

# VISIONS of CAMBODIA

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## CAMBODIA TO ADOPT PENTAGON STRATEGY FOR MORE DEVELOPMENT

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, said that the next Royal Government will adopt the Pentagon Strategy for more national development.

"The next Royal Government will launch a new political programme, so-called the Pentagon Strategy, not Rectangular Strategy anymore," the Prime Minister said while presiding over the closing ceremony of a meeting to review the activities and outcomes of the Royal Government Working Groups for the capital and provinces on 19 June.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen also recalled the Triangle Strategy and the Rectangular Strategy-Phases 1, 2, 3 and 4 used by the previous and current governments. "We are preparing a draft of the new strategy by gathering all components from the Rectangular Strategy and include the new ones," he said.

The Royal Government under the ruling Cambodian People's Party will continue to serve the nation's and people's interests and to promote accountability and transparency, reaffirmed Samdech Techo Hun Sen.

## NEW PORT IN KOH KONG PROVINCE INAUGURATED

A new port has been inaugurated in Koh Kong province's Khemarak Phoumin city and will provide economic benefits to the province through more tourism and maritime transport activities.

The inauguration ceremony was held on June 23 under the presidency of H.E. Sun Chantol, Senior Minister and Minister of Public Works

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## DRAFT LAW ON AMENDMENT TO ELECTION LAW APPROVED BY SENATE



The Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia has unanimously adopted the draft law on amendment to the Election Law.

The adoption was made during the Senate's 10th session of the 4th legislature chaired here on 29 June by its President Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdei Say Chhum.

The eight-article draft law is aimed to reform the "right to stand for election" in order to enhance the value of pluralist liberal democracy stated in the constitution of Cambodia, as well as to promote accountability

of elected political leaders at the national and sub-national levels. The amendment requires all future electoral candidates to have voted, among other legally binding requirements.

If this draft law comes in force, anyone who violates it will be fined from KHR 5 to 20 million (over US\$1,200 to nearly US\$5,000), not including other criminal charges.

The draft law on amendment to the Election Law was unanimously approved by the National Assembly in its 9th session of the 6th legislature on June 23, 2023.

## FOREIGN MINISTRY: INCURSIONS OF DRONES CONSTITUTE INTOLERABLE VIOLATION OF CAMBODIA'S SOVEREIGNTY

Cambodia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation on 28 June 2023, issued a press statement underlining, "the incursions of drones into Cambodian airspace constitute a blatant and intolerable violation of Cambodia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

According to the source, the Royal Government of Cambodia has been closely monitoring the

recent incidents that occurred at Daklak province, Vietnam and considered the attacks carried out by illegal armed forces on the Police Offices in Ea Tieu and Ea Ktur Communes as acts of terrorism, which posed significant threats to the safety and stability of its friendly neighbour country.

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## FOREIGN MINISTRY: INCURSIONS OF DRONES CONSTITUTE INTOLERABLE ...

In the spirit of unwavering adherence to upholding the principles of sovereignty and prohibition of utilising the Cambodian territory by any hostile armed group against a friendly neighbouring country, Cambodia has been actively collaborating with Vietnamese authorities and armed forces to preclude the future reoccurrence, it added.

In the aftermath of these events, it continued, Cambodia has received reports from competent authorities and armed forces along the provinces bordering Vietnam, particularly Rattanakiri and Mondulakiri provinces, regarding frequent encroachments into Cambodian airspace by unidentified drones, starting from June 27, 2023.

These actions perpetrated by the unidentified armed groups represent a blatant and intolerable violation of the Cambodian sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Royal Government of Cambodia has exercised its right to self-defence and taken firm and proportionate military measures to thwart any future incursions into Cambodian airspace.

Once the origin of these drones is determined, the Royal Government of Cambodia will undertake legal and diplomatic actions to register its strong protest against such encroachments on Cambodia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, stressed the press statement.

## NEW PORT IN KOH ...



and Transport, and H.E. Mrs. Mithona Phouthong, Governor of Koh Kong province.

Speaking at the ceremony, H.E. Sun Chanthol said the port will facilitate the safe and efficient transport of goods and passengers in the coastal areas and could also help in increasing tourism activities from other coastal provinces and from neighbouring countries such as Thailand and Vietnam.

"The Dang Tong port will play an important role in transport connection among the Cambodia's four coastal provinces and in integration to regional transport with regional countries – Thailand and Vietnam," he said. The port is 115 metres long, 16.50 metres wide and 4 to 8 metres deep, which can accommodate 2,000-tonne cargo ships.

The Dang Tong port was developed from the existing unused port on the Dong Tong tributary, in Sangkat Smach Meanchey, Khemarak Phoumin city.

Taking the opportunity, H.E. Pan Sorasak thanked all stakeholders for making the new policy possible, and requested development partners, particularly CAP-RED programme, GIZ CRAS project, HEKS Cambodia, Harvest III, CIRD, and CPSA, for their continued support to the policy.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, in 2022, cashew production covered 435,733 hectares of cultivated area, of which 330,861 hectares were harvested, giving 508,283 tonnes of yields. Some 471,520 tonnes of fresh cashew nuts and 1,557 tonnes of processed ones were exported last year.

## "NATIONAL CASHEW POLICY 2022-2027" OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED



"National Cashew Policy 2022-2027" has officially been launched to increase productivity and competitiveness of Cambodia's cashew, one of the country's priority agro-industrial crops.

The event was presided over by H.E. Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce, at the ministry office.

With 106 pages, the new policy which can be downloaded via <https://cutt.ly/twrzVWOD> was endorsed by the Council of Ministers on January 13, 2023, and was aimed to develop cashew production, processing, and marketing to be more competitive to ensure sustainability and economic diversification, and to transform Cambodia into an important producer and supplier of cashew nuts for local, regional and global markets in the near future, the minister stressed.

H.E. Pan Sorasak was also optimistic that the "National Cashew Policy 2022-2027" would become a roadmap and an effective driving force for the enhancement of cashew productivity and competitiveness in terms of yields and quality, diversification, processing, exports, and added value to all stakeholders in the value chain in order to attract more foreign direct investments by maintaining old markets and looking forwards to new sustainable markets which would create more job opportunities and added value in contribution to alleviating poverty, reducing migration and boosting the national economic growth.



## AUSTRALIAN FOOD MANUFACTURER SEEKING AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT POTENTIAL IN CAMBODIA

SPC Global— a renowned Australian agribusiness has explored agricultural investment and trade potential in Cambodia, stressing that the firm is interested in expanding to Cambodia for produce such as mango, rambutan, longan and dragon fruit.

The company, based in Victoria, Australia has over a century of experience in processing and packaging fruit and vegetable products.

The Australian Embassy, and its flagship economic development programme, Cambodia Australia Partnership for Resilient Economic Development (CAPRED) welcomed Mr. Hussein Rifai, Chairman of SPC Global, and Mr. Matthew McMichael, Chief Operating Officer, according to the embassy's press release issued on June 19.

The two-and-a-half-day visit allowed SPC Global to travel to Kirirom Food Production in Kampong Speu province and LyLy Food Industry Co. in Phnom Penh capital. They also met with four prominent agribusiness suppliers— Navita Food Production, Misota Food Cambodia, SHE Agrocarn, and Royal Trust.

The visit also provided an opportunity to meet with key representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia Chamber of Commerce, and the Investment Agency of the Council for the Development of Cambodia.

Cambodia is an ideal country for us to find new agricultural opportunities — especially in fruits and vegetables that don't grow or are currently unavailable in Australia, noted Mr. Hussein Rifai, adding that SPC can provide Australian food expertise and knowhow that will enable the development of innovative food products of the highest global quality while developing the agri-food industry in Cambodia.

"The agri-food sector is one of Cambodia's key focus sectors and Australia is already supporting its development. We are grateful to CAPRED for bringing this opportunity to our attention and are already progressing discussions with a couple of the businesses they introduced to us," he said.

Between 2017 and 2022, Cambodia's mango production increased by 160 percent and dried fruit exports increased by up to 6,500 percent. Cambodia has exceptional capacity for high value agricultural produce, including mango, banana, cashew, sweet potato, sesame, chilies and the world-famous Kampot Pepper.

SPC Global's visit is part of Australia's efforts to strengthening agricultural ties with Cambodia. It was initiated following a successful meeting between SPC and Cambodian delegates during the CAPRED Agri-food Industrial Park visit to Australia earlier this year.



## CAMBODIA EARNS OVER USD 2 BILLION FROM TOURISM IN 2022



Cambodia's tourism sector generated a total revenue of USD 2,065 million last year.

This figure was shared by the Ministry of Tourism in a report made public during a recapitulative meeting held here at the Sokha Phnom Penh Hotel on 21 June, adding that it represents 3.6 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Of the total amount, the report said, USD 1,415 million were earned by international tourism, and USD 650 million by domestic tourism.

According to the report, Cambodia recorded some 2.28 million foreign arrivals in 2022, an increase by 1,058.6 percent over the previous year, and 13.93 million domestic tourists, up 198.8 percent, creating 320,000 jobs for the locals.

For the first five months of this year, the country welcomed more than 2.1 million international visitors, a year-on-year growth of 530 percent, and around 10 million internal tourists.

The Kingdom is expected to attract some 4.5 million foreign tourists and at least 16 million domestic tourists in 2023.

In 2019, the pre-pandemic era, about 6.6 million international tourists visited the Kingdom, generating USD 4.92 billion in revenue that contributed 12.1 percent to the country's GDP.



## PHNOM PENH, A WORLD'S TRENDIEST DESTINATION FOR SOLO TRAVELLERS

Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia is among the five trendiest destinations in the world for solo traveler right now, according to Travel Off Path which analysed 24 months' worth of Google data to find the places that solo travelers are searching for.

"Phnom Penh in Cambodia is a fun and easy city to visit as a solo traveller. There is a lot to see and do, and Phnom Penh is an incredibly easy city to navigate," said the travel news source.

The best way to get around Phnom Penh as a solo traveler is by bicycle, taxi or three-wheeled motorbike, it pointed out.

"Cambodia boasts an abundance of natural beauty, from tropical beaches to dense jungles. Phnom Penh is a great base to explore all that Cambodia has to offer," the website underlined. "English is widely spoken in Phnom Penh, making it easy to communicate and navigate the city without support."



The famous UNESCO World Heritage listed temple, Angkor Wat, is not in the city, but it is easy to access via public transport or as part of a guided tour as a solo traveler, it added.

Solo travel is experiencing a real surge in popularity, with more people than ever choosing to pack their bags and explore the world on their own.

