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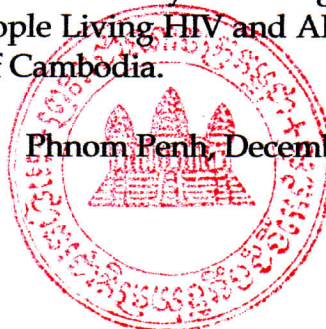
National AIDS Authority

## **An Appeal to the Media Network**

Over the past few weeks, the National AIDS Authority noticed that the media network including TV, press, radio had widely and freely disseminated the information regarding HIV and AIDS spread in Battambang province. The National AIDS Authority acknowledges the role of the media network on the dissemination of those related information as per reflecting the freedom of expression of the media of the Royal Government of Cambodia in a genuine democratic and pluralistic parties regime.

Along with those occurrences, the National AIDS Authority would like to recall the attention of media network to be responsible for confidentiality of HIV infected people. The respect of confidentiality is a measure to prevent stigma and discrimination against those people where any form of these acts is considered as a serious human rights violation. For controlling further spread of HIV and especially for preventing stigma and discrimination against HIV infected people, the National Assembly had adopted the Law on HIV and AIDS prevention and control which has been promulgated by His Majesty the King of Cambodia through the issuance of a Royal Kram Nor Sor/Ror Kor Mor/0702/015 dated July 29, 2002. The first paragraph of article 33 of the 7th section of the Law which is on confidentiality, asserts that People Living with HIV and AIDS deserve the preservation of confidentiality. The dissemination of photos, voices with the actual location and their living environment is considered a break of confidentiality of the People Living with HIV and AIDS as referred to the article 33 of the Law. This violation is to be subject for punishment with an amount of 50,000 Riels to 200,000 Riels fine and with an imprisonment between 1 to 6 months as per the provision of the law.

Referring to the above mentioned statements, the National AIDS Authority would like to appeal and to give directives for all media network to be mindful in maintaining the confidentiality and preserving the identity of the People Living with HIV and AIDS by not showing real photo, real voice and disclosing their actual dwelling in their public dissemination. National AIDS Authority hopes that all media network will uphold the professional ethic of media by balancing the use of the freedom of expression and the violation of People Living with HIV and AIDS's rights as well as not to violate any law of the Kingdom of Cambodia.



Phnom Penh, December 23, 2014