



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN

Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia

Message

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia on the Occasion of the First National Nutrition Day, November 6, 2014 under the theme of “Better Nutrition, Better Lives”

- Highly respected supreme patriarchs of the two Buddhist sects and Buddhist monks;
- Samdech, His Excellency, Her Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen;
- Compatriots, students and children!

In this auspicious occasion of the **First National Nutrition Day, November 6**, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC), I would like to express my great pleasure and full support for organizing this **First National Nutrition Day**, and convey the message to respected venerable monks, compatriots, particularly maternal women and beloved children that RGC is committed to improve food security and nutrition and promote the participation of our compatriots in implementation of strategies, policies and action plans aiming to improve child and maternal nutrition in order to develop human resources with quality, capacity and merits which are the key factors for supporting economic growth and improved competition in Cambodia.

This year the **National Nutrition Day, November 6** is celebrated for the first time under the theme of “**Better Nutrition, Better Lives**” aiming to raise nationwide awareness on the nutrition, in line with the **Global Nutrition Day**, and concurrently with **National Water Festival**, our traditional ceremony. The **National Nutrition Day, November 6** is celebrated in response to the world announcement which states that “Food Security and Nutrition Are Recognized as The Basic Right of Everyone”, under the Universal Declaration

of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which were ratified by the Kingdom of Cambodia. Based on this spirit and recognition of the vital importance of nutrition, RGC is paying special attention to improving child and maternal nutrition and regards it as a priority in social development policy by incorporating it into various strategic plans and policies, particularly the Rectangular Strategy-Phase III (2014-2018), National Strategic Development Plan (2014-2018), National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (2014-2018), National Policy and Action Plan for Early Childhood Care and Development (2014-2018) and National Nutrition Strategy. In regard to Cambodian Millennium Development Goals, the nutrition is stated in the 1st goal “**Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger**”. Meanwhile, “the Nutrition” is also vital for achieving goals of Cambodian Millennium Development Goals, including the 4th goal “**Reduce Child Mortality**” and the 5th goal “**Improve Maternal Health**”.

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to take this opportunity to highly appreciate the relevant Ministries-Institutions, National and International Organizations and Development Partners (DPs) as well as all compatriots who actively contribute to eliminating malnutrition in community and put efforts for good nutrition for better lives for Cambodian Women and Children aiming to achieve that “**All Cambodians have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food, at all times, to meet their dietary needs and food preferences and optimize the utilization of this food for a healthy and productive life**”.

In the spirit of increasing intervention activities to achieve the above vision and to address the malnutrition more effectively and efficiently, RGC has been paying attention to taking measures to eliminate women’s and children’s malnutrition. To reaffirm the genuine commitment of the RGC in improving the nutrition in Cambodia, RGC has introduced the Fast Track Road Map for Improving Nutrition 2014-2020 and decided to be the 53rd member of the Global SUN Movement which was facilitated by Special Representative of Secretary General of the United Nations in charge of food security and nutrition, and allowed the celebration of this **National Nutrition Day** every year with the goal to jointly intervene in malnutrition and raise the public awareness on the impacts of nutrition upon health, and mental and physical development, which are key factors for achieving quality education and career. I also would like to take this opportunity to call on all relevant ministries-institutions at national and sub-national levels, Development Partners and citizens to join the government

to fight against malnutrition in all forms, which negatively affects our national economic and social development.

Meanwhile, I also would like to call on all competent ministries-institutions which have been working on the food safety to increase their cooperation to ensure that the imported food and food produced in Cambodia have high safety and quality to avoid the damage on the health of Cambodian people and especially to protect children against diseases which lead to malnutrition. The outcome of a recent survey shows that 43% of mothers in Phnom Penh use infant formula for their babies aged 0 to 6 months. Therefore, relevant ministries-institutions, Development Partners, civil societies and private sectors shall continue their concerted efforts to conduct awareness-raising campaign to educate people to change their habits and behaviors and make them understand that **“Exclusive breast feeding from 0 to 6 months old is the best and healthy choice, instead of using infant formula”** and to establish babies-friendly communities and hospitals across the country.

In regard to malnutrition, there is also a close link between safe water usage and good hygiene. Therefore, RCG would like to call on all people to drink safe water, use latrines regularly and wash hands with soap to reduce diseases caused by contaminated water and poor hygiene. Eating appropriate-fortified food such as iodized salt and iron-fortified fish sauce and soy sauce is an effective measure that the Royal Government encourages people to practice regularly in their daily living.

In the spirit and efforts to promote the above tasks, I do hope and believe that the nutrition status in Cambodia will be better. And through celebrating this **“First National Nutrition Day”**, our Cambodian people will improve their understandings on nutrition issues and participate in promoting the better nutrition for better lives.

Finally, to celebrate this **“National Nutrition Day, November 6”** and to enjoy our **Water Festival**, I would like to wish the respected supreme patriarchs of the two Buddhist sects, Buddhist monks and compatriots with four Buddha’s blessings: **Longevity, Nobility, Health and Strength.**

Phnom Penh, 03 November 2014

[Signed and stamped]

HUN SEN