

**Statement of The Federation of Khmer Chinese in Cambodia
(Unofficial Translation)**

Overseas news media have recently been exaggerating and reporting online fraud in Southeast Asia, mainly conducting erroneous analyses and interpretations of fraud crimes in Cambodia and creating alarmist portrayals of Cambodia as a "crime haven" for criminal syndicates, which has sparked increased interest from around the world.

Is there really such a case? Over the past 20 years, Cambodia has had peace and stability, social order has been excellent, people have lived and worked in peace and contentment, various industries have thrived, and the country has become a fascinating place for foreign investment. Before the pandemic, the country's economy maintained an average annual growth rate of around 7%, making it one of the region's fastest-growing economies. Following the pandemic's outbreak, the Royal Government, led by Prime Minister Hun Sen, implemented rapid and effective prevention and control measures, allowing Cambodia to quickly defeat the pandemic and become one of the first countries to resume economic and social activities.

Of course, as the most economically open and free country in Southeast Asia, Cambodia attracts large amounts of foreign investment. It is unavoidable that we will get a few bad people and investments. Just like She Zhi Jiang, the leader of a criminal fraud syndicate who was recently arrested in Thailand, for example, was involved in online fraud and criminal activities in Cambodia, but this does not represent Cambodia's economy as a whole, nor does the economic activity of Cambodian nationals or foreigners in Cambodia rely on these activities. The Royal Government of Cambodia is enhancing cooperation with law enforcement agencies in relevant countries and regions to crack down on all forms of cross-border criminal activity and eradicate "cancers" that seriously harm the country's image.

The Federation of Khmer Chinese in Cambodia actively collaborates with the Royal Government's law enforcement actions. It makes its own efforts to maintain Cambodia's good international image and improve the general business environment. We would like to make the following request to our friends both at home and abroad:

- 1. Please beware of the trap of "high-paying" recruitment postings by understanding the content and nature of a job. In case of an emergency in Cambodia, please alert the local authority or contact the embassies and consulates in Cambodia right away to actively cooperate with the police in combating criminal activities.**
- 2. Please, media friends, report the facts about Cambodia objectively and correctly. Avoid creating false impressions and destroying Cambodia's image.**
- 3. Please do not exaggerate and have a baseless interpretation by using the word "fraud crimes" to involve Cambodia's international cooperation, particularly by distorting the significance of China's Belt and Road Initiative for ulterior motives. The Belt and Road Initiative has benefited Cambodia and other countries along its route significantly. We strongly support pushing for the Belt and Road Initiative to achieve interconnection and contribute to the region's prosperity and development.**

The Federation of Khmer Chinese in Cambodia is willing to share the reality of Cambodia's business environment with friends at home and abroad to provide necessary assistance for everyone to work, live, and invest in Cambodia!

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**The Federation of Khmer Chinese in Cambodia Yours Respectfully
24th August 2022**