



Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation • Religion • King

National AIDS Authority

Opening Speech by
H.E. Ieng Mouly
Senior Minister and Chairman of the National AIDS Authority
In the Opening Session of the
National Workshop on Private Sector Engagement
in Healthcare including HIV and AIDS

Cambodiana Hotel, May 30, 2019

- *Mr Yann Derriennic, Country Director, USAID Health Policy Plus*
- *Dr. Sok Bunna, Health Office of Public Health and Education (OPHE), USAID Cambodia*
- *Mr Ung Polin, Representative of Dr. Vladanka Andreeva, Country Director, UNAIDS*
- *Excellencies, Neak Oknha, Lok Okha, Lokchumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen representatives of government institutions, development partners and civil societies*
- *National and International consultants and experts*
- *Representatives of Key Affected Populations*

First of all, I would like to express my great pleasure to be invited to open the National Workshop on Private Sector Engagement in Healthcare including HIV and AIDS today. I would also like to extend my warm welcome and profound thanks to *Excellencies, Neak Oknha, Lok Okha, Lokchumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen* who come from Ministry of Economic and Finance, Ministry of Health, private sectors along with representative of Key Populations and especially to *HP+ The Palladium, PEPFAR/USG* who provide the financial and technical support to this important workshop.

Three days ago, Samdech Aka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister, addressed at the 75th Session of UN-ESCAP that Cambodia has achieved a strong economic growth at the rate of 7.7% per annum over the last two decades and has become one of the fastest-growing economies in the world and upgraded from low-income country to lower-middle income country in 2015. The poverty rate in Cambodia has continued to decline from 53% in 2004 to about 10% in the recent estimate. In this achievement, I would like take this opportunity to thank for the contribution of private

sector through various platforms especially for a huge donation in Cambodian Red Cross and for the support to healthcare sector of the country. This contribution has been promoting of sustainable and inclusive high economic growth, job creation for Cambodian workers, and an increase in value-added for the economy, and reasonable increase of income for Cambodian people.

Excellencies, Neak Oknha, Lok Okha, Lokchumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Cambodia is one of seven countries globally recognized to have achieved the 90-90-90 targets in 2017. Referring to the new estimates of AEM and Spectrum (April 2019) Cambodia has 73,552 people living with HIV (PLHIV) in 2019, currently, eighty one percent of them know their status, 99% of those are on ART, and an estimated 79% of PLHIV on ART have achieved viral suppression. More than 10,000 PLHIV have not been reached out and not yet brought to AIDS care system and increased of new infections were mostly found on Young people especially MSM and TG.

The unprecedented challenge for HIV and AIDS response is a situation where Development Partners are gradually withdrawing their financial support and on the other hand we are committed to end HIV epidemic by 2025. Over the past few years, we had implemented innovative interventions, streamlining HIV response into the existing health system and social protection system.

Facing this transition encounter, I would like to inform Your Excellencies, Neak Oknha, Lok Oknha, Lokchumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen that on February 21, 2019, Council of Ministers issued a Sor Chor Nor No. 213 approved by Samdach Aka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen upon the proposition of the Policy Advisory Board with Six-Point Policy Actions for fostering the country ownership and sustaining a long-term response to HIV and AIDS.

Excellencies, Neak Oknha, Lok Okha, Lokchumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the spirit of multi-sectoral collaboration, I would like to reiterate that Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister calls all stakeholders to participate in the national movement to end AIDS epidemic in Cambodia by 2025. With the prime minister's vision, NAA aims to launch a national mission to partner up with private sector not only for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contribution but also for different possible partnerships to improve the health of the young population and provide health services related to the HIV/AIDS.

Over the past decades, Cambodian Red Cross has been mobilizing support from philanthropic organisations and individuals mostly from private sector for humanitarian assistance to those who are affected or vulnerable by disasters or other

risks without discrimination of race, religious beliefs, political tendencies and leaving no one behind. In May 8th 2019, under the slogan “Cambodia Red Cross is everywhere for everyone”, CRC was able to mobilize more than 20 Million US dollars to serve the above-mentioned purpose at the 154th Anniversary of Cambodian Red Cross and Red Crescent. Moreover, the exemplary leadership of Samdech Kittipritbandit Bun Rany Hun Sen was recognized by Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS and the Asia Pacific in November 2006 as APLF Outstanding Champion on HIV and AIDS response with tremendous efforts in raising awareness, behavior change and care and support on HIV and AIDS along with the fight against Stigma and Decimation towards PLHIV and their families. Besides, there are examples of Private Sector involvement from the beginning of the epidemic with the establishment of Cambodian Business Coalition on AIDS (CBCA) such as the response of Garment Factories along with the HIV and AIDS Workplace Policy of the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, the involvement of the Telecommunications Companies with the spread of HIV and AIDS in the Water Festival and World AIDS Day, the donations of some ART/OI Drugs, Condoms from pharmaceutical companies .

However, it has been notified recently that Cambodia’s strong economic growth is not being translated into commensurate public investments in health (World Bank, Cambodia Economic Update, May 2019).

In this regard, the National AIDS Authority, with the findings of the study supported by HP+ The Palladium, would like to explore various kinds of public and private partnerships to engage their support in health care including HIV and AIDS.

Potential areas interest and cooperation would be:

1. A proposal to set up a single window to interact with industry and private businesses within NAA
2. An appeal for engagement of private sector through partnership models in the areas of preps (Pre- Exposure Prophylaxis), insurance and viral load machine
3. An appeal to private sector to include response to HIV and AIDS as one of the focus areas in their CSR planning for the coming years
4. A strong system of monitoring of the activities, the utilization of funds etc. may further be highlighted so as increase the confidence of the private sector on the usage of their contribution.
5. A bi-annual or annual report may further be committed to be published on the progress of the program including the fund inflow and outflow and impact created
6. Example may quote on the role of the private sector at Global fund level and various models of engagement of private sector with the Global fund.

On behalf of the National AIDS Authority, I would like to encourage Excellencies, Neak Oknha, Lok Okha, Lokchumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen to actively contribute in the discussion on these above-mentioned points so that we can have inputs for shaping up directions of Private Sector Engagement in Healthcare including HIV and AIDS.

Excellencies, Neak Oknha, Lok Okha, Lokchumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Over the next 5 years of the NSPV 2019-2023, we will be busy finding way to implement the Six-Point Policy Measures of the Office of the Council of Ministers that have been recently released and the engagement of Private Sector could be another policy measure (Policy Measure Point 7) for contributing to innovative financing to secure the elimination of HIV and AIDS by 2025.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere thanks to HP+ Palladium under USG/PEPFAR for technical and financial support to the study on Private Sector Engagement in health care and HIV and AIDS and this consultative Workshop.

I would like to wish Excellencies, Neak Oknha, Lok Okha, Lokchumteav, Ladies, Gentlemen and all participants with the four gems of Buddhist blessing –longevity, nobility, healthiness and strength. I would like to declare the Opening of “National Workshop on Private Sector Engagement in Healthcare including HIV and AIDS” from now on.

Thank You.