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## Battambang-Banteay Meanchey Road Construction Project Almost Completed

The construction of an 87-kilometre-long road section from Battambang province to Banteay Meanchey province, part of the National Road No. 5 Improvement Project, has been almost completed.

Besides the Battambang-Banteay Meanchey section, the road construction from Prek Kdam, north of Phnom Penh capital, to Battambang province, has been achieved at approximately 50 percent, the source added.

The National Road No. 5 Improvement project has a total length of 366 kilometres connecting the capital to the northwestern part of the country passing through Kampong Chhnang, Pursat, Battambang, and Banteay Meanchey provinces.

The road is being built with four lanes with a width of 23 metres.

Built with Japanese grant of US\$500 million, the National Road No. 5 is part of the ASEAN highway connecting Cambodia to Thailand and Vietnam.



## Samdech Techo Prime Minister: Cambodia's Goal is to Vaccinate 80% of Total Population



The goal of Cambodia is to vaccinate about 80 percent of the total population of 16 million, affirmed Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia in his remarks at the handover-receiving ceremony of 332,000 of Japan-donated 1 million doses of AstraZeneca, at Phnom Penh International Airport tonight.

With the 10 million adults, whose vaccination campaign is expected to end not later than October this year, and the 2 million children aged between 12 and 17 years old, whose vaccination will begin on August 1, 2021, Cambodia's vaccination coverage will reach 75 percent, he said.

"If we vaccinate 13 million people, the coverage will rise to 81.5 percent," he added. "At all costs, we will look for ways to find vaccines for all Cambodians reaching the age of vaccination and being allowed to get vaccinated by the medical team."

The first priority is the right to life, not the freedom of expression, Samdech Techo Hun Sen underlined, continuing that he did not care who criticises the Cambodian laws because the laws have been made to protect the people's lives.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to the Government and people of Japan for their material

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## Royal Government of Cambodia Spends US\$380 Million for Cash Relief

The Royal Government of Cambodia has spent roughly US\$381 million for its cash relief programme to support those hit hard by COVID-19 crisis.

The financial support has been transferred to the poor and vulnerable people since the programme was launched in June last year.

Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation said in a press release issued on July 24 that the cash relief programme was completed for 5 rounds.

Some 658,857 families, composed of 2.6 million people in total, benefited from the programme during the period, it stated.

About 95 percent of the total ID Poor families are in rural areas, while the rest in urban areas, said the same source, adding that the sixth round was kicked off on July 25.

People who have verified ID poor certifications are eligible to receive the cash handout with the money being transferred to Wing agents throughout the country.

Each poor family in urban areas is given 120,000 Riel (about US\$30) and 80,000 Riel (about US\$20) for those living in rural areas, plus other allowances for each family member (children under the age of five, people with disabilities, elderly people, or those who are HIV/AIDS positive).



## Cambodia's Macroeconomic and Financial Stability Well Secured

Cambodia's international reserves remain as high as US\$20.8 billion, while the banking sector stays healthy amid the threat of COVID-19 pandemic.

The trend was highlighted in a recent press release shared by the National Bank of Cambodia (NBC), to reaffirm the government's right measures not only in containing and responding to the disease, but also to secure national economy.

The existing US\$20.8 billion of Cambodia's international reserves, can ensure procurement of needed goods and services for more than ten months.

Meanwhile, Cambodia's banking stays noticeably resilient with the increase of around 18 percent of assets, 23.4 percent of loans, and 20.7 percent of deposits.

In the first half of 2021, Cambodia's economy continues to feel the impacts by COVID-19, especially for tourism, manufacturing and construction, while agriculture managed to grow.

To unload the burden of some sectors and individuals affected, the banking and financial institutions in Cambodia have restructured 367,239 loans equivalent to about US\$5.5 billion.

The NBC leadership also reiterated its commitment to implement measures directed by the Royal Government to maintain strong macroeconomic and financial stability.





## Johnson & Johnson Vaccine to Arrive Cambodia This Friday

The U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh said one million doses of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine donated by the U.S. to Cambodia via the COVAX facility will arrive Cambodia soon.

This donation is part of the United States' ongoing support for the people of Cambodia and the region as it recovers from this devastating pandemic, underlined the embassy in a press release issued this evening (28 July).

The first half of the doses will arrive on Friday, July 30, at 07:15 a.m. at Phnom Penh International Airport and the remainder is expected to arrive on Monday, August 2, it added.

US Embassy Chargé D’Affaires Ben Wohlauer and representatives from the Royal Government of Cambodia, World Health Organisation, and UNICEF will attend the Cambodia Has Over 100 River and Sea Ports vaccine’s arrival event.

## Cambodia Has Over 100 River and Sea Ports

Cambodia has in total 105 ports, of which 78 are river ports located along the Mekong, Tonle Sap, Tonle Basac and in provinces, and 27 others are sea ports.

The figures were shared by the Ministry of Public Works and Transports (MPWT), adding that the ports, run by both the government and private companies, are divided into trade, industrial, tourism and oil port and so on.

Those ports have been playing a key role in promoting trade activities to develop national, regional and international economy, it added.



## Samdech Techo ...

and financial support for Cambodia in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister will preside over the launch of the vaccination campaign against COVID-19 for the children aged between 12 and 17 years old to be held at Calmette Hospital on August 1, 2021.

The vaccination of younger citizens will start from Phnom Penh capital, he underlined, adding that when we have enough vaccines, the provinces can conduct the vaccination both for adults and children at the same time.

With the newly arrived Sinopharm vaccines 1 million doses on 22 July, Cambodia has received in total over 17 million doses of vaccines through purchase and donations: 6.2 million doses of Sinopharm, 10.5 million doses of Sinovac, and 324,000 doses of AstraZeneca/SII (COVISHIELD).

3 million doses of Sinovac, and another 2 million doses more would arrive in Cambodia in August and in September, respectively and some 1 million doses of Johnson & Johnson via COVAX Facility would arrive in the near future.

## Cambodia-China Friendship Thbong Khmum Hospital Construction 70 Per- cent Complete

The construction of Cambodia-China Friendship Thbong Khmum Hospital is now 70 percent complete after two years of construction.

The construction of Cambodia-China Friendship Thbong Khmum Hospital began on Mar. 1, 2019, with a grant from the Chinese government and is the second-largest project after the Cambodia-China Friendship Preah Kossamak Hospital. The construction of Hospital will be completed by upcoming October.

The hospital covers an area of 24,300sqm and the construction is estimated to cost some US\$50 million.

The another US\$80-million worth Cambodia-China Friendship Preah Kossamak Hospital is currently under construction and has been set to put into temporary operation in upcoming September and the official launch will fall on earlier next year.

