

Introduction

of H.E YOS SON, Representative of the Cambodian; People's Party at the Workshop organized by NDI and CALD on Strategy of Political Parties to Combat against Corruption (Bangkok, 13-16 January 2002)

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to participate in the Workshop on Strategy of Political Parties to combat against Corruption as a speaker. I would like to express my admiration and appreciation to NDI and CALD for organizing this important workshop.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share with Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen our concept on “Strategy of Political Parties against corruption”.

The corruption is not new and not exists in one part of the world but is a global phenomenon which its impact varies from one country to another.

The increasing of the corruption has seriously affected the quality of the governance and the sustainable development. Each country has its own political and social historic context, thus the specific strategies were differently put forward accordingly.

According to the particular characteristic of the current situation in Cambodia, the combating against corruption through the governance promotions is an updated topic. The royal government and the main development partners consider that good governance is a crucial key for the national economic reform and the poverty alleviation. Good governance the way to carry out and exercise the rights in the civil service management and the allocation of social and economical resources. The government plays an important role in managing national economy and society, IL is a main economic agent supplier of necessary public goods to society such as infrastructure, major physical object health service and education decision maker of the social and macro economy policies, which directly affected the health and competitiveness of the national economy in the long run,- a decision maker on the resource reallocation through the monetary, tax and budget policies,- a market management according to the arrangement of law frameworks and norms for the transaction of private sector and economic operation.

The Royal Government is clearly aware of these issues faced, and has put forward step by step the measures of reform and enforcement of the public administration and the jurisdictional systems in order to improve the effectiveness of the public services, ensure the transparency, the responsibility to fight against the corruption. The Royal Government is prepared to establish institutional structure and mechanism necessary for managing and conducting the reform of the armed forces, public administration and jurisdictional systems. The detailed working

programme and plan of action have also gradually been arranged and rectified. At present, the first stage of the reform programme has actively been implemented.

Coinciding with the preparation to execute the programme of the demobilization of the armed forces, the Royal Government has started the first stage of the programme of the public administration reform including the preparation of the government official census, the analysis on the roles of the ministries and institutions of the Royal Government, the arrangement of the career ecclesiastical rank in the public functions and the arrangement of the new salary system.

At the same time, the Royal Government is concerned with the problems relevant to the increase of the government officials and the problems related to the corruption. In order to prevent the further swelling numbers of the government officials, the Royal Government has set a tight measure to the selection of additional officials in new frameworks, which is to do through the transparent examination. In the administrative sector, the Royal Government is being under the process of changing the managerial systems from the centralization to the decentralization form and has been implementing the programme of technical decentralization in order to divide the power from the central to the local level. The forthcoming communal election will provide two values for the Cambodian people: Firstly, the strengthening of the democracy in the local level, in which the people will exercise their rights to select the candidates whom they like, and secondly, the strengthening of the effectiveness of the public services in the locality. The two factors will help strengthening the democracy, the respect of human rights and the effectiveness of the management and development in all sectors.

In the aim to establish mechanism and institution for combating the corruption and to ensure the transparency and the responsibility in the public financial management, the Royal Government has arranged the drafts of law such as the law on audition and on the responsibility of the holder of the public money to submit the executive institution for consideration and adoption. In October 1999, the Royal Government set up a unit for combating the corruption, whose composition consists of a number of members from the expert institutions to research and put forward the measure and plan of action for reinforcing works against the corruption. However, these works were met with many obstacles and difficulties, the Royal Government has achieved a remarkable progress. The eradication of anarchy in the forest area, the development of the fiscal income, the elimination of ghost numbers in the army rank, the confiscation of land properties, which were illegally held and sold, are the measures directly hit the corruption.

The strengthening of good governance is to be done side by side with the arrangement and reinforcement of the judicial framework, the reform of the jurisdictional and justice systems as well as the programme of the public administrative reform. The Royal Government has step by step started these works, and has gradually achieved fruitful and encouraging results. The approach

to these faced problems needs full exercise of the democracy with the participation of the mass, the building of the law system, the strict norms and rules of moral conducts, the training of human resources to have adequate expert experiences and vocational moral. The Royal Government is also concerned with the provision of suitable salary to the public administrative and jurisdictional officials.

The change of the individual behaviour and of the way of thinking of the whole national society is another problem, which has been paid attention by the government. All of these are the heavy duties that they could not achieve in a short time. The approach to these faced problems is to be done step by step. The government has paid attention to another aspect of the good governance, which is the healthiness of the private sector in the country. The government's view is that the private sector is an impetus of the development and an engine of the economic growth. The government gave its vision in this role, and built a general environment, which help facilitating and boosting up the private sector's activity. If the private sector was weak, the corruption would pull the public sector to collapse. Thus the Royal Government has made special focus on the arrangement of the judicial framework for the cooperation of the private sector, which ensures the competitiveness full of justice and transparency and responsibility.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

All above are a number of strategies and activities that the Cambodian People's Party and the Royal Government of Cambodia have been carrying out to combat the corruption through the strengthening of good governance towards restoring and developing the country and eradicating the people's poverty.

I am convinced that the seminar will gain further good experiences from the political parties participated in this significant occasion.

On behalf of the Cambodian's People's Party, I would like to wish the seminar a fruitful result and thank for the kind audiences of your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

THANK YOU