

Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Dr. Sok An Presided Over the Commemoration of the 31st Anniversary of January-7 Victory

On January 07, 2010, **H.E. Dr. Sok An**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in Charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers, presided over the Commemoration of the 31st Anniversary of January-7 Victory, which was held in Takeo Province and attended by officials from various state ministries and institutions and thousands of people from the 10 districts of the province.

H.E. Mr. Srey Ben, Provincial Governor of Takeo, conveyed the speech of **Samdech Chea Sim**, President of the Senate and also President of the Cambodian People's Party, saying that it is a historic great victory day that saved our nation and people from the genocidal regime of Democratic Kampuchea during the period of 3 years, 8 months and 20 days. With this victory as foundation, the people of Cambodia could survive and continue to live with progress as today. After the January-7 victory, the Cambodian People's Party has led the country in a state of war and peace. The January-7-1979 victory was brought about by the prominent elites of the Cambodian People's Party for the national salvation and completely put an end to the organization of the genocidal regime in 1998 through the Win-Win Policy of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen**, turning the Cambodian society to prosperity in almost all sectors. They (the CPP elites) have adhered to and promoted the rights to freedom, honor and dignity under the principles of democracy, leading to free and fair election in Cambodia. They have also overcome the political deadlock after election and played a key role in maintaining the stability of the throne, security and social order, enabling the people to live harmoniously in their families, communities and society, and have gradually promoted economic development from zero to tremendous progress as seen nowadays.

The Cambodian People's Party has played a central role in the national reconciliation process until the Paris Peace Agreement on 23 December 1991 was reached and the Constitution adhering to liberal democracy and multiparty system was established. The Royal Government of Cambodia also took initiative to create the Extra Ordinary Chamber in the Court of Cambodia to try Khmer Rouge leaders.

Samdech Chea Sim's speech strongly stressed that any attempts to use the Chamber with ill-intention; affecting peace, national reconciliation and development, which have been won by our strenuous efforts; have been strongly objected.

During the Commemoration, **H.E. Dr. Sok An** expressed that the January-7 is the historic and unforgettable day, recalling the fact that the innocent Cambodian people were forced by the Khmer Rouge to work exhaustively hard, but were provided with very little amount of food or none and the fact that religion was destroyed and nearly 3 million of Cambodian people were killed. The dreadful and dark history must be remembered by the Cambodians so that such an inhumane and cruel regime will not be returned. The Deputy Prime Minister highlighted that the Extra Ordinary Chamber in the Court of

Cambodia can be regarded as a court model allowing ten thousands of people to attend the hearing and seeking justice for all Cambodian victims during that time, which was based on security, peace and national reconciliation. Apart from that, the recent great success of the Royal Government of Cambodia in inscribing the Temple of Preah Vihear on the World Heritage List in 2008 clearly reflects that Cambodia has stood up as a nation having equal status with other nations and has been very active in regional and global cooperation.

On the occasion, with his continued support in poem composing contest on January-7 day to remind the next generation about this cruel regime, **H.E. Dr. Sok An** donated 7 motorbikes, 1 water draining machine, and some amount of money to poem composers and readers and the Petang players, all of whom were the winners during the occasion. The Commemoration ended in a very pleasant atmosphere with a big, long march of the people from various Takeo provincial departments.

(Press and Quick Reaction Unit of the Office of the Council of Ministers)