made a report on the progress made by CUP. I could recall that CUP was before a youth development organization with an abbreviation as KIDO of Chea Chamroeun. In gradual step, they have made it this far as a University responding to the need for development and demand of government officials for further education.

I hope that thesis made in graduating from the CUP will be useful and with quality for researchers and person who write thesis itself. I would not forget to appeal to all tertiary education institutions – state and private - to improve quality of their education services.

Last week, HE Hang Chuon Naron, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, met with association of private tertiary education foundations. We have to establish a standard where education provided by private and state tertiary institutions is comparatively similar.

I urge you to work on this. I would like to take this opportune moment to express my sincere thank to leaders of the

keep water for cultivation. The chronicle conflict between fishermen and rice cultivators is over ...

CUP and its professors, local and from afar, for sharing their knowledge to our students, especially those with PH D degrees. I would urge that each lecturer would coach only certain number of students. When they assist too many students, failing education is not because of the students but the teachers themselves.

I convey my sincere appreciation to efforts of the graduates, who include also Buddhist monk Nhem Sopheak from the pagoda of Kroupeou Ha and Kloat Vand, who, in addition to his engineer degree earned in the old day, wishes to further his degree.

In fact, Kloat Vand had been Secretary of State for many terms at the Ministry of Industry. For this term, because of his old age, he stopped. This has clarified that gaining knowledge should be an effort that would not last at any point. Study is a continuing process. He is an engineer left from the previous regime, before the war or Pol Pot's regime, but he goes on with study.

I hope that we all see the importance of improving quality of education. We may have seen already what happened at the secondary school graduation exams. Those who studied well pass. Those who did not study have failed. From now on, we must uphold this development and spirit at all levels of education.

What we have achieved is in fact the result of our deep reform effort. I would urge in this development that every University must see to its training, especially issues relating to thesis writing and defending. We must ensure a well-researched paper. We must not overlook this issue for cut and paste type of thesis.

### **Well Observed Phjum Ben Days, Four Factors**

On behalf of the Royal Gov-  
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ernment, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the authorities of all levels and the armed forces for providing security protection for our people in the celebration of the (alms offering to ancestors through Buddhist monks) Phjum Ben ceremony this year.

We have seen that our people not only travel to pagodas but also to farer tourist destinations. I am glad to see that sub-national authorities have participated in the defence of security and social order. We also had no interference from political issues. Our people have travelled far and large though out the country.

Last Sunday I travelled to outside the capital. When I returned, it was reported that the National Road 5 was jammed. We then took the National Road 6. Yesterday, people also went out of the city. They came back in many cars to Phnom Penh. There are four factors why our people could travel from place to place.

Firstly, *would travelling as such have happened if it were not for peace?* In the war period between 1970 and 1975, had our people in city or provincial town travelled anywhere, other than areas controlled by Lon Nol? As the war stopped, people can travel to former Khmer Rouge areas like Pailin, Samlot, Taken Koh Sla, etc. Peace is the main cause.

In the last one year, you can compare the Phjum Ben event last year and this year. It was not perfect but the country does not fall into chaos. While we are celebrating Phjum Ben here, the US-led alliance forces launched air strikes on ISIS in Iraq and Syria. The two situations are starkly different. With peace, our people travel without fear anywhere they wish to.

Secondly, *better infrastructure*

*that the Royal Government forcefully invested over a decade.* It serves as link between people so that they could go visit their native places. In the recent past, especially areas along the river where there are many streams, even if one had car, one could not have made it to their homes.

Infrastructures developed by the efforts of the Royal Government allow our people to travel to remote provinces of Preah Vihear, Ratanakiri, Mondulkiri, Stoeung Treng and Kratie, etc. Before long, we will connect the provinces of Stoeung Treng and Preah Vihear together by the National Road 9, one of the latest in our history. We have the National Road 8, another new National Road too. We allowed people to use the bridge to cross the Mekong River at Stoeng Treng to Preah Vihear at the festive time as well.

Thirdly, *people have the means to transport.* Those without own transport means are travelling by the public transport means. I have not had the statistics on traffic accidents during the Phjum Ben day holiday yet. Thanks to increasing number of transport means, in general, people had been able to travel to their villages to celebrate the traditional Buddhist ceremony and to be together with families.

Fourthly, *people have certain level of income that allow them to gas their means of transport or pay for their trips.* Though the income has not been as high as we want it to be, but it is on the growing territory.

Take for instance basic salary for workers has increased from 82 USD to 100 USD a month. Negotiation is underway for further increase next year. Thanks to all four factors, people have been able to travel far and wide. I am sure at this very hour they are on their ways back to Phnom Penh.

## Seven Institutions Failed to Make Early Payday

I thank the Ministry of Economy and Finance for making effort to allow early payday even before the celebration of the Phjum Ben day. Seven institutions have failed to pay their staff before the Phjum Ben day - 1) Planning, 2) Rural Development, 3) Women's Affairs, 4) Public Works and Transports, 5) the Court of Appeal, 6) National Auditing Committee and 7) Anti-Corruption Unit.

I would urge Ministers to make sure next year to make their staff payday at this important Buddhist event early. I would make it public without letting you know in advance. I would hold you responsible. I also did not tell the Ministry of Economy and Finance to enforce early payday. However, I am doing the monitoring.

The teachers' salary for September is to increase. According to the report by Ministry of Economy and Finance, as well as that I received from HE Hang Chuon Naron, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, we still have some more to do. We can proceed with new salary only for teachers of primary level education from 480,000 Riel to 550,000 Riel in September. Because some have had to hand in needed information, their new salary may enforce in October. However, we will make sure of their recall.

## Priority for Teachers and Medical Staff

As of this point, the Ministry of Health has finished with its payroll and I will probably sign it either later today or tomorrow. Our priority will rest in teachers and medical staff. Of the 180,000 government employees, 130,000 of them or 70% are teachers and medical staff. We have 110,000 teachers and 19,623 medical staff, whose new salary will go into

force in October. These employees earn the least pay at 440,000 Riel. They will get 550,000 Riel per month.

Those 426 staff working in office, let me clarify, for a basic salary of 424,000 Riel will receive 505,000 Riel per month from October through to December. In the first three months of 2015, only a minor increase will there be as it will be the integration of payroll. Their salary will be 507,800 Riel. Starting from April 2015, their salary will reach 552,800 Riel. As far as 1,957 primary level midwives are concerned, their basic salary of 440,000 Riel will reach 550,000 Riel in October and for the first three months of 2015, their salary will reach 566,720 Riel. Starting from April, the salary will reach 646,720 Riel per month. I am talking about those who receive the lowest pay here.

## A Precise Salary System Starts January 2015

I have sought understanding from those who have high salary already that they will not get any increase or very slight one if they do. As for other staff, I would urge them not to get jealous with those in the service of education and health.

As of January 2015, a precise salary system will commence in which salary of all government officials will adjust into positive territory, with a higher index for those in the service of education and health. There will be increase in the last four months of 2014 for education and three months for health workers, with more increase in early part of 2015.

We are determined to do all this with our careful observation of our income and expense. I am talking about current income and expense. It means that we have surplus of our cash for salary. Being Prime Minister or Minister of

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Economy and Finance, the most difficult thing is to have no cash in the treasury. Sometimes, they have order to cash out but there was no money to do so. We do not resort to printing any more money. I hope the seven institutions work fast to get their staff payments. I received information from the military and police that they have cashed in their salary. Numerous ministries also were on the same track. I stayed quiet.

Well in general, not many staff that missed their payday before Phjum Ben. They may miss the pay for Phjum Ben but they will not miss their pay at end of the month. We must make more efforts on this. Making promises is easy because one would not have exhausted their batteries for doing so but working to make it real is a hard one.

If we were to have money, we certainly do not have to increase our staff salary in stages as I presented earlier. In response to my appeal for teachers and medical staff to work in rural and remote areas, we have worked to increase what we call regional supplement payment and we were able to go only from 60,000 to 80,000 Riel. We know that this sort of allowance should be reasonably rational to their needs to hire lodging, for example.

### No More Cigarettes

Over the past one year, I have struggled hard not with nature but with myself. I can declare today that, finally, I no longer smoke. It has taken me 14 years to fulfil the promise I made in my daughter's wedding that I will stop smoking. My grandchild is now 14 years old. HE Pol Saroeun also tries to quit smoking. Pa So Cheavong does not succeed in quitting too. Now that I quit it, when I get back home, I could not stand the smell of the cigarette.

This has brought me to an understanding how hard it was for my wife to stand a husband's smoking habit. I have stayed away for eight months now from cigarette. I am counting it as one of my successes for the first anniversary of the fifth legislative term Royal Government too.

### Weather Forecast

Let me say a small thing here. This morning HE Lim Kean Hor SMS me about change of weather forecast. In Cambodia, we have two ways of counting days and months in our lunar calendar. We used to say the Chinese furthers months and the Khmer furthers days later. In general, the lunar calendar would have our Phjum Ben in October and after Phjum Ben, the seasonal flood of the Mekong would recede.

Now that the 17<sup>th</sup> tropical storm Kammuri is turning its way back to the ocean from firstly predicting to head on to the Mekong basin, we still predict that there would be some rain. This has changed our flood prediction at the Chadomuk River front at 10.50 meters to only 9.5 meters. This means that water in three other flood-monitoring stations of Stoeng Treng, Kratie and Kompong Cham, water would not surge as high as the previous level.

In fact, our prediction with help from the radar station and technological availability in the whole world does not seem to be precise any more. The year of dragon that there had always been high had recorded the lowest level ever. Whatever prediction it is, we have caught water in our reservoirs already. Please retain them for cultivation along the river area.

Our people may ask if they should start transplanting now or wait. It is kind of hard to tell them what should be the course of action. According to our tradition, after Phjum Ben,

we started transplanting rice according to the pace of flood recession. What can we say when flood level in Stoeng Treng goes up today and goes down the next. I think it requires closely monitoring.

### Ensure Safety of the Second Bridge at Jroy Jangvar

I would take this opportune moment to bring this issue to the Municipality of Phnom Penh. Yesterday I crossed the second bridge at Jroy Jangvar – the Sino-Cambodian Friendship Bridge. Our water festival will be held for three days on 5, 6 and 7 November. We had allowed people to cross the bridge for a few days during the Phjum Ben days.

I think the Municipality of Phnom Penh and the Ministry of Public Works and Transports must work with the Chinese construction company to make sure that the bridge will be able to take it up to the task for people to cross to and from during the water festival event. This year's water level is not that high. In 2013, the flood was high. In 2011, we had a serious flooding and in 2012 we could not celebrate the festivity for we had our mourning over the loss (of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk) in the Royal Palace.

This year we are determined to holding the water festival. I urge the Municipality of Phnom Penh and the Ministry of Transports and Public Works to work closely with the Chinese construction company to ensure the flow traffic across the river. We have two bridges already at Tonle Basac. We anticipate the new bridge ready too across the Tonle Sap. I crossed the new bridge yesterday but I do not feel safe. I urge a thorough check on the bridge and make sure it is up to the task. Let us not worry about the inauguration but about how our people pass it during the coming event ...

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derstand the concept of speech, I must warn against those who would pick it up that Prime Minister allows Ministers to have a state of their own.

What I wanted to say is we already have the political platform of the Royal Government Phase II and today we have this NSDP 2014/18 as guidance. What remains is whether you would act on them or not. Before taking up measures, we always have meeting and list out what to do. When the commissions of the National Assembly convene for clarification, why do you need my advice? I should stress on that as some analysts are in immature state. If their questions are not in the package of responsibility, yes you may ask for advice but if their questions revolves around these, go ahead ..

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pan. Whatever fish comes by, I catch it. I urge people not to blame companies doing business in Cambodia from 1980s as corrupted. Secondly, I advise that if the Royal Government were to abuse the rights given to one company, it may do the same to yours.

I may bring up another story. An international institution asked us to privatize custom service. I did not agree. They were unhappy. Are there any countries in the world that privatize custom? Custom service is a sovereign authority, which has the rights to use weapons, aircrafts and marines. I still keep the document with me. Two experts wrote letters to me too. I gave my instruction to HE Keat Chhon to annul the meeting immediately. This sort of problem should not have happened. Fighting against corruption requires accurate information, transparency and accountability. To fight it with political agenda would disappoint many...

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alms to ancestors through Buddhist monks in a period of fifteen days in a year) from Ben one through to the Ben ten now. The situation is good and quiet. Before the celebration of Ben one, there was an exchange of fires and I told the other side not to use heavy artillery. The situation has taken this direction in the last ten days. If it were to go on like this, the Cambodian situation could be going on the path of peace, political stability and steadfast implementation of pluralism, democracy and rule of law. The question is to know on which chair to talk about what issue. The National Assembly is where one talks.

### **Prime Minister's Interference in NA Affairs**

In just days, we have seen that various commissions of the National Assembly have called on Minister for questions – Minister of Health, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports. That was how the work should be carried out. That is what we call working together to resolve national issues. Whether it is for parties in or out of the government, the working procedure should be like that. I wish to see this continue. As for HE Ministers, you do not have to ask me if you have to respond to the invitation from the National Assembly's commissions. Once they summon, you have to go. You cannot ask the Prime Minister how to go about answering their questions.

It is clearly stipulated by law that Ministers are of responsibilities before the Prime Minister and National Assembly. It is true that some issues have correlation to others and you may want to present the inter-related matter to the Prime Minister for opinion but not the whole debate for Prime Minister's approval on your behalf. I am so happy to see that going. This should be what everyone

looks for in the process of pluralistic democracy where issues are brought up in the National Assembly and not in the street or for own propaganda. In some instance, some have gone this far to say that help should be given to Prime Minister to clean his ministers as those ministers gave money to the Prime Minister. They have gone this far that the Prime Minister also has the rights to defend himself. If you want to remove me for any mistake, you should do it in the National Assembly, not outside.

However, in the last ten days, it seemed everyone knew where to bring the matter up. If there is a need for no confidence motion, it is the President and Permanent Commission of the National Assembly will have to make their decision. Generally, I think it is good. I am happy the commissions in the National Assembly have done it. This should be able to keep Cambodia on a long lasting peace. We need to see a dialectical relationship between peace and development. The both of them cannot go separate way. Peace without development would not last and without peace or stability, development would fail as we had encountered the war from 1970 through to 1975, the genocide from 1975 through to 1979 and the continuing war through to 1998 before it ended for good.

The problem surfaces in Middle East and Europe, for example Ukraine. The eastern area of Ukraine that is buffering between the western Ukraine and Russia, it is impossible to build up the country. That is an example. That demands national reconciliation, mutual understanding and nurturing no revenge though belonged to different political tendency. We have one similar need and that is to make our country peaceful and secure, while making development with respect of human rights. We

want our people to have everything a human being may need. I hope that we will continue to go on this path and hope that some who had said that Hun Sen's comments indicated his interference in the National Assembly's affairs to learn more about what they said.

I may have a unique role than others. However, before I become Prime Minister, I have to be a member of the National Assembly. No one could say that I interfere in the National Assembly's affairs. In addition to that, every time you have problem in the National Assembly, you always look for Hun Sen to help sort it out. Take for instance, you just needed Hun Sen to help mobilizes the CPP members of the National Assembly to give you their votes, right? You should therefore recognize the role as a member of the National Assembly of Hun Sen and the leadership role of the Cambodian People's Party. Without Hun Sen, in this instance, it would be impossible to mobilize members of the CPP. In this world, if members of own Party in the National Assembly do not support him/her, what else could he or she do?

It was the same person, who said the other day that I interfered in National Assembly's affairs. He may ask around if I had the right as a member of the National Assembly, to make statement to clarify issues to the National Assembly or even to request for an urgent meeting of the National Assembly. As for drafting law too, there has to have request from the Royal Government to the National Assembly. I am so sorry for such a remark the person made. However, he is still immature. Now that they cooperate, we must also do the cooperation. I wanted to see the spirit continues.

### **Appeal of Phjum Ben**

In just days ahead, we will

come to the biggest ceremonious day of all the fifteen Phjum Ben days. I am appealing to every Buddhist monks and people all over the country to continue to celebrate our Buddhist tradition in peace and safety, especially when you have to travel back to your home villages. I would want to see a report that after each ceremonious event there have been so and so number maimed or killed, so and so number of means of transport damaged in road accidents. I also seek the understanding of those operate passengers' transport service not to jack up the price. It is true that there will be many people, especially those workers, who will have to travel home to join their family to celebrate the event. I also ask them to keep themselves safe in driving.

### **Cambodia's Position in the Fight against ISIS**

There is one other matter. The press people would want to know what position does Cambodia take on issue of ISIS (Islam State in Iraq and Syria) after the US President Barack Obama declared a campaign to fight against ISIS? Yesterday the press asked Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Tia Banh and the Ministry of Interior. I would like to make clear the Cambodian position in relation to the fight against terrorism. We have committed from the beginning to take part in the fight against terrorist acts. Cambodia has participated and cooperated with many countries in the region and the world to fight against terrorism. We would not tolerate terrorist act of any sort. More importantly, aside from cooperation rendered to outside the country, we have taken steadfast measures in own territory to prevent terrorist act from happening.

Even it is true that Cambodia is not the target of attack of the

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## Techno Overpass Groundbreaking

(09 September 2014 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

### Phnom Penh - From Empty to Congested Capital

I am so glad today to be able to join with Buddhist monks and compatriots in the launch of the construction of an overpass and an underpass at the Techno junction that we will, as is proclaimed by Mayor of Phnom Penh, Pa So Cheavong, call it the Techno Overpass. Our starting had been a difficult one. We came from a capital where there were no dwellers and roads on which there were no commuters. We have now come to a state of traffic congestion in the capital after 30 years of the liberation from the regime of Pol Pot. Our needs at liberation time were different. In those days, all we needed was sufficient food for the people. There was not a big problem as far as lodgment or housing was concerned. There were many empty houses available. Now we have more needs to answer.

Growing settlements in and around the Capital of Phnom Penh has put lots of pressure on urbanization and planning. About 10% of the Cambodian population is living in Phnom Penh, where there has only some 700 square Kilometers. About 90% of the population of 14 millions resides in the rest of the country. We have to face with settlement issues as well as traffic congestion, mainly caused by the increasing number of means of transports. If we were to continue to achieve 75% growth in our economy per annum, there is no way that means of transports will be less in number. As end of the 2014 approaches, people already asked for the 2015 model of their means of transports already.

It is a contrasting development, I would say, to the time after the liberation in 1979, or even the periods between 1970 and

1975 and between 1975 and 1979. Before the war in 1970, means of transports also grew to a remarkable magnitude already. I lived in a pagoda near here so I knew how the traffics were then. There has been clear need for investing in infrastructure, not only overpasses and underpasses but also more roads to be widened and/or built in and around the capital aimed at reducing traffic pressure. There is no need for our people living in Kompong Speu or Sihanoukville to go to Pursat or Kompong Chhnang via the capital of Phnom Penh anymore.

### Rapid Developments Miscalculated

We need to widen the National Road 51 that links National Road 5 and National Road 4. We also have to build or widen a certain number of roads inside so that our travelers could get out of the city through to other main links, for example the road of Tumnub Kob Srov. As I have mentioned a few now, we have different type of needs to address. We have brought life for the people after the liberation in 1979 and brought about development stage after stage. It was not easy to estimate hardships and development. Even in 1990s, the Japanese too miscalculated. Why do I say so?

I say so because as we can see the Japanese rebuilt us the Jroy Jangva bridge and built the National Road 6A with a width of only 7 meters. Now we had to enlarge the width to 21 meters and four lanes. However, when they built the National Road 1, the Japanese made sure it is wide. They build nice big bridge at Neak Loeng too. We also made a wrong calculation on our side with regard to the airport. We could not

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terrorist groups, we should not forget that there are over four million foreign nationals come visit Cambodia every year and many foreign companies are doing their businesses here, let alone diplomats.

Cambodia needs to fulfill a good job not to make it a shelter for terrorists or money laundering place. We have made our statement to denounce acts of killing the US and British journalists by ISIS. As for campaign to fight against ISIS, and other groups like Al Qaeda, etc., we do not have the means to participate but we provide them with mental supports.

We have sent our troops to Lebanon and Mali. We are in the course of preparing to send some 200 more to the Central African Republic. We do not have the means to send our fighting force to the campaign against ISIS. Maybe it is time for the world to review their foreign policies, What does the color revolution conducted in the Middle East get them? There had been motive to do all they could to destroy and uproot (regimes). After they succeeded doing so, what do they get in return? That is the point that demands a thorough study on every foreign policy. Cambodia should also do that.

It was quite arousing to talk about the Arab Spring before. What will follow? It should be a lesson for every country in the world, Cambodia also included. Lately, because they wanted to remove a President in Ukraine, they also came up with color revolution. What does Ukraine receive now? That is what I was talking about – peace.

As for today, in just hours we will have this referendum in Scotland whether to say Yes or No to breaking unity with the UK. If Scotland were to say Yes, what could have happened to its relation with Eng-

land? All we can do is to observe. A small country like ours, what we can do is to observe like others. We do not have any impacts on Scottish voters.

For us, to achieve long-term sustainable development, we need to maintain peace primarily. Without peace, we certainly cannot have sustainable development. As far as ISIS action is concerned, in some instances, achievements of 200 or 300 years old were destroyed. In Gaza war, the conflict between Israel and Hamas, certain element of Palestinians, resulted in wide ranging destruction. It would not be possible to blame Israel totally for what happened. Indeed, the world condemns Israel but there were also preemptive strikes and Israel depends on its right for self-defense also took it to certain scale. In situation like these, it is difficult for Cambodia to take position. We somehow have to stay quiet. Like situation in Ukraine, it was hard to take position. Stay quiet. We were absent at the vote on Crimea. It was too complicated.

### Ministers Responsible Before NA

Cambodia is on the right track when commissions in the National Assembly are calling Ministers for questions and/or clarification. If those summoned Ministers were to cause problems leading to no confidence motion, I may stress here, I could have strip them off prior to that. I would not protect them. I would not wait for the National Assembly to remove him/her. I would do it before. Anyway, by whatever means, one has to talk and do it in the National Assembly and not to make it a topic of propaganda for political gain. I think some of you who met me earlier and I said it was just a question of time may have now taken my words for

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foresee the growth at this scale. Now our airport area could not expand because of people's provisional settlements have turned into permanent ones. They demand ransom for moving out, not reasonably small but big ones. They even wrote SOS on the roofs for the US President's attention while coming for the Summit in Phnom Penh.

Well we have had some miscalculations. As we have come to this state of being, we have to resort to building overpasses and underpasses at Kbal Thnal, Monk Hospital junction, Stoenj Meanjei and this one the Techno over and underpasses. More will come along. It is just a matter of figuring out where to build first. In 35 years, the number of population has grown to nearly ten millions. In 1979, our population was about five million after the liberation. Now we have some 15 millions. When I first conducted a visit to Laos, I read their statistics, they had also about 5 millions and they now have between six and seven millions only. Our population growth has been far higher.

### **Municipal Effort to Expand Infrastructures**

I am aware that we have closed traffics for this celebration. I would not take much of your time to talk but to express my sincere thank to ownership, management and initiative put out one after the other by the Municipality of Phnom Penh in close cooperation with OCIC company that built us three overpasses and underpasses already. I appreciate the fact that the Municipality has taken the path of using palm leaves to pack palm sugar or in other word to use money obtained from developing the capital to invest further in expanding infrastructures. According to the architectural plan, the construction of the Techno overpasses and under-

passes will be ready in 16 months and will spend over 14 millions USD.

I am asking for understanding from people living near and around the construction site for the period of 16 months ahead. Accessing through this area, which used to be difficult, will be even more difficult for the time of the construction. As we are striving to deal with the existing exploding number of means of transports, we will also have new number coming. There is one issue also relating to what we have thought in advance. It was the issue of right hand-drive vehicles. In 2004/5 I talked to Deputy Prime Minister HE Sar Kheng on the issue and recommended two measures – to prevent from bringing in new cars and to legalize those in traffics by requiring owners to pay tax for the vehicles and to issue them number plates. We now have less number of right hand-drive vehicles. We allow right hand-drive fire extinguishers and ambulances because they are donations.

Yesterday, HE Pa So Cheavong and Madame as well as officials of the Municipality of Phnom Penh celebrated the Brahman ritual requesting permission from the spirits who control this area to undergo safely and successfully the construction. In our country, Brahmanism and Buddhism intertwine in this kind of tradition. Cambodia continues to hold three religions together – Buddhism, Brahmanism and spiritualism. I would on this very moment pray to the spirits, deity of land, deity of forest and of air for the safety and success of this project.

I stayed in the pagoda of Neakvorn as a young boy. The monk's home where I stayed in those days was on fire and I did not know why. Maybe someone burnt it down for me to build a new one. When I lived there, there were so many

mosquitoes. There were big trees whose leaves felt all over the place. I had to clean it while reading and cooking rice soup. When the monk woke up and saw the leaves all over the place, he took it that nobody clears it, two whips I received. That is life of student of the monk. It was because the monk was so strict on me that I had come this far, perhaps.

We are now in the first day of Phjum Ben. For this traditionally Buddhist ceremony, we will offer alms to Buddhist monks for fifteen days. Mr. Pich Sokha, who already passed away, left us his poem recitation. There was a paragraph that warns people from taking too much alcohol, which cause many deaths and injuries. I am also calling on young boys not to infringe upon young girls when going to pagoda before daybreak to give out alms (boh bay ben) to the souls of the deaths at the Buddhist temple.

### **Voting to Remove Prime Minister?**

I hope that during the Phjum Ben ceremony there will not be exchange of fire because we already declare a ceasefire in the National Assembly. There have been some shots though in Kompot, Takeo and Siem Reap. I am keeping an eye on HE Sam Rainsy, who declared the ceasefire in the National Assembly. I hope both sides will forbid own soldiers, especially in the period of the Phjum Ben ceremony, from scolding other people wherever he went. When other people return the favor, there would be more problems. Wherever he went, the person talked about voting to remove the Prime Minister. Why do we not think of voting to remove the Vice President of the National Assembly, in return, on the ground that being a person who scold other, the person is not fit for the job of Vice President of the National As-

sembly.

That is a reason for us to seek a vote to remove the candidacy. It has not been long yet (after being elected to the job) the person resorted to conflict building. I must make it clear that the artillery ceases to fire. It is not, however, a ceasefire like in Ukraine where there is no monitor. I asked the Buddhist monks and Cambodian people to take note of the words by HE Sam Rainsy in the National Assembly. I just want to remind him from this speech and I am asking the person to act reasonably. We have declared to work together. Before anything else happens, the person talked about removing the Prime Minister or Ministers. Why do we wait for him to do that? ...

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This was not the first scandal Cambodia had. It is the fourth one. We had one in 1998, again in 2008, when there was no big scandal but there needed some alternative tracks. Now in 2013/14, we had come to the same issue. It is good indeed that we all have declared positions of cooperation and increased dialogues as much as we can. We also have changed the leadership mechanism of the Senate. I wonder why the one who claimed Hun Sen's interference in the National Assembly's affairs did not say that Hun Sen was the one who laid down signature on political framework for political coordination so that other parties can join in the permanent committee of the Senate. Let me clarify. Just now I was pointing about the fact that Ministers take up call of the commissions of the National Assembly without having to ask the Prime Minister about how to go about taking up their questions. Taking the fact that some like to misun-

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*In addition to the prepared text, Samdech Techo made the following comments on source of corruption, how accurate information and transparency help make bribe free and clean investment, corruption as one of the oldest diseases in the world, and appreciating any first coming investors.*

### **No Corruption in 1980s**

The central office of the Anti-Corruption Unit is formerly the command headquarters of the armed force since the French time. I would remind you that from this command headquarters, war was made under the French colony and later the war between 1970 and 1975. Later than that this place was also used for war matter. Now we have used this place as command centre against corruption. If delegates have time, maybe it is a good idea to get a view of how we make war command centre into central office of Anti-Corruption Unit.

As far as corruption is concerned, I wish to remind you that in the 1980s, corruption was not a buzz term because there was nothing to crave for. In 1979, there were no human in Phnom Penh.

Anyone happened to return to Phnom Penh could have claimed a couple houses if they wished to. Phnom Penh was not congested with traffic and human as the one we have now. Phnom Penh that we rebuilt from scratch was a ghost city. There was neither running water nor electricity.

At the seaport of Kompong Som, workers who carried rice in bags made holes and let rice go into their tied end trousers. They stole rice to feed their families' members. Corruption was not there after Pol Pot.

### **Bribes Free and Clean Investment**

Assuming the post of Prime Minister, I started political and gradual economic reforms. We

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turned in steps reform of the economy from centrally planned to market one.

On political front, I started the negotiation for political settlement to cease war and to initiate national reconciliation. While promoting economy with private participation, corruption appears. I am calling on the private and public sectors to cooperate on this matter.

The public sector should work to use national budget according to what it was planned for and to use it efficiently. As for the private sector, I am calling them to cease the habit of bribe giving. The public officials would not have money to bribe anything or anyone.

This calls for cooperation from the private sector by adhering to principle of bribe free and clean investment. It is an important issue. I am calling on the private sector to take a clear stand as I request that in every annual state and private sector meeting.

I am asking them to pursue honesty and transparency as principle. Other actors involved – people, press, etc, should also help in these issues. In education, we can also incorporate the topic into the curriculum.

As for the press, they have very important role to play but they can also cause chaos too when it comes to twisting the fact in information sharing or rumor without proper investigation. We need proper and comprehensive information provision that will cause no disrepute by the press, civil society or political party. That will help a lot in taking measures.

### **Corruption – World's Oldest**

### **Disease**

Corruption is the world oldest disease. The second in line is prostitute. It is not easy to eradicate corruption. It requires determination, will and proper judicial norm. How do they define corruption? When children buy presents for parents, do they define this action as corruption or not? There must be a clear distinguishing of actions or children would stop buying things for parents.

I was also surprised to have learnt from the press that Ms Christine Lagarde, currently Head of IMF and formerly Minister of Finance of France, is accused of being corrupted. I have not heard anything yet about ADB. I hope ADB will not suffer bad reputation like IMF or World Bank.

As far as ranking is concerned, some countries overreacted when their ranks demoted from A1 to A2. Those countries are the ones to rank the others at will. When ranking is twining with political reason like that, how are we going to fight corruption? We have to start with fact, the truth. I suggest that you work it out with concerned parties for an internationally accepted standard for ranking.

Some rankings made because of political reason, for example by international organization, on so and so governments. They kill other countries' reputations. As sovereign nations, they would not stay quiet. There comes a problem to distinguish between true and false.

To wrap this up, all we need to fight corruption is to base on truth. I am asking it from the Press, non-governmental organization, political parties that

are not in the government. We just need the truth - no more and no less.

### **Cold War Is Alive**

The world is in difficult circumstance. The cold war era said to have died with the dissolution of the former Soviet Union. However, in reality, it is still alive and kicking. We still see cooperation along with frustration and confrontation.

Confrontation leads to denouncing one another. Fact becomes false and vice versa. Take for instance in Cambodia, we have not had a drop of oil yet, they launched a seminar in Cambodia on topic whether Cambodia is cursed by oil. Everyone comes to me always brought budget from oil with me.

Finally, I clarified that this is not the stage to talk about how to spend money from oil because we have not made a penny from it yet. We have not had a drop of oil yet. Chevron does not take it out and even sell its shares to Singapore. Some countries have their Ambassadors discussed with us about their investments. They all want bigger shares for their countries. I have never heard yet any Ambassador talking to me about big profit margin for Cambodia. I only heard they ask for their company's bigger shares.

### **Catch Any Coming Fish**

Some say visitors coming before them are not honest or bad investors. That is why there are two companies from one countries and I do not say who. We allowed one company to manufacture hi-tech product and the company asked for five years monopole. Later, a bigger country came and told me the former company is small and Cambodia should not allow it. Let me affirm on two points. Firstly, I do not wait for big fish or small because I do not have fish in my

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