

Story1: 12 economic land concessions have been seized while other firms are being investigated



The Prime Minister during annual meeting of Ministry of agriculture, Forestry and Fishery on April 07th, 2011 at Royal University of Agriculture

The Prime Minister of Cambodia stated that 12 economic land concessions were withdrawn on April 06th, 2011, and asked related ministries to continue their investigations on other land concessions which had not been developed until now.

On April 07th, 2011, stating during his speech in annual meeting of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery at Royal University of Agriculture, **Prime Minister Hun Sen** said, “with the request from Ministry of Agriculture yesterday, I have canceled contracts with 12 companies which have been granted economic land concessions.”

“Some companies have not made any development on the lands which were granted by the government while the companies have sufficient capital to run their business but they do not possess land for development,” He added. “The problem arises when the companies which have already been granted the land, but have not made any development though they have enough capital to develop on the land,” he said during the meeting.

The Prime Minister also guided related government officials to transform the economic land concessions which had been withdrawn to social land concessions for poor people possessing no land and the disabled.

It is noticed that his advice and the withdrawal of the 12 economic land concessions took place on the same day **the Prime Minister** removed two officials of Ministry of Environment in Kratie Province involving in illegal logging case.

Story 2: Prime Minister Hun Sen approved on National Youth policy

Prime Minister Hun Sen signed on the draft of national youth policy regarding Cambodian youth development at the full session meeting of council minister in June 24 according to the press release of the council minister.

During the meeting Hun Sen said that youths are the key resource in developing the economic growth, social affair, culture, environment and peace keeping of the country form now and in the future. He also said that national youth policy on Cambodia youth development was initiated by Ministry of Education Youth and Sport in the aim of building up capacity of youths, aging from 15 to 30 years, in the context of physical body, spiritual intelligence, morality and life skill so that they will become a good citizen who are active in the decision process and make a contribution to the community and social development, which is in accordance with the provision of national constitution, labor law, law of kingdom of Cambodia, national rectangle strategy step 2, and Cambodia millennium development goal.

Ms. Heng Sokkunthea, KYSD program coordinator said that civil organization especially KYSD try their best to foster the approval of the national youth policy for the benefit of Cambodia youths. She continued that KYSD KYA and PDP and other NGOs in Phnom Penh have cooperated with each other to organize many campaigns to discuss with minister and other responsible officials of ministry of education youth and sport. She added that the involving NGOs have offered advice and pay full attention for checking each article of the policy for the improvement. In the end, she said the approval of the national youth policy was the outcome of their cooperation.

Story 3: Prime Minister Hun Sen Urging the Courts and Authorities to Take Actions against Forestry Offenses

Prime Minister Hun Sen urged the courts and the involving competent authorities to accelerate solutions against forestry offenses committed by illegal business men and other government officials. Prime Minister Hun Sen raised up in his commentary after two officials had been arrested in April 04, 2011 at the Ministry of Environment, Phnom Penh in the charge of forestry offenses in the areas controlled by these two officials.

In the Annual Work Report Session of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery at Royal University of Agriculture in April 07, 2011, Prime Minister Hun Sen said that “in the forestry offenses, there are both illegal business men and government’s officials involving. Arrest them, both the official of the Forestry Administration and the official of Ministry of Environment, if they conspired in the forestry offenses”

The Prime Minister also pushed the officials of Forestry Administration and other involving competent authorities to regularly and constantly crack down on the forestry offenses without asking a recommendation from him in advance. He added that “No need to be recommended, shall take actions”.

Mr. Meas Ngeb, the Chief of Forestry Conservative Project in Kratie and Modul Kiri provinces, and Mr. Touch Sophy, the Chief of Forestry Conservative Area in Snuol district of Kratie province were arrested at the Ministry of Environment concerning with the forestry offenses in the areas controlled by these two officials.

In taking actions against the forestry offenses happened after Khmer Youth and Social Development Organization (KYSD) had organized a Youth Camping Program in Kratie province and had been surprised by the local and provincial authorities to come and see the activities of KYSD in the targeted area. After finishing the Camping Program, we noted that there are publications in newspapers about the forest issues, and the appeal of the Royal Government to the competent authorities against the forestry offenses.