



NATIONAL AIDS AUTHORITY

KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

Nation Religion King

(Unofficial translation)

**LETTER OF NAA CHAIR TO SAMDECH TECO HUN SEN, PRIME MINISTER
REQUESTING THE ISSUANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT SEVEN POINT POLICY
DIRECTIVES**

Phnom Penh, December 5, 2013

**Respectfully submitted to:
Samdech Akkak Moha Sena Paddei Techo Hun Sen,
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia**

Subject: Request for the Royal Government to issue the seven-point principle in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

As mentioned in the subject line, I have the great honor to inform Samdech Techo that up to now, the rate of HIV prevalence among the people aged from 15 to 49 has fallen from 0.8% in 2011 to 7% in 2012 and 2013. The Anti-Retroviral treatment has soared to 85% of eligible AIDS patients, and we hope that this rate would reach 100% in 2014. The successes of the Royal Government of Cambodia warrant our country in the fight against HIV and AIDS with praises from development partners, United Nations, and other countries.

Nonetheless, we are currently facing a number of challenges with relatively high HIV prevalence among Most At Risk Populations, MARPs (i.e. 14% among entertainment or sex service workers, 2% among men having sex with men, and 24% among injecting drug users). Moreover, the condom use has a tendency to drop down due to the complacency of sexual partners and to their misconception that HIV virus is no longer as virulent as previously. However, what is most worrisome is the possible emergence of drug resistance to medication as drug adherence is becoming less observed especially among those who migrate. Irregular drug use among migrants who are living abroad could lead to a spread of drug resistance causing difficult and costly therapy.

The continuous changes of social context due to the advancement of information technology has facilitated and expedited the relationship building between men and women,

especially among the youth. As a result, sexual relation has taken place devoid of concern over its consequences, such as sexually transmitted diseases, HIV transmission, or unwanted pregnancy, and so forth. The Royal Government has paid attention to this situation and gives high priority to young people who become the target of sexually transmitted infections and HIV transmission. Beside young people of the MARPs, we should also be concerned about children whose parents have died of AIDS who deserve support on basic education and vocational training for their livelihood.

Stigma and discrimination remain hindering factors to the provision of all kinds of treatment to HIV and AIDS affected people.

According to scientific projection, the rate of new HIV infection could further decline annually from approximately 1,000 in 2013 to 900 in 2015. Nevertheless, the number of deaths related to AIDS may rise annually from 2,200 in 2013 to 2,300 in 2015.

Therefore, in order to enable Cambodia to reach the three above-mentioned zero goals, I request that the Royal Government to issue the seven-point policy to combat HIV and AIDS 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 advice 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.

I am convinced that should our Royal Government implement this seven-point policy, Cambodia could achieve the three above-mentioned zero goals: zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination, and zero AIDS-related deaths.

Please, Samdech Techo, consider the above-mentioned submission and kindly permit the issuance of the Royal Government's seven-point policy in the fight against AIDS.

Please, Samdech Techo Prime Minister, accept my highest respects.

**Senior Minister in Charge of Special Mission
and Chair of the National Aids Authority,**

Signed and Sealed: Ieng Mouly