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Royal Government of Cambodia
Senior Minister in charge of Special Mission
Chair of National AIDS Authority

Speech

By

His Excellency Senior Minister Ieng Mouly, Chair of the National AIDS Authority, at the closing ceremony for the 1st plenary meeting of the National AIDS Authority 2017
Boeng Samrith Resort, 6 June 2017

- Respected Presidency
- His Excellency Sok Lou, governor of Kampong Thom Province
- Their Excellencies and Lok Chumteav, leading officials of the National AIDS Authority
- Their Excellencies and Lok Chumteav, chairs of the AIDS Committees of ministries, state secretariats, Cambodian Red Cross, cities, and provinces
- Their Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, ladies, and gentlemen, chairs of the AIDS Secretariats of ministries, State Secretariats, Cambodian Red Cross, cities, and provinces
- All the ladies, gentlemen, and misses, national and international guests attending our present plenary meeting.

For the whole morning, after making presentations with questions and answers, conducting debates with exchange of work experiences, and lively setting forth views, our entire meeting has achieved proud outcomes in agreement with our desired subject matter. Now, I would like to present to the participants a brief account as follows:

1. The adoption in principle of the report, prepared by the National AIDS Authority Secretariat General, on the progress, efficiency, and achievements in the broad multi-sectoral national response to the spread of HIV/AIDS over the first six months of 2017.

2. The adoption in principle of the National AIDS Authority's meeting resolutions on the goal of implementing the broad multi-sectoral national action plan in response to the spread of HIV/AIDS during the last six months of 2017.

Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, ladies, and gentlemen,

Although our time is only one morning, the active participation of you all, Excellencies,

Lok Chumteav, ladies, and gentlemen, has allowed us to achieve the results as determined by our objective. Once again, I would like to most sincerely commend all the members of our meeting.

I would like to be permitted, prior to the closing of our plenary meeting, to present some impressions from the gathering as follows:

1. In sum, we all have striven, over the past six months of 2017, to implement the action plan at ministries and at national and international civil society institutions at both national and subnational levels. Outcomes obtained, however, might be dissimilar depending on missions and concrete situation of each ministry, institution, city, and province.

2. Our Cambodia still has sufficient possibilities of controlling the spread of HIV/AIDS, making it further decline gradually. We also have the possibility of providing care and treatment with antiretroviral drugs to the needed people. As a result, we have witnessed that the number of those receiving services is on the rise. Moreover, there is no longer any report on discrimination against HIV/AIDS carriers.

3. Congratulations are extended to the Ministry of Planning for its coordination to include poor HIV/AIDS carriers in the group of ID-Poor holders.

4. Congratulations are extended to the Ministry of Economy and Finance for its consent to chair the Coordinating Committee of the Global Fund for Cambodia and to coordinate the utilization of the Royal Government's counterpart funding to pay contract officials' monthly salaries.

5. Congratulations are extended to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for the organization of its maiden action plan 2018 against HIV/AIDS.

6. Congratulations are also extended to the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts for incorporating the action plan against AIDS into its common action plan 2018.

7. The report presented today is not yet broad and comprehensive, for some ministries, institutions, cities, and provinces have not yet forwarded their reports to the National AIDS Authority Secretariat General.

8. It remains a major problem in terms of shortage of funds needed to provide the possibilities to fully implement the projected action plan or expand the coverage rate to new areas and target groups.

Along with this, I also wish to offer some recommendations as follows:

1. The National AIDS Authority Secretariat General should collect all the recommendations approved at this meeting to finalize its report on progress and achievements scored in the first six months of 2017 and prepare the broad multi-sectoral national action plan in response to the spread of HIV/AIDS for the last six months of 2017.

2. Members of the National AIDS Authority at national and subnational levels should be

inspired to beef up AIDS-combating activities toward reaching the three zero goal. Besides, as for the Ministry of Health, it, too, should be spurred to successfully implement and attain the 90-90-90 goal by 2020 and the 95-95-95 objective by 2025.

3. The resolutions adopted at this 1st plenary meeting of the National AIDS Authority 2017 should be implemented.

4. The Ministry of Economy and Finance should be further empowered to coordinate additional investments of national budget to fast-track achieving the three zero goal as planned.

5. National and international development partners should further provide the AIDS fighting program in Cambodia with more technical, material, and financial assistance than previously to allow the country to have sufficient possibilities to attain the success in eradicating AIDS once for all.

Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, ladies, and gentlemen,

Before conclusion, I would like to thank you all, Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, ladies, and gentlemen, the representatives of ministries, institutions, cities, and provinces, as well as national and international partners for the attendance at this present pivotal plenary meeting. Through your active participation, good ideas and valuable ameliorating views are offered to us for use in further redressing and bolstering the AIDS-combating work performance.

I also wish to praise the National AIDS Authority Secretariat General for its efforts in smoothly and successfully organizing this plenary meeting.

In the end, I would like to wish you, Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, ladies, and gentlemen, the national and international development partners, the four gems of Buddhist blessings, longevity, nobility, healthiness, and strength, and a safe trip back home.

I would like to declare that the 1st plenary meeting of the National AIDS Authority 2017 is now closed.

Thank you!