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National AIDS Authority

Speech
by
H.E. Senior Minister Ieng Mouly, Chair of the National AIDS Authority,
At the Opening of Meeting to Disseminate
NASA Report in the Fight Against AIDS in 2016-2017

Sunway Hotel, December 9 2019

- *Distinguished guests of honor*
- *Madame Dr. Khin Cho Win Htin, UNAIDS Strategic Information Advisor*
- *Dr. Lan Van Seng, Deputy Director of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology, and STD*
- *Mr. Yann Derrennic, Cambodia country director of Health Policy Plus (HP+),*
- *Excellencies, Lok Chumteavs, Ladies, Gentlemen, national and international guests*

Today, on behalf of the National AIDS Authority top management and I myself, I am honored and delighted to join Excellencies, Lok Chumteavs, ladies, and gentlemen, the distinguished national and international guests, in this important meeting to disseminate the National AIDS Spending Assessment (NASA) Report in the response to HIV/ AIDS in Cambodia in 2016-2017.

Excellencies, Lok Chumteavs, Ladies, and Gentlemen, the national and international guests!

On this lofty occasion, I would like to point out that the NASA Report in the fight against AIDS describes the flow of resources, spent on the response to HIV/AIDS, from the source of resources for the people, the recipients from the AIDS-combating program. This report will assist the leadership in the decision-making based on strategic information and allow Cambodia to mobilize resources with stronger accountability and implement programs with more effectiveness and efficiency than before. It also is a tool in the national monitoring and evaluation framework to gauge and track the expenses on AIDS entailed throughout the country, allowing the preparation of reports for national institutions, development partners, and UN programs.

Presentation of the NASA Report will let Excellencies, Lok Chumteavs, ladies, and gentlemen be aware about: 1) which parties have provided financing? 2) which parties have managed resources? 3) which institutions have offered services? 4) what

are the activities of AIDS programs and the cost of each activity? and 5) who have benefited from the AIDS combating program?

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Over the past 27 years, we have mobilized proximately US\$860 million in financial resources to fight and prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in Cambodia. As a result, we have averted approximately one million people from HIV infection and saved more than 600,000 others from AIDS-related death. The purpose of this sixth NASA Report is to review resources investments in AIDS program between 2016 and 2017.

Even though our Cambodia has been recognized internationally as having reached the 90-90-90 targets in 2017 (ahead of 2020 deadline), the move towards ending AIDS in 2025 is not that so easy and simple. Aside from having well-defined strategic plans, supportive environment, and human resources endowed with experiences, we still badly need sufficient and timely funds for interventions. This report shows that budget packages for AIDS-combating program over the last few years has tended to decline remarkably, especially those from development partners. Meanwhile, national budget has been on the rise gradually, but not yet responded entirely. In reality, at this stage of ending AIDS, Cambodia is still in indispensable need of assistance from development partners, although the Royal Government of Cambodia has been boosting national budget to fill the gap and meet our needs.

In the past, in its response to HIV/AIDS, Cambodia has acquired proud successes thanks to the following three pillars:

1) Leadership: the commitment based on national and international principles, including the three-one principle (one leading and coordinating institution, one national strategic plan, and one monitoring and evaluation system.) The Royal Government of Cambodia, under the wise leadership of Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen, has paid its utmost attention by entrusting the duty to the National AIDS Authority as direct leading institution. The vision of the NSP V can possibly be implemented from 2019 to 2023, resting on the high determination of Excellencies, Lok Chumteavs, ladies, and gentlemen, who are operators in all sectors and areas and who will change the key indicator of AIDS program. In this context of external assistance decline, the leadership and ownership may be regarded as the most major factor to ensure that we could certainly reach the 95-95-95 targets and end AIDS, a threat to public health, in 2025.

2) Partnership: the Royal Government, development partners, civil society organizations, and key population have worked collectively in multisectoral response, which is our key success. In 2019, Samdech Kittiprittbindit Bun Rany Hun Sen, President of the Cambodian Red Cross and a prominent national figure of the Asia-Pacific Forum on HIV/AIDS, has set up a working group to promote leading national personalities' activities to join hands with the Royal Government to end AIDS in 2025, specifically eradicate the mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis.

The NASA is intended to help the AIDS Council of the Ministry of Health look at the deficiency of those resources needed for HIV/AIDS, not only in terms of health components but also other sectors, such as social protection services and creation of supportive environment, that constitute the multisectoral response to AIDS.

In this context, I would like to inform Excellencies, Lok Chumteavs, Ladies, and Gentlemen, that Letter No. 213 SCN-SS dated February 21, 2019 has introduced six policy measures pertaining to the HIV/AIDS response. Moreover, on December 2, 2019, the administration of four target capital city and provinces, including Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Battambang, and Banteay Meanchey, signed with the UNAIDS the Fast-Track Cities Initiative in the response to HIV/AIDS, aimed at achieving our commitment. Therefore, future AIDS spending assessments will have figures showing the partnership of various sectors in the form of specific funds to respond to HIV/AIDS.

3) Investment: our investment in the response to HIV/AIDS has been launched in a timely, comprehensive, and multisectoral fashion to the present time, which is the transitional stage towards the country's ownership of the response with sustainability and high sense of responsibility. In our investment since 2015, the Royal Government has started providing between US\$1 million and 1.5 million in additional funding for the purchase of antiretroviral drugs and has added another US\$700,000 a year as counterpart funds in the Global Fund project. The assessment of AIDS spending in 2017 indicated that the Royal Government's counterpart funds were only 24%. Nonetheless, the joint indicator of the Royal Government and development partners has agreed and determined that the Royal Government's counterpart funding will increase up to 50% in 2023.

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A clear understanding of the specific expenses for response to HIV/AIDS across the country may help promote transparency, effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability for the Royal Government of Cambodia, the public, development partners, and beneficiaries. This report also exhibits the firm commitment of the Royal Government of Cambodia, development partners, and national and international organizations to provide resources for coordinating and implementing the HIV/AIDS response program as well.

Besides, I would like to point out that all pieces of information contained in this report will be used to estimate the funds for the implementation of the NSP V, the three-year rolling public investment plan, and the annual budget of the National AIDS Authority.

I would like to call on all parties concerned, including development partners, the private sector, national and international organizations, and charity donors to continue to join the Royal Government of Cambodia by utilizing their available funds on the right strategic target in order to strengthen the quality of services and

implement synergy programs in both the public service system and community health care.

In concluding, I would like to extend my profound thanks to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and Health Policy Plus, for their technical and financial support to this work. I would like to thank all the relevant institutions for their participation in offering information on the funds spent for 2016 and 2017. Especially, I would also like to thank national working groups of the NASA VI, with officials from the National AIDS Authority; NCHADS; national and international institutions, development partners, civil society organizations, and key population.

I would like to wish Excellencies, Lok Chumteavs, Ladies, and gentlemen good health and robust physical strength--may you all achieve new successes in continuing the HIV/AIDS response work in Cambodia--and I would like to announce the official use of "the Report on AIDS Spending for 2016-2017" from this time onwards.

Thank you!