

Joint Statement

Between the Kingdom of Cambodia and Malaysia

on the occasion of the Official Visit of the Prime Minister of Malaysia,

His Excellency Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob to the Kingdom of Cambodia

Phnom Penh, 23-24 February 2022



1. At the invitation of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, **His Excellency Dato' Sri ISMAIL SABRI bin Yaakob**, led a high-level delegation to pay an official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia on 23-24 February 2022. The official visit is a milestone event as the two countries mark the 65th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations this year.
2. During the visit, **His Excellency Dato' Sri ISMAIL SABRI bin Yaakob** laid wreaths at the Independence Monument to pay tribute to the war heroes and heroines of Cambodia and paid respect to the Royal Memorial Statue of **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK, PREAH BOROM RATANAK KAUDH**, Late King-Father of Cambodia.
3. **His Excellency Prime Minister of Malaysia** had a Royal Audience with His Majesty **Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni**, King of Cambodia, at the Royal Palace. The Prime Minister also paid a courtesy call on **Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdei SAY Chhum**, President of the Senate, and **Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin**, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and held a bilateral meeting with **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen**.
4. During the bilateral meeting, **Samdech Techo Prime Minister** and **His Excellency Prime Minister of Malaysia** had in-depth discussion on a wide-range of bilateral and multilateral cooperation as well as exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interest and concerns in the spirit of long-lasting friendship, solidarity and mutual understanding.

5. The Malaysian Prime Minister congratulated Samdech Techo Prime Minister on receiving the 2022 SUNHAK Peace Prize Founder's Award and commended the Royal Government of Cambodia for achieving remarkable progress in its national development. Both Leaders were also pleased that the COVID-19 pandemic was well managed in both countries, through effective national vaccination campaign.
6. Both countries commended each other on their resolve to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic and its related economic effects. The high rates of COVID-19 vaccination for both countries would pave the way for faster recovery in all aspects. Both sides highlighted the positive economic growth in 2021, recorded at 3.5% for Malaysia and 3.0% for Cambodia, and better projections of growth for 2022. The Royal Government of Cambodia expressed high appreciation to the Malaysian Government and Embassy of Malaysia in Phnom Penh, Malaysian companies, and Malaysian community in Cambodia for the kind assistance and contribution to the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in Cambodia. The Government of Malaysia expressed high appreciation to the generous assistance provided by the Government of Cambodia for Malaysian citizens in Cambodia during the COVID-19 pandemic.
7. Both Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction with the close relationship, strong bond of friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation in many areas between Cambodia and Malaysia over the last six and a half decades. Both nations would enhance engagements at every level, and forge closer people-to-people relations to deepen understanding and friendship between the two sides.
8. Both Leaders agreed to further promote bilateral trade, investment, health, tourism, science and technology, and people-to-people contacts with the view to bolstering the post-COVID-19 economic recovery. To this end, both Prime Ministers agreed to explore the possibility to establish Sister City partnership between Sihanoukville and Siem Reap, Cambodia, with cities in Malaysia. They were committed to strengthening cooperation in human resource development, labour, digital and green economy to achieve long-term healthy growth and sustainable development for the benefits of the two peoples.

9. Both Prime Ministers encouraged businesses and investors to seek more opportunities to explore business and investment opportunities in each other's countries given that the Agreement for the Elimination of Double Taxation with Respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance between the two countries has entered into force on 01 January 2021, and the new Investment Law of Cambodia which provides a more open, transparent, predictable and efficient legal framework for investment. Malaysia expressed interest to explore commercial collaboration in ICT, Fintech, and cybersecurity sectors in Cambodia.
10. Both sides also prioritise the strengthening of Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and startups, and recall the agreement between MRANTI (formerly known as MaGIC Malaysia) and Impact Hub Phnom Penh to promote startups and entrepreneurial ventures of youths in both countries.
11. Malaysia will continue to offer opportunities for Cambodian officials to participate in the training and capacity building courses under the Malaysia Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) and Malaysian Defence Cooperation Programme (MDCP).
12. Prime Minister of Malaysia expressed full support to Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship 2022 under the theme **"ASEAN A.C.T.: Addressing Challenges Together"**. The two Leaders agreed to continue working closely in strengthening the ASEAN Community and addressing regional and international issues under the ASEAN frameworks and other multilateral mechanisms for the common goal of maintaining the ASEAN Centrality, unity, peace, stability, sustainable development and prosperity in the region and beyond.
13. Both Leaders exchanged views in a frank and candid manner on regional and international issues of common interest and concerns such as Myanmar issue, South China Sea and geopolitical rivalry among major powers. They underscored the critical importance of ensuring the effective and timely implementation of the Five-Point Consensus (5PC) of the ASEAN Leaders. Malaysia expressed full support for the work of the ASEAN Chair's Special Envoy on Myanmar (SE) and looks forward to the first visit of the SE to Myanmar. Both Leaders reaffirmed full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety and the early conclusion of an effective and substantive Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea consistent

with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS within a mutually-agreed timeline, Both Leaders also encouraged the promotion of practical cooperation between ASEAN and external partners within the framework of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). The Prime Minister of Malaysia also raised the issue of displaced persons from Rakhine State, including the Rohingya, with the Prime Minister of Cambodia and reiterated the importance of addressing the root causes of the conflict and their repatriation in a voluntary, safe and dignified manner.

14. **His Excellency Dato' Sri ISMAIL SABRI bin Yaakob** extended his cordial invitation to **Samdech Techo Prime Minister** to pay an official visit to Malaysia in order to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the two countries. **Samdech Techo Prime Minister** expressed his deep appreciation and accepted with pleasure the invitation to pay an official visit to Malaysia at a mutually convenient date.

Phnom Penh, 24 February 2022