



**Remarks**  
**by**  
**His Excellency Mr. Ieng Mouly,**  
**Senior Minister and Chairman of the National AIDS Authority**  
**at the High-Level Coordinating Meeting on Reducing Stigma and**  
**Discrimination for Improving**  
**the Implementation of HIV/AIDS Interventions**  
**Among Men having Sex with Men and Transgender People in Cambodia**  
**Sunway Hotel, December 24, 2013**

- His Excellency Secretary General of the National AIDS Authority,
- Her Excellency Ms. Mak Vansitha, Deputy Governor of Phnom Penh and President of the Phnom Penh AIDS Committee,
- Excellencies,
- Ladies and Gentlemen representatives of national and international organizations,
- Ladies and gentlemen, brothers, sisters, nephews, and nieces who are gays and lesbians.

On this occasion, I am pleased to preside over and deliver my speech to launch the **“High-Level Coordinating Meeting on the Implementation of Intervention to Prevent HIV and AIDS among MSM and Transgender.”** On this occasion, I would also like to express thanks for the organization of this meeting by means of cooperation between the National Aids Authority and the Man Health Social Service Organization under the aegis of USAID, through the Flagship Project, and to all the ladies and gentlemen present at this meeting.

Through implementation in the past, Cambodia has achieved great success in response to HIV and AIDS, with the rate of AIDS transmission has dropped from 1.7% in 1998 to just 0.7% in 2013. Nevertheless, with this success, we all should not fail to remember that HIV and AIDS continue to spread to the entire Cambodian people, especially to the high challenge group, such as MSM and Transgender groups, workers at entertainment venues, and drug users. Moreover,

among those groups, MSM and Transgender are of concern, to which we all should pay strong attention.

Excellencies, Ladies, Gentlemen, and the entire audience,

A study named Bros Khmer or Cambodian men conducted in 2010 by the FHI 360 Organization, focusing on the target groups of MSM and Transgender, shows that the rate of AIDS among them was up to 2.1%. This demonstrates that this case remains a major problem for Cambodia. Should we fail to take highly effective preventive measures, the HIV and AIDS problems will definitely return to our society, and this second wave will certainly cause terrible disaster that we cannot predict.

For this reason, we should further sustain the success that we have now secured in order to allow our country to achieve the three zero goals in 2020, through the continuation of responsibility and direct broad and multi-sectoral participation of the Royal Government, private sector, civil society, development partner, and network of MSM and Transgender as well as of the nephews and nieces who are MSM and Transgender in communities. Beginning with the responsibility of the Royal Government, the National Aids Authority held, on November 28, 2013, a meeting of the authority's Policy Board, at which the seven-point principle was raised in order to strengthen and expand the implementation of the prevention more effectively. Especially, the seven-point principle has secured the high support from the fifth-mandate Royal Government, headed by Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The seven points of the policy introduced by the Royal Government to fight against AIDS are as follows:

1. The National AIDS Authority should continue coordination with relevant ministries and institutions as well as with development partners and civil society organizations to promote and encourage the 100% use of condom for the sake of safe sex, a mean of preventing the transmission of sexual disease and HIV virus.

2. Incorporate the fight against AIDS and mother health-care as additional points in the Village-Commune Safety policy of the Ministry of Interior.

3. The National AIDS Authority, the Ministry of Health, along with relevant ministries and institutions, the development partners, and the civil society organizations should coordinate in mapping out localities identifying the number of PLHIV and MARPs --including entertainment workers, men having sex with men, orphans and vulnerable children, and PLHIV who migrate-as well as the number and locations of establishments providing continuum of prevention and HIV and AIDS treatment and related services.

4. The National AIDS Authority should take measures to reactivate AIDS-fighting Committees at capital, provincial, districts, communes, and sangkats. The Ministry of Health should advise Provincial Health Department to closely coordinate with Provincial AIDS Committee/ Secretariat for HIV and AIDS response. Every Provincial AIDS Committee/ Secretariat should strengthen partnership with civil society organizations operating in respective province to enhance effectiveness of the response.

5. The National AIDS Authority, the National Authority for Combating Drugs, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Health, and relevant ministries and institutions should coordinate for creating an enabling environment for MARPs, including entertainment service girls, men having sex with men, and injecting drug users, to have access to comprehensive HIV and AIDS treatment services.

6. The National AIDS Authority should coordinate with the Ministry of Education, Youths, and Sports, youth organizations, and relevant institutions to broaden education for male and female young people to equip them with an accurate understanding of the danger of HIV and AIDS and to inform them on comprehensive preventive options.

7. The National AIDS Authority has leading roles in coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the work on HIV/AIDS as mentioned in the National Strategic Development Plan 2014-2018 in conformity with the guidance provided by the Royal Government of Cambodia through the Cambodia Rehabilitation and Development Committee of the Cambodia Development Council. The National AIDS Authority has leading roles on aid effectiveness and bears the responsibility for a nationwide HIV and AIDS response. Relevant ministries, Phnom Penh and Provincial AIDS Committees should coordinate to develop respective HIV and AIDS action plan for optimizing the use of funding received from all sources in order to achieve tangible, effective, and efficient results and move forward in ensuring sustainability of the response.

To boost effectiveness, the National Aids Authority will review the 3<sup>rd</sup> strategic plan and establish the action plan 2014 by taking the seven-point principle as rule to advance toward the goal of the UN Three Zero Strategy in 2020. As regards gays and lesbians, the National Aids Authority has set up a national working group for coordinating and monitoring the work implementation process, and of late, the authority also prepared an action plan for 2014 to make the implementation of the seven points at national and subnational levels more effective.

**Excellencies, Ladies, Gentlemen, and the entire audience,**

At this morning's meeting, I hope we would acquire more information about the behavior, practice, and challenge of the spread of HIV and AIDS in Cambodia of the gay and lesbian group and would offer contribution to cutting down discrimination against this group in our society. I would also like to point out that the discrimination constitutes a shield that might prevent the preventive intervention and service provision for them from achieving success as expected.

Taking this valuable opportunity, I, in the name of the National Aids Authority, would like to appeal to the fellow citizens and territorial authorities not to discriminate and continue closer cooperation in talks among all the partners and civil society organizations in order to avert at all costs the spread of HIV and AIDS in Cambodia.

**Excellencies, Ladies, Gentlemen, nephews, and nieces,**

Finally, I would like to appeal to all levels of governmental institutions, private institutions, civil society, development partners, the network of gays and lesbians, and the nephews and nieces who are gays and lesbians in communities to further participate directly and more actively in the combat against HIV and AIDS in particular among the gay group. I would also like to appeal to aid donors to continue to provide financial and technical assistance to make the work implementation more highly effective.

I would like to wish the entire audience being endowed with the four blessings of Lord Buddha--longevity, high social status, happiness, and robust strength--and achieving new, still greater successes for our nation and motherland. I declare the meeting open from this time onward.

Thank you.