

SPEECH OF H.E. GEN. **TEA BANH**, DEPUTY-PRIME MINISTER MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR MARTIME SECURITY TACTICAL COMMAND HEADQUARTERS

REAM NAVY BASE, AUGUAT 11, 2012

- H.E. William Todd, U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of cambodia*
- Lok Chumteav Penny Richard, Australian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia*
- Honored guests, Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, ladies, and Gentlemen, National and International distinguished guests!*

First of all, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, the Ministry of National Defense, and the RCAF, allow me to express my greatest pleasure for the presence of you all in this significant event. Along with this, I would like to express my deepest thanks via H.E. and Lok Chumteav Ambassadors for the great supports from the governments of the U.S. and Australia in making this achievement.

The operation of the maritime security in Cambodia has rapidly been developed since early 2007 under the brilliant leadership of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo **Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, who initiated for the establishment of the National Committee for Maritime Security in December 2009. Under his direct command, the NCMS serves as the national mechanism responsible for maintaining security on the sea and all areas linked to the sea. The NCMS holds two core roles: defending and protecting sea territorial integrity and strengthening the use of maritime laws. With the great supports and cooperation with Australia, Japan, and the U.S., NCMS has positively and smoothly moved forward.

We have seen many challenges and difficulties at the beginning that the NCMS has to encounter especially in the operation by using inter-agent laws that require the participation from all the relevant ministries, institutions, and authorities. The commands, coordination, and the uses of resources are the key elements in successfully fulfilling its duty and role. However, the good will cooperation, high responsibility, and national interests as regarded by all the relevant stakeholders are the most important factors for the success and the strong foundation of our NCMS. Through our experiences and all lessons learned, we can see that in order to have stability and development with many key players and operators definitely require appropriate time, sacrifice, and real practices. Some countries are still facing difficulties even they spend years and years for that.

NCMS is only about two years old, but we have grown rapidly and progressively which is being recognized and appreciated by our friends. Among many priorities, NCMS has strengthened its own capacity through indicated policy, strategic management, establishing planning activities, building law capacity, and expanding international cooperation. Inter-agent technical working group was established in order to help NCMS in practicing all of the above mentioned. As matter of fact, the National Policy on Maritime Security was adopted by the Prime Minister on August 2011 aiming at defining responsibilities and duties for all the relevant key players and also indicated basic principles for work performances. NCMS also managed national strategies on Maritime Security by identifying some main priorities for short, medium, and long-term work performances. Recently, our technical team is trying their utmost efforts for binding and compiling SOP aiming at using as the foundation for coordinating multi-force operations whilst we do not have our own single maritime security law. Seminars, meetings, and other training skills have been sequentially done both inside and outside the country under the great supports from our security partners like Australia, Japan, and the U.S.

The Tactical Headquarters of the NCMS which will be operating from now on was renovated and build by the U.S. and equipped by Australia. This is the center for commanding, controlling, and coordinating the multi-force operations. All the security work operations on the sea will be commanded, controlled, and coordinated by the Tactical Headquarters. Based on the primary plan, we will have the expertise team

coming from eight different ministries and institutions to work together such as the RCAF, National Police, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Public Works and Transportation, Fishery Administration, Custom Department, and Cam-Control officers. All of these people are the representatives for all the key ministries relating to the issues of maritime security, and we need to expand this multi-force component as required. Furthermore, the Tactical HQ is the Center for information management which is the core element in controlling maritime security. The on-time alerts for all issues and situations are the main factors for making plans and responding effectively. In this sense, the Tactical HQ must have required capacity including collecting, analyzing, screening, and sharing information.

In order to effectively implement the roles and duties of the tactical HQ and to follow the flexible conditions and situation both in the country and in the region, I would like to propose some thoughts and considerations as follow:

1. The Secretariat of the NCMS has to promote for full operation of the Tactical HQ with the multi-force components from various related ministries and institutions, and also maintaining sustainability and efficiency of the work performances;
2. The Secretariat of the NCMS has to strengthen capacity of the tactical HQ both physical structures and multi-force operational performances. In this sense, it requires some considerations on continued planning and maintaining the location, managing guarding forces and stand-by forces for intervention, equipment preparation and means for the HQ, and resource allocation for operations. For so doing, it requires full cooperation from all the related players and also from our security partners;
3. Establishing and making it lively on the methods of coordinating the representatives from all related ministries and institutions aiming at working together with unity, solidarity, mutual understanding, high responsibility, and taking national interests for granted;
4. All the relevant ministries and institutions have to fully support and cooperate with the NCMS by following all the national principles and strategies on maritime security;
5. The technical team of the NCMS has to continue and complete binding and compiling the SOP before the end of this year and the Secretariat of the NCMS and related institutions have to use this SOP as the scale for commanding, controlling and coordinating all operational work performances related to maritime security;
6. The Secretariat of NCMS and the Tactical HQ have to establish short, medium, and long-term planning activities by having actual plans, emerged plans, and response methods;
7. We have to have measures for enhancing cooperation and communication between NCMS and other mechanisms or authorities related to the issues of maritime security aiming at having closer cooperation and mutual understanding in work performances;
8. Take a strong consideration of human resource development especially on the knowledge of laws and other professional skills which are considered to be the keys for law implementations;
9. Requesting the security partners including Australia, Japan, the U.S., and other countries for continue supporting to the NCMS in order to fulfill its roles and duties in strengthening the maritime security of the Kingdom of Cambodia as well as contributing to the regional cooperation on maritime security.
10. Fully supports on the historical notions interpreted by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo **Hun Sen** on August 09, 2012 which reflected the utmost efforts of the Royal Government in

protecting and defending territory integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and also the great efforts for building the border with peace, stability, amity and development. We have to accept such highest recommendations and regarded as the strong foundation for successfully fulfilling our roles and duties as planned.

-Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

We all strong believe that today's event is not the final achievement for the NCMS. We still have a lot of work to complete and also full with uncountable challenges. However, I do hope that the area of Maritime security of the Kingdom of Cambodia will continue to grow with the cooperative spirits and goodwill of all the relevant ministries, institutions, authorities, other related domains, and all security partners. Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest thanks for all of those who greatly support and contributed to the positive and rapid operations of the NCMS.

At the end, I would like to wish you all with good health, happiness, and victory.

May I now commence the official operation of the National Committee for Maritime Security Tactical HQ.

Thank you.
