



Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation Religion King



SPEECH

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**National Champion of the Asia-Pacific Leadership Forum (APLF)
in Response to HIV/AIDS in Cambodia**

**National Champion for the United Nations Secretary General's
Joint Plan of Action for Women's and Children's Health**

**High Representative of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo
HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia**

WORLD AIDS DAY

Under theme

***" Getting to Zero- Zero New Infections, Zero Discrimination
and Zero AIDS Related Deaths "***

Chaktomuk Conference Hall, 1st December 2011, Phnom Penh.



- *Your Venerable Monks,*
- *Your Excellencies Deputy Prime Ministers, Senior Ministers, Ministers, Senators, Members of the National Assembly, Members of the Royal Government and Governor of Phnom Penh Municipality,*
- *Mr. Tony Lisle, UNAIDS Coordinator in Cambodia,*
- *Your Excellencies Heads and Representatives of the Diplomatic Missions,*
- *Excellencies, Lok Okhmas, Ladies, Gentlemen, National & International Distinguished Guests,*
- *Teachers, Students, Pupils and all Cambodian Red Cross Youths !*

Today, I have an honor and pleasure to participate, as The High Representative of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, at the world AIDS Day, 1st December 2011, which is a reflection of our commitment in continuing the campaign to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS epidemic, under theme “ **Getting to Zero - Zero New Infections, Zero Discrimination and Zero AIDS Related Deaths**”.

On this auspicious occasion, I would like to express my congratulation, appreciation and high evaluation to leaders, officials of the National AIDS Authority (NAA), relevant Institutions/Units, the Cambodian Red Cross, International Communities, Civil Society, Private Sector and compatriots for their efforts in preventing and combating the spread of HIV/AIDS so that successes achieved in reducing new infection, enhancing treatment, providing ART, increasing social healthcare to HIV's orphans and most vulnerable children. Moreover, Cambodia can keep under control with effectiveness and efficiency the prevention of HIV/AIDS. We could reduce the prevalent rate from 2% in 1998 down to 0.8% in 2010 among people with the age between 15-49. This reduction has been applauded by the United Nations, and an award was bestowed to Cambodia for the fact that we are going to achieve the Millennium Development Goal 6 by 2015.

The 1st December 2011 is the 22nd World Celebration of the AIDS Day and it is the 19th Celebration, which Cambodia has joined the World in commemorating such meaningful event. The World AIDS Day is an opportunity to get together people from all walks of life nationwide to share information, exchange expertise and new experiences on effectiveness in combating the spread of HIV and in providing care and treatment. At the same time, it is also a gesture of support to people living with HIV/AIDS to strive for life and to have hope continue living in a society, where warmth and love are braced to them. Based on the strengthening of national-international solidarity in the continuous combating the spread of HIV/AIDS, in

particular from this year onward, there should be an upholding of moral encouragement to implement the declaration on “ **Commitment in fighting against HIV/AIDS through the Three Zeros’ Strategy of the United Nations** ” which had been approved by members states, including the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Excellencies, Lok Okhmas, Lokchumteavs, Ladies and Gentlemen!

For the sake of urging for greater involvement and stronger support so that a nationwide movement be established in the fight to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS in Cambodia through **the UN Three Zeros’ Strategy**, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia and in my capacity as the National Champion of the Asia-Pacific Leadership Forum (APLF) in Response to HIV/AIDS and Development in Cambodia, I would like to give recommendations to all compatriots as follows:

1. Although, we have continuously gained successes in combating the spread of HIV/AIDS which we should be proud of, we should maximize stronger our joint efforts in reducing HIV/AIDS prevalent rate by 50% amongst the most at risk populations such as entertainment workers, men-having-sex with-men and youth, etc... and in striving to achieve a complete elimination of HIV/AIDS transmission from mother to child in 2015.
2. Leaders of all institutions, authorities at all levels should increase their attention and be more responsible in seeking means and measures, both resources and funds; should especially integrate HIV/AIDS related issues into all services delivery activities within institutions and communities; should continue to disseminate in a broader and continuous manner the knowledge and information on HIV/AIDS to people at all walks of life, particularly to those in the remote areas.
3. Should ensure safety in combating HIV/ AIDS epidemic everywhere and at all circumstances; and should continue jointly in promoting the respect of morality, civilization, tradition and gracious custom of Cambodia; should be faithful with one husband and one wife for the whole life; and should continue the enhancement of gender and HIV/AIDS mechanisms through empowering rights to female and giving opportunity to women and girls to participate in the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS, particularly within their respective families and the whole society.
4. Every work relating to the fight against HIV/AIDS should be widely and multi-sectors responded by basing on the principles of respecting human rights, gender equity and non-discrimination. In this regards, I would like

to stress that people living with HIV/AIDS are not criminals; in fact, they are victims who have to receive prevention, care and treatment services so that they could be free from other infection, transmission, stigma and discrimination. At the same time, I would like to stress that compulsory HIV blood test or HIV test by coercion or requirement must be forbidden because this is illegal. All competent and relevant authorities should take legal measures to punish anyone, any institution/unit who violates the above mentioned principles and laws.

5. The NAA should continue its noble mission as the leading institution for management and national coordination on behalf of the Royal Government; it monitors and follow-up the spread of HIV/AIDS and response to related issues whilst adhering to the principles of ownership and aligning to the policy and strategy of the Royal Government as well as to the harmonization among all development-partners.

Excellencies, Lok Oknhas, Lokchumteavs, Ladies and Gentlemen !

From the World AIDS Day forum, I would like to renew my appeal to the whole society to double our determination in order to encourage wider participation in the urge, the strengthening and the fighting against the spread of HIV/AIDS with effectiveness, particularly the UN Statement at the June 65th General Assembly in June 2011, and the Message of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, releasing to all compatriots on the occasion of the World AIDS Day. The aim of both documents is to achieve the slogan “ **Getting to Zero - Zero New HIV Infections, Zero Discrimination and Zero HIV/AIDS Related Deaths.**”. I strongly believe that we can surely achieve it; we continue to work on our previous success and we mobilize our joint strength to overcome remaining obstacles in the spirit of solidarity, national unity, partnership and harmony for human dignity and working environment, which is healthy and free from HIV/AIDS. I dare to state with strong belief and confidence that there is nothing we cannot do, if we unite and work together participatorily. In this regard, as the High Representative of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, in my capacity as President of the Cambodian Red Cross, the National Champion of the Asia-Pacific Leadership Forum (APLF) in Response to HIV/AIDS in Cambodia and the National Champion for the United Nations Secretary General’s Joint Plan of Action for Women’s and Children’s Health, I would like to declare the commitment of Cambodia in continuing its noble humanitarian mission with stronger efforts to build a society, where there is zero new infections, zero AIDS-related Deaths, zero discrimination to people living with

HIV/AIDS, particularly there will be a complete reduction of women 's and girls ' vulnerability to HIV/AIDS.

I would like to appeal to national-international organizations, civil society, development partners, private sector, people living with HIV/AIDS to continue with stronger participation, both physical, spiritual, financial and all kinds of possibilities, to scale up wider and effective interventions so as to achieve broad coverage nationwide to all targeted groups and services.

At the same time, in the name of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I would like to publicly announce that the Royal Government still gives priority to HIV/AIDS, and its related issue have already been incorporated into the 2011-2013 National Priority Development Program; it continues to support by all means, both political and strategic frameworks, to create a positive environment to all HIV/AIDS operators and activists, particularly it continues to increase national budget as long as the Royal Government can afford. This is the participation of the Royal Government to world's commitment implementing **The Three Zeros Strategy** so that HIV/AIDS will be completely eliminated by 2020.

On this magnificent event, may I respectfully pray that all the triple jewels of Buddha, sacred spirits in the world, Gods looking after the white parasol, power of the former Kings and Queens of Cambodia, bless all the Best Wishes to our Highly Respected **His Majesty the King of Cambodia, Their Majesties the King Father and the Queen Mother of Cambodia**, the Honorary President of the Cambodian Red Cross, for Their personal good health and well-beings for the sake of Their people, children, grand children and great-grand children in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Last but not least, I would like to wish all respectful venerable monks, Excellencies, Lok Okhnas, Lokchumteavs, Heads and Representatives of the Diplomatic Missions, National-International Distinguished Guests, Ladies, Gentlemen, Teachers, Students and Cambodian Red Cross Youths good health and embrace more success in the upcoming years and I would like to publicly announce that Cambodia is committed **in getting to Zero- Zero New HIV Infections, Zero Discrimination and Zero HIV/AIDS Related Deaths.**

THANK YOU !