



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Press Release

In the afternoon of 07 June 2019, **His Excellency Prak Sokhonn**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation received a phone call from **His Excellency Vivian Balakrishnan**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, regarding a Facebook posting of **His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong**, Prime Minister of Singapore, related to the presence of the Vietnamese troops in Cambodia after the fall of the Khmer Rouge regime.

H.E. Vivian Balakrishnan stated that H.E. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong stressed the importance of bilateral relations between Singapore and Cambodia which are currently developed in various areas and expressed his understanding of the suffering of the people of Cambodia in the Khmer Rouge Regime.

He affirmed that there was no ill-intention on the part of Singapore in the above-said message, which was just meant to recall the situation and the challenges at that time as was publicly stated before. Furthermore, he evoked the joint statement that was circulated by the UN Security Council in 1979 which asserted the rights of self-determination of the people of Cambodia.

He underlined the desire of Singapore to see a peaceful and prosperous Cambodia and neither had he wished to support the Khmer Rouge regime nor to see their return to power. He hopes that there should not be any more ambiguity with regards to Singapore's sincerity.

Despite the different perspectives on the historical facts, the two Foreign Ministers concurred that both countries are committed to strengthen the spirit of friendship and good neighborliness. Both countries will endeavor to make every effort to leave behind the past and continue to engage in further productive dialogues.



The two Foreign Ministers firmly believe that a meeting between the two Prime Ministers at the upcoming ASEAN Summit would provide the opportunities for both of them to reach a better understanding on the issue as well as to strengthen further the bond of friendship and good cooperation, not just between the two countries but as well as with other ASEAN countries for the sake of peace, stability and prosperity in the region and beyond.

In order to prevent any further misunderstanding in the present and in the future, Cambodia will endeavor to avoid digging into the past. Both countries will jointly work together to build a cohesive and united ASEAN, which is the will of both leaders and people of ASEAN.

Phnom Penh, 07 June 2019.

