

Honorable Ambassador Carol Rodley
Excellencies
Ladies and gentlemen

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister Sok An is retained by another function, so he requested me to come to this gathering and make a remark on the Rule of Law in Cambodia.

Under the leadership of Samdech Aka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen , Prime Minister, Cambodia has achieved social order, peace, stability, harmony and sustainable development.

One can define the Rule of Law as a set of practices and institutions that bring order to our society for the better good of all citizens. The World Bank has identified the Rule of Law as one of the principles of good governance.

In brief, **three** components are essential for the Rule of Law to take roots:

1. The existence of a legal framework with sound laws and regulations to uphold rights and obligations.
2. These laws and regulations must be known, understood and supported by citizens.
3. Enforcement mechanisms must be effective, fair, equitable and predictable.

Toward these ends, Cambodia has scored noticeable achievements.

1. During the 3rd legislative, 145 laws have been passed by the parliament, among those, the Civil Code, Civil procedure and Penal Procedure. The Penal Code will soon be sent to the Cabinet Meeting, then forward to the National Assembly. The Anti-corruption law will come next.
2. **Legal Profession Trainings** are heavily stressed.
The RGC has established the Royal Academy of Judicial Professions (RAJP) in January, 2005. **5 schools** are under the roof of this Academy.
 - **School of Judges and Prosecutors**
 - To date, 110 judges and prosecutors have already graduated from the **Academy** and are currently working in the courts. Little by little they will replace some current judges who did not have formal legal training or reach the retirement age.
 - Other 63 will be graduated in May 2009;

- **School of Court Clerks**
Two programs are in place:
 - Continued programs training to retrain currently working court clerks. 585 have already graduated.
 - Initial programs training to train new court clerks. 81 will be graduated in May 2009
- **School of Lawyers**
 - 284 lawyers have already graduated from 2002 to 2008
 - Other 34 will be graduated in March 2009
- **School of Bailiffs and Notaries** will open their doors soon to meet the demands of **Bailiffs** to implement court decisions and **Notaries** to ensure the accuracy and the reliability of commercial and real estate contracts.

3. Access to information about Legal System

In order to provide an easy access to Information about legal system:

- The General Department of Official Gazette within the OCM is in charge of printing and publishing **on a regular basis** the Official Gazette both in hard copies and CDs, and **on quarterly basis** the selected and definitive judgments of provincial/municipal and appeal courts collected by the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Council of Legal and Judicial Reform.
- The Supreme Court prints and publishes its own judgments **on semester basis**.

4. The Improvement of Court Administration

To raise the standard of our country's court system, with the assistance from Australia, then also from Denmark, and through the Model Court Project, **four** pilot courts have been established in Kandal, Phnom Penh, Kompong Cham, and Banteay Mean Chey. The Model Court Project prepares documents related to the court administration to be used in these model courts.

Before closing, I would like to emphasize that the Rule of Law cannot be decreed. It is built over time based on the tradition and culture of a society according to its human, institutional and financial capacity. The reforms undertaken by the RGC in the context of its Governance Action Plan directly contributes to the strengthening of the Rule of Law.

The RGC welcomes technical and financial assistance from USAID and other partners in order to continue to consolidate the Rule of Law in Cambodia.

Thank you for your kind attention.