

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

## PRESS RELEASE

Outcomes of the Official Visit of His Excellency Dr Phankham Viphavanh
Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic
to the Kingdom of Cambodia

Phnom Penh, 29-30 November 2021

At the invitation of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Excellency Dr Phankham Viphavanh, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, led a high-level delegation to pay an official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia from 29-30 November 2021 on the auspicious occasion of the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Cambodia and Laos. Cambodia highly valued His Excellency Dr Phankham Viphavanh's decision to have chosen the Kingdom of Cambodia as his first official visit overseas in his capacity as the Prime Minister of Laos.

During the visit, His Excellency Dr Phankham Viphavanh, laid wreathes at the Independence Monument to pay tribute to the war heroes and heroines of Cambodia, and paid respect to the Royal Memorial Statue of His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK, PREAH BOROM RATANAK KAUDH, the Late King-Father of Cambodia.

His Excellency Dr Phankham Viphavanh paid a royal audience to His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath NORODOM SIHAMONI, King of Cambodia, at the Royal Palace. He also paid separate courtesy calls on Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdey SAY CHHUM, President of the Senate, and Samdech Akka Moha Ponnea Chakrel HENG SAMRIN, President of the National Assembly of Cambodia, and beld a bilateral Meeting with Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN.

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In a cordial atmosphere of traditional friendship, good neighbourliness, fraternal solidarity, mutual understanding and trust, Samdech Techo Prime Minister and His Excellency Dr Phankham Viphavanh had an in-depth discussion and highly valued both countries' close relationship and cooperation in politics, defence and security, trade and investment, land and air connectivity, energy, tourism and education.

The two Prime Ministers agreed to expedite the finalization of the draft Action Plan for the Comprehensive and Long-lasting Strategic Partnership between the two countries as agreed upon during the bilateral meeting between the then Prime Minister of Laos, His Excellency Dr Thongloun SISOULITH and Samdech Techo Prime Minister, during his official visit to Cambodia on 12-13 September 2019.

Regarding border affairs, Cambodia and Laos have achieved approximately 86% of the common land boundary with a total of 121 border pillars. Both Prime Ministers agreed to task the Cambodia-Laos Joint Boundary Commission (JBC) to expedite the negotiation on the draft Treaty on the Delimitation of State Boundary between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic and to further discuss the bornage of complementary boundary pillars in the above-said 86% border segments as well as to produce a border map illustrating these results for attachment to the above-said treaty.

Both Prime Ministers also agreed to further promote regular high-level visits and meetings between the two countries' leaders, respective ministries, institutions, and local authorities to boost cooperation in various areas as well as to enhance the Cambodia-Laos traditional bond of friendship. They encouraged their respective relevant authorities, at the central and local levels, to perform their duties with a high sense of responsibility to ensure peace and stability in the border areas between Cambodia and Laos and to transform it into a border of lasting peace, friendship and cooperation.

In the areas of national defence and public security, the leaders of both countries agreed to further promote cooperation in the preventing and suppressing illegal activities by exchanging and sharing information between the authorities in the

border areas of the two countries. The two leaders also agreed to task relevant authorities to coordinate and work closely through regular consultations, exchange of visits at all levels, consular and legal cooperation and cooperation on combating illicit drugs, transnational crimes, communicable diseases and natural disasters.

The two Leaders reiterated the importance of promoting bilateral cooperation to increase trade and investment between the two countries for a speedy socio-economic recovery. Both sides also encouraged relevant authorities to expedite the negotiation on the Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation-DTA.

The Laos Prime Minister expressed his sincere gratitude to Samdech Prime Minister for Cambodia's continued generous donation both in the form of medical supplies and cash, in particular the recent additional donation of USD 13 million, of which USD 3 million were from the Royal Government of Cambodia and USD 10 million were from private corporates, 500,000 doses of Sinovac vaccine as well as 3 vehicles to assist Laos in her efforts to fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. His Excellency Dr Phankham Viphavanh highly appreciated Samdech Prime Minister for sharing good experiences and best practices of the Government of Cambodia in successfully containing the spread of Covid-19.

On regional and international cooperation, both Leaders exchanged views on issues of common interests and concerns and expressed their strong determination to support each other and promote cooperation in multilateral frameworks, especially in ASEAN, thereby contributing to peace, stability and prosperity in the region and beyond. In this respect, Samdech Techo Prime Minister expressed his high appreciation to the Laos Prime Minister for supporting Cambodia in successfully hosting the recent 13<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit and Cambodia's role as the ASEAN Chair in 2022.

His Excellency Dr Phankham Viphavanh cordially invited Samdech Techo Prime

Minister and Samdech Kittipritthbindit to pay an official visit to Lao PDR at an appropriate time in the near future.

nom Penh, 30 November 2021