

November-28 Covid-19 Incident Ends

(29 December 2020 — Extensive Excerpts and Unofficial Translation)



29 December 2020 - "... Today we announce the first drop of oil in this miserable land ... If there were no end to the war, how could there be peace. If there is no peace, there will be no first oil drop event on December 29, 2020 ..."

My worship to holly Buddhist monks, nuns, dear compatriots. Today, I have some issues that I would like to address to you. As a start, I would like to take this opportunity to announce the end of the November-28 (Covid-19 community outbreak) event, which is also falling on today, the 22nd anniversary of the end of the war that brings Cambodia peace, complete national unity. I would like to tell you why we are closing (the November 28 event), which on the 15th (December) I anticipated (the Covid-19 search, quarantine and treatment operation) would reach early or mid-January. There are three main reasons why we can end November-28 event.

First, No Covid-19 Infection in 14 days

The first reason is that we were able to control the situation of the November-28 community (outbreak) event. We have not found the Covid-19 infected persons in 14 days. So far, out of 41 people (found to be infected in the event), we have cured

37 of them. Only three are left. Apart from that, there are only eight people left to take the sample as of yesterday. Therefore, we have no further cases of suspicion. This is one of the reasons. After the situation came under control, we had reserved the period from November 15 until now to search everywhere (for infected persons). We find no more [...]

Second, No Workers from Thailand since December 20 Bring Disease

As for the second reason, managing returned workers from Thailand from the 20th December until now, as the disease has been spreading in Thailand, we have not found one who came in with the disease. It is a good thing that the Royal Government of Thailand and the Thai authorities have acted at a rapid pace that they can control the situation. In addition, our provincial authorities are working urgently through the guidance of the Royal Government and the

(Continued on page 2)

Win-win Policy Day and First Oil Drop

(24 October 2020 — Extensive Excerpts and Unofficial Translation)

On behalf of the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I have a great pleasure to inform all our compatriots about the start of Cambodia's first oil production in Block A in the gulf of Cambodia, which we have been waiting for a long time. Thanks to the efforts of the Royal Government and the active participation of Kris Energy, the operator of this project, we have so far achieved successful completion of the construction, installation of the necessary equipment and facilities for the infrastructure to proceed with production of our oil resources.

Cambodia's first drop of oil will start coming from the first well – A-01D of the Platform A in the gulf of Cambodia on December 29, 2020, coincidentally on the same day as the 22nd anniversary marking the end of the war and bringing about national unity, unification of land and water, through win-win policy (December 29, 1998 – December 29, 2020). December 29, 1998 gives us all the capabilities we needed to have the first drop of oil in Cambodia today, on December 29, 2020.

I would take this opportunity to remind our compatriots that the first oil agreement was signed in 2002 with the Chevron Oversea Petroleum (Cambodia) Ltd., which included LG Caltex Oil Corporation, MOECO Cambodia Co Ltd., and Kris Energy. The consortium is led by US's Chevron. In 2010, Chevron announced the discovery of Cambodia's first commercial oil field and drafted development and business plan for the Royal Government to review and finalize. According to the plan, the first oil production was

scheduled to start in December 2012. However, examining the distribution of economic benefits and legal consistency relating to the development and business plan proposed by Chevron at the time required the two sides to renegotiate some of the terms of the agreement. Seeking for a consistency with the provisions of Cambodian law and better equity in the distribution of economic benefits from this business plan, the implementation of the oil production plan in December 2012 could not proceed.

Negotiations for the oil agreement intensified between the two parties (the government and the company) on legal, technical and economic aspects. During this period of intense negotiations, Chevron Oversea Petroleum (Cambodia) Ltd., LG Caltex Oil Corporation and MOECO Cambodia Co Ltd requested to pull out one after another in 2014 and 2016. Negotiations dragged on for a while from 2010 until August 23, 2017, when a new agreement and a new development plan and business plan concluded, paving the way for the construction and development of an oil well platform.

Major and essential oil production infrastructure built, installed and completed in Block A for the production process includes:

Oil well platform made in the island of Batang, Indonesian, began construction in December 2019 and completed in August 2020.

In This Issue

- Nov-28 Covid-19 Ends 1
- First Oil Drop & Win-win 1
- Covid-19 Pandemic ... 6

(Continued from page 1)

Ministry of Health to provide all possible facilitation for the border provinces. Our armed forces are also there to transport workers so they do not have to travel by car or by taxi on their own as that could have carried the virus to other places.

Thank Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha, Government and Thai authorities

Measures taken on the Thai since by the Royal Government and the Thai authorities, and by those that we have tried ourselves, have led to effective prevention of pandemic coming from the Kingdom of Thailand to Cambodia. I would take this opportunity to thank His Excellency Prayuth Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Thailand, as well as the Royal Government of Thailand and the Thai authorities for their care for Cambodian workers. That is a good point in the neighborly relations that there is no discrimination against Cambodian workers. According to the information, those who are in Thailand without works and/or legally (or) illegally entered Thailand, the Thai authorities issued them temporary cards. This is also part of the joint solution to the Covid-19 cases and the employment of Cambodian workers. It is partly for the growth of the Thai economy and also partly for the income of Cambodian workers [...]

Cambodian Workers in Thailand Stay Put There

Taking this opportunity, I am appealing to Cambodians working in Thailand to continue living in Thailand, rather than moving from one place to another. We received information at a factory where there were illegal (Cambodian) workers, out of fear, the factory owner brought some of the Cambodian workers to a Buddhist monastery. This is not a good thing. Thai authorities have already eased the issue. I received a letter from His Excellency Prayuth Chan-o-cha requesting that Cambodians be prevented

from entering Thailand while Thailand is fighting the disease. I have the appeal already from the first day of the eruption in Thailand [...]

Third, Monitoring Incoming Patients by Air

The third reason is that we only have to manage patients (coming in) by air on a day to day basis. For example, on December 27, there was a positive case of an Indonesian who came from Singapore. We expect further imported cases, but we have no better option. We cannot close Cambodia, even those from Britain where there has a new Covid-19 variant. The key here on our part is to manage it properly and to do the right thing. Some have already closed their countries for flights from the UK. We do not declare closing anything because there are no British planes flying directly to Cambodia and we do not need to block British people from entering Cambodia. So when it comes to managing imported cases, every day, there are always hundreds to almost a thousand people, including our Cambodian brothers and sisters who live in and come from the United States, France, Korea, Japan, etc., flying into Cambodia.

Three Battles Fighting

From the beginning, we have been fighting on three battles. Previously we only looked at two battles, but through the event of November 28, we experienced three battles. The first battle is imported cases (of Covid-19) ... This battle is easy to control as we have strengthened process of quarantine ... The second battle is the community outbreak that we have just came across on November 28. It has now been one month from the date of the specific measures that I issued on the 30th December at Siem Reap ... The third battle is providing treatment. If we look at the figures sent by the Minister of Health, Mam Bunheng, the number of infected people in Cambodia is 364. Out of this number, 360 have been cured, leaving only 4, including one

Indonesian and three Cambodian infected in the community outbreak. No one has died of Covid-19 as of now.

I do not understand why some people (said/thought of) bringing that Covid-19 to spread on (members) of the People's Party in the country to die. Do they not understand that among the people in Cambodia, where there are close to 20, 30, 40 political parties (and doing so would) infect their brothers and sisters themselves? It is unthinkable that such people could still exist in this modern age and they consider themselves patriots ... Although today we close the November-28 event that does not mean that Covid-19 is over. Covid-19 is still infecting in the world. Previously ranked No. 1 in Asia, No. 3 in the world, Cambodia is now considered the number one in the world (in dealing with Covid-19). I looked at it. Second place goes to South Sudan and third place goes to Brunei.

Covid-19 Not the Last Disease/Virus

No matter what the ranking would be, let us not rejoice, because the problem of Covid-19 is not over yet. Just a little negligence, it would happen. (In Thailand), His Excellency Prayuth Chan-o-cha who did a very good job handling the pandemic in April, may now have a headache, as 144 more people were infected yesterday. So just one whip the infected number increases over a thousand and we do not know how many more would be. So is in the case of Cambodia. It happened in an instant from no community transmission to having one [...]

We only announce the closure of the (November-28) event, but that does not mean the closure of all Covid-19 cases. We can say it is over only when Covid-19 is no more in the world. No one would know when it would be over. According to the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Covid-19 is neither the last disease nor the last virus. Diseases will continue to occur. In fact, in recent years there have been

cases of SARS, swine flu, chicken pox, African swine fever and others. What will happen after Covid-19? There are now Covid-19 variant cases in Britain and South Africa. That is why we must take continuous managing and preventive measures.

Recruiting 3,000 Medical Personnel Staff for 2021

The other day, I hinted about increasing the number of medical persons. I called His Excellency Mam Bunheng to ask how many would do. Initially, HE Mam Bunheng said 5,000 of them needed. For 2021, we will add an initial 3,000 medical persons to increase the capacity and the deployment of our medical team. In case of more demand, I have already discussed with Deputy Prime Minister, HE Aun Pommoniroth, we are always prepared to respond to the increasing workload of our medical team. To fight the disease, there has to be a medical team, just like in a military battle, there has to be a soldier. Therefore, let us confirm that we allow (the Ministry of Health) the recruitment of 3,000 medical experts/persons for 2021 ... However, those recruited must dare to fight Covid-19. This is a requirement [...]

Continued Measures

Now I would like to mention some measures. ***The first measure, I said it on the December 15 already, is to apply the self-protection in three ways*** – wearing a mask, washing hands and keeping a safety distance of one and a half meters. In addition, those who have to stay in quarantine must also be strictly abide by the rules and must not avoid or run away from the quarantine locations [...].

The second measure is to apply the three "Don'ts" – (1) Do not go to places where there are crowded gatherings; (2) Do not go to places that are closed, no ventilation, use only air conditioning too much; and (3) Do not be too close to one another, do not hug each other and so on [...]

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

The third measure is relating to the reopening of schools ... Now we have to think and I also wrote on the request of HE Hang Chuon Naron yesterday to take January 11 as the opening day of the 2020-21 school year, and the Ministry has taken measures to organize it according to the new normal practices, applied in education [...]

PM Responsible for Allowing Junior & Senior Secondary School Students to Pass Automatically

... I would take this opportunity to inform the grandchildren and their parents and/or guardians. Some extremist groups have accused me of damaging the education system (for allowing students at the junior and senior secondary school to pass automatically without taking exams). I cannot leave nieces/nephews and grandchildren in awkward and uncertain positions (because of impacts on their studies from Covid-19) without knowing what will happen to them. I am taking full responsibility as the Prime Minister of the country. What else can we do when students cannot come to the exams in this case? [...]

This (school) year has been a special case that it is required that all the students to pass and be able to enroll in higher education at this/that college or get a Baccalaureate in order to get a job here and there. May the grandchildren remember faces of those who came out against this decision that I am taking. I am taking this as my responsibility, but I made the decision for the sake of tens of thousands of grandchildren, as many as 130,000, plus their parents and grandparents ... the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports led by HE Hang Chuon Naron did a good job on this.

There is this issue with a foreign newspapers article. How could s/he know better than I could as far as state administration and/or management? *S/he wrote that the Prime Minister made the decision that shifted the blame to the Minister of Educa-*

tion, while no matter what the Minister of Education had had to ask for opinion of the Prime Minister. It was in that sense that I decided so to alleviate the difficulties for the Minister of Education ... I am saying it again that the things that you are better than me is the fact that you were born in a rich country. However, it is not sure that your brain level is better than mine ... (in pursuing the) right to express your opinion, does not mean you can just write (anything about anyone). You have the right to express yourself. I also have the right to express myself [...]

The third measure is relating to the reopening of schools, and what needed to prepare for this work? I am sure the Minister of Education, HE Hang Chuon Naron, already has his hands on this ... should more money be required to equip schools with thermometers, alcohol, gel, etc., (the Ministry can take them from the Royal Government stock). The Ministry of Economy and Finance may increase the budget for the Ministry of Education to add alcohol, hand sanitizer or gel or soap for schools [...]

Online Meeting/VDO Conferencing

The fourth measure is to avoid organizing unnecessary meetings or hold the meeting online instead. For example, state institutions and provincial halls have their online/video conferencing facilities. Well, the Minister does not need to invite the provincial governors or line offices to come for a meeting in Phnom Penh. Just get on to VDO conference as we do for the Cabinet meeting ... the standard social distancing must be set at one and a half meters or more. It is important to note the number of participants, phone number, address or email for contact if necessary and apply the three protective measures –wearing masks, washing hands, and keep social distancing in the meeting [...]

The fifth measure – owners of restaurants, cafes or entertainment venues need to be respon-

sible in ensuring that their premises are not the source of the transmission or outbreak of Covid-19 by jointly implementing public health measures ... the authorities have enough resources to deal with this. If they do not listen, you should just close them down. If they agree to the rules, let them open ... I think those shops really do not want pandemic or transmission to take place there. To be honest, no one wants to get sick. Some people said that Mr. Chhem Savuth caused (infection) trouble and should ask him to retire. I replied that Mr. Chhem Savuth and his family were victims of Covid-19 [...]

The sixth measure is if strangers come to stay in villages, communes, local authorities need to ask in case they do not go through quarantines or come from somewhere we do not know and arrange them the quarantines. Let me reaffirm that the practice of quarantine applies only for those from abroad, there is no (need to do so for) local tourists. For instance, if one goes from Phnom Penh to Kep, or Kep to Mundulkiri, quarantine does not apply. Please do not be confused. Quarantine applies only on those who are coming from abroad. Now, most of the people coming from abroad by plane, the city hall and the Ministry of Health are already in charge of that [...]

Cambodia's First Oil Drop on 29 December 2020

I have a need to share with you all the good news and maybe some of you have already learned through my Facebook page. The first news breaking was by Fresh News, followed by television broadcasts about "The first drop of oil has begun in the Kingdom of Cambodia." The date coincides with the 22nd anniversary of the end of the war in Cambodia. This is a source of pride for Cambodia as we are a small country. Taking this opportunity, I would talk a little bit about the oil problem in Block A, where they set their extraction to today, but the oil was already out since yesterday.

Today we announce the first drop of oil in this miserable land. Coincidentally, I chose this day to mark the day that Cambodia ended the war, brought peace and national unity for the first time to Cambodia's long history ... If there were no end to the war, how could there be peace. If there is no peace, there will be no first oil drop event on December 29, 2020. Today, as the founder and leading implementer of the win-win policy, I am very proud with all the compatriots who participated in the process to end the war in Cambodia.

We do not rule out the role of the Paris Peace Accords, which began with the Fere-entardenois negotiations between His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk and me, popularly known as the 1987 Fere-entardenois Sihanouk-Hun Sen Forum. It was clear that without the Sihanouk-Hun Sen Forum, there would be no Paris Agreement of October 23, 1991, because no one would negotiate. No one initiated the idea. The two characters played a role. If Cambodians do not get along, how can foreigners help? [...]

We recognize that Paris Agreement is an achievement born out of efforts by the Cambodian sides and the foreign friends. However, let us not forget that after spending more than 2,000 million USD, UNTAC left Cambodia as a country with two territories and two governments, two armed forces fighting each other from 1993 through to 1998 (literally speaking) five years more. We can no longer continue to fight each other like this. The only way is for me to trade my life for peace [...]

My mother and grandaunt said to me "are you not afraid of being killed (that you are going to their side?)" I replied to my mother and grandaunt, "Mother! Grandaunt! When I go, if I were to die, only a few people and I die, but if I survive, I will come back with the whole country." Starting in 1996 in the Oral region under (General) Keo Pong, win-win policy con-

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

tinued to expand into Malai to Pailin and on. I had to be present in those areas – Pailin, Samlot, Kamrieng, Phnom Prek, Sampov Loun, Malai. At that time, if (General) Sok Pheap or Y Chhien shot, I died. These brothers did not shoot and I consider them operators of win-win policy as well [...]

“Chan Yet” Must Stay Away

There has been peace since then, and that peace factor led to the creation of recent achievements, including today’s first drop of oil in our land of Angkor. Speaking of that, I would like to send a message to the villagers of Chungruk (who) are sitting and listening. I send a message to Mr. Chan Yet, president of a political party, formerly in the Supreme Council for Consultation and Recommendations, but removed from office due to destructive activities and corruption, to withdraw quickly (from what he has created/involved). After being removed from office, Chan Yet cheated a lot. I have enough documents to arrest Chan Yet. However, yesterday I did not allow an arrest. Chan Yet had to withdraw.

Chan Yet went to deceive people that removed (from the position of) senior minister (he has now got another shot to work directly with the Prime Minister. With this, Chan Yet fooled people and collected fund for this or that and/or about this or that. The 300 hectares of land has been prepared and ready for people to pick their plots. Schools, roads are under construction, digging wells, etc. I will help develop further as the conflict dragged in this area for 20 years. Mr. Chan Yet, if you do not want to be imprisoned, stay away. Chan Yet cheated the people in the Chungruk village [...]

Oil – Sit and Wait for 30 Years

This case about oil, allows me to confirm. We had to sit and wait for 30 years. Let me detail to you about the Royal Government’s efforts with other relevant actors. In 1990, we auc-

tioned off Block A oil well. UK’s Enterprise Oil won the bid. The Paris Agreement signed later required to cancel all agreements that were inconsistent with Cambodia’s independence and sovereignty. At the 1992 Tokyo Meeting on Aid to Cambodia, Khieu Samphan demanded the cancellation of all agreements with the (puppet) government.

At that time, the British ambassador went to see me, and asked me what I think. I told him they could cancel the agreement if they wished to. I told him that do not forget that a UK company, Enterprise Oil, won the bidding for Cambodia’s oil block. In 1994, I traveled with Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranariddh (then first Prime Minister) to Block A. Enterprise Oil was drilling, but Enterprise Oil could not find it. Enterprise Oil left. Then came Chevron of the United States, along with other companies, and Chevron discovered a treasure trove under Enterprise Oil [...]

We Can Live While No Money Earned from Oil

I would also like to emphasize this. Twenty years ago, in 1999 and 2000, the IMF, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and even the UNDP came to talk to me only about how to spend money (from oil). They even organized a seminar on this topic “Is oil a blessing or a curse?” ... they came to see me at my house in Takhmao (Kandal provincial town). I pointed out to them (and sought their understanding saying) that they should not worry about the menu while the fish is still in the water to catch. During the meeting at Wat Phnom, I said while we did not even have oil and you were worried about us spending money from it. They told us about Nigeria, an oil-rich country but was poor due to corruption in spending. I stressed the point that how can one talk about spending money, while the money from oil is nowhere yet. Now I can answer your question. However, while no money earned from oil, we can live. I do not brag. Today I

show you the figures clearly [...]

Growth Negative, Exports Good

Some say that the Hun Sen government was about to run out of money and had to raise money to pay salaries. I would confirm that as of 5 o’clock yesterday, the cash in the treasury is ... equal to about 3,000 million (dollars). We have not used it. As of December 25, Cambodia’s official reserves are more than 20 billion, including 44.4 tons of gold [...]. Let us talk a little bit about the economy ... although the Cambodian economic (growth) is negative, this year’s exports have been very good for us. The two-way trade volume is about 32 billion, but separately for Cambodia, exports are close to 16 billion. Although the economy hit by Covid-19, exports are good ... and it opens up people’s eyes that the Hun Sen government has enough experts [...]

I Will Not Stop, If You Want Me to

Do not think of overthrowing the Hun Sen Government. The more you swear to do it, the easier we are to live. We continue to expand the market. Now the Comprehensive Partnership Agreement RCEP has been signed and it extends to Japan, Australia, New Zealand, China as a whole. We have a free trade agreement with China. In the future, we sign with Korea and make an agreement with the Eurasian Union. That said, I think I will be in power until I am 78 years old, so I will wait another 10 years to see how they can defeat Hun Sen ... I am determined to (stand for election) until 2028. When I get to the age of 76, and transfer in two years, there is nothing wrong. The more you talk, the more I explore. Hun Sen is different from others. If you want me to stop, I will not stop. If you want me not to stop, I will stop [...]. A few days ago, (they talked about) overthrowing. Now they wanted negotiation. There will be no negotiations with anyone. They must negotiate with the law. Anyone who

has to go to jail, s/he must first do so and we will talk later. I hope our foreign friends (understand that) I have no political problems with anyone. I have no conflict with anyone. They are in conflict with the law [...]

Oil Money Priority on Education/Health, Deposit First Oil at Win-Win Monument

I come back to the oil thing again. They raised this oil money 20 years ago. After I blamed the move, they went silent. I say do not determine which fish should be grilled, which fish should be boiled and fried while no fish caught. Now that we have caught the fish, they can ask the question – if you get the money, on what do you spend? I will tell you that I will give priority to education and health, let’s be clear [...]. This oil story, I have seen in the media comments that block (A) is related to Thailand. I would like to confirm that this block A has nothing to do with Thailand. It is only 160 kilometers from Sihanoukville, but 335 kilometers from Pattaya and 350 kilometers from in Songkhla.

Well, this is not a curse, but a blessing for the Cambodian people in the new phase, as it is a new source of income. In the future, we will have a source of income from oil, we will have a source of income from our gold mines that will be ready to do big business, and we will have a source of income from our coal. We will not need to bring it from outside. We put the machine in Oddar Meanchey. Now we are importing coal from outside. We continue to import, but at least we produce 400 megawatts using our own coal. Our natural resources have not yet been exploited.

This morning, I posted the news at 7am and I am making comment now. As you can see the peace factor brings development, including today’s new achievements (which is) the first drop of oil. Please confirm to Samdech Pichey Sena Tea Banh, an important leader, second leading actor after Hun Sen

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)
in this win-win political operation, to take a drop of oil from His Excellency Suy Sem and keep it at the Victory Monument. It was because of the win-win policy that we now have gotten oil. Let us take that drop and keep it there [...]

Cash Support for Garment/Tourism Workers and for Poor Households Continue

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify a little more on issues related to the seventh round of measures to help resolve (living hardships because of Covid-19). In the seventh round of measures, as the Ministry of Economy and Finance has already announced, will implement for the next three months in many sectors ranging from aviation, manufacturing, enterprises, withholding tax, supporting growth for loans related to banking. Let me recall two important points.

The first is the three-month cash subsidy for workers in the field of garments, textiles (sewing), shoes, travel products, and bags is to continue for another three months. The Royal Government must provide USD 40/person to those who have lost their jobs (while) factory owners must provide USD 30. In total, the workers in the textile (sewing), footwear, travel products and bags receive a subsidy sum of USD 70/person. For tourism, which includes those working in hotels, guesthouses, restaurants (and) travel agents, workers get USD 40/person for another three months too from January to March. These enterprises also have to make voluntary efforts to help provide for those who have lost their jobs.

Implementation of program related to the provision of cash for the poor and vulnerable continues for another 3 months from January to March. As of yesterday, after we implemented six months already, we have used 796 million (Riel) budget. Today/ tomorrow (the budget of) 800 billion (Riel) or 200 million US dollars will be spent. I hope the figures will help some people understand clearly

and think again about their insults on this (royal) government [...]

Ready to Offer Some Medical Gears/Equipment to Nepal

Some insults us when we provide some medical protective gears to Laos, Myanmar and Timor-Leste to think of others while neglecting help to own people. We have provided assistance in flesh and life by sending troops to help foreign countries (under the UN peace-keeping program) ... seeing that too many Nepalese infected (with Covid-19), I am writing a letter to the Prime Minister of Nepal and prepared to send aid to Nepal. Cambodia (has its own way of) providing assistance. We will bring what we can help to the recipient country.

We are poor. We cannot go to help the rich. We first help the poor as we are. Laos is as difficult as we are. We can help them with anything we can. Myanmar is in difficulty as we are. Timor-Leste is in difficulty we are. Now Nepal is having difficulty too. We help them with anything we can.

Other Social Programs Continue

In terms of social assistance, we continue other social programs, such as pregnant women continue to receive cash assistance until the child ages two years old. As of this moment, we have spent 10 million USD already ... Once born, immediately (the social program) donated USD 100. It is better than nil. (With USD 100, they can) buy pork (to cook food to increase breast) milk. Revenue had gone below 400 million USD/ month for just a few months because of flash flood. For November and December, it has bounced back to exceed 400 million USD. It is in this note that the revenue volume has reached over 5,000 million USD [...]

Charitable Donation for Vaccines Reached 55 Million USD

Cambodia strives to fight this

deadly (Covid-19) disease, while helping itself and its friends. Now, in relation to the vaccine issue, as of 2pm yesterday, we have received 53,679,714 US dollars and 9,935,480,500 riels, or over 55 million in US dollars. I did not raise money. This is a generous donation from our people, including His Majesty the King and the Queen Mother, Samdech, Excellency, Lok Chumteav, Okhna, workers, farmers, students from all walks of life. This is a strong national movement that I call it the people's health protection foundation after we have this people's national defense foundation. No matter what anyone says, that is the ability that Hun Sen has. If they do not see Hun Sen is that transparent, they will not join/ contribute.

Vaccines for Free and on Voluntary Basis

I would take this opportunity to thank you HM the King and the Queen Mother for the contributions they made for the (purchase) of the vaccines. Thank you to all the Buddhist monks, people and armed forces for their contributions. This is a great way to achieve merit because it saves lives. The principle here is for our people to have vaccination free and on voluntary basis. If you do not trust, do not get the injection and continue to use the mask (and) alcohol. Even if there is a vaccine, we must continue using mask, observing social gap. Do not take risks. It is not sure how effective the vaccine is. What does it prevent, and how effective is it, and for how long – months/years or for life? No one can say.

As I informed you before, we have been in the process of accepting 20% of vaccine from COVAX for 3,200,000 people. In addition, we ordered an additional one million doses through COVAX. There are three gateways to the vaccines – the first is through COVAX, which has 92 member countries. Their contribution will be for 20% of the population or in the case of Cambodia equals to 3,200,000, for which we have to contribute

5% (of the cost). To achieve herd immunity, we will need to inject 80% or more of the population. If so, we need to inject around 12,800,000, or we say 13 million.

We need to buy more. In addition to through COVAX, we will discuss with bilateral and multilateral partners to find grants and supply of vaccines at affordable prices. We can work with countries to ask for their help or buy from them at a low price. That would be the second port. For the third port, we negotiate directly with the vaccine company.

To Purchase WHO Recognized Vaccines

That is a huge amount (of vaccines), but absolutely must do it because we cannot leave our people unprotected. The problem is that in the world, both Chinese and American vaccines, as well as British vaccines, used every day, have not yet had recognition from the World Health Organization. We are still waiting for recognition.

Some commented that Hun Sen did not mention the Chinese vaccine, or rejecting the Chinese vaccine even. I did not reject it. I have not talked about any specific vaccines to purchase yet. What I am saying is enough. Do not start commenting Mr. Hun Sen did not mention about the Chinese vaccines maybe he rejects China's role in providing vaccines, despite the promise made by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang during the ASEAN-China summit.

If the World Health Organization recognizes the Chinese vaccine, we buy it from China. It is also easy to transport. If WHO recognized the vaccines by Russia, we also buy it from Russia. If WHO recognized the UK vaccines, we buy it from Britain. If WHO recognized the United States vaccines, and if the US government does not help us, we will negotiate with the US companies. Whoever has the recognition of the World Health Organization, we accept it because it is a requirement for our people [...]

(Continued from page 1)

gust 2020. The platform arrived in Block A and completely assembled on September 7, 2020.

The oil production vessel was assembled, repaired and equipped on September 2020 in Singapore, and arrived in Block A on October 18, 2020. Oil tanker is prepared and ready in Block A on November 9, 2020. The construction of the first well completed on December 23, 2020 and the first production will start on December 29, 2020. In addition, two other wells have already been drilled and reached the oil reservoir.

The start of this oil production is a blessing for Cambodia. This is an important first step for Cambodia to build national capacity as well as the oil, gas and energy industries foundation in Cambodia. Key benefits include:

National revenue, the economic benefits derived from the creation of industrial diversification in the oil sector and national capacity building in this sector. The discovery and the production of oil and gas resources in Cambodia under the leadership of the Royal Government is a blessing for the people and the nation, not a curse, as some unscrupulous people claimed.

Covid-19 bothered us but could not destroy our efforts to produce the oil. New Year 2021 is coming, although we are not as happy as in previous New Year celebrations because of Covid-19, we have received an enormous gift for our nation, the first oil produced in our land. New year, new achievements for the Cambodian economy from the beginning of 2021 onwards.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest and most sincere gratitude to all our compatriots who have actively participated in and supported the Royal Government's process of economic and social development all these times. I would like to offer blessing for all, Samdech Preah Sangharajas, Buddhist monks, Samdech, Excellencies, Lok Chumteavs, senior citizens, grandpas and

grandmas, and wish brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews all the bests of the four Buddha's blessings – longevity, beauty, happiness and strength./☐

Audio Message Covid-19 Outbreak in Thailand and Preventive Measures

(20 December 2020 — Extensive Excerpts and Unofficial Translation)

Today, I have an urgent message to our Buddhist monks and compatriots regarding the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic in the communities in the Kingdom of Thailand, where there have been 576 infected in one day, and in one area. This situation in Thailand is not serious compared to its more than 60 million population, but this incident has become a psychological problem causing fear to (Cambodian) workers, especially to the families of our workers who are working in Thailand.

May Workers Protect Themselves, Trust Measures of Thai Government

In such a situation, I would appeal to all workers who are working in Thailand to trust the Royal Government of Thailand in its efforts to manage this situation. As far as this pandemic is concerned, the Kingdom of Thailand has experience in managing it in the past. So far, Thailand has only 4,907 cases and only 60 deaths. It has done well to control Covid-19 pandemic. We hope that our workers in Thailand trust the handling capacity of the Thai Government and the relevant Thai authorities there. (Our workers) should not run away from Thailand when Thailand is in trouble, as I have said before, love each other in times of need, and we will know good friends in times of difficulty. We should stay on, on the one hand, to protect ourselves on the spot, with the necessary protection from the Royal Government of Thailand, providing the possibility of self-protection, and on the other hand, to avoid the return that could lead to imports

(of possible transmission) should there be into our country. This is an appeal to the workers living in Thailand.

Workers and Those Ready to Enter Thailand, Please Suspend Your Plans

I am taking this opportunity to appeal to parents, families, spouses or children, who have relatives working in Thailand, to encourage their children, husbands, brothers and sisters to continue their works. Keep our jobs there. Hope you will continue to work there with the Thai people. The Royal Government of Thailand is capable of solving difficult problems, and this has already happened, moving from one place to another is not good. So please do not rush to return to the country. In the meantime, some of you who need to enter Thailand legally or illegally, please delay. If you go in ... illegally, it will be more difficult, Thailand will send you back. If it is legal, you must take the 14 days quarantine. Samdech Krolahom Sar Kheng is also requesting the provinces and relevant authorities to work with the Thai side to take responsibility for our workers when entering Thai territory. That would include quarantines at the expense of the Thai side and benefits during illness as well. This is my appeal to the workers in Thailand, to the parents, as well as to the families of the workers and those who are preparing to enter Thailand. I am asking those who planned to enter Thailand illegally and legally to suspend them in such circumstances.

50 Million Riels/Province for Quarantines and Sample Taking Tasks

In addition, I have had discussions in the morning with the Ministry of Health, with Samdech Krolahom Sar Kheng, with relevant departments such as the National Defense division, the Commander-in-Chief, the Commander of the Royal Cambodian Army, and the Minister of National Defense to get their services ready to help with quarantines in the (Thai-Cambodian) border provinces.

Today, I also released 50 million riels per province for the provinces bordering (with Thailand) in addition to the budget released before. We will supplement so that the provinces along the border can afford to do the jobs of sheltering for quarantines. Under normal circumstances, it is not possible to enter the country without inspecting the specimens and conducting quarantines for 14 days at the border. On this point, those of you who are in Thailand, when they return, they cannot go inside the country immediately. They need to stay in quarantine at the border.

Troops to Transport Workers in Case of Overcrowding

In situations where the number of people is out of control, the army has to get out of the trucks to transport them to the rear. According to the information from the Commander-in-Chief of the Army as well as the Commander of the Royal Cambodian Army, the trucks will leave tonight to the three reserved entry points – O Smach, Dong and Poipet. About 70 trucks have to go there to be ready for transport in case of overcrowding at the border. We will not allow people traveling from Thailand to enter the country by taxi or in an uncontrolled process as it may lead to risks of infecting communities that we do not know. Therefore, the army will be responsible for transporting them, including providing them with supplies, and cooperate with the provinces along the border, the police force, as well as the military police working along these three border crossings.

Border Crossing Points Reduced to Just Three

[...] We have experiences. Our border crossings are many, so we should follow the experience we had in April (on the occasion) of the Khmer New Year. Reduce (the number of) all border checkpoints to only three with the agreements of the relevant provinces, the army and the border police, especially the immigration police. Reduc-

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)
ing those ports to three – O Smach, Dong and Poipet, makes it easier to manage and transport them. The trucks leave tonight and tomorrow will reach the destination to wait for the jobs. This work also needs to have an agreement with the Thai side. The provinces along the border with Thailand work (with) the Thai side to determine the ports and explain the Thai side (about the need to have the Cambodian workers) traveling to/through the three ports. This is easy to manage, control and easy to transport back to their homes in case of need to transport to the rear.

Provinces in the Rear Set up Quarantine Places

I suggest that the Ministry of National Defense, the Ministry of Interior, which govern these armed forces, to unite, especially the border police, the military police, to temporarily reduce the number of entrances to the three main ones so that we can transport them in case (there are) more people than the quarantine capacity at the border. At the same time, in the case of (some who came through) other corridors, it is also necessary to send them for quarantines in relevant provinces other than these three areas [...]

For provinces in the rear, as in the past, the locations of quarantine must be properly set up and we have already provided a budget for the jobs. Therefore, it is necessary to prepare immediately with the rear provinces to be ready to receive them as (the military trucks) will transport from the front to the villages of destination, and the village (local authorities) must pay attention to the management/control of each family as it used to.

Living with the 60 million Thais in This Situation

The experience in April has given us the good results and we should do it accordingly now. More than 120,000 people at that time did not bring in any infectious cases from Thailand to Cambodia due to good cooperation from the family. (At that

time, some had even written) sign (in front) of the house, saying – “we have children returning from Thailand. Please do not visit us.” There were also many other ways. (Prepare to organize) location of quarantine in the villages/communes with food supply – (all efforts) to avoid uncontrollable community transmission in our country. Therefore, it is important to call on the workers working in Thailand to trust the handling capacity of the Thai government as well as the relevant parties there. More than 60 million Thais can be in Thailand, so we can also be with the Thai people in this situation. In case you come into the country, you also need to be in quarantine. If not in the provinces at the border, you must also be in quarantine at the rear and have to take a sample to find out if there is, or there is no infection.

Fabric Masks Released

On this occasion, I would instruct the Ministry of Health, in addition to the fund provided this morning, to release more fabric masks to the provinces along the border and to the three reserved entry points. I have not yet determined the amount. Relevant parties may discuss because there would be different needs. For the three main entry points – O Smach, Dong and Poipet, we must provide them with a large number of masks. Once they are there, we have masks for them to put on. Of course, they would come with masks already but sometimes those masks are not for them to use for long time. That is why we need to use fabric masks that we can use it more than one and for two or three months. Each person gets two masks. While one washed, s/he can wear another one changeably. So let us implement it. I hope that we will overcome the difficulties and cooperate with our Thai friends to do this work well to avoid community spreading.

Do Not Export Pandemic to Neighboring Countries, Do Not Import It too

We have governed situation

well around our country – with the Kingdom of Thailand, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Lao People’s Democratic Republic. We do not export disease to these countries, and these countries do not bring disease into Cambodia. We did a good job with these three neighbors. We will continue to do this work with our three friends that are bordering with us. With (November-28 community pandemic outbreak gradually under) control as there have been no new infections in the last three days, and I had hoped that we will reach a new stage, (suddenly) a new situation has arrived – an outbreak in Thailand (and with possible return of Cambodian workers in large number) that could spread to Cambodia. In this early stage, it is the spread of psychological fears. Our real disease right now is fear. Of course, I used to say that we must be afraid, not be brave (for this disease), but to be overly fearful will become a problem. It becomes a shock and a panic. Covid-19 is fearful, but we must not shock and panic.

At the Border and At the Rear, Samples Taken and Quarantine for 14 Days

We hope that our people will take part in implementing the measures taken by the Royal Government and the new measures in response to the spread of Covid-19 that has spread to the community in Thailand within this one day. It leads to unstable psychological factors that are emerging in our country. (We must be) prepared. Considering it will happen is better than leaving it ignored. Therefore, the army must reserve and send out about 70 trucks. If necessary ... mobilize immediately and the Ministry of Health must monitor and dispatch teams of doctors to take samples at designated places and those quarantined at the corridor. It is not enough to have quarantine alone. It requires a sample taking and examining. Within 14 days, if there is no problem, we allow them to leave. At the border and at the rear as well, take a sample and quarantine for 14 days. If

we fail to do so, there will be a higher risk of transmission into community. I thank you all, my compatriots./■

Sharing Opinion on Covid-19 Vaccines

(08 December 2020 — Extensive Excerpts and Unofficial Translation)

Tomorrow, there will be a meeting chaired by (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance) HE Aun Porn Moniroth, via video conference because HE Aun Porn Moniroth is in quarantine, with the Ministry of Health on the purchase and search for vaccines for our people. At the initial stage, we decided to buy one million doses of vaccine. We are not sure from which country to buy it yet. We need to discuss (this issue) and (figure out how to) seek for more helps.

The estimated one million doses can only inject 500,000 people. Therefore, we must give priority to those (who have the need) to get the jabs first. I just suggest that in this one million doses of vaccine, the first persons to be vaccinated would be the doctors/physicians/nurses ... because they are at risk at the forefront. Next, we needed to give the jabs to about 120,000 teachers, to the armed forces, including the army, the military police, the police, the prison officials, whose duties are at high risks. In need of intervention of any kind, we would call on this force. Should they be not vaccinated, these people are in danger. Therefore, the police force, the army, the military, the prison guards must be among the first to receive it. In addition, also necessary are justice officials, such as forestry, fisheries, and the environment, who also have to go out to perform their duties.

So (we) have to give people in those groups vaccines. Roughly, it would already take about nearly 400,000 doses. We would have left about 100,000 doses. We will have to check on this and figure out what to do according to the reality [...]

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

On that again, I reiterate that the doctors must be the first to get it, because otherwise, how to use the doctor without being protective. The teachers must teach the students, they must be protected. Then there are the armed forces, such as the police, who have to go on missions protecting the people, safeguarding and controlling traffic and so on. The army and military police will also be necessary. The other forces, such as the judicial police, including those in forestry, fisheries, the environment, and the other divisions (are among the prioritized groups to get the jabs). Court officials, judges, prosecutors and lawyers should also get it because they have to go meet clients and carry out trial sessions. They can also be at risk.

These are my comments on some of the issues relating to the discussion on prioritizing the vaccination of the first 500,000 people. Roughly, based on this thought, we would already use about 400,000 doses. The remaining 100,000 doses will be in the Ministry's decision as to whom they should be given.

In the next phase, we will go to the second stage concerning a request for assistance or additional purchases. We will continue to figure out which area will receive first and which area will be next. The next target may be students in both public and private universities, and those who study at vocational training schools or towards construction workers or other workers in general working in cities and towns.

We think (about these people) at a later stage as we target areas where there is risk and who is at risk. Those at risk are older patients. I do not know yet whether (it is possible) to inject children [...] If we also inject children, we will have to cover the cost of vaccines for up to 16 million people. According to my estimates, (excluding children) about 10 million full-grown people should be vaccinated.

[...] We need to look carefully at the way forward. This vaccine case is something that we need to discuss and resolve. Lok Chumteav Youk Sambath (Secretary of State for Health) reported to me about the construction of a warehouse for storage. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance, HE Aun Pom Moniroth, already approved the storage warehouse, where we can keep it 80 degrees below zero. (We can store them) also at 40 degrees or 30 degrees or any degrees needed, but the maximum level could reach as low as 80 degrees below zero. Storage facility is not too difficult problem to solve.

Please accelerate construction because by the time that we determined from where/whom to order, the arrival of vaccines would be in time for the storage facility to accommodate it [...] ■

Preventive Measures on Covid-19 Pandemic

(24 October 2020 — Extensive Excerpts and Unofficial Translation)

Agree to Revealing Identity of Covid-19 Positive and Those in Quarantines

This is a message to the leaders at all levels, the monks, and dear compatriots!

A moment ago, I agreed to the inter-ministerial proposal led by the Minister of Health on a number of issues. The first is the issue of revealing identities of those tested Covid-19 positive. It is now the time to do it. The November 28 community event has not yet set the light from where the pandemic occurred. Although the technical team has made it clear that it is not relating to the case of November 3, but darkness continues since we have not yet been able to get to the source of it — who was the patient zero and who got it from her/him. Therefore, it is necessary to publish the photo as well as the name, address, personal identity of the person tested positive Covid-19 so that our people know. If anyone has any connection with

that name, please show up immediately for samples taking and place oneself in isolation. Otherwise, the situation will be difficult to salvage.

Revealing Individuality Was to Avoid Proliferation of Infection

Today, we found six other people infected in the cluster of those involved and those with ties to Chhem Savuth and his family. Therefore, in order to avoid spreading, the fastest option is when someone is Covid-19 positive we must share his/her personal identifiable information to the public. Some people may raise privacy issues here. I can confirm that the event on November 3, we also spread the word about those who are relevant and positive and those who need to be in quarantine, including myself, and my wife. Now, we have already shared information with the public on those who have been involved in the event and needed to be in quarantines, including the President of the National Assembly, Samdech Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, his family, and other members of the National Assembly, Deputy Prime Minister Samdech Krala Hom, His Excellency Aun Pom Moniroth, and some other ministers.

Ministry of Health to Reveal List of Covid-19 Positive Persons

For those who are positive, even if we do not share, the media has already run their stories. It is better for the Ministry of Health to reveal the list directly to professionally responsible press with wider information accessibility to others for their verification. In case of contact with those infected with Covid-19, both old and new, it is necessary to show up for sampling and placing in quarantines to avoid further transmission to family and friends. Now is the time to seek the right to life, not the right to be secretive about the public health of society as a whole. I hope this interpretation is reasonable for our people, especially those with Covid-19 needed to be tolerant of this

problem.

Technicians/Business People from Abroad to Quarantine 14 Days

Secondly, previously, we did the right thing to oblige a 14 days quarantine for foreigners — technicians and business people, but later, in order to accelerate the survival of the economy, we let them wait only two days after the test proved negative and allow them go to work with a guarantee from the concerned ministry and companies. This involves the socio-economic (activities) need. However, in a situation that we have not yet found where the head or tail is, we have to suspend the mechanism temporarily — changing the 14 days quarantine to only two days — for the technicians and businesspersons coming to inspect the factory for a short time. This is a high risk for our country. If we continue to leave it that way. I have agreed to suspend the process of short-term quarantines [...] but we have to allow a seven-day notice, starting from December 5 tomorrow, so that companies have enough time to notify their employees. (The seven day notice is to) avoid acting immediately leading to difficulties for those passengers and let them make a clear decision before arrival that they will face a 14 days quarantine.

We need to make some economic sacrifices for the survival of our citizens. The health of our citizens is more important. Therefore, I would like to ask for understanding from companies that have businesses in Cambodia or Cambodian companies that need outside technicians to go through short-term quarantines and leave (for works). Such a situation would put Cambodia at a higher risk of infecting the community, as we were not sure if they were infected after a negative test [...]

The situation on November 28, which is a community transmission situation, as predicted by technicians as well as myself, can be caused by inadequate quarantines of foreigners [...] ■