



ក្រសួងរ៉ែ និងថាមពល
Ministry of Mines and Energy

លេខ: 1836 MME.....

ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា
ជាតិ សាសនា ព្រះមហាក្សត្រ
Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation Religion King

.....03..., September, 2021

MEDIA STATEMENT

STATEMENT RELATING TO MT STROVOLOS AND THE CARGO OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

This statement is issued by the Ministry of Mines and Energy in relation with the vessel MT STROVOLOS and the cargo on board of approximately 300,000 bbls of crude oil belonging to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Executive summary

The purpose of this statement is to make it clear that:

- The cargo of crude oil on the MT STROVOLOS belongs to the Kingdom of Cambodia;
- The disputes regarding the payment of hire are between the vessel's owners/managers and the charterer and do not involve the Kingdom of Cambodia;
- MT STROVOLOS illegally left Cambodian waters and took steps to evade detection once it had done so, eventually entering Indonesian waters where it has been detained; and
- Consequently, various breaches of Cambodian and Indonesian laws have been committed and are now the subject of investigation and legal process.

Background

WTM are the managers of MT STROVOLOS which was employed by a company belonging to the KrisEnergy Group to act as a floating storage and offloading (FSO) in the Apsara Block A, offshore Cambodia (Cambodia Block A). The vessel was under charter to KrisEnergy to perform that service, which had an agreement with the Royal Government of Cambodia, as represented by the Ministry of Mines and Energy, for the exploration and development in the Cambodia Block A .

Removal of the cargo from Cambodian waters

The vessel was moored and connected to the production barge INGENIUM II to receive crude oil from it, to perform its service as an FSO and permit offtake onto other vessels, subject to local laws and regulations. The Ministry of Mines and Energy understands that there are ongoing claims between the owners/managers of the vessel and KrisEnergy regarding, among others, the payment of the hire of the vessel. If this is indeed the situation,



then it is a matter between them and has nothing to do with the Royal Government of Cambodia and its crude oil.

Whilst under charter to KrisEnergy, the vessel master was instructed by WTM in the evening of 18 June 2021 to depart Cambodia at 8p.m. to Thai waters with the cargo of crude oil. The departure of the vessel was without obtaining customs clearance or permission from the Cambodian authorities, and in breach of Cambodian laws.

The automatic identification system (AIS) of the vessel went offline at 12:23 a.m. on 19 June 2021 which made the vessel undetectable and went back online at 10:48 p.m. on 20 June 2021, almost 2 days later after the vessel had left Cambodian waters. Her AIS continued to be offline from time to time during her subsequent journey to Indonesian waters.

The Ministry of Mines and Energy rejects the assertion by WTM in its media statement that the vessel had no realistic choice but to sail the vessel out of Cambodian waters to undertake crew change and bunkering. At no time were the Ministry of Mines and Energy or the Cambodian authorities contacted by the vessel owners, the managers or any other party to arrange or permit any crew change or the bunkering of the vessel. In any event, neither of these matters would excuse the removal of the vessel and cargo of crude oil from Cambodian waters in breach of Cambodian laws. Since her unlawful departure, the vessel has made no attempt to return to Cambodian waters nor has she taken any steps to return the cargo of crude oil. This is despite the vessel owners, managers, master and officers being fully aware that the crude oil belongs to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Present position

The Ministry of Mines and Energy understands that the vessel is currently being detained in the Republic of Indonesia for potential breaches of Indonesian laws. In Cambodia, Criminal complaints have been filed against the vessel owners, managers, the master, the chief officer and their accomplices for various criminal offences under Cambodian law. Those complaints are being dealt with by the competent Cambodian courts.

The Royal Government of Cambodia has sought the assistance of the Indonesian Government to bring the perpetrators and their accomplices to justice and to obtain the restoration of the cargo of crude oil to the Kingdom of Cambodia according to international laws and domestic laws of the two respective countries.

The Royal Government of Cambodia is grateful to the Indonesian Government for its cooperation to date in that regard.

The Ministry of Mines and Energy understands that the crew presently are being arrested and investigated for, or having been charged with committing offences in Indonesia and Cambodia. Those matters will have to take their legal course and they are neither political nor commercial matters.



Way forward

As the owner of the cargo of crude oil, the Royal Government of Cambodia has taken, and will continue to take, all necessary steps to recover the crude oil and ensure the due enforcement of law.

As matters are ongoing and subject to legal process, the Ministry of Mines and Energy does not intend to make further comments at this time.

As illustrated above, please be informed on the above matters.

