



CAMBODIA
CONNECT

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Cambodian PM Sends Message on New Academic Year 2020-2021



Khmer Times/11 January

The Ministry of Education has just began opening the new academic school year 2020-2021 as planned despite Cambodia suffering from COVID-19 pandemic.

All schools across the country opened after months of closures due to COVID-19 outbreak.

Prime Minister Hun Sen sent a message to the people to mark the new academic year of general education programme 2020-2021 amid the COVID-19 pandemic, under the concept “New Life Path in Education”.

The Premier took the opportunity to express his sincere gratitude to the officials at all levels, local authorities, parents, guardians, charitable people, school management, especially teachers who have overcome all obstacles to support and provide all forms of learning to students during the fight against COVID-19.

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Justice Ministry: 89% Court Case Backlog Cleared



Phnom Penh Post/31 December 2020

Just 222 days after the launch of a campaign to address the court case backlog throughout Cambodia, the Ministry of Justice has cleared 35,100, or 89%, out of a total of 39,152 cases that were pending.

This has helped ease prison overcrowding by allowing the release of 26,100 inmates due to the ongoing campaign.

The Justice Ministry said the municipal and provincial court prosecutors across the country had cleared 35,100 criminal cases in the phase of prosecution, investigation and trial.

During the campaign, the municipal and provincial courts had also addressed more than 36,500 new criminal cases last year.

The ministry said that among the 26,100 inmates set to go free, 11,200 have already been released, 5,600 have not been freed yet, 3,000 are free from detention, and the remaining 6,300 have been sent to drug rehabilitation centres instead of being charged.

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Cambodia to Spend \$500 Million to Foster Labour and Vocational Training for 2021-2025



Khmer Times/02 January

Cambodia will invest nearly \$500 million to foster the country's labour and vocational training from 2021 to 2025.

This update was provided by Minister of Labour and Vocational Training, recently stressing that the execution of the budget will be guided by a clear plan of actions led by the ministry.

The advancement of the technical skills, he added, will also cover civil officials and technical trainers.

The allotted budget of \$493.1 million, to be exact, entails the construction of 62 educational institutions of 1,116 classrooms, 28 dormitories for trainees, and series of training and workshops as well as other support materials. •

\$7.9 Million in Maternal Allowances Paid By NSSF to Garment Workers



Khmer Times/07 January

More than 80,000 women received maternity allowances last year amounting to \$7.9 million from the government through the National Social Security Fund (NSSF).

The NSSF announced that from 1 January to 31 December last year, the government provided additional allowances to 80,499 garment workers who gave birth to 81,031 babies.

In 2019, a total of 77,449 garment workers gave birth to 77,966 babies.

NSSF said that the government takes care of the welfare and livelihoods of the people and garment workers through the Ministry of Labour and NSSF.

The government has publicly decided to provide subsidies to garment workers who have given birth as a supplementary allowance, which includes \$100 for the birth of one child, \$200 for the birth of twins and \$300 for the birth of triplets.

In 2018, Prime Minister Hun Sen announced the new policy to distribute money to help pregnant garment workers. •

COVID-19 Containment Policy – First Technical Meeting to Procure COVID-19 Vaccine Convened



Khmer Times/09 January

The tasked working group has convened the first technical meeting to discuss strategies and plans to expeditiously procure COVID-19 for Cambodian people.

The meeting touched on the reliable basis and the quantity for the purchase of the vaccine as well as how to distribute it for both emergency use and general rollout.

The meeting also studied possible financing options, including those from the national budget; grant aid and concessional loans from both bilateral and multilateral development partners; and donors to procure the protection.

In principle, Cambodia will procure a safe, quality and efficient COVID-19 vaccine granted with official recognition by the World Health Organisation.

As the pandemic threat remains there, WHO has just recognised the vaccine produced by Pfizer/BioNTech, and the concurrence is still limited to only emergency use, not for general vaccine rollout.

The Royal Government of Cambodia is working around the clock to procure the vaccine for Cambodians.

Effective containment of the COVID-19 has essential connection with Cambodia's growth and the welfare of the nation. •

Courts' Decisions Now Published As Reference Source



Phnom Penh Post/04 January

The Ministry of Justice has published 44 verdicts from civil litigation cases which can be used as models for court precedents and for study by the public and those who work in pertinent fields.

Publication of the verdicts on 31 December 2020 came as the result of joint efforts with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The published verdicts cover mostly money lending and real estate agreements.

The Ministry spokesperson said these verdicts were selected because they could serve as models and revealing them to the public will not affect the reputations or confidentiality of parties involved in the cases. Students could take these court's decisions as a basis for their studies, and they will also be of vital importance for law enforcement officials.

According to legal principle, all court verdicts must be made available to the public unless doing so would compromise the privacy of those involved in the case or other sensitive information. •

ACU Starts Getting New Asset Declarations



Khmer Times/07 January

The Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) said it has received more than 15,000 copies of the declaration of assets and liabilities by government officials, parliamentarians and senators.

ACU president said officials are obliged to declare their assets and liabilities every two years under the anti-corruption law.

He added that the ACU began accepting copies of asset declaration from 01 January until 31.

As of 05 January, the ACU has received a total of 15,012 copies, about 56% of the officials obliged to declare their assets. •

Cambodia's Export to US Still on the Rise despite Pandemic



Khmer Times /08 January

Cambodia's exports to the US was valued \$6,059 million worth of goods in the first eleven months of 2020, inching up 17 percent compared to that in a year before, reflecting strong export amid the world face hard time of COVID-19 pandemic.

Figures from the US government shows that the bilateral trade between Cambodia and the US was valued \$6,369 million, sliding down 22% year-on-year.

The figures also stated from January to November, Cambodia imported \$312 million worth of products from the world's biggest economic country, a year-on-year decrease of 36%.

Cambodia's main products exported to the US are mostly garment products, footwear and travel and bag product, while the main products imported from the US are vehicle, animal feeds, and machinery etc.

Last year, the two-way trade amount between Cambodia and the US increased by 38% to \$5.8 billion, of which Cambodia exported \$5.3 billion worth of goods to the US. •

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Justice Ministry: 89% Court...

Justice Ministry spokesman said the campaign had achieved remarkable results.

The campaign is scheduled to conclude on 17 May 2021.

Justice Minister announced the start of the campaign on 18 May last year after identifying 39,152 criminal cases pending at municipal and provincial courts.

He introduced four approaches for all working groups to focus on: speed, accuracy, fairness and probity. •

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Cambodian PM Sends...

From March 2020 until now, the Royal Government has introduced effective measures to contain and prevent the spread of COVID-19, focusing on the implementation of health safety measures for education staff and students; the preparation of sanitation infrastructure such as toilets and clean water at schools; the establishment of e-education system and provision of distance learning services; and the authorisation of school resumption in three phases.

All of these measures have been taken to ensure that students at all levels can continue to receive education services under diverse forms, i.e. in-class learning, distance learning, auto-learning, and e-learning, he added.

At the same time, the PM also gave recommendations to further enhance safe school programme with high quality of education.

Many public schools have been a hive of activities since early January 2021. •

