

**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

30th April 2015

“Lower Sesan 2 will not benefit to Cambodia. That’s why we ask to cancel it.”

A Follow-up Letter

on

**An Investigation of the Lower Sesan 2 Hydropower Project by the National Assembly’s
Commission on Planning, Investment, Agriculture, Rural Development, Environment, and
Water Resources**

by

The Project Affected Communities

Addressed to

H.E. Ham Pol,

**Chairperson of the Commission on Planning, Investment, Agriculture, Rural Development,
Environment, and Water Resources**

and

**H.E. Samdech Akeak Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin,
President of the National Assembly of Cambodia**

We are representatives of indigenous or local Punong, Jaray, Krueng, Brao, Kaveth, Kachok, Lao and Khmer communities who are living along the Sesan and Srepok Rivers in northeastern Cambodia. Our villages are located in the area affected by the Lower Sesan 2 (LS2) Hydropower Dam, which is being constructed by the Lower Sesan 2 Company. These communities are Kbal Romeas, Sre SraNok, Srekor 1 & 2, Chrob, Kro Bey Chroum, Phloulk and Khsach Thmey Villages in Sesan District, Stung Treng Province, and villages from six districts in Ratanakiri Province, namely Kon Mom, Lumphat, Vernsai, Taveng, Andong Meas and O’yadav Districts.

First of all, we would like to thank the Commission on Planning, Investment, Agriculture, Rural Development, Environment, and Water Resources of the National Assembly and local authorities for visiting Srekor Village on 28th May 2015. About three hundred affected villagers from Srekor and other villages in Stung Treng and Ratanakiri Provinces attended a meeting with the National Assembly members and local authorities.

However, we note our concern that there was only one hour and half for discussion. Of the more than three hundred villagers, only eight were able to speak out. There were many other villagers who wanted to express their views but were not able to do so due to the time constraint. Therefore, we are submitting this letter to emphasize some of the major issues that might not have been communicated clearly or fully to the National Assembly members.

We would like to stress that we are NOT opposing Cambodia’s development. However, we are opposing the LS2 project because:

- LS2 will destroy our country’s valuable properties and resources, especially fish, which many Cambodians depend upon as an essential source of food and livelihoods. If LS2 is built and blocks the natural river flow, fish will no longer be able to migrate freely. The project will decrease fish population not only along the Sesan and Srepok Rivers but also in the mainstream of the Mekong River and Great Tonle Sap Lake. All Cambodian citizens eat fish every day and we rely on this food source. We are deeply concerned that LS2 will negatively affect the well-being, health and livelihoods of our families and communities and of all Cambodians.
- The local communities living along the Sesan River have already been negatively affected by

hydropower dams, such as the Yali Fall Dam upstream in Vietnam. We can testify from our experiences that, like the other dam projects, LS2 will change the water quality and flow of the rivers and that these changes will affect the health, life and livelihoods of all the communities living both downstream and upstream of the project.

- We are concerned that our ancestral graves cannot be compensated by cash or moved from our villages. Our culture, traditions, identity, and guardian spirits have strong connections to the land, which is our home village. These strong connections to the land enable us to use natural resources in the forest and river in sustainable ways. This has been recognized and respected as rights of indigenous people. We will not move from our home villages because of this connection.
- We are very concerned about the process for conducting the asset survey in our communities. Many of the villagers who placed their thumbprint on the document related to the survey on their land, house, trees, and other properties did not agree to be resettled. Besides, many of them were given little or no information about the survey and were often threatened by the measurement committee to agree to have the asset survey and put a thumbprint on the document. Most villagers were not provided with clear explanations on what the document was about. They were not informed about the results of the measurement, nor given a copy of the document that they placed a thumbprint on.

We would like to request the Committee and the National Assembly of Cambodia to kindly take the following actions:

- Take all of our concerns and huge negative impacts of the LS2 Project on the entire Cambodia into serious account and intervene to urge the Royal Government of Cambodia and Hydrolancang International Energy of China to immediately stop the construction and address the concerns;
- Cancel the results of the asset survey and conduct an investigation into this process as we feel it was not freely or fairly conducted;
- Raise all the concerns and negative impacts of the Project at a National Assembly debate and discuss seriously if this project will really lead to our country's development or not;
- National Assembly advise Royal Government of Cambodia, Authorities and company to stop threatening or putting pressure to affected community to accept the project; and
- Set up a forum to invite all stakeholders of the Project, especially representatives of the affected communities, ourselves included. Give us enough information in advance and enough time at such a forum to listen to our concerns and views so that we can all discuss and identify solutions to these problems.

We are more than happy to answer any questions you have and provide you with additional information you would like about these issues -please let us know.

We are looking forward to receiving your response to our requests and suggestions laid out above. Please send your response to our requests to **Mr. Dam Samnang**, our community representative, in writing in Khmer language by 20th May 2015 email address: three-s-community@hotmail.com

Thank you very much for your time and kind attention.

Sincerely yours,

For more information, please contact:

1. Mr. Dam Samnang, Community Representative in Kbal Romeas Village, Stung Treng
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2. Mr. Srey Lybi, community Representative in Chrop village, Stung Treng
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3. Mrs. Foy South, Community Representative in Vernsai district, Ratanakiri
0887069531
4. Mr. Chann Phally, Community Representative in Kro Bey Chroum, Stung Treng
0719069277
5. Mrs. Sarun Khom, Community Representative in Srekor 2, Stung Treng
0975703735
6. Mr. Va Kham Phai, Community Representative in Srepok Thom, Ratanakiri
0888043691
7. Mr. Phao Mai, Community Representative in Phlouk, Stung Treng
0712210499

CC to:

- Ministry of Mines and Energy
- Ministry of Economy and Finance
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Rural Development
- Ministry of Water Resource and Metrology
- Chinese Embassy in Cambodia
- Lower Sesan 2 Hydropower Company
- (a joint venture of Hydrolancang and the Royal Group)
- UN High Commissioner in Cambodia
- Mekong River Commission
- Cambodian National Mekong Committee
- Lao National Mekong Committee
- Vietnam National Mekong Committee
- Thai National Mekong Committee
- The media and civil society organizations in Mekong Region and internationally