

## Inaugurating the China Built Hospital in Tbong Khmum and Kosomak Hospital Buildings in Phnom Penh

(07 March 2022 and 21 March — Excerpts and Unofficial Translations)



### The Largest, Most Modern Among Hospitals in Provinces

I am happy to join His Excellency Wang Wentian, as well as His Excellency, Lok Chumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen, as well as my compatriots to inaugurate the largest and most modern hospital in provincial level in the Kingdom of Cambodia. We have received a new achievement that is the result of the friendly relations and solidarity between Cambodia and China previously built by His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk with the former Chinese leaders. It takes place in a time when Cambodia and China have reached the point of expanding their comprehensive strategic partnership and steel friendship, as well as the Cambodian-Chinese community of common destiny.

The achievements that we see here are unprecedented in the territory of this province, which is a huge facility for serving the well-being of the people. This hospital has been our goal in the past. When we submitted a proposal to the People's Republic of China to build this hospital, we explained to our Chinese friends that this hospital would sit in Tbong Khmum, a location not only serve the people in

Tbong Khmum, but also part of Prey Veng, Kratie, Stung Treng, Ratanakkiri and Monduliri provinces [...]

I would like to point out that during the Covid-19 phase, some countries lacked oxygen to supply patients. Please be informed that this Cambodia-China Friendship Hospital Tbong Khmum has its own oxygen production facility, which can supply not only for the hospital here, but also to other referral hospitals in Tbong Khmum province or nearby provinces as well. This is just to show and remind you all that this hospital can also provide the most valuable and hard to find in time of need products for health [...] during the Covid-19 phase, we set up oxygen production facilities in many provinces and in many hospitals. Today we have this sophisticated hospital and I hope it will serve our people well for their well-being [...]

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Samdech Krala Hom Sar Kheng, Chairman of the Tbong Khmum Urban Development Steering Committee, a newly formed province, which from

(Continued on page 2)

## NR 3—Phnom Penh's Roundabout at Chaom Chao to Kompot City Opened

(02 March 2022 — Excerpts and Unofficial Translation)

### NR 3 – a New Achievement of Cambodia-China Compre- hensive Strategic Partnership

*His Excellency Wang Wentian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Kingdom of Cambodia, Excellencies, Ladies and Compatriots!*

Today, we gather for the official inauguration of the 134.806 Kilometers National Road 3, which connects Phnom Penh with Kompot. This road runs through five provinces – Phnom Penh, Kandal, Kampong Speu, Takeo and Kompot. This indicates another new achievement born in the relationship between Cambodia and China, within the framework of a comprehensive strategic partnership, a friendship as strong as steel, and the common destiny of Cambodia and China. I still remember that on May 7, 2018, along with former Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Xiong Bo, I presided over the groundbreaking ceremony to build this road, connecting our country from north to the south and between cities on Cambodia's coastal provinces. At the end of 2021 and the beginning of 2022, as the country reopened after the slight relief of Covid-19, we have inaugurated and launched the groundbreaking of more sites (built) with the assistance provided by (friendly countries), People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, and Japan. Today we inaugurate the road here, and next week His Excellency Wang Wentian and I will jointly inaugurate a large hospital in Tbong Khmum province. These are the results of Cambodia's cooperation with all countries, and especial-

ly with the People's Republic of China.

### National Road 3 Distributes Salt to Markets across the Country

HE Sun Chanthol just made a report on the technical characteristics and HE Wang Wentian made an impression on the development of Cambodia. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you so that we can understand our efforts of such connectivity [...] as HE Sun Chanthol reported, we have already rebuilt this road once

(Continued on page 6)

## Agricultural, For- estry and Fisheries Annual Review

(23 March 2022 — Excerpts and Unofficial Translation)

### [Start of Elaboration]

I would like to make this point the core of my order today relating to fishing. First of all, I would like to commend the efforts of the leaders of various institutions as well as the provincial authorities on the Tonle Sap Lake, led by His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister Chea Sophara, who have made efforts (to protect our Tonle Sap Lake resources). The Tonle Sap Lake had reduced its size, more than 60,000 hectares smaller. That is why I keep asking what you, the governors of the provinces around the Tonle Sap Lake, are doing? Why do you governors let cutting down the flooded forest continue none stop?

If we do not take measures to

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 1)

then until now has emerged as a city of Tbong Khmum with many other achievements, including high school [...]

Through His Excellency Wang Wentian, let me convey my gratitude, on behalf of the people of Cambodia as a whole and Tbong Khmum and adjacent provinces in particular, to His Excellency President Xi Jinping as well as His Excellency Premier Li Keqiang for the hospital's direct attention. President Xi Jinping, as well as Prime Minister Li Keqiang, have made this achievement possible. Another achievement scheduled for inauguration also in this March, though we have not yet decided on it yet because of other uncertain schedules, will be the Cambodia-China Friendship Hospital Preah Kosamak, which we previously planned to inaugurate on March 28. Due to uncertain schedules of the special ASEAN-US meeting, we will decide in the inaugural date as it comes [...]

### **China Builds Two Hospitals worth More Than 100 M US Dollars**

What I mentioned is to relate to another China built hospital. These two hospitals alone cost more than 100 million US dollars – which is a grant from the People's Republic of China. We have made tremendous efforts to enhance the well-being of our people and through the Cambodia's health sector. Cambodia has taken responsible steps on the well-being of our people. I would not deny the insult that the Cambodian health system is weak because it is true that we are weak in terms of technical equipment, but our morale is not weak.

For example, the fight with Covid-19, how many people in the world would believe that Cambodia could win the pandemic. Cambodia recognizes itself as lacking, but with the conscience and responsibility of our medical team, with the help of development partners, including the People's Republic of China, it has made Cambodia one of the least damaged coun-

tries in the world, compared with countries with advanced technology. The key here is not to have over-reliance on technical equipment. We needed the technical equipment, but the bigger problem is the professional conscience of responsible doctors.

### **Cambodia Eradicated Polio, Promotes Health Cooperation with Neighbors**

We used to go through the hardships left by the bitter past of the Pol Pot regime. Our people are in danger after the Pol Pot regime, and they left us with a long and difficult conflict. However, we are constantly rising and moving forward. Cambodia has successfully put a stop to polio ahead of schedule. In the past, as we set a goal of getting rid of polio, if I am not mistaken, by 2000, we had one major concern. The concern was that our country still had two partitions and two governments after UNTAC – United Nations Transitional Authority withdrew from Cambodia [...] the war continues. What we needed to think about then was whether we could afford to vaccinate children in the Khmer Rouge area. It was fortunate that our win-win policy implemented from 1996 to 1998 allowed us to end polio [...] and since 2000, Cambodia has been free of polio [...]

In the course of negotiations with neighboring countries such as Thailand, Vietnam and Laos, I never forget to mention to them that in case the Cambodian side has a difficult time (to provide access to its people along the border), friends should help give them vaccines [...] not only the polio vaccine, but other vaccines as well. If people live across the border and they travel long distances back inside the country, it is difficult. If they cross to Vietnam, to Thailand or somewhere, some cross to Laos, it is closer. We would carry out the same approach – allowing access to people who are closer to health and medical service for each other [...]

### **Eliminate Malaria by 2025,**

### **Life Expectancy Reaches 70 from 56 in 1998**

We are now working on a number of plans, including a complete malaria eradication plan by 2025, in which our partners, including the People's Republic of China, are actively involved in eradicating malaria. Not only with Cambodia, this cooperation is between the Mekong and Lancang countries as along the Mekong River, presence of malaria is very high. In the Mekong-Lancang program, the first meeting in China, the second meeting in Cambodia, and the third meeting in Laos focused on malaria eradication. Our other partners have also joined us to eradicate malaria by 2025 [...]

I would like to inform our people that in 1998, the average life expectancy at that time was only 56 years. Now, the life expectancy of the people is more than 70 years. It is thought that some may die in 60 years, some in 55 years, but some die in their 80 years of age, some die in their 90 years of age, so in total now more than 70 years in Cambodia. That is what we have achieved in term of life expectancy as benefit from peace and development [...]

### **New Tbong Khmum Province Helps on Health, Administration and Judiciary**

Our concern in the past was that we thought that in the east of the Mekong River like Tbong Khmum province and our northeast, which includes Kratie, Ratanakkiri, Mondulkiri, Stung Treng, what we could do to address the need for health services. Now, when we reorganize the provinces, we divided Kampong Cham to two provinces – one is Kompong Cham itself and another in Tbong Khmum province. It has proved solving many problems, not just the health sector alone, even the administration or the judiciary [...] in Tbong Khmum, there is now a court of appeal. Earlier, after the Provincial Court, people had to go to Phnom Penh for appeal. People have to travel a long way. Each lawsuit costs a lot of money.

(That is why I urge people to) find a solution outside the court system. Later, we reformed the judiciary by setting up regional appeal courts and we have chosen to have one in Tbong Khmum to serve justice [...]

### **China Will Continue to Help Cambodia Fight against Covid-19**

We are fighting a new war, Covid-19. We fought for two years already. A moment ago, HE Wang Wentian said in his sentence and I quote, *“as long as the epidemic of Covid-19 in Cambodia does not end, China's assistance to Cambodia in the fight against Covid-19 does not stop.”* This is good news. This means that our Chinese friends will continue to help us in the fight against Covid-19. No matter where I go, I continue to call on our people to take care of their personal health in connection with the Covid-19. Currently, in Cambodia we are in a time that Omicron invaded us.

Alpha, Delta may still have some, but very few, but Omicron is more [...] Omicron is highly contagious but less lethal. However, we may not have known fully yet about the consequences that come with it later? Scientist have determined yet how long it will take to get out of the Omicron. It is better that we continue to practice the “3 Dos and 3 Don'ts” protections measures. We must continue the booster dose. I thank our people across the country who, in a short time, have brought their children aged between 3 and 4-year-olds for injection. We have now injected about 36 percent of more than 610,000 children [...]

### **Vaccines Are for Economy or to Run Economic Activities**

Please continue to work together to get vaccination. We have now reached almost 7.5 million people vaccinated with booster doses. This requires time. There is an interval from the basic dose to the booster dose [...] as for those who injected 4 doses, we have recorded about one

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

million people already [...] that is the only option we have. I use a definition that vaccine is economical. Why do I say vaccines are economics? If we did not vaccinate this year, we might not be able to celebrate New Year. Not only we could not celebrate the New Year, people died. This year, the New Year is still going on, because now, like yesterday, Saturday, Sunday, two days only and there are 190,000 tourists. Well, we continue in the process of vaccination, vaccines are economical now.

Without vaccination, community immunity does not exist. If it does not exist, how can we reopen the economy? How to communicate? Do foreigners dare to enter? Last night, for the first time in months, a commercial aircraft landed in Sihanoukville. For a while now, it was only in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap. Last night there was a welcoming landing in Sihanoukville, and there would be more flights to come. That would enable economic recovery. Although tourism is not yet at its former peak, traveling to Cambodia to invest is easy. In Cambodia, there is no requirement to go into quarantines. Those fully vaccinated would just go through rapid test, which after proving negative (of Covid-19), s/he can just go wherever they need to [...]

#### **Expired Vaccines Not Allowed**

We hope the People's Republic of China will continue to provide vaccines and some development partners plan to ship it in this March. It has been a few days in March now. They have reported to me (that those vaccines are) from Europe. We do not know yet when they would arrive. I heard that its expiration is at the end of March. What should we receive them for if they expire in late March? I would like to affirm that even if Cambodia were to have no vaccines [...] I would not allow vaccination of expired vaccines [...] that needs discussing again. When concerned institutions asked for my advice, it

was in February. It is now March 7. Tomorrow (March 8) (Women's Day) [...]

#### **Building More Facilities for New Generations**

Today, by seeing the work we do here, we have greatly reduced the hardships of the people. I keep saying the same thing: "The hospital is clean, but there must be good service so that the patients recover faster." We have to work hard to ensure that our team of doctors are working effectively [...] our roads (here) are far bigger than those roads in Phnom Penh because we have planned for future development. The previous generation builds achievements for the next generation. We have done it. Now we build all the achievements for the next generation, while the next generation will continue to build for their next generation, and we must ensure that war will never happen to destroy them again [...]

#### **Cosponsoring Resolution of Emergency Special Session of the UNGA on Ukraine**

HE Wang Wentian raised the issue of Ukraine. I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm and inform the people. I still remember that (morning) when we inaugurated National Road 3, I spoke on two major principles in Cambodia's decision: *First, we do not encourage the separation of states. Second, we do not support or oppose the use of force or the threat of force, and we call for negotiations because we do not think war can end war.* We have been monitoring the situation closely. We see that this war is moving forward. That is why Cambodia decided to join the cosponsoring of the Resolution of the Emergency Special Session of the UNGA on the situation in Ukraine. I issued the order only three and a half hours before the vote. We cannot ignore the large-scale offensive from one country to another. Cambodia has to adopt a certain attitude. This is not about who lobbied us, it is about a sovereign state principle regarding decisions related to whether or not to sup-

port it.

#### **Russia-Ukraine War: "For Talks to Start, Ceasefire Is to Begin with"**

The war continued to escalate. I told Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, HE Prak Sokhon, to have an urgent discussion with our ASEAN partners, calling for a ceasefire. I do not believe that Russia can win the war in Ukraine [...] and Ukraine cannot kill all Russian troops on Ukrainian territory [...] the best option is to negotiate. For negotiations to start, they must begin with a ceasefire. Russia, of course, and Ukraine have agreed on a ceasefire, but only for a short time [...] in the wake of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' statement, we call for a ceasefire and, at the very least, a truce. The term we have used in the ASEAN Declaration is only for ceasefire.

What I mean was the "ceasefire" that forces involved stayed where they are, but stop the firing to reduce the disaster for the people and start negotiations. I agree with His Excellency Wang Wentian on the one hand that there has to be a negotiation between Russia and Ukraine to resolve the bilateral dispute, and on the other hand, a negotiation between NATO and Europe with Russia on Russia's relevant concerns over its security. Only this option can make the world return to detent.

#### **Cambodia Does Not Encourage Further Conflict**

I urge the people not to go so far as to volunteer to join Ukraine as some in other countries do. I do not give the opportunity to go, because first, there is nothing to transport and second, do not pour gasoline on the fire. The fire is burning. If there is a fire, put out the fire. Do not ignite in the way that some Cambodians are volunteering to fight in Ukraine. This is just an empty encouragement. Ukraine, they would not allow us to join their army [...] we do not have the ability to do that. Do not go so far as to call for troops to help fight on Ukrainian soil. I

do not want (the Cambodian people) to die on the territory of Ukraine. The Constitution of Cambodia (Article 53) prohibits sending forces to outside the country or from outside the country to station within the country [...] except under the auspices of the United Nations.

This is the time to find a solution or otherwise the world may be more chaotic. The world will be agitated by a serious economic crisis. Covid-19 caused by Omicron is one thing, but economy will decline due to [...] the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Frankly, the Russian attack on Ukraine is something we do not want. We also explained to our Russian friends why we had to adopt such an attitude and we did not encourage further conflict. The negotiation needs happen to avoid death and focus on the mutual reasonableness that is acceptable in a long term [...]

#### **Ukraine Called for Peace after Loss of Human Rights, Democracy and Deaths**

What caught the attention of our local political circles and journalists these days is when the President of Ukraine said – "Now Ukraine's top priority is peace." Our analysts and our commentators say that in Cambodia, (Peace has always had the) top priority attention. It is now time for the war-torn country to shout for peace. In the past, they did not shout for peace, they only shouted for democracy and human rights. Now, human rights are gone, democracy is gone and people are dead. As for us here, we focus on peace as our top priority. Why? To guarantee the right to life, and if the right to life guaranteed, the right to freedom of expression, democracy and human rights are guaranteed. If dead, what else guarantee could there be? These are what the commentators elaborated when the President of Ukraine said that the country's top priority now is peace.

Cambodia has focused on peace for more than 20 years now. In fact, we have been

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3) working for more than 40 years for this peace alone. Can we let a group of people destroy our peace? Now the reality is happening in Ukraine, in Iraq, in Syria, in Libya, in Yemen. Now it is happening in Europe. European countries, although not yet under attack, are now focusing on security and peace in the continent. Well, I hope that outsiders who see the importance of politics giving top priority to peace must also understand us, because there is no need for war to happen to call for peace. If there is a war and if it erupts (in Cambodia), this time there will probably be no Hun Sen to launch the win-win policy for a second time [...]

That is why Cambodia attaches the highest priority to peace. It is that regard that I always remind people of the need to maintain peace, political stability, and macroeconomic stability. Hold on to them firmly. With those ensured, Cambodia is moving forward [...].

## **Cambodia-China Friendship Preah Kosomak Hospital Buildings, Phnom Penh 21 March 2022**

### **New Fruits of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and Steel Friendship Relations**

Today, I am very happy to join His Excellency Wang Wentian, with His Excellency, Lok Chumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen, especially our doctors here to inaugurate the Cambodia-China Friendship Hospital Preah Kosomak building. HE Mam Bunheng has already made a report and Ambassador HE Wang Wentian gave a highlight regarding the construction of this great achievement. I remember that we had made many proposals for this achievement, and in one of my trips to Beijing to participate in the Belt and Road Forum, we signed in Beijing regarding the construction (of Cambodia-China Hospital Preah Kosomak). Today, this achievement happened representing the fruit

of Cambodia-China relations, promoted to strategic partnership in all aspects and the renowned steel friend. Everything happened today started from the cooperation, trust and mutual help from the People's Republic of China to our country.

I am very pleased to see that – if we were to count from day that we inaugurated the Cambodia-China Tpong Khmum Hospital – today, only a few days in between, we inaugurated this hospital (Cambodia-China Preah Kosomak). The Cambodian-Chinese hospital in Tpong Khmum is about US\$ 50 million. This hospital (Cambodia-China Preah Kosomak) is about US\$ 85 million. This is a huge help in the health sector for us to meet the welfare needs of our people. I still remember that in 1967 I came to this hospital, not to hospitalize myself. At that time, it was called a Buddhist Monk Hospital. My teacher, (a Buddhist monk) was ill. We came to sleep with and to take care of and serve the monks at that time. From 1967 until now, it has been almost 60 years. I have come again today, this time as Prime Minister. The life of a pagoda boy who used to come and rest here. The hospital is not far from Neakavorn pagoda [...]

### **Ministry of Health Should Consider Allowing Legal Organ Transplants**

Now, this hospital has become one of the largest hospitals in our city of Phnom Penh, with many departments, including department for organ transplants. Every time there is a need for one, people go abroad. I should say a little bit, in fact, Cambodia is able to work (on organ transplants) [...] when you need a transplant, you have to go abroad [...] in terms of capabilities, our experts can do that in (the country) since 2010. We already have this expertise at Preah Keto Mealea Hospital or the Army hospital, but we do not advertise. Some of our brothers/sisters are going abroad for transplants and they cost a lot of money. Well, I do not know what to do next. Although we do not allow them to

go for local transplants, people went for them abroad. On this note, should we solve this problem in our country by giving it the possibility to become legitimate (or what)? Please consider this issue. In the past, there were foreigners who came to our country for kidney transplants [...]

However, we do not allow for organic trafficking. Example: In order for it to be compatible between the recipient and the giver, it must have the same blood type [...] they had to find them among family members, for example, donation from your brother or nephew, uncle or other people who volunteer to give. Doing this legally can keep people alive [...] Chinese doctors came here and helped us, and our Cambodian doctors were able to do it [...] we just did not speak about it [...] I have supported many people. I think about 10 people whom I have helped to go abroad for kidney transplants. This hospital, in addition to kidney transplants, can also perform liver transplants. People do not die easily. I am still very strong though in liver, gall bladder, lungs and everything [...]

### **Postponed Projects Launched after Covid-19 Disease under Control**

[...] Let me tell you a little bit, in 1982, if you look at the Bangkok Post, they wrote Mr. Hun Sen is a rising star. The later generation, they said that Mr. Hun Sen is a strong man. I think in a little while I would be called a man of iron bones and copper skin. Last night, I was busy until after 12 o'clock [...] yesterday, I received the Prime Minister of Japan, who will leave this morning. This morning I have to come to this place. This evening I have to meet with the officials in charge of the decentralization and de-concentration system. For the day after tomorrow, we will have the inauguration of national road 21. Now we owe a lot of programs, but we must do what we owe and are happy to do. In the Covid-19 phase, in the past we had a number of achievements, not yet inaugurated. We

have to spend time to launch some of the programs/events postponed because of Covid-19 disease and after it is now under control [...]

### **Cambodia Accepts Vaccines from All Sources**

[...] Increasing our capacity/expertise is essential, in addition to the professional and ethical values of physicians, who must do their best for the well-being of our people. On the 18 March 2022, as HE Wang Wentian mentioned, I had a telephone conversation with President Xi Jinping (of the People's Republic of China), in which we raised a lot of cooperation between Cambodia and China. At one point, I would like to reiterate that China has promised to give Cambodia up to 20 million doses of the Covid-19 vaccine. Of the 20 million doses, five million doses will arrive in Cambodia by the end of this month. This allows us to make further efforts. In military conception, the army commander has gotten weapons and ammunition in his hand to protect the people. We are struggling with this deadly disease, which Cambodia is now moving to a level that one can consider a country that has moved faster on managing Covid-19 in a timely manner in the region or in the world.

Of course, the Covid-19 is not over yet. We are not declaring victory. We only won small battles. We have not yet won the war against Covid-19. Winning a battle and winning a war mean different things. We used to win over the Delta battle and the Alpha battle, but we have not yet won the Covid-19 war. We are now fighting the Omicron war – some say it is the so-called modern disease war. We do not know yet what mutation is going to come after Omicron. People can question why Mr. Hun Sen is greedy. Cambodia has gotten in the warehouse some five million to six million doses of vaccines already [...] but soon, there will be another five million doses coming, and Italy could be sending one million doses and Poland also

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 8)  
for about 4 to 5 hours about the cancellation of the (100) year old fishing lot.

I remember that it was about 2012 that we canceled (private fishing lot). Let the national television play again so that people know why I canceled the fishing lot. Now, that some perpetrated fishing issues with loose crackdown measures, some suggested private control and that would recur suffering on our farmers [...]

*Dispute between the owner of the fishing lot and the dry season rice farmers, where the owners of the fishing lots need to drain the water to catch fish, and the people need to keep the water for dry season rice is not too simple. Some scholars do not understand the problem. Why did I have to cancel the*

(Continued from page 4)  
could be sending another one million doses.

As long as you send over to Cambodia, we accept all of them. Do not ever say that Mr. Hun Sen is selfish. If they give us vaccines, we take them. We have already taken our share of ASEAN vaccine. Previously, we thought we would give our share to Myanmar, but the share was Pfizer vaccine. We could not ship it to Myanmar. We just kept it in our warehouse. Myanmar, however, does not lack vaccine either. Myanmar now has a vaccine production in the country. Today, HE Prak Sokhon, as the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair, will travel to Myanmar to find ways to mediate the situation, including providing humanitarian assistance in Myanmar [...]

We should prepare a rolling vaccination plan through our available statistical data so that we can manage the time when certain kids can get vaccination locally. If we make such a rolling plan, children who turn three years old will get vaccination [...] prepare the plan and get the vaccine ready at the grassroots when the children are old enough to be vaccinated in the community [...] and let us

*fishing lot created some 100 years ago?*

We revoked King Sisowath's royal decree from 1912 in 2012 [...] in some places the lot owners shoot to kill people. We cannot for the shortcomings in proper cracking down measures – allow private ownership of fishing lots again [...]

*We wanted our farmers to benefit, but now some beneficiaries do in some places and do not in some other places because of this group. Those (perpetrators) are not poor people [...]* when you talked about cracking down on fishing offenses, you can only crack down on small fishers, and/or small fishing boats operators.

You have not been able to catch yet boats that caught one/two tons of fishes at a time [...]. As

wait for no campaign launching [...] We have to act incessantly, as we do not know when the Covid-19 will be gone [...]

#### **Youngest, and then Longest-Serving, and Now Prime Minister till Not Interested**

Let me wrap up here. Any day is a day of speech. There will be another speech this afternoon. Tomorrow, I will receive the Pakistani Ambassador who will present the credential [...] I have been doing this job for more than 37 years. I have been working as Prime Minister since when people said I was the youngest Prime Minister in the world, and then the longest-serving Prime Minister in the world. I became Prime Minister at the age of 32 years old and foreign minister at the age of 27 years old [...]

I have already confirmed that I will be the Prime Minister until I stop wanting to do so. I still can swing golf far off [...] Let me also confirm about this misunderstanding caused by Facebook memories posting about double payment of salary for the months of March and April [...] it was a memory from the postings of a few years ago and it popped up at the time that caused misunderstanding[...]■

far as logging is concerned, it is the same. You may have cracked down on small-time forest criminals [...] but not the right loggers [...]

*We lost flooded forest on the one hand and the fish resource on the other. We must replant trees in the more than 60,000 hectares (that we have taken back from perpetrators) to protect the Tonle Sap Lake [...]* the leading force is the provincial governors.

Regardless of the provinces in the Tonle Sap region, we have transferred power to all provinces. The office of agriculture is under your power and [...] you do not need the Ministry [...]. Now, when you go back, make your own plan to crack down on fishing offenders. I think you have more than enough power. The issue is whether you know how to use that power or not [...]

[...] We have the names of the criminals sent to the provinces. The provinces reported that they fled. Two days later, one caught in Pursat. Siem Reap has not caught yet. At that time, (Governor Tia) Seiha was busy at an event in Kampong Som [...]

If we do not take thorough measures and fail to suppress it, the national interest will be lost due to these perpetrators. The efforts of the people and of the hard-working civil servants are sunk in the offenses of some officials, conspiring with the traders [...] fish farming must be raised, but we must also protect natural fish.

*We have not yet been able to deepen areas in the Tonle Sap Lake. We did it deeper in some places for mother fishes, but this year it may not be like last year because the water level is still a bit high. Last year, the area reserved mother fishes was shallow. We needed to study and check to make the place for mother fishes deeper [...]*

I make issuing this order a priority. Recommendations alone are not enough. I issue order because it has reached that stage already [...] that is your authori-

ty. When I raised the issue, you did it.

When I did not bring it up, you stayed idle [...] *people are benefiting from our abolition of fishing lots. We give those fishing lots to the people to form communities and areas that we need to protect. In the past, with fishing lots everywhere, we only received a few million dollars a year. When we offered it to people, the benefit is greater. However, the implementation has not been as we intended yet.*

Up to now, 10 years ago, in 2012, [...] *I was busy pushing – first, the old politics, new activities in the land sector. That requires young people to measure the land to own the people, and second, reform and eliminate fishing lots for the benefit of the people.*

Now that some merchants have created anarchy, some have brought back the thought of recreation of (fishing lots) for private protection on argument that they have the strength. What about the government forces, the army, the tens of thousands of police? If the fisheries department is not responsible, the military police force, if necessary, immediately release the soldiers to do so (crack down on illegal fishing). Mainly because we do not do it [...]

In each province, you have a way to organize your strength to do that. If the secret plan to catch those people gets out of the bag, (the perpetrator of the crime) would run and could not catch any fishes too [...]

Either they continue to carry out offenses or they face arrests. Sometimes we send out forces to stay (in the area around the lake) so that the perpetrators do not dare to do (fishing offenses). Sometimes, we pretended to take no actions, but in fact, we do have a plan.

Bring them to proper justice [...] *I reaffirm here that we must replant trees everywhere, especially the more than 60,000 hectares of (confiscated) land to make it become a flooded forest in the next few years to re-enrich the fish resources [...]*■

(Continued from page 1)

with the help and funding of the Republic of Korea. In order for Korea to help with this road, I remember that I was negotiating with His Excellency Roh Moo-hyun, former President of the Republic of Korea, at the Council of Ministers in Phnom Penh before he and I traveled to Siem Reap to launch the Angkor-Kyung Yu Exhibition. I insisted that he helped Cambodia with National Road 3, and what I stressed at the time was that the National Road 3 played a very important role because Kampot was the only province that produces salt. Therefore, the construction of National Road No. 3 will facilitate us in distributing salt easily and keeping price under control to provinces across the country [...] this is the point that attracted the attention of former Korean President Roh Moon-hyun [...]

### **Premier Li Keqiang Signed National Road 3 Financing on January 3, 2018**

For the road construction strategy from the 90s until the year 2000, we only think of building longer road. Our road at that time was only 11 meters wide with normal paving method. We soon see that the road capacity outstretched because the traffic on National Road 3 has grown tremendously. Therefore, along with this dilapidated road, we filed a request to the People's Republic of China to study the expansion of this road further. The Chinese side has agreed to provide financing for the expansion of the road connecting Phnom Penh with Kampot province [...] it was in January 2018, when His Excellency the Prime Minister of China, Li Keqiang came to Cambodia for the Lancang-Mekong Summit in Phnom Penh and official visit, we signed a financing agreement for this road [...]

### **Overpass Steers Pedestrians Clear of Accidents**

Just now, HE Sun Chanthol also reminded about the construction of an overpass for pedestrians and the owner of the market said that building (the

overpass for pedestrians) would take away the beauty of the market. I instructed in writing that we "must build it and if they disagreed, we could take the market back." That was to say in short. As the road is now 24 meters wide, cars passing could have problem with pedestrians, and accident would cause damages to the market too [...] we need to study if we needed to build more overpasses [...] to avoid accidents (for pedestrians) [...]

When we have (more than one) lanes like this, and we now have them in National Road 3, National Road 6, National Road 5 and National Road 1, we should allow high speed (driving) up to 100 kilometers per hour. We needed to identify which roads we would allow high speed driving though [...] as driving at a speed of 40 kilometers per hour would leave the traffic in congestion [...] for this road we have installed speed checking cameras ... on this road there are 10 cameras. If you drive too fast, they catch the speed and they issue and send the fine to the driver's house [...]

### **Roads Building Strategy Have Changed**

Our road building strategy has changed. In the 1980s, we tried to build the road as long as we could. That is why, brothers and sisters say that "continuous building road" [...] it means that we rebuild after we built because the road is too thin [...] we built cheaper road [...] one side was low quality and another was overloading, the road could not avoid damages. We needed to get this road rebuilt. According to previous calculations, the Chinese company will take up to 48 months to build the road. In reality, the Chinese company did it for 34 months only. Usually, the Chinese friend's habit is to put a long duration for the project implementation, but when it comes to actions, it takes a shorter period. Thanks to the dedication of a Chinese road and bridge corporation, the construction shortened from 48 months to 34 months stipulated to the contract.

I should point out that this road, in terms of its value, is worth up to US\$ 252 million, not US\$ 225 million because the contribution is up to 43 million dollars [...] even if we deduct 25 million USD as tax, this road is still more than what we projected [...]. From now on, our roads building strategy will be more expensive because we do not use the Macadam method anymore. We are building roads in asphalt concrete (AC – Asphalt Concrete) to ensure long-lasting quality [...]

### **To Build NR 41, 33 and 31 ... Hope Chinese Friends Help Connect Kampot & Veal Rinh**

At the same time, as mentioned by HE Wang Wentian as well as HE Sun Chanthol, we are working towards the ground-breaking for the constructions of National Road 41, National Road No. 33 and National Road No. 31, which are in the area of Kampot province, and which connects with Kampong Speu and Kep. For National Road 3, which connects Kampot to Veal Rinh, is also the subject of a study that I have proposed it a special consideration option. (There is a section of the) National Road No. 3 that does not last. Even digging (foundation) to a depth of 5 meters, the road still does not hold. The Korean built one did not last. The World Bank came and rebuilt it and it did not hold still. According to the new study, that section of the road will have to have its foundation deep down to 18 meters. It will be for a few kilometers. I hope that our Chinese friends will help solve this conundrum or our coastal corridor would be stuck at that place. National Road No. 3 will be the coastal corridor connecting the Kingdom of Thailand to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, starting from Koh Kong, passing through Sihanoukville, and Kampot into Vietnam, which is the only coastal corridor connecting the ASEAN region [...]

### **China Builds 29 Roads of 3,026 Kilometers Long, Nine Bridges of 8,565 Meters Long**

The achievements that have

been happening in Cambodia comes out of our cooperation with all development partners, especially with the People's Republic of China. Through His Excellency Wang Wentian, let me express my gratitude to the Chinese government and people of China, who have always provided financial support for our development. So far, China has helped with built roads of more than 3,000 kilometers – 29 roads with a length of 3,026 kilometers, to say in rounded numbers. There are three roads under construction with a length of 363 km, and nine major bridges completed, 8,565 meters in length. The remaining bridge is the one to cross the Bassac River, on the third city ring road – it is 996 meters long and worth 56 million US dollars [...]

I always say that we must have savings. For any project at all, grant projects, development-partner financing projects, etc., we must have a contribution budget. Without a contribution budget, we cannot have them happening. For example: National Road 1, a length of about ten Kilometers stretching from the base of the Monivong Bridge, the amount of Japanese money provided for the construction of that road is less than the amount that the Royal Government spent resolving project impacts. Now for the city's third ring road [...] the Royal Government has already released about US\$ 60 million already (for the impacts) [...]

### **Expropriation Law Implemented in Public Interest**

What happened in the past (regarding people's settlement along NR) was the fact that the authorities reserve understanding and let them live [...] when the time comes to rebuild and enlarge the road, we have to give them money in exchange for them to move out. For some places, such as the junction between National Road 6 and Skun connecting to Siem Reap, there have to be an evacuation of more than 4,000 families. They agreed to move out and accept the compensation. A few

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

families do not agree to move out. If they do not, the only option left is to implement the expropriation law. However, we may not use expropriation law for just about anything. (In order to use such a law) there must be a proper permission to implement the law, should there is a requirement in the public interest for our nation [...]

### **Two Days No Death of COVID-19, Death/Injured of Traffic Accidents Every Day**

Today, according to Samdech Krala Hom Sar Kheng's report, six people died and seven people injured yesterday in traffic accidents. In other words, as we recorded no deaths due to Covid-19 for two days in a row, [...] we still have deaths and injuries from traffic accidents every day. [...] am calling on our people to wear a helmet (in traveling) and a mask. In one's personal car, you may not need to wear a helmet, but a mask. Sometimes in a car, you do not need to wear a mask, but if you wear, it is better [...] as you know I just got out of quarantine few days ago. I think I had infected but fortunately, I did not.

(I urge our people to) ask for a booster dose. The current booster dose in the chart has just reached seven million people. People must continue to take the third dose. The fourth dose has already injected more than 1 million people [...]. We have more than seven million doses of vaccine (in stock) [...] and we will import another 8 million doses in the first half of the year to ensure that in our warehouse there are vaccines to be given to people, including children 3 years of age and older, and 5 years of age to receive the stimulus dose [...]

### **Cambodia Supports No Use of Force, Threat of Force from One Side against Another**

HE Wang Wentian wished and encouraged Cambodia to take over the rotating chair of ASEAN in 2022. **I would like to thank all actors who supported Cambodia as the chair**

**of ASEAN 2022 with constructive encouragement that will enable Cambodia to succeed, with the international community as well as ASEAN partners, in ensuring the success of settling concerned issues.** However, chairing ASEAN in 2022 is not easy. One thing is not over, while a new one has happened. As we are pushing for the COC (Code of Conduct) between ASEAN and China forward, (suddenly) the Myanmar issue arises. The issue of Myanmar is not over yet, now there is the issue of Russia and Ukraine, which, although geographically is far away, but required us to show our position.

On that day, I did not know that there was an armed clash in Ukraine. I am in discussions with the Prime Minister of Malaysia. I have made it clear to the Malaysian Prime Minister that Cambodia does not encourage the separation of states, as in the case of Kosovo, Cambodia does not recognize it.

**Any motivation for separatism, Cambodia does not participate. The Prime Minister of Malaysia, he has his views on neutrality. For me, I still hold the view that war cannot end war. Our position from beginning to end is not to support the use of force or the threat of using force from one side against the other.**

This is our official position. This is our desire, as I have delivered at the United Nations, at the Non-Aligned Movement, at the South-South Forum, that we do not encourage or we oppose the use of force or the threat of using force against the parties. **Another. At this point, one can understand the vision of Cambodia's foreign affairs.**

### **Russia-Ukraine Conflict Becomes Europeanized War with Russia**

The conflict from Russia's attack on Ukraine is becoming a Europeanized war with Russia. Why? Initially it was a Russian attack on Ukraine. This is what everyone has seen. However, where has the problem evolved

now? **European countries have handed over people to help fight in Ukraine, handed over weapons and fighter jets [...] if so, the war between Russia and Ukraine is no longer Russia-Ukraine war, but a Russia-Europe war [...]**

(In a guerrilla warfare, the opponent) force would overstretched thin (while forcing through into the other side). It would be very easy for guerrilla warfare to strike and cut off the moving thin force in many instances. **I think Ukraine is using this tactic. As Russia goes deeper, the Russian military force would stretch thinner. Russia cannot move all of its troops from Russia (into Ukraine). The war will last if Russia decides to keep troops in Ukraine. That will extend into a guerrilla war that will bleed both sides every day.**

We do not encourage provision of military assistance to any party. That is why it is difficult for us to take a stand. **If it were just a matter between Russia and Ukraine, it would be easy for us to take a stand. It has not evolved that way. It has now become an internationalization of war, or possibly Europeanization of war on Ukrainian territory,** by allowing citizens to enter the Ukrainian army and providing weapons, including fighter jets [...]

In this regard, **I am expressing my personal views, not the views of ASEAN. ASEAN has already issued a cautious statement calling for talks. It has not run out of opportunities yet. I still believe in negotiating with mutual assurances.** Even yesterday, HE Hor Namhong sent some information regarding the meeting between President Putin and the French President on three conditions for Russia. Thus, the dialogue between Russia and Ukraine, according to today's news, there is going to be a second round of talks. So the two of you can still negotiate.

**We encourage dialogue, not using a war to end the war [...] even if the president and prime minister flee the country, the people of Ukraine will**

**not agree. The guerrilla war will take place and there will be an unending war. Only dialogue to seek a solution that guarantees mutual benefits (will work).** I would like to emphasize that this is not the position of ASEAN. I speak on my own behalf, as Cambodia has learned enough lessons about the war. We have gone through difficulties only to learn that negotiations can solve this problem. I think it is difficult for both China and Cambodia to take a position, and it is difficult for ASEAN to take a position [...]

I have already stated from the beginning that **Cambodia, in the new international order, we oppose the use of force and the threat of using force against the other side is our position. We encourage dialogue for problem solving. I hope our friends on both sides will understand Cambodia's position taken in international forums. Please understand our position and refrain from forcing us to go to this or that side.** This is the point I want to make in short, because in the next few days there will be more problems. The Security Council has already met and today the UN General Assembly may vote or already voted.

We have been seeing impacts on the world today: rising oil prices, because Russia is also one of the largest oil producers in the world. **Now oil prices are rising. This is the impact of the Russian-Ukrainian war, which began to plague the Covid-19 strained world economy, adding by the burden of the war between Russia and Ukraine.**

Suffering from the Covid-19, **Cambodia's economy may have further impacts from the war (between) Russia and Ukraine and its escalation into a war between Europe and Russia through the provision of arms, aircraft, etc. We have seen the impact on the world as a whole and in particular on Cambodia is rising oil prices and will cause inflation in (some) countries**

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

due to higher oil prices.

Posted the Fresh News interview on my Facebook, someone commented that “Samdech! Why do you say a war cannot end another war? What happened in World War II, the United States dropped two (atomic bombs) on Japan to end the war.”

I replied that “*if this were done, most European countries, including the United States and Russia, would be hit by atomic bombs and would not be able to end the war. Unlike World War II, Japan laid down its arms. This time, if the nukes explode, it is gone. No one would agree to lose. In the past, only the United States had a nuclear weapon. The United States is not the only country that have nuclear weapons.*”

Someone came in and said, “Samdech! let the army attack and take back Kampuchea Kraom (the lower Khmer).” I replied – “*you may go and beat them yourself.*” I almost add another line that “*I help prepare you coffins and bury your corpse.*” Kampuchea Kraom has disappeared since I was not born or my father has not been born yet [...] anyone who is all mighty, may go and I will help make the coffins and bury them. I said that from 1995-1996 [...]

We know that the person who made comments are in the opposition and said – “*I dare bet with Hun Sen that Ukraine will win this war.*” I can sense from the language.

I let myself along the current and said – “*I understand that too, because one side raise the army from a distance cannot defeat the ones that are inside. I believe not. Cambodia itself has already experienced. The French came and could do nothing. Japan came and could do nothing. The United States came and could do nothing. Vietnam came in to help, but Vietnam had to withdraw. Only the owner of the country is standing in his country*” [...]

Thus, peace is the special point

and the highest priority of the current government policy. If we cannot guarantee peace, no one can talk about development, about democracy and human rights.

**We must ensure peace to ensure the right to life, to avoid death by arms, from the fear of bullets and bombs. I repeat, I cannot find peace of mind for you [...] I can only guarantee peace without armed conflict on this miserable territory. I can unite four armies into one, divided territories into one under one roof, one constitution, one king, one government, and one armed force [...]**

Our official position for the ASEAN framework or for our delegations at the forums where there are voting involved, we would observe the developmental situation and we will adhere to the principle of not advising any country of what to do. We only reaffirm our position that we do not support the use of force or threaten to use force against any country, and encourage negotiations.

**Providing food, medicine is not an incentive for war. However, what happened was some sending weapons, so the war will erupt bigger [...] thus, the war escalated day by day, from level to level, and it has taken President Putin to alert nuclear deterrent – a major concern after World War II.**

This happened in 1962, when the Soviet Union sent nuclear weapons to Cuba, when we heard talks about nuclear, and we hear it again now [...]. As a separate Cambodian position, it has nothing to do with China, **in my talk with the Prime Minister of Malaysia I made clear that Cambodia encourage no secession and it also means giving support for China. In the same meaning, (Cambodia wishes to see) no separation of Hong Kong, Taiwan, Tibet, and Xinjiang (from China).** It was in this regard that Cambodia does not recognize Kosovo, which used coercive force to secede from Serbia [...]

(Continued from page 1)

take back the land, we could have lost it. *How many ministries whose responsible concerned flooded forest – the Ministry of Agriculture is there, the Ministry of Water Resources is there, the Ministry of Environment is there. Would it be a matter that because there too many involved things could not be done? [...]* it is in our national interest. If allowed (to happen we would lose it) one year after another [...] just imagine, how small would the Tonle Sap Lake shrink to? [...] we agreed and adjusted two areas in Kompong Thom on the map, and we have transferred to the state more than 60,000 hectares.

The returned areas is the target of replanting trees for flooded forests [...] *those of you who are the governors of the provinces around the Tonle Sap Lake have to take responsibility [...] more power has been given to them and the ministry, which is responsible, must also increase its capacity to solve problems.*

Fisheries laws have not yet been ready. I still (remember) that I have raised this issue since the day I released the young fish at the river Vai Ko in Svay Rieng. It is not ready because you do not do it. The Ministry of Agriculture has the following three lines – Forestry Administration; Fisheries Administration; and Department of Agriculture.

So one head, three legs [...] these past weeks I have been following with great attention. Investigators who went to study the situation were not experts, nor judicial police. They have no right to arrest. They sent me information. I sent it to the provincial governors.

Our provincial governor said he could not catch the perpetrators because (their boats) were too fast. How fast? Let us park our helicopters nearby and fire from the above.

Where could person go? Pursat has later captured (the perpetrator). The other provinces still could not find them [...] the army commander and the po-

lice chief are here today. Give them your supports and find a way to get rid of corrupt traders who destroy fish [...]

*The Ministry of Agriculture itself should be a little active. They have the fisheries department and why has it not been doing the job? I may repeat what I said before [...] when preparing a sub-decree, involved ministries always demand power.*

For instance, (the Ministry of environment in the time of Mok Mareth demanded power [...] that means demanding a sword from the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister gives the sword, but when it is time to use it, they handed it back to the Prime Minister [...]

[...] A provincial governor sent a message to (me) saying – “we worked hard, but always could not keep the operation a secret.” Where and how the secret is lost? [...] *in the past, that you report catching this or that number of perpetrators, they were only small rowers or Kohler machines fishers, but you never catch the big ones. What is behind this unstoppable story? Was it a fact that our officials take bribes or something?* [...] the Ministry of Agriculture has now a great number of Secretary of State and the Undersecretary of State [...] you must divide provinces to work on the issue among yourselves [...]

*We have now transferred more power to the provinces. If the province were not responsible, for what did you need the power?* Yesterday, I went to read a speech about the transfer of more power to the sub-national level, and I stressed on a point that if the sub-national level refused to do the job, and waited (for order) from above, why did we transfer power? [...]

*Due to the high number of fishing offenses, some people suggested the idea of setting up a fishing lot for the private sector to help manage. I ordered the National Television of Cambodia to replay my commentary*

(Continued on page 5)