

Royal Cambodian Army Foundation

(24 January 2019 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)



... “formation of the provisional government carried out based on the State of Cambodia structures. The same is true for integration of factional armed forces into national armed forces” ...

9 November 1953 – Foundation Day of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces

[...] why in its 65 years of the RCAF foundation day, we have just had twenty years of foundation day for the Royal Cambodian Army (RCA)? We have determined to set 9 November 1953, the day when we won independence from the French colonialism as our foundation day of the RCAF.

People could have understood complication of the Cambodian history as we just celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the win-win policy implementation that brings about national, territorial unity as well as the unity of the Cambodian armed forces for the first time in its history. In 1953, upon receiving independence, the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) was founded.

It was a good thing that we decided to set 9 November 1953 as our foundation day of the RCAF to unify armed forces not only the militia and “brave women” under the leadership of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk to demand for inde-

pendence but also other armed forces such as Issara Khmer, etc. [...] I also have a date when I set out to build up an army on 12 May 1978 and my armed forces was given a date-name of 125 unit [...] to make it easy for every armed groups to agree on a unified foundation day,

I proposed to Preah Karuna Samdech Preah Sorodm Sihanouk Preah Borom Ratana Kaod to make 9 November 1953 the RCAF foundation day [...]

State of Cambodia Demobilized 240,000 Militia and Over 20,000 Troops Unilaterally

It is necessary for me to speak to remind soldiers, army officers of every ranks, the Cambodian people and our foreign friends that because of protracted war Cambodia had had to work out this Paris Peace Agreement, which required ceasefire in place and demobilization of 70% of armed forces.

The former State of Cambodia then had 140,000 troops, 240,000 militia, and over 40,000 police forces. The
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Talks to Workers in January 2019

(January 2019 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Kompong Trach District, Kompot Province, 25 January 2019



You Voted Democracy, Peace and Development

I am so happy to be able to return and meet our workers after we have postponed this meeting for more than a year. In fact the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training prepared for the meeting to take place since December 2017 but I could not set up my time [...] first of all, please allow me to take this opportune moment on behalf of the Cambodian People’s Party and myself to thank you work-

ers/employees and people of Kompot and Kep provinces, as well as the Cambodian people in the whole country for voting the Cambodian People’s Party [...] our people exercised their rights (1) to support process of liberal pluralism democracy defined by the Constitution. Those who participated in the elections support democracy. Those who opposed the elections were against it [...] and (2) to keep peace and development. Voting for the Cambodian People’s Party is tantamount to voting to keep peace and development, voting for own selves and to keep achieve-
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Third Meeting with Media/Press

(11 January 2018 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Meeting for Understanding and Solidarity between Lead- ers and Concerned Circles

Please allow me to seek your understanding that my wife would not make it to this event. This is the third year that we have been gathering. In the first meeting, there was a number of media persons, there were more in the second gathering and bigger number for this third meeting. I am sure we are going to have growing number of media professionals and I will have more chances to meet you all. I have made my agenda full with meetings – with journalists/media people, artistic and fine arts professionals, sportsmen/women, Cambodian Muslims, Chinese Associations, etc. Such meeting is for us to strengthen understanding and solidarity as a nation and between leaders and concerned circles [...]

of Phasing from Analog to Digital

Relating to what Minister of Information, HE Khieu Kanharith, brought up about phasing out from analog to digital set by ASEAN for 2020 and Cambodia has requested to reschedule to 2023, there would be two questions. Firstly, neighboring countries would have difficulties with continued analog broadcast from Cambodia, and secondly, analog would face its spare parts problem. We must reconsider this as to how far are we backtracking or shall we allow companies with resource and technical capability to take the step forwards? [...] I must bring this up for our con-
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Technical and Legal Aspects

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Khmer Rouge, however, destroyed and did not implement the Paris Peace Agreement, there were no demobilization of 70% armed forces and there were no disarmaments. In spite of that the State of Cambodia unilaterally demobilized the above figure troops [...] some of whom later sought to return to the army by purchasing their ranks from the armies belonged to factions of Funcinpec and Son San's KPNLF [...]

2 June 1993 — Held Under Arrest

Let me take this opportune moment to break to you a mystery that not many of us here could have known about. I, as President of the Council of Ministers, and Pol Saroeun, as the Chief of General Staff, were under arrest on 2 June 1993. Pol Saroeun was placed under arrest before me.

It was my negligence that I traveled to someone's home with only my driver and a bodyguard. I said to the people who did that to me because they did not recognize results of the elections that I would resign from my position and they could take it over to avoid bloodshed. I would resign at 6pm and the remaining State of Cambodia National Assembly would have voted for someone to be a new Prime Minister.

Their way of getting their ambition succeeded was to arrest Prime Minister Hun Sen, the top strategist of the Cambodian People's Party [...] I took the chance to invite Samdech Chea Sim, Samdech Heng Samrin, HE Tia Banh, Ke Kimyan, and some permanent members of the Party to the place [...] I could remember that HE Tia Banh and Ke Kimyan reacted strongly to my offer for resignation and warned of a bloodshed [...]

Strengthen Forces under Command to Avoid Repetition of History

It was because of all this that I have made it a task to strengthen forces under my direct command to avoid history from repetition as what happened on

2 June 1993. On 4 July 1994, there was one other attempt to launch a coup to arrest me again. In every attempt of arrests, they always have a wish to destroy peace achievements. Take for instance I demanded to recognize results of the elections though UNTAC had organized them in a dishonest way. That I was too defiant for such recognition I was arrested [...] the coup was yet to happen and we have taken effective measure to neutralize it.

They planned to execute Samdech Krom Preah and to arrest me and keep me in Prey Veng. That was what happened in July 1994. Having said this, I am taking this chance to reiterate that in the time of my power, I allow and will allow no coup to take place. The coup story on 18 March 1970 launched by the army founded by Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk had destroyed Cambodia [...]

Integration of Forces Based on State of Cambodia's Army Structures

[...] after I resolved matters concerning secession and internal issues, I have discussed with leaders of the Cambodian People's Party on this possibility that the State of Cambodia would demobilize (some of its forces unilaterally) as that was not stipulated in the Paris Peace Agreement. The Agreement requires a constitutional assembly elections and when it becomes a National Assembly with a Royal Government in place, the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) would end its presence.

On 18 March, while attending the birthday anniversary of the Queen Mother, Samdech Krom Preah and I discussed a possibility of not talking about dissolution anything but founding a provisional government for which we both become co-prime ministers, co-ministers for defense and interior [...] let me emphasize here that the formation of the provisional government carried out based on the State of Cambodia structures. The same is true for integration for factional armed forces

into the national armed forces [...]

General Hors Classe

... after what we had agreed on the night of March 18, the Royal Palace received a news that Samdech Chea Sim was not with the plan to set up the provisional government. Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk Borom Ratana Kaod and UNTAC Head Yasushi Akashi contacted me at about 11pm. Samdech Chea Sim and I went to see HM the King in the Royal Palace [...] Preah Karuna King Father seated Samdech Chea Sim next to him and asked about the news.

Samdech Chea Sim said in his own words that he supported the plan and it was a plan that we had discussed and offered his full support. Having learnt that, because I had to fulfil my position as Co-Prime Minister, Co-Ministers for Defense and Interior, in his own words, Samdech Preah Karuna King Father said to bestow me, Samdech Chea Sim, and Samdech Heng Samrin, the ranks of General Hors Classe [...]

Triangle Strategy Included Reform of the Armed Forces

Let me clarify why we had this general command of the armed forces, which later becomes the general command of the RCAF? [...] in 1994, we established this general command of armed forces. Let me distinguish different functions of the two general commands. The present general command of the RCAF would supervise command only the army, while the general command of the armed forces command every forces with arms [...]

After the second-legislative general elections in July 1998, and the formation of the Royal Government, in the first session of the National Assembly on 2 December 1998, I laid out the triangle strategy, which included reform of the armed forces, while later the Khmer Rouge leaders – Khieu Samphan, Nuon Chea, and others, reported themselves to my house. I invited Tia Banh, Ke Kimyan,

Pol Saroeun, Meas Sophea to my house to work on this chapter of reform [...] and we agreed together to abolish this general command of the armed forces.

Royal Cambodian Navy and Royal Cambodian Air Force

After the July-1998 incident, the general command of armed forces had no co-general commanders [...] we needed to exercise reform [...] it was then that we transfer from general staff to general command. Ke Kimyan then took the general command post for me and Pol Saroeun became Chief of General Staff, and Meas Sophea became Deputy General Commander-in-Chief and Commander of the Royal Cambodian Army.

I am sure that the Royal Cambodian Navy and Royal Cambodian Air Force came to being at the same time. We then have specialized our troops into the Royal Cambodian Army, the Royal Cambodian Navy and the Royal Cambodian Air Force.

We have divided jobs and responsibilities between the general command which has some units under its command and the Royal Cambodian Army which has a number of units under its command too. As of present, the general command also have some special intervention forces under its command in addition to those under the Royal Cambodian Army [...]

Ten Tasks at Hands

As I have this opportune moment to meet with our army, I wish to remind you – the army, navy, air force, military police, and other specialized forces that in addition to tasks given by the Royal Cambodian Government, the general command, and commands at every levels and sectors, please allow me to call on your attentions on ten tasks:

Firstly, ready to defend national independence and sovereignty, while continuing steadfastly to implement policy of people's national defense foundation. Hun Sen's national

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defense policy has always been one – from the start, of the people's national defense foundation. The army comes from our people and they have to do everything for people's peaceful life [...] people's national defense foundation does not infer to the tens of thousands troops but the fact that one person is one soldier for our nation [...]

Secondly, *collaborating with other forces, maintain peace, political stability, social order, implement safe village-commune policy, combat against thefts, drugs and human trafficking, and other crimes.*

We must ensure that Cambodia is a country of true peace [...] our country has had a history of blood and tears, of division, and of divided army. We must make every efforts to keep peace, political stability, security, social order, and other negative actions [...]

Thirdly, *combat against terrorism, quell in a timely manner attempts to launch color revolution against legal RGC through undemocratic and unconstitutional means.*

The armed forces is tasked to defend state. There is no such thing as neutrality towards guerrilla whether in the forest or in urban. We are fighting against all forms of terrorism that is threatening the world [...] we also watch out and quell actions aimed at plundering power by undemocratic, not through elections, and unconstitutional means [...]

Let me affirm again that (the armed forces) shall wait for no command (to quell what) they see as illegal and unconstitutional aimed at pulling down the state [...] the armed forces of all types must take actions.

It is better to have few casualties than to lose lives of tens of thousands or even millions as in the past [...] the general command of the RCAF, the general command of the three armed forces, regional military commands, divisions, brigades, and other forces structures must adhere to roles and functions of defending

sovereign state, legally elected state, and allow no one to insult and carry action to destroy state and/or social order. I am sure that my message does not threaten anyone. We are strengthening capacity of our armed forces to make sure that our country is free from terrorism and/or illegal putsch of power [...]

Fourthly, *together with concerned forces assist people, especially in times of disaster.*

The army are children of people and they are embraced with duty to look after people and help them in time of difficulties in any way we can [...] you must not set people tears because of your actions [...]

Fifthly, *support law-enforcing authorities to guarantee protection of forest, fishery and other natural resources.*

I said it already when I visited command center of division 3 in the province of Preah Vihear [...] I made it clear that I am sending the army there to help protect forest. They must not involve in forest crimes [...] we must be forces to support competent authorities to carry out laws on forest, environment, and other national resources.

Sixthly, *support national and sub-national efforts to gather national revenues.*

Concerning this point, forces not only under the military commands but policemen, etc. must actively support efforts to collect national incomes and to prevent tax-evasion and border crimes, etc. to bring criminals to justice [...] to protect honor and dignity of the army.

Revenues collected will allow (the Royal Government to) increase salary for civil servants and the armed forces [...] requesting to import personal vehicles free of import tax by one person would bring about many others to follow and we are going to lose money. Let us strengthen tax paying culture to help the state provide for civil servants and armed forces [...]

Seventhly, *ensure military disciplines in every forces.*

Training in every skills is important. We may have advanced military technology but without trained users, they are meaningless. We have paraded here some military tools and means and we must have training to use them [...] military officers must also know how to operate them too. They also have to have with them combat maps and compass [...]

I must also warn you that sweating in training field would ensure your life in battlefield. I notice that some military officers at every level have big tummies and they should make efforts to lose weights [...] as far as training is concerned, I suggest (the Ministry of National Defense will) discuss in detail with the Ministry of Economy and Finance [...]

Eighthly, *regularly take good care of arms equipped to our forces.*

I am calling on every units of the armed forces – the army, navy, air forces, specialized forces such as artillery, engineering, etc. to take regular and good cares of their arms and weapons [...] each and every soldier must take good care of his/her weapon. Tanks and armored vehicles also have to have regularly battery charged, oiling and fueling ready [...] they cost dearly [...]

Ninthly, *looking after living condition of the troops, especially in remote areas.*

There needs to be attention to ensure that our troops are looked after for their living conditions and healthcare. We must look at them from toes to head and vice versa [...] we have provided them in a timely manner raincoats for rainy seasons and clothes for cool weather, along with housing [...] not only for soldiers in line of duties, care must also be taken for veterans [...]

Tenthly, *take up diplomatic role in building good neighborly relations and with countries in the world.*

The armed forces has a very important role to play to create a good neighborly relations be-

tween state and state, and improve trade relations, investments, tourism, etc. [...] trade volume between Cambodian and Vietnam has grown to nearly five billion USD. With Thailand, we have reached over six billion USD [...] we may opt for more cooperation with neighboring countries – Laos, Vietnam, Thailand – to assist people along the border when they are in disasters such as flood or forest fires, etc. [...]

Let me reaffirm here that we will participate in the UN peacekeeping operations only and we are not joining anyone military alliances against other nations [...] we are making friends. We build our army not for threatening anyone but for national defense.

Where there are no aggressions, there are no needs to fight. Where there are no destructions of peace, no putsch of state power, there are no needs to use forces.

Army Defends Royal Government, Nothing Wrong about It

We cannot defend our country with empty hands from external threats and/or attempted unconstitutional putsch of power. Some said that Hun Sen is strengthening power. It is correct.

As Prime Minister, I must make sure that Cambodia is not weak [...] that the army is faithful to the Royal Government is a correct thing. That the Lon Nol's army turned out to be unfaithful and launched a coup against Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk was a treason that led to the country's destruction.

That the army defends the Royal Government, there is nothing wrong about it [...] there would be no need to ask for order. The court's decision instructs arrest of anyone, just you do it. There is no need to ask where s/he is and from where s/he comes. No need to ask Hun Sen when it comes to carrying out the court's decisions.

I have said it already. Just you do it according to law, you will not be wrong [...].

ments scored by your parents and grandparents [...]

In 1999, Investments Oriented to Potential Provinces

Minister of Labor and Vocational Training, HE Ith Sam Heng has just made a report about progress made in the whole country as well as those achieved in Kompot province. We have 11,738 workers/employees, 357 are with pregnancies, from 12 factories in our meeting today. Twenty years ago, in 1999, I took the courage to set direction for investments to go beyond Phnom Penh and to wherever there are investment potentials. It is in this concept that we must see that having factories in provinces has provided us with tremendous interest, especially jobs for people in each own provinces and adjacent provinces, for instance among over 11 thousands workers here, some might be people coming from Kep, Preah Sihanouk, Takeo, etc. This has reflected that our organization of factories locations answers to potential in provinces [...]

China to Purchase 400,000 Tons of Rice

We have enough rice (for consumption) and we have surplus of rice for export too. Last year, we had a surplus of 5.5 million metric tons of paddy. This year we may have a surplus of six million metric tons of paddy or roughly four million metric tons of milled rice. With this surplus, we are in search for market. China has produced more than enough to feed its people but President Xi Jinping, in the course of my recent official visit, declared China will help purchase 400,000 metric tons of rice in 2019 [...] after scoring success in food production and for export, we set out structural reform of economy through policy for industrial development for 2015-2025 [...] we must make efforts in every sectors [...] agriculture as of this moment contributes 23% to our GDP, but we have rice more than enough for local consumption and for export. When agriculture covered 80% of GDP, we had shortage of rice [...] we also have rubber, pepper, man-

go, etc. for export in agriculture.

Get to High-Middle Income in 2030

Industry has contributed 32% (to GDP) and the rest covered by service sector. If we were to pursue agriculture alone, we would not be able to become a rich country. We might be able to survive but we would not be able to advance our country into a high-income one. Do not take me wrong. That does not mean we overlook importance of agriculture. We promote agricultural development and help our people resolves issues relating to agriculture [...] we have stepped out from being a low income country to be a low-middle income country. We wish to advance our country further from low-middle income country to a high-middle income country in 2030. According to a general definition, income anywhere at 900 USD (per year) and below is considered low income. Income anywhere from 900 USD and up to 3,800 USD (per annum) is considered low-middle income, and Cambodia's income of 1,636 USD would place us in there [...]

Camcontrol Relieved Its Inspection Duty at Border Checkpoints

Yesterday, for your information, I signed a sub-decree to relieve inspection duty of Camcontrol (the Cambodia Import-Export Inspection and Fraud Repression Directorate-General) at border checkpoints to cut down complications and for better activities of imports/exports. We have issued a sub-decree now but we must continue to keep watching how it goes. My idea is to keep only immigration police and custom officers at the border checkpoints. Let us review, if there are still groups working at checkpoints from agriculture, etc. more actions need to be taken. Let us for the time being relieve Camcontrol (of its inspection duty) at the border checkpoints. Camcontrol used to collect a sum of more than 30 million USD (for the state coffers) [...] the state will lose about 30 million USD but the private

sector will gain 40 million USD. Why? There was another off-the-record 10 million USD [...]

KAMSAB – No Longer There

KAMSAB (Kampuchea Shipping Agencies and Brokers) fulfilled its role in guiding ships to/from ports in the past 40 years. Previously, ships arriving at Point Zero, they must wait for KAMSAB to guide them into port. At present, there are advanced technology concerning navigation and there needs not be such guidance anymore. Ports to ships and ships to ports communication can be established directly. In light of this, from a meeting led by Deputy Prime Minister Aun Pommoniroth, there were three choices for me to take from. Firstly, KAMSAB will stay but it must lower unnecessary prices for services it provides [...] secondly, we could allow more agencies to compete for the job [...] and thirdly, there would be no more KAMSAB and management and staff are to be transferred to the Ministry of Transports and Public Works [...]

Management and staff may understand that they did nothing wrong but we need to have a structural readjustment for survival and competition of national economy, and trade facilitation [...] take for instance in ASEAN, only Cambodia and Myanmar still have this kind of agency, while the rest already ended it [...] management and staff of KAMSAB should not think of losing interest because they are still civil servants of the Ministry of Public Works and Transports [...] our economy will better compete [...]

John Kerry – A Good Friend

I have not got time to talk to Minister of Public Works and Transports yet as he is at this moment in a meeting in Switzerland, where he informed me of his meeting with former US presidential candidate John Kerry, who later became the US Secretary of State and visited Cambodia. He was the person who worked with me on laws relating to trial of the Khmer

Rouge leaders [...] he wishes to come visit Cambodia. He is a good friend. He was a US soldier and fought in Vietnam [...]

To Relieve District-Level Offices of Certain Ministries

I will continue to embark on the path of reforms. It is time for operation. Where there are state agents or units that are not necessary, we will remove it from the lists. I may have attention of provincial governors, especially the district authority and concerned ministries, we may proceed to close down offices of certain ministries at district level. We will keep only offices of military, police, education, health, and land management as there are many land issues to look into. As far as production sector is concerned such as agriculture, water and meteorology, rural development, etc. we may gather them into one group. We also will do similarly to offices working in social affairs and culture, etc. We may call it a unified administration service office [...]

More Staff, Less Works

Otherwise, ministry demands for more recruits and many of them send to district level [...] I have said it in the Cabinet meeting that we must be saving more on recruitments. We must do the same at sub-national level [...] in our country we have this situation that I call "More but less." By "more" I mean we have more people (than we need) who are not capable of performing jobs/duties. By "less" I mean we do not have enough men with needed skills and expertise [...] I just wanted your attention that there will be structural adjustment (for involved ministries) at district level [...]

Defending Hard-Won Peace

I am seeking everyone to do your parts to keep peace and to guarantee development. Without peace, there will be no development. I find it hard to understand what is happening in Venezuela where the US and some countries offer recognitions to an opposition leader as

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President. I am afraid that fighting will erupt as I would be of the opinion that the incumbent elected President would not give way [...] an opposition leader who did not participate in the elections has declared himself and by some as President [...] would that be what they demanded for Cambodia? They may try it. Let them try recognizing a Prime Minister without approval of HM the King [...] this is problem making. It is on this very circumstance that I demanded everyone to be cautious and to keep peace. We must not allow foreign interference, and joining hands with inside problem makers, to destroy our hard-won peace [...]

Hun Sen Stands for People's Supports

Your attitude towards me clearly signifies relations between a leader and his people. It has become a relations between father and children, grandparents and grandchildren, and between uncles and nieces/nephews. That is the pride I am taking in the past 40 years of my standing, and in which the 34 years in my premiership. Some have tried to discredit people's supports on Hun Sen. They may think again. Lon Nol stood for five years. Pol Pot – with his barbaric leadership, stayed only for three years, eight months and twenty days. Hun Sen has been in power for 40 years, let alone as Prime Minister for 34 years now. I will continue for another five years and plus another five years up front. You may want to keep your eyes on. Without people's supports, Hun Sen could not stand this far [...]

Implement Court's Order

I have been waiting here for the time to come [...] they may announce their plan as to who would come or go from where to where and how to proceed to the airport, and how to arrange for the UN (people) to accompany the arrival. You may go ahead. I would not want to elaborate on this. I just need the person to go where s/he should be according to the court's order. Yesterday, Samdech Krola

Haom Sar Kheng made clear in his statement that he has the court's order for arrest. What else do we need? [...] that the person would return, it is like we have discovered dry wood while we are searching for something to make fire. Those who may not be concerned and do not wish to be in jail should not take such risk [...].

Tramkak District, Takeo Province, 09 January 2019



Smart Phones Parts Manufactured in Takeo

[...] Maybe I should say that we have come to a place where there are flowers unseen by many. The reason why I say this is because not many people, even in Takeo, could have known that there are factories in this area [...] I said it is like a flower unseen by many because not many people could have known that we have smartphone's parts fabricated here in Takeo. It is a factory that produces a world-class products –for world market [...]

7 January Belongs to Everyone

These are achievements that we scored in the past 40 years – for which we celebrated on the day before yesterday the commemoration of 7 January victory. Some said “how long do people have to repay their tribute to 7 January?” It was said by a President of a political party and I do not have to name him [...] I wish to clarify that 7 January does not belong to the Cambodian People's Party alone. 7 January belongs to every Cambodian who had wished to keep their lives. No one has to pay tribute to who because 7 January is not a personal belonging. 7 January belongs to your grandparents, parents, and have now become yours [...] 7 January is a common property of every human beings who wish to stay alive. Voting to keep the spirit of 7 January is in fact voting for oneself [...]

40 Years of National Construction Efforts

After making efforts in the last

40 years, we have achieved something that we all must (strive to) keep them. The tragedy that had happened to our people in the past and what is happening now is beyond imagination. When I first set foot in Phnom Penh, I was stung by this feeling of how to go about building this country. Phnom Penh city was without its dwellers [...] it was not a joke that we have made our journey this far. Some countries, though they were in peace and suffered from no genocide, their development levels are still either lower than or one of the lower-middle income countries as Cambodia [...] the past forty years had been full of difficulties. We have just celebrated the 20th anniversary of the day when we launched win-win policy (end war). We just had twenty years for national reconstruction while certain extremists continued to destroy the country from telling foreigners to no provide assistance, to make no investments, and/or to buy no goods from Cambodia [...]

Cambodia's Progress beyond Anyone's Imagination

Takeo has become one of the provinces making progresses since 1980s through to 1990s, and to the millennium of 2000. Takeo has transformed itself from one with food shortage to one that was self-sufficient and even sharing food to other provinces in 1980s. However, making progress in agriculture is not enough. It was a misconception that Pol Pot said “where there is rice, there will be everything” [...] from a country based entirely on agriculture, Cambodia has now become a country with active contributions from industrial and service sectors. Having said so does not mean we ignore and make no further investments to promote agriculture. Cambodia cannot overlook importance of agriculture. Agriculture would provide us food but not make us rich. If we want to be rich and your country advanced, we must combine it with development in industry and service sectors [...]

How many people would have

thought that Cambodia could have made it here? In 1979, I could have no way of quantifying this development as I did not even know how to rebuild our country while in the city there were no dwellers, electricity, running water, functioning financial system, etc. and in addition to these, war continued [...] we have made efforts altogether to make one step after the other until we reach this height. Transformation has now come not only to Phnom Penh but everywhere contributing to efforts to narrow the gap between urban and rural development [...]

Takeo Makes 200M USD in Agriculture, Tram Kak Makes 163M USD from Industry

How many could have imagined that Tram Kak district (of Takeo) gather this many factories and this many workers? We can make an estimation that rice and other agricultural produces of the whole Takeo could have reached a sum of about 200 million USD. However, only from the district of Tram Kak, industrial sector already generated income of 163 million USD. The provincial authority may have to conduct this study on incomes generated by agriculture in combination with industry, and its personal incomes [...]

Twenty Years of Localizing Factories to Provinces

In the decade 1980s and 1990s, the government, and later the Royal Government of Cambodia made efforts to localize schools building closer to people in rural areas. We have been busy lately in localizing factories closer to our people to respond to their jobs demand. This year is the twentyish anniversary of my orientation on putting in place infrastructures to attract investments to provinces. Thanks to that vision and policy implementation, we have factories in many provinces – Kampot, Kompong Speu, Kandal, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Cham, Pursat, Kampong Som, Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, Banteay Meanjei, Koh Kong, (Continued on page 6)

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and Takeo also included [...]

Salary Increase, Commodity Prices Stay

We need continued efforts for Cambodia to keep making progresses. For this stage, we must strive to keep macro-economic stability to ensure that commodity prices stay in check while salary is increasing. That would be the real term of increase (with purchasing power) [...] it was in this thought that while increasing salary for civil servants, armed forces, and workers, we also have to ensure that commodity prices stay in check to guarantee real purchasing power of increased salary [...] I have made it my promise to continue meeting with workers and factories employees should I get re-elected as Prime Minister. Everything has been clear now. The Royal Government has been established and functioning in its new legislative term starting from 6 September (2018) – which is four months and three days today, has fulfilled many works – domestic and foreign [...]

Incitement for Total Benefits Now Would Lose Factories

It was beyond my imagination that three factories in Phnom Penh, two in Takeo and one in Kompong Speu demanded to claim their total benefits in January [...] let us think about this. Three or four years ago, no benefits was allowed until workers had to stop from works. Now, there have been some incitements from certain circles to demand for release of total benefits in January 2019. If we were to do that, many factories in the country would close down ... those who demanded that would have got the money in one time altogether but factories would not be here anymore as they would face their bankruptcy. The first to lose jobs and other benefits would be workers themselves [...]

The Royal Government has sought for win-win solution and leave no stakeholders in lose situation. It has released a sum of over 22 million USD in payment of benefits to workers

whom manufacturing owners abandoned. I am asking you to think about it again as what you are demanding is impossible. Should we put pressure on manufacturing owners/investors, they would resort to closing down factories and you would face with unemployment. The benefit is not going anywhere but you can now claim it one every six months. It is your saving. Should the manufacturing owners abandon your benefits, the Royal Government will take up the burden. You are not going to lose it [...]

I am calling on trade unions that lead workers' demonstrations and strike to stop what they do because it has become an extreme demand. We are caring for any losses of our people, especially among workers. I have news that a factory in Phnom Penh has been keeping their wage payment regular for our workers. Unfortunately, such demand has been brought to the management [...] I think such demonstration/strike should come to a stop and claim your benefit every six months [...]

Population Census in March

... I have not got a final figure of tourist arrivals yet and I continue to talk "nearly six million" figure [...] I am waiting for final figure of 2018 tourist arrival [...] if Cambodia is insecure, tourists would not come to visit us [...] I do not talk politics as it is not my concern who would do or not do what [...] we have started with roughly about five million population and we have now set the date for population census on 3 March [...] we will count up number of people [...] we have estimated that our population is around 16 million or an increase of ten millions [...]

We will have a more exact figure after the next population census [...] according to the statistics recorded by the Ministry of Health, we have roughly 40,000 newborns per year. Based on this figure, in three years, we could have a rough estimate of 1.2 million more people [...].

Constructing Phnom Penh 3rd Beltway

(14 January 2018 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

A New Disequilibrium – More Transports Means, Less and Small Roads

I am so happy today to join with the Chinese Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador (HE Wang Wentian) and the Cambodian compatriots to launch the groundbreaking of construction of the ring road 3 of Phnom Penh [...] at a length of nearly 53 Kilometers. It is one of the big roads to serve our efforts in resolving traffic problem [...] more and more people are able to afford transport means – cars, motorcycles, etc. A few years back, I talked about disequilibrium between people's need for transportation and their means to do so. As of now, that disequilibrium no longer exists. However, a new disequilibrium appears – between too many means of transportation and small/not many roads [...]

Our people could not have motorbikes without paying to countries that are manufacturing them. The state did not give money to people for them to buy motorcycles. The state could not buy motorcycles for people. People themselves make own efforts to earn money to purchase their means of transportation. While people are making efforts to earn what they needed, they should also understand that there would have to have correct policy of the ruling party and the Royal Government too [...]

To Build a Tunnel under River

As of now we have got five overpasses as we are building new ones at Chaom Chao intersection. Building and talking about overpasses would no longer be impressive anymore because we would have more than ten or so. Some had said that we talked too much about a few overpasses while in other countries they have so many. We talked a lot about it because it was the first thing we built in our country. We will soon go for a tunnel under rivers. We need to build no bridges. We go

through tunnels under rivers. When we get the first tunnel under a river built, we then will talk proudly about it. When we have more of them, we will lose impression of talking about them [...]

Phnom Penh Third Beltway Costs 303 Million USD

This beltway that we are laying the cornerstone today is going to be advantageous to our people and having interactions on Cambodia's economic growth. I wish to take this opportune moment to deliver our profound thanks through H.E. the Chinese Ambassador to President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang, as well as the government and people of China for financial support to build this beltway. For this 52 Kilometers long beltway or Phnom Penh third ring road, the People's Republic of China finances a sum of 273 million USD [...] we are making sure of its quality. They are built in concrete [...] the overall price tag for this road, to include counterpart fund in resolving impacts of along the blueprint of projected road, tax burden, etc., according to the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the price tag reaches a sum of 303 million USD [...]

Saving Up for Own Investments and Friends' Sponsored Projects

I have said it on numerous occasions that there were no project that Cambodia was not required to have its counterpart funding. For every project – whether a loan or a grant, donors would not pay more on our behalf to clear mines and/or UXOs, impacts on people's residential properties, and other expenses. We must cover them ourselves.

Cambodia has had to save up to make own investment in water canals, hospitals, schools, roads, bridges, etc. on the one hand, and to counter finance projects helped by friends whether as loans or grants. We need to

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6 A) have money in hands. We must exercise strict management of our budget. With money in hands we can do it. Without money in hands, we can't [...]

I am so happy to see how much progress we have achieved in economic and infrastructural developments. As for infrastructures, we have received funding from the People's Republic of China. Along with this, I wish to share with our people that I will be leaving to China for an official visit from 20 through to 23 January 2019. I will discuss numerous issues relating to economics, trade, investments, and others relating to development with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang [...]

To Seek for More Chinese Tourists

Chinese tourists is one of the targets that we are after [...] in 2009, Cambodia hosted a visit of Vice President Xi Jinping, and in 2010, President Hu Jintao [...] I said to President Hu then that I need to see arrivals of Chinese tourist – at least 0.01% of the Chinese population. China has a population of 1,300 [...] 0.01% would see 1.3 million tourists' arrivals to Cambodia from China. We aimed to reach this figure by 2020. However, in 2018, we already have 1.6 million Chinese tourists' arrivals already.

In this development, we may reset our goal a bit ambitious to achieve around 0.05% of tourists arrivals from China by 2025. We have more direct flights now from China to Cambodia. These will be topics of discussion during my visit to the People's Republic of China [...] this year, we may announce it a great year of tourists exchange between Cambodia and China in commemoration of the two countries' 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations establishment [...]

Economic Activities in Many Sectors, with Many Countries

Conducting economic activities would not depend only on any particular sector or our breathing lines would be choked. We

are conducting economic activities in many sectors and with many countries. This should not be considered a message in response to anyone.

I wanted to deepen understanding among our people that Cambodia's economic activities do not depend on one or two sectors in particular because doing so, we would not die because someone somewhere turn off a valve [...] we are institutionalizing economic activities in various sectors and with many countries [...]

I said this clearly in the latest CPP's convention that "we are making further domestic reforms, while increasing number of external friends on spirit of national independence" [...]

34 Years Anniversary in Premiership

Today is the 34th anniversary of the day that I became Prime Minister officially. On 14 January 1985, at this moment, the National Assembly was in motion to vote for a Prime Minister [...] in 1984, brother Chan Si, then Prime Minister, had to leave for Moscow (in the time of the former Soviet Union) for treatment of blood cancers. I then served as Acting Prime Minister.

Deity had had my resolve tested. There was then drought in highland areas and flood in areas along the Mekong River. I rose up in the National Assembly without a single piece of paper in hand and appealed to the National Assembly members to help each other resolve this calamity. I called everyone in the National Assembly "brothers." I called on them to make efforts to save our people and to leave no one die without us knowing and/or helping them first.

I said this for the first time in the National Assembly and I later said it again outside for the first time in Kompong Trabeek, Prey Veng province [...] we were then in immeasurable difficulties. We did not have rice enough to feed everyone. As of this moment, we on the contrary have a surplus of over five mil-

lion tons, and by the end of this year cropping calendar, we may have a surplus of six million tons or so [...]

Advise Us No More If You Punish Us

In this relations, there is no need to threaten us. They may just do whatever they wanted to. They just have to know of the price they would have to pay back. It is reciprocal. Let us not forget that. They also can advise us no more if they (would have gone to the extreme to) punish us. They have no right to talk to us about human rights and democracy. They may see that their punishment would be tantamount to strangling opposition parties in Cambodia. We need not to console anymore. If things turn out that way, let everything goes along.

We are talking about legal measures. They called on outside forces to destroy Cambodia, why should we keep them? They should not insult us and warn us. I have already make it public that we cannot trade national independence and sovereignty for assistances from anyone. If Cambodia is not allowed to implement its law, how could it be a sovereign state or a member of the United Nations? I think they should stop playing this game of "punishment" as the world is getting tired of it to the core [...]

Commit No Third Mistake Please

I wish to hear no more this word of "threatening with a punishment." Just do what you have to. I just remind you that a punishment on Cambodia would be tantamount to strangling "the" opposition. I mean, Cambodia will continue to be pluralistic as everyone can see that there were 20 political parties contesting in the elections. We will continue on this path of liberal pluralism path. We will have elections as stipulated in the Constitution.

Recalcitrant would have their chances ended. There would be no reason for them to continue. They have committed mistakes and they do not answer for their

actions. What would they define an attempt not through elections to overthrow the (legitimate) authority? They are punishable. When they have to face with legal punishment, they asked foreign circles for help [...] what we Cambodians should do to such attitudes [...]

I met the other day with former Irish Premier and still a member of the EU nation's parliament [...] he found what happened to Cambodia was unimaginable and threatening Cambodia would be unjust [...] after the meeting, spokesperson told the press about those countries should not "commit a third mistake" [...] Those who claim themselves democratic supported Lon Nol to run the coup against Samdech Preach Norodom Sihanouk (in 1970) – the lawful head of state. That was their first mistake.

Secondly, they continued to support Pol Pot to sit in the United Nations for 12 years after his regime killed over three million people. Cambodia today is steadfastly adhering to democracy and advancing the country on the path of development. It is true that we are where we are because of assistances given by those countries too. However, they should think of ways to keep what they have achieved in assisting Cambodia and continue to promote favorable condition for further economic development [...]

Cambodia Should Not Be a Campaign Subject for Votes to European Parliament

In this instance, I am also asking those who seek European parliament seats to avoid picking Cambodia as a subject in their election campaigns [...] if they were to do it otherwise, they would earn themselves personal gains but their henchmen would face strong blow in Cambodia [...] and remember, you have no right to say things with us. State versus state relations are functioning normally. ASEAN and European parliament continue to negotiate free trade agreement [...] simply do not make Cambodia a childish game [...]./■

(Continued from page 1)

sideration so that we will be moving ahead with other countries into digital age [...] I am asking concerned ministries – Information and Telecommunication, to think about this [...]

The second issue concerning moving into digital is relating to legal aspect. We have the 1995-the Regime of the Press law but we should look into it to find out if any points needed to be amended. There could be three laws that should be consistent with one another – the Regime of the Press Law in 1995; Access to Information Law – HE Khieu Kanharith informed us that the draft of which has reached its adoption phase; and a newly required law on anti-cyber and information technology crimes [...]

Certain Countries Concerned on Anti-Cyber and IT Crimes, and Fake News

Let me have your attention here that in the Asia-Europe Meeting in Brussels, many countries in Europe have expressed their concerns on information technology crimes and fake news. Countries known for democratic values have also introduced laws to fight against fake news and abuses of information technology. On this note, I am requesting concerned stakeholders to discuss this issue in order to come up with a framework for keeping them under control. Talking about this it is very likely that some would come out with comments that we are heading towards dictatorship because for them abuse of other people's freedom through their media is what they need [...]

Six Suggestions Regarding Media/Journalism

In relation to media/journalism, I have a number of suggestions as followed.

Firstly, *state and private media continue to uphold its role as a piece of glass that reflects the truth in society*. I continue to demand that the media plays its role of reflecting the truth of the whole society. I made it clear last year that I would not want to have a reflection of a broken glass. It would give everyone a

distorted reflection. People would either have less or overloaded information [...]

Secondly, *the media/journalists continue to serve as bridges from state to people at policy and implementation levels*. I have seen in every form of media – writing press and audio-video ones working on passing on to people the Royal Government's policies and regulations, and bringing back opinions and requests of our people to the state [...] I watched this roundtable discussion of Thmey Thmey Editor and I agreed with him that some people have had information-blocking or denial attitude. It is a fact. We give them information but they choose to watch something else. They may choose to enjoy Karaoke while we are telling them what is happening [...] we need to work on that [...]

Thirdly, *looking for constructive criticism at policy and implementation levels* [...] we have endowed chance to the media/journalists to contribute their opinions at policy and implementation levels. They could do a lot to help improve situation and respond to people's requirements. I am saying this because I have experiences managing a country for 34 years in three more days as Prime Minister of Cambodia [...] I will continue to run in 2023 and that would park me by 2028 [...]

Let Us "Bolster Cambodia's Independence"

Before coming to this event with you, I have resolved some policies issues regarding how we run business in our country. I solicited Deputy Prime Minister's efforts to launch a campaign to "bolster Cambodia's independence." We need to sort out a few things to make sure that even in case favorable conditions are not there one day, Cambodia would continue to survive. For instance, I decided to keep only immigration police and custom officers at the border points of entry/exit [...] I wanted our media/journalists to take active parts in this policy making and implementation [...] we still have this problem

of under-the-desk deals in customs. We need to work on that [...]

Fourthly, *media to make strategic analysis on national, regional and international levels*. I have received from some journalists the analysis they made on various topics. I am longing for more. I would not mind reading them even late at night [...] I am saying this not only to the media and press but also to universities, etc. They should try to act as a think-tank of the Royal Government [...]

Yesterday I followed this roundtable discussion on CNV TV. There was this talk about international standard. Let me ask what the international standard is. Anyone knows what it is or if it exists. I am of the opinion that international standard exists and/or applies only in sports [...] there would not be a standard for information or politics [...] countries are pursuing different elections systems, for example [...]

Fifthly, *media/press upholds professional value, refrains from incitements, insults, conflict making* [...] we must think of uplifting capacity to a professional level. Having said this, I am calling on Facebook users to stop scolding one another and using bawdy terms [...] be with moral and virtue [...] I also continue to ask every media/press professionals not to make their concluded remarks or act as a judge [...]

Sixthly, *abolish this incident of media/press extortion for money*. I am calling on the media/press people not to act as justice police and they should not make it their rights to set up checkpoints [...] there is also this sort of media/press covering up what happened to go unpublished in exchange for money [...]

Seventhly, *media/press persons and institutions take parts in fighting fake news*. Fake news has been abundant in Cambodia. One minute Hun Sen was dead, and the next minute Hun Sen arrested so and so [...] what should you do to combat fake news? The best way to

clear them is to produce and broadcast real news [...] sometimes I attached the news to respective Minister for his/her awareness and for him/her to take actions. Occasionally I see that he/she did not move. Let me stress here that if this attitude continues, by 2020 I would not keep him/her [...]

Yesterday there was this suggestion for the Royal Government to create two or three more TV Channels for no-ad broadcast. I think we have many and we have not made use all of them yet. The key issue here is how to go about creating contents. Why do we create more when no one is making content [...] I am calling here for us to strengthen our capacity. Let us campaign to become the fast and truth delivery media/press of what happened [...]

Eighthly, *improve human resource and conduct human resource training, while modernizing the media*. I am calling on every media/press to give their attention on in-house human resource training in cooperation with local press associations and leadership of the Ministry of Information [...] we may think of short-course training [...] human resource training is a priority for every institutions, media/press is one of them [...]

"Access to Information" Law

... In the fifth legislative term, the Ministry of Information spent on drafting a law on "access to information." In this sixth legislative term, I think it should be ready. The law must be consistent with other laws related, for instance the Regime of the Press law in force since 1995, and the (required) law on anti-cyber and information technology crimes. There may need to have amendments of the law on the Regime of the Press to go along with the new laws [...] what I am talking about now would go into roundtable discussion somewhere [...]

I thank media/press for delivering my messages to our people by their every means – radio, TVs, and online media [...].