

Funeral Oration

**Delivered on the Occasion of the Cremation of
Samdech Chau Sen Cocsal Chhum,
Supreme Privy Councillor of His Majesty the King**

Wat Botum Vaddei, Phnom Penh – Monday, January 26th

- Respected Samdech Preah Dhammalikhet Lah Lay and Respected Venerables,**
- Respected Samdech, Your Royal Highnesses and Your Highnesses, Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, Neak Okhna, Ladies and Gentlemen,**
- Respected Your Excellencies the Ambassadors and International Friends and Guests**
- Dear Madame, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Today, Your Venerables, Samdech, Your Royal Highnesses, Your Highnesses, Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, Neak Okhna, Ladies and Gentlemen, Your Excellencies the Ambassadors kindly are gathering here in a sad and sorrowful circumstance, on occasion of the cremation of respected Samdech Chau Sen Cocsal Chhum, Supreme Privy Councillor of His Majesty the King, after several days of Buddhist religious ceremonies according to our national traditions.

The demise of Samdech Chau Sen Cocsal Chhum has profoundly affected Lok Chumteav Van Thi Hai, his spouse, his children and his grandchildren and all his relatives and friends. His demise is a great loss as a husband, a father, a grandfather, a friend who is always of a gentle character, kind, popular, but also scrupulous in his work, of pleasant relationship in his life, committed to serving the high interests of the nation and of the people under the motto of Nation, Religion and King.

The demise of Samdech Chau Sen Cocsal Chhum is a loss of a Khmer personality, who has spent his whole life in active service of our beloved motherland in the field of law.

This is a loss of a patriot who was associated in a very great part with the struggle for the consolidation of democracy and rule of law in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Respected Samdech Preah Dhammalikhet and Respected Venerables, Samdech, Your Royal Highnesses, Your Highnesses, Your Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, Neak Okhna, Your Excellencies the Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Next, please allow me hereafter to present a summary of Samdech Chau Sen Cocsal Chhum's biography:

Samdech Chau Sen Cocsal Chhum was born on September 1, 1905, at *Svay Tong* commune, in *Moat Chhrouk* province, whose father Mr. Kunn Kim was the Governor of Kandal province, and whose mother was Mrs. Neang Lâp. He had eight siblings and he was the second eldest.

He was married in 1940 and has five children, two sons and three daughters. To date, Samdech Chau Sen Cocsal Chhum and Lok Chumteav Van Thi Hai have 3 grandsons and 4 granddaughters.

To be the first Khmer student to graduate with the Baccalaureate II at the Chasseloup Laubat School in Prey Nokor (Saigon) in 1926, Samdech Chau Sen Cocsal Chhum has devoted himself to sustained efforts in his studies, which deserve praise.

At the end of his studies at the Institute of Laws, Samdech Chau Sen Cocsal Chhum has served the society as:

- Deputy Governor of Takéo province (in 1927);
- District Chief of *Thbaung Khmum*;
- Governor of Pursat province;
- Governor of Kampong Cham province;
- Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Thailand;
- From 1959 to 1968, President of National Assembly and Prime Minister;
- From 1958 to 1972, Member of Parliament from Kampong Cham Constituency during three consecutive mandates;
- From 1989 to 1990, Presiding over the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC);
- From 1992 to 1998, Supreme Privy Councillor of His Majesty the King;
- From 1998 to 2007, Member of the Constitutional Council;
- From 2007 to 2009, Supreme Privy Councillor of His Majesty the King.

He has put all his heart and his physical forces to serve his motherland without sparing any effort.

In recognition of all his great sacrifices and of his loyalty, Samdech Chau Sen Cocsal Chhum had received many decorations, notable the *Commandeur de la Légion d'Honneur*, and other medals of National Edification.

For his family, he has fulfilled his eminent role as a good father, inculcating in his children and grandchildren the civic and moral education. Besides to being a good family father Samdech Chau Sen Cocsal Chhum made all his efforts without complaints, patiently and tirelessly to train his children and grand-children, and transfer his knowledge to them.

Samdech Chau Sen Cocsal Chhum, as a good father, possesses the moral virtues in the eyes of his children and his grandchildren. All the successes his children and his grandchildren have achieved today are inseparable of his good deeds. This is the brief background of Samdech Chau Sen Cocsal Chhum, Supreme Privy Councillor of His Majesty the King, which is the reflect of his real life, his hard work in his studies, and the fulfillment of his duty as a good citizen in serving the motherland, with his ideal of a patriot.

Now Samdech Chau Sen Cocsal Chhum has departed and left this world for another, thus leaving his children and grandchildren to continue his family lineage for the construction and protection of our beloved motherland.

Soon, the fire will consume the body of Samdech Chau Sen Cocsal into ashes, but what remains, that the fire cannot consume, and cannot be extinguished nor disappear and will

remain for ever in our hearts are his reputation, his goodness, his merits, his dignity, his perseverance, his seriousness and good deeds for our motherland and her people.

To express our gratitude to Samdech Chau Sen Cocsal Chhum, may I ask you, Venerables, Samdech, Your Royal Highnesses, Your Highnesses, Your Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, Neak Okhna, Ladies and Gentlemen, friends, brothers and sisters, to kindly stand up, in order to pay a last homage to the spirit of the defunct.

Please join your hands in sign of prayer to the Triple Gems, so that the meritorious ceremonies that we have organized, the offerings that we have presented to the Venerable Monks who represent Lord Buddha, as well by the foods, the robes, the money as by other offerings, may protect and lead the spirit of Samdech Chau Sen Cocsal Chhum toward a world of Peace, of Light and Eternal Bliss.

Finally, on behalf of the Honored Guests and Honored Hosts, we would like to bow down and express from the deep of our heart our sincere condolences and our sympathy to the members of the family of the defunct and take share of their immense sorrows.

On behalf of the members of the family of the defunct and in my own name, we would like to express our gratitude to Samdech Preah Dhammalikhet, Venerable Monks, Samdech, Your Royal Highnesses, Your Highnesses, Your Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, Neak Okhna, Ladies and Gentlemen, and to our foreign friends, who despite their busy schedule, have kindly come and participated in this ceremonies of incineration of Samdech Chau Sen Cocsal Chhum.

Please allow me to present to all of you, Samdech Preah Dhammalikhet, Venerables, Samdech, Your Royal Highnesses, Your Highnesses, Your Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, Neak Okhna, Ladies and Gentlemen, the four Buddhist wishes of Longevity, Health, Peace and Strength for ever.

Thank you!