

**Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation Religion King**



Address

by

His Excellency Mr. Ieng Mouly,
Senior Minister in charge of special mission and
Chair of the National Aids Authority,
on the World AIDS Day Commemoration,
1 December 2013

Chaktomuk Conference Hall, 1 December 2013

“Towards Zero New HIV infections, Zero Discrimination, and Zero AIDS-related deaths”

Your Excellency Ke Kimyan, Deputy Prime Minister and High Representative of Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia,

Excellencies, and Lok Chumteav Members of the Senate and National Assembly,

Ms Marie-Odile Emont, UNAIDS Country Coordinator,

Excellencies Ambassadors, Diplomatic Representatives,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

To begin, I, as chair of the National Aids Authority, have the honor to welcome the presence of Your Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen Distinguished Guests at the commemoration of World AIDS Day, 1 December 2013.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my deep gratitude to His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister Ke Kimyan for his presence as High Representative of Samdech Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia at this world day.

As introduction of his message on the World AIDS Day, Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of UNAIDS, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations wrote, “As we gather to

remember friends and family lost to AIDS—we can also rejoice in incredible hope for the future.” I fully agree with the Executive Director that we have hope for the future because of what we shared the responsibility and strengthen our common results for an AIDS-Free Generation

Today with successful achievement of MDG6 ,the National AIDS Authority of the Kingdom of Cambodia is splendidly proud of having joined the whole world in organizing the commemoration of the World AIDS Day on 1 December 2013.

On this superb day, I would like to inform Your Excellency Deputy TechoPrime Minister, Excellencies, LokChumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen, as well as all our beloved citizens that the National AIDS Authority, under theclairvoyant leadership ofSamdechTecho Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, takes part every year in marking the World AIDS Day, which is organized regularly throughout the world on 1 December by making use of a common message with the aim of exhibiting the will and refreshing our commitment in joining the global fight against AIDS/HIV.

Besides, the World AIDS Day also has the intent to heighten new awareness about the spread of AIDS/HIV, effective scientific knowledge and innovations for the general public in order to constantly jog the citizens’ memory about the danger of HIV and AIDS.

Moreover, this day also has the intention of seeking, from all levels of leadership, our beloved citizens from all around the country, development partners, and all civil society organizations, further support, contribution to containing the spread of HIV and AIDS in Cambodia as well as in the region and the whole world under the motto, “Towards Zero HIV new infections, Zero Discrimination, and Zero AIDS-related deaths.”

Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen National and International Guests, and all the students!

The motto, “Towards Zero HIV new infections, Zero Discrimination, and Zero AIDS-related deaths” bears the aim of disseminating the declaration issued jointly by the United Nations and leaders of all the state members, who made a political resolve at the summit of the 65th Extraordinary Session of the UN General Assembly in in New York in June 2011 to join hands to strengthen the fight against AIDS, making it more highly effective toward completely eradicating AIDS/HIV new infectionsworldwide by 2020.

In addition, this motto also has the purpose of heightening the participation and more determination of all levels of leadership, individual, family, society, and country as well as of the whole world to free themselves from the threat of HIV and AIDS by setting up “three zero objectives” through the implementation of “three zero strategies.”

Taking this solemn opportunity, I would like to request permission from Your Excellency Deputy Prime Minister to succinctly present the achievements and successes that Cambodia has acquired in the prevention of the spread of AIDS/HIV in the country over the last one year period.

. According to scientific estimation, in 2013, HIV carrier rate among adults aged between 15 and 49 years is 0.7%, down further from 0.8% in 2011. This means that Cambodia has the sufficient possibilities of controlling the spread of AIDS/HIV successfully, and it hopes that the spread would drop further next year.

. As for care and treatment, Cambodia will successfully reach the treatment target where 85% of eligible PLHIV are right now having access to antiretroviral drugs. We will secure a move toward 100% achievement on this care target in 2014.

. Besides, some 70% of PLHIV, orphans, and children vulnerable to AIDS have constantly received social, economic, health, and educational supports, and so forth through especially the indefatigable and inexhaustible humanitarian work of the Cambodian Red Cross, under the leadership of Samdech Kittiprittbandit Bun Rany Hun Sen, Chair of the Cambodian Red Cross and shrewd leader in fighting AIDS in the Asian-Pacific region.

. What is this year's outstanding achievement is the growing rate of pregnant women using services to reduce the transmission of HIV and AIDS from mother to child and the growing rate of HIV-carrying pregnant women receiving treatment to prevent the transmission of AIDS to newborns. As a result, the transmission rate of AIDS from mother to child is just 2%. It is firmly hoped and believed that Cambodia would be able to join the world to completely reduce the transmission of HIV from mother to child by just 2015.

Therefore, on behalf of the National AIDS Authority, I would like to express my profound thanks for the firm resolve, as top leaders with supreme wisdom and insight, of Samdech Techo Hun Sen, and Samdech Kittiprittbandit Bun Rany Hun Sen, Chair of the Cambodian Red Cross, who have made strategic decision on policy such as policy on the 100% condom use at all entertainment establishments, exemplary humanitarian support to HIV and AIDS victims, and especially national budget which has been increasing every year to enable the National AIDS Authority to strengthen our response mechanism at national and sub-national level.

I would also like to thank the National AIDS Authority members, the United Nations, bilateral and multilateral development partners, the Global Fund, national and international non-governmental organizations, the civil society, the private sector, the PLHIV network, the network Most At Risk Populations and so forth for their collaborative participation in succeeding on achieving for Cambodia HIV and AIDS targets at this point.

Before concluding, I would like to request permission from Your Excellency Deputy Prime Minister to convey the following messages to all our beloved Cambodian citizens in order to exhibit the firm determination on the following points:

1. All the citizens are asked to seek constant understanding of new knowledge about HIV and AIDS infection prevention in order to protect ourselves, our families, and our nation from the danger of HIV and AIDS.

2. All employees and customers at entertainment establishments should adhere to the 100% condom use.

3. Cambodian men should join actively in bearing the responsibility toward themselves, their wives, and their children for HIV and AIDS transmission by firmly adhering to safe and responsible conducts.

4. Young nephews and nieces should not get involved in sex too early and should stay away from the use of drugs, the source of high risk of HIV and AIDS transmission.

5. All pregnant women along with spouses should seek preventive services against the transmission of HIV from mother to child in a timely fashion.

6. We all should take part in the elimination of discrimination against PLHIV at all costs.

7. All PLHIV should seek care and treatment expeditiously and constantly observe doctors' advice so as to avoid the resistance of AIDS virus to antiretroviral drugs, the serious cause of AIDS mortalities.

I would also like to request more support from Your Excellency Deputy Prime Minister and from all the development partners in helping to further provide and increase financial backing for the National AIDS Authority to have the possibilities of expanding the scale of coverage for targeted groups and expediting sustainable services toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the three zero objectives by 2015.

Before ending, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Ms. Marie Odile Edmond, UNAIDS Country Coordinator for the continuous support and active participation for HIV and AIDS response leading to a successful program implementation in Cambodia. I hope in advance that your contribution in this opening remark represents the commitment of United Nations Agencies and Development Partners towards the achievement of the Three Zero targets in Cambodia. I also wish to convey my gratitude to Civil Society Organization and to PLHIV for joining hands with the Royal Government of Cambodia in HIV and AIDS response. May I call on key players to support spirit of collaboration that has been fostering over the past decades.

As we prepare to commemorate our World AIDS Day we must redouble our efforts to achieve tangible results against AIDS—results that value and restore the respect and dignity of every individual.

TOGETHER WE CAN GET TO ZERO

TOGETHER WE CAN ACHIEVE AN AIDS-FREE GENERATION IN CAMBODIA

Finally, I would like to wish Your Excellency Deputy Prime Minister KeKimyan, the High Representative of of Samdech Techo Hun Sen, and the entire audience the four blessings of Lord Buddha: longevity, high social status, happiness, and robust physical strength. I would also like to commend all the members of the event's organizing commission and fund holders for their contribution to the successful organization of this event.

Thank you.