

**Report of H.E. Chhay Than, Senior Minister, Minister
of Planning, Chairman of Census Technical Committee
On the occasion of the announcement of Provincial
Census Committee
MOI Conference Hall, 05 April 2007**

Respected :

- H.E Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior, Chairman of National Census Committee
- Excellencies Governors, Deputies Governors
- Ms. Bettina MAAS, UNFPA Representative
- H.E. Norio MARUYAMA, Acting Ambassador of Japan
- H.E. Yazuhiro YONEDA, JICA Representative
- Mr. Daniel HAAS, First Secretary of the German Embassy
- Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen
- Planning Chiefs, Deputy Planning Chiefs of provinces and municipalities

First of all, on behalf of members of Census Technical Committee and on my own behalf, as well as all development partners, I would like to thank deeply H.E Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Chairman of NCC for spending busy time to chair this ceremony to announce the provincial census committees. I would like to welcome Excellencies Governors and Deputy Governors of provinces and municipalities for participating in this occasion responding to our invitations.

I would like to take this opportunity to report the main preparations done so far. Census, meaning a full count of population for the entire country without exception including all foreigners living in the territory of Cambodia except diplomatic corps and the like.

Following the success in the creation of a valuable population database as a result of the 1998 Population Census, the RGC is committed to further build and strengthen the population database through the next census. There has been an increase in demand from government ministries and institutions' planners and researchers for reliable and updated demographic and social data in order to accurately review their plans and programs.

2008 Census Project currently is a part of Population Statistics of Statistical Master Plan of Cambodia that should be updated and will provide series of accurate data such as population data and nature of social and economic development. 2008 Census data will provide indicators for monitoring and assessing National Strategic Development Plan. Statistics Law state that the census shall be conducted at least once every ten years. Series of census data is for assessing situation in the past and describing current aspects and future projection.

The preparations of the census started in early 2006 after the sub-decree on specification of population census date preparation and organization of 2008 general population census was signed by Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia on 30 January 2006. After then, the Census Technical committee was formed by the National Census Committee and was signed by Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Chairman of the National Census Committee. Moreover, the conducting of population census in provinces and municipalities will be according to the Prakas (Notice) of the National Census Committee.

One of the foremost and utmost important activity is that the Census Technical committee is organizing 2 workshops for mobilizing resources and to follow up with various development partners. As final results, the estimated budget for the census of 5,956,480 US\$ the Royal Government has been supported by UNFPA: 1,464,711US\$, JICA: 568, 230US\$, Government of Japan: 1,686,656US\$, German Government: 1,549,000US\$. By the request of H.E. Chairman of the National Census Committee, the Royal Government of Cambodia has approved from the Government budget as counter part funds of the Royal Government the amount of 746, 758US\$ for buying cars and motorcycles as well as paying the incentives costs of field work. I would like to stress that, in addition to JICA, the Government of Japan, through its counter-part funds of Japan, has supported fully the construction of Statistics Center of 885, 827US\$ (not included in the original budget of the census) which is expected to finalize in December 2007 and recently has approved the release of counter-part funds of Japan of 1,968,212 US\$ including 1,686,656US\$ for the census and other statistics works of 281,556 US\$.

Under the guidance of Senior Minister, Minister of Planning, Chairman of the Census Technical Committee, the census work plan, the census questionnaires, manuals has been prepared and census mapping conducted in provinces and municipalities. Census requires delineations of EAs which compose of 100 households for distributing to enumerators in order to avoid missing anyone or double counting.

In order to obtain the digitized EAs maps, JICA has trained 30 NIS staff and these staff were assigned to implement in the provinces. It is important to note that in the population census 2008, we are using new IT technology i.e. digitized maps drawn by computers in order to, at the final stage, disseminate the results of population census in a modern way. This work is assisted technically and financially by JICA. So far the NIS staff has done the census mapping for 18 provinces and municipalities.

The Census Technical Committee has approved the use of software CSPRO for data entry and analysis of the census 2008. This software has been applied and ready to put in 100 personal computers of which now the NIS has acquired already 20 personal computers from UNFPA and JICA.

The mission of the census adviser of UNFPA from 14 March to 08 April 2008 has assisted NIS to finalize manuals and instructions of the census including questionnaires except the instructions for editing and coding. The census adviser also trained 120 regional officers and assistant regional officers/ trainers of trainings from 19 to 23 March 2007. The other training for provincial officers will start this afternoon 5 April to 9 April 2007.

In order to smoothly implement the census, it is necessary to have a census publicity campaign to educate the authorities and masses on the census. Concerning this work, the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior, Chairman of National Census Committee has signed on 28 December 2006 the formation of Committee on Census Publicity Campaign with relevant line ministries as members. This Committee will have meeting on 6 April, 2007 in order to prepare its work plan.

Another important work of the census is the enumeration of defense personnel which was successful in the 2008 Population Census without any difficulty. In the Census 2008, on behalf of the Census Technical Committee, I would like to ask to include this matter in the next agenda of the National Census Committee in order to seek guidance and decision from Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Chairman of National Census Committee.

The census has enormous size and we need census officers around 40,000 staff, therefore we need to request the service of teachers from the Ministry of Education Youth and Sports. In the 1998 population census teachers were conducting well the fieldwork in their areas. We will discuss this matter too in the National Census Committee in the future.

Another work that need to be prepared in the near future is the design of the post enumeration survey and instructions as well as the sampling for the survey because this work has to be undertaken after completion of the census. Post enumeration survey is designed to evaluate the accuracy of the census. It measure the coverage error (under counting) and the extent of over counting (duplication) that occurred in the census.

Remaining a lot of works to do before the census enumeration. That are works relating to printing, advocacy materials, T-shirt, hat, bag and logistics works to the provinces, municipalities.

Finally, I would like to thank deeply all development partners for supporting the 2008 Population Census and I would like to thank leader of the Royal Government for providing significant counter-part fund of the Royal Government for the Population Census 2008.

I would like to thank Excellency Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior, Chairman of the National Census Committee for guiding the preparations activities for the census successfully and I would like to thank Excellencies Governors, Deputy Governors and wish good health and success in the census.

Thank You