

## Speech of

HE General KE KIM YAN, Deputy Prime Minister Chairman of the National Authority for Combating Drugs, and The Highest Representative of Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, The Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia  
On the occasion of World AIDS Day 1 Dec 2022

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- *HE Senior Minister IENG Mouly, Chairman of the National AIDS Authority*
- *HE Pom Channy, Secretary-General of the Cambodian Red Cross and Deputy Team Leader of Outstanding National Figures*
- *Ms. Patricia Ongpin, Director of UNAIDS*
- *HE, Lok Chumteav, Distinguish International and National Guests!*

Today, It is my great honored and I am very pleased to be the Highest Representative of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, attending together with Excellencies, Lok Chumteavs, Ladies and Gentlemen, National and International Distinguish Guests on the celebration of the World AIDS Day on December 1, 2022 under the theme " Equalize" now after having been interrupted to celebrate in persons for 2 years (2020-2021) due to Covid-19 Outbreak.

On behalf of Samdech Techo Prime Minister, I would like to express my deep gratitude to Samdech Kittipritthbandit Bun Rany Hun Sen, President of the Cambodian Red Cross, for her active role as the Outstanding National Figures of the Asia-Pacific Regional Leadership Forum on HIV / AIDS in Cambodia who has always led and participated directly in the development of the Red Cross network at all levels across the country and against discrimination for people living with HIV / AIDS, increasing the higher effectiveness of preventing the spread of HIV / AIDS in Cambodia .

I would also like to extend my appreciation and thanks from Samdech Techo Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Samdech Kittipritthbandit, President of the Cambodian Red Cross to the management and officials of the National AIDS Authority under the leadership of HE Senior Minister Ieng Moly, achieving many great achievements to reduce the spread of HIV and AIDS in

Cambodia, especially in the difficult situation where Cambodia and the world have experienced the Covid-19 crisis in the past.

I would like to express my gratitude to His Excellency, Lok Chumteav, Leaders of relevant ministries and institutions at both national and sub-national levels, the Senate, the National Assembly, Cambodian Red Cross, civil society organizations, the religious sector, the private sector, development partners, national and international organizations, and all compatriots for the support and hard work, to the road to achieving the goal of Three Zeros and goal 95 95 95 in 2025, although Cambodia has suffered the effects of the negative consequences of Globalization caused by the Covid-19 crisis, the Russia-Ukraine war climate change and rising of inflation.

At the same time, on behalf of Samdech Techo Prime Minister, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and gratitude once again to the leaders, civil servants, the Armed Forces of all kinds, the people and all stakeholders who have contributed tirelessly in organizing and chairing the 40-41 ASEAN Summit and related summits and the organization of the 43rd ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) and the 9th ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus was a great success, which is a testimony not just only a success for our generation. but also a historic success for the ASEAN community, Cambodia and our next generation.

- ***HE, Lokchumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen, and nieces and nephews!***

With the Message of Samdech Kittipritthbandit Bun Rany Hun Sen, President of the Cambodian Red Cross and the report of HE Senior Minister Ieng Moly, Chairman of the National AIDS Authority, and Joint Director of the United Nations Program on HIV / AIDS Cambodia (UNAIDS), Representative of the Civil Society Organizations of the AIDS Coordinating Committee Including the remark of the representatives of families affected by HIV and AIDS in the past, this is a clear testimony that our vision of building a society free of the threat of HIV and AIDS can be able and also means that Cambodia is on the right track to achieve the "goal 95 95 95" which means about 95% of people living with HIV are aware of their HIV status, 95% of those who are aware of their HIV status have received antiretroviral therapy and 95% have received antiretroviral therapy reducing the number of HIV, as set by 2025 in our country and by 2030 by the United Nations.

The summary report of the National AIDS Authority in 2022 also shows that Cambodia has reduced the number of new HIV infections from 2,300 in 2010 to an estimated 1,100 in 2021. In

the third quarter of 2022, 64,184 people living with HIV (approximately 99%) received free antiretroviral treatment from public hospitals, resulting in declining HIV mortality substantially every year. HIV infection among injecting drug users has dropped significantly from about 24.8% in 2012 to about 15.2% in 2017. The index of discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS is proudly declining.

These are great achievements that we have achieved so far, however the HIV / AIDS epidemic still remains fragile. In this sense, in case of carelessness, the spread of HIV will be more difficult to control than ever before, especially in high-risk populations, including men having sex with men, transgender people, women working in entertainment, youth groups, drug users and drug addicts. By 2021, the rate of mother-to-child transmission of HIV will be around 13.6%, which is a high rate of our concern. HIV infection among non-injecting drug users increased by about 4% in 2012 to about 5.7% in 2017.

Therefore, the relevant ministries, institutions and organizations at the national and sub-national levels, national organizations, international organizations, civil society organizations, the network of people living with HIV and the key population network, as well as all our compatriots continue to pay close attention and work more actively with the Royal Government to address the above risks effectively and timely in the process towards ending the spread of HIV / AIDS by 2025. Ending HIV, which is a threat to public health, is a success in contributing to well-being of the people, reducing poverty, building the family economy, community and nation to develop and achieve the vision of the Royal Government of Cambodia to develop into a high middle-income country by 2030 and a high income country by 2050.

- ***The Ceremony!***

On the road to achieving the goal of eradicating HIV / AIDS and making it sustainability, the HIV / AIDS program in Cambodia is extremely difficult and complex, requiring strong leadership, coordination and participation to overcome all obstacles that would happen including discrimination, resources, innovation and the environment.

In the name of the Highest Representative of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and on my own behalf, I solemnly declare that the Royal Government of Cambodia has considered the fight against HIV / AIDS in Cambodia as one of the main priorities of the Royal Government as stated in the Rectangular

Strategic Policy Phase 4, in particular, which said Cambodia has clearly demonstrated its commitment to eradicating AIDS by 2025.

Taking this opportunity to celebrate the World AIDS Day on December 1, 2022, I would like to provide the recommendations to this event and compatriots as follows:

1. Continue strictly to implement the 5th National Comprehensive and Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan for HIV / AIDS 2019-2023, which has been used as the only roadmap for fighting against HIV / AIDS in Cambodia, led by the National AIDS Authority, based on the three pillars, including 1. Leadership and Responsibility 2. Partnership and 3. Investing to ensure the success and sustainability of the HIV and AIDS response.
2. The National AIDS Authority and the Ministry of Health, together with the relevant ministries and institutions, must continue strictly to implement the six measures as stated in the letter No. 213 of the Council of Ministers dated 21 February 2019.
3. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, and relevant ministries and institutions must collaborate to promote HIV / AIDS education to prevent the spread of HIV in communities, especially among key populations, including Men Sex Men, Transgender Population. Drug Abusers, Women Working in Entertainment Place and youth groups, both formal and informal systems.
4. The Governors of Capital and Province must continue to strengthen the mechanisms of HIV / AIDS committees of the municipal, District and commune levels throughout the country to be responsible for more effective response to HIV and AIDS responses at the local level.
5. The National AIDS Authority must continue to work with the Ministry of Health to study and develop intervention mechanisms and strategies to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV by 2025. At the same time, it is necessary to further strengthening and promoting the cooperation with the National Authority for Combating Drugs to prevent more effectively the spread of HIV / AIDS among drug abusers and drug injected drug users.
6. With the coordination of the National AIDS Authority, relevant ministries and partner organizations must continue to cooperate in formulating the policy to eradicate HIV / AIDS in 2025 and the sustainability of the AIDS program for 2023-2028 timely in accordance with letter No. 927, dated October 24. 2022 on the Establishment of Technical Working Group to formulate the policy to eradicate HIV / AIDS in 2025 and the sustainability of the

AIDS program for 2023-2028 of the Office of the Council of Ministers, which has been used as the foundation to develop the 6<sup>th</sup> comprehensive and multi-sectoral national strategic plan to response to HIV / AIDS in accordance with the national system with sustainability.

7. For the population who suspects of being infected with HIV, they should be hurried to get an access to HIV test service to for receiving treatment, care as soon as possible.
8. All ministries, institutions, local authorities, authorities at all levels, civil society organizations, national and international partners must continue to support and encourage people living with HIV / AIDS by all means to harmonize communities and families.
9. Must continue to strictly implement the Royal Government's policy on safe villages, communes and sangkats and the National Campaign against Illegal Drugs, human trafficking and illegal gambling in all forms. Continue to implement three health measures to prevent Covid-19 and the spread of Covid-19 in our work places and communities. I also call on all citizens of age 18 up who have not yet registered to vote, must be hurry to register to vote at all polling stations in accordance with the information of the National Election Committee, which will be the deadline on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 to fulfill the rights and duties of all citizens.

On behalf of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I would like to call on all competent authorities, civil society organizations, religions, the private sector, artists, MCs, athletes and all citizens to actively join with the Royal Government of Cambodia to fight, prevent and eliminate the spread of HIV and AIDS in Cambodia.

At the same time, I would like to call on the international community, development partners, to continue to provide technical and financial support to the fight against HIV / AIDS in the Kingdom of Cambodia so that we can achieve its goal of eliminating AIDS by 2025 and sustainability, AIDS Response Program 2023-2028 and subsequent years.

On the occasion of the upcoming New Year 2023, I bless the ceremony with the four blessings of the Buddha: longevity, happiness, strength, Nobility and I would like to solemnly declare, "Let's make Equality in the work of responding to HIV and AIDS in Cambodia.