

SUMMARY BIOGRAPHY
of
His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK,
Heroic King, Father of Independence, Territorial Integrity and
Unity of the Khmer Nation
“Preah Borom Ratanak Kaudh”

His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK, Heroic King, Father of Independence, Territorial Integrity and Unity of the Khmer Nation “Preah Borom Ratanak Kaudh” was born on Tuesday, the eleventh day of the waxing moon, of the twelfth lunar month, in the year of the Dog, Catvasaka, Buddhist Era 2465, or 31 October 1922 of the Gregorian calendar, in Phnom Penh, the Kingdom of Cambodia.

He was the only son of His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SURAMARIT and Queen SISOWATH MONIVONG KOSSAMAK NEARYRATH SEREYVATHNA. On his mother's side, he was a grandson of His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah MONIVONG, and the great-grandson of His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM, on his father's side.

Between 1930 and 1940, he studied at the Francois Baudoin Primary School and the Preah Sisowath High School in Phnom Penh. He then continued his studies at the Chasseloup Laubat French High School in Saigon (Prey Nokor), currently known as the Le Kvi Daun Junior High School, Ho Chi Minh City, in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

In April 1941, the Throne Council appointed him as the King of the Kingdom of Cambodia. He ascended the throne on Tuesday, the ninth day of the waxing moon, of the twelfth lunar month, in the year of the Snake, Trisaka, Buddhist Era 2484, or October 28, 1941 of the Gregorian calendar.

In 1946, he paid his first visit to France at the invitation of President Felix Gouin and met General Charles de Gaulle in Colombey. Between 1946 and

1948, he pursued his higher education, attending the Cavalry and Armour Military School at Saumur in France.

In 1947, **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** achieved great success in demanding the absolute return by the Kingdom of Thailand of the Cambodian provinces of Battambang, Siem Reap, Kompong Thom and Stung Treng, taken by Thailand from Cambodia during World War II.

In 1949, **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** demanded that France abrogated the Protectorate Treaty, signed in 1863 and ratified in 1884. The same year, he signed and Independence Treaty by which France legally recognized the Kingdom of Cambodia's independence. This 1949 treaty rescinded the treaties of 1863 and 1884.

Between 1952 and 1953, he felt that the independence recognized by France in 1949 was not complete, and **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK**, therefore, decided to launch his Royal Crusade for Independence, demanding complete independence for Cambodia.

On 9 November 1953, thanks to his great achievement, the Kingdom of Cambodia obtained complete independence from the French Republic. Cambodian people in the whole country named him the "**National Great Hero-Father of National Independence**".

In 1954, he sent a delegation to act as his representative to attend an International Conference on Indochina at Geneva, in which Cambodia participated and was recognized as an independent, neutral and unified country.

On Thursday, on the tenth day of the waxing moon, on the fourth lunar month, in the Year of the Horse, Chhasaka, Buddhist Era 2497, or March 3 1955 of the Gregorian calendar, **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** abdicated in favour of his father, **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SURAMARIT**. **His Majesty King NORODOM SURAMARIT** granted his son the title of "**Samdech Preah Upayuvareach of the Kingdom of Cambodia**".

On March 23, 1955, His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK established the Sangkum Reastr Niyum movement with the involvement of many parties.

From April 18 and 24, 1955, His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK attended the first Africa-Asia Summit in Bandung city, Indonesia, where he proclaimed Cambodia's policy of neutrality based on the peaceful coexistence with all countries regardless of ideology. During the Summit he met the Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru, and, for the first time; President Gamal Abdel Nasser of United Arab Republic of Egypt, the Indonesian President Sukarno and the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China Zhou Enlai.

On 11 September 1955, His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK won an overwhelming victory in the National Assembly elections and gained support from the vast majority of the Cambodian people. He was elected Prime Minister and as head of the Cambodian people he fulfilled his duties in leading the Kingdom of Cambodia towards general development in all sectors for national construction, and in particular, by promoting equality between women and men in the workforce.

On 14 September 1955, under the leadership of His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK, Cambodia became a full member of the United Nations.

In 1956, His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK visited the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and, at Brioni, became the fifth founding father of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) by signing the Charter of the Non-Aligned Movement along with four other main founders: Josip Broz Tito, President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru; Indonesian President Sukarno and President Gamal Abdel Nasser of the United Arab Republic of Egypt.

In February 1956, His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK, Prime Minister of Cambodia, paid his first State visit to the People's Republic of China and met with Chinese leaders, for example His Excellency Chairman Mao Zedong, Prime Minister Zhou Enlai and others. He signed a Joint Declaration on Cambodian-Chinese Friendship.

On 3 April 1960, His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SURAMARIT passed away. **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** was unanimously elected by the Cambodian National Assembly as Head of State of the Kingdom of Cambodia. In this position, His Majesty continued to lead the Cambodian people in their national construction and development.

In September 1960, at the General Assembly of the United Nations, **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** put forward a proposal to establish Southeast Asia as a neutral region between the two superpowers: the Free World and the Socialist World.

In May 1961, following proposals put forward by **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK**, an International Conference on Laos was held in Geneva to try to settle the conflict dividing Laos.

From May 1961, **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** undertook a series of diplomatic, political and legal activities in order to reclaim possession for Cambodia of the Temple of Preah Vihear, cultural and patrimonial treasure of the Khmer Nation, from Thailand. The International Court of Justice of The Hague ruled in favour of the Kingdom of Cambodia on 15 June 1962.

In November 1962, **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** attended the first Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, which 29 countries attended. His Majesty condemned colonialism, imperialism and opposed racial discrimination.

In June 1964, General Charles de Gaulle, President of the French Republic, hosted a solemn State Visit to France by **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK of Cambodia**. The French President extended France's recognition of the neutrality of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

In August/September 1966, General Charles de Gaulle, President of the French Republic, paid a State Visit to Cambodia as the guest of **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK of Cambodia**. During a speech delivered by the French President at the Olympic Stadium in Phnom Penh, on 1 September 1966, the President

extended France's support for the Kingdom of Cambodia's independence, territorial integrity, neutrality and peace.

From 26 November to 6 December 1966, **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** hosted and presided over the opening and closing ceremonies of the first Asian Games of the New Emerging Forces (GANEFO) in Phnom Penh.

Under the leadership of **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** during the Sangkum Reastr Niyum rule, he was named by the Cambodian people as the Father of National Independence – Father of National Education – Father of National Sports – Father of National Construction and many achievements were made and subsequently inaugurated for the use of all the people in the provinces and cities of Cambodia. These main achievements include:

- The Independence Monument
- Chamkar Mon Government Palace
- Pochentong International Airport
- Siem Reap Airport
- Bek Chan Airport, Battambang Province
- National Road No. 4, Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville
- National Theater "Preah Suramarit", Phnom Penh
- "Chaktomuk Conference Hall
- Olympic National Stadium, Phnom Penh
- Preah Monivong Bridge 2
- "Sangkum Reastr Niyum" Bridge over the Tonle Sap River
- "Sangkum Reastr Niyum" University, Phnom Penh
- Royal University of Technology
- Royal School of Administration
- Royal University of Law and Economics
- Faculty of Pedagogy
- Preah Sihanouk Raj Buddhist Institute
- Faculty of Civil Engineering
- Faculty of Arts and Occupation
- Royal University of Fine Arts
- Royal University of Agronomy
- Royal University of Kompong Cham Province
- Royal University of Battambang Province
- Royal University of Takeo-Kampot

- State Cinema
- Royal Television Station
- Khmer-Soviet Friendship Hospital
- Petrol Refinery – Sihanoukville
- Brewery of Sihanoukville
- “Preah Norodom” Tractor and Truck Assembly Plant of Sihanoukville
- Kompong Tram Sugar Refinery, Kompong Speu Province
- Textile Factory, Kompong Cham Province
- Textile Factory, Battambang Province
- Daun Teav Jute Bag Factory, Battambang Province
- Chakreyting Cement Factory, Kampot Province
- Cheung Ek Glass Factory, Phnom Penh
- Dey Ith Plywood Factory, Kandal Province
- Chhlaung Paper Factory, Kratie Province
- Touk Meas Phosphate Factory, Kampot Province
- Fish Cannery, Koh Kong Province
- Chup Latex Factory, Kompong Cham
- Kirirom Hydroelectric Factory, Kompong Speu Province

And various other achievements in Districts, Provinces and Cities, such as Schools, Clinics, Dams, Ponds, Ditches, Roads and Bridges.

On 18 March 1970, during an official visit to the Soviet Union, **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** was a victim of an illegal coup d'état, a military coup d'état, in Phnom Penh masterminded by General Lon Nol. The Khmer Republic of General Lon Nol was established in October 1970.

On 23 March 1970, **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** established and led the Cambodian Resistance Movement known as the National United Front of Cambodia (FUNK). The Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia (GRUNK) was established on 5 May 1970 as symbol of the legitimacy of the Cambodian Resistance Movement.

In April 1970, near Guangzhou, People's Republic of China, His Majesty initiated an Indochinese People's Summit attended by leaders from Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam delegation led by Prime Minister Pham Van Dong; the National Liberation Front of South

Vietnam's delegation led by President Nguyen Huu Tho and Prince Souphanouvong, President of the Lao Patriotic Front (Neo Lao Haksat). The Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam and the Lao Patriotic Front solemnly declared that they forever recognized and respected the territorial integrity of the current borders of Cambodia.

On 17 April 1975, the People's National Liberation Army of the National United Front of Cambodia (FUNK) claimed complete victory in Cambodia. "Democratic Kampuchea" was proclaimed with **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** as President. However, in April 1976, he resigned from his functions as President of Democratic Kampuchea. He and the Queen Mother of Cambodia were then detained by the Khmer Rouge, at the same time, other members of the Royal family, including some of the children and grandchildren of His Majesty were killed.

In June 1982, **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** was appointed President of Democratic Kampuchea for the second time in the framework of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea.

Between 1982 and 1990, **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** was the President of the Cambodian National Resistance.

As from 1987, **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** made every effort to reconcile all the Cambodian parties that were in conflict and to try to find a suitable political solution to bring an end to the Cambodia conflict. His Majesty always allowed Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen, Prime Minister, and the delegation of the State of Cambodia to pay courtesy visits to him in France as follows:

- From 2 to 4 December 1987: First visit at Fere-En Tardenois;
- From 20 to 21 January 1988: Second visit at Saint-Germain-en-Laye.

On 24 June 1991, **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** was allowed by the leaders of the four parties of Cambodia to solemnly proclaim the formation of the Supreme National Council (SNC) and to acknowledge a temporary ceasefire on the whole territory of

Cambodia, as well as the cessation of the provision of military assistance (weapons) from other countries to the four Cambodian armies. Phnom Penh was selected by the SNC as the official and permanent headquarters and as the Secretariat of the Supreme National Council, under the highly esteemed chairmanship of **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK**.

On 17 July 1991, **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** resigned his positions as President of Democratic Kampuchea and of the Cambodian National Resistance in order to place himself above party politics in Cambodia. He was unanimously selected by the 11 members of the Supreme National Council as the "neutral" President of the SNC.

On 23 October 1991, in Paris, **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** signed the Agreements on a Comprehensive Political Settlement of the Cambodia Conflict, together with the 11 members of the Supreme National Council, the UN Secretary General and representatives from 18 governments, who had participated in the final session of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia.

On 14 November 1991, **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** successfully and safely returned to Phnom Penh. After his return to the country, the Government of the State of Cambodia with Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen as Prime Minister; and Samdech Akka Moha Thamma Pothisal CHEA Sim as President of the Cambodian People's Party; FUNCINPEC Party with Samdech Krom Preah NORODOM Ranariddh as Party President; the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party with Samdech Bovor Setha SON Sann as President and Democratic Kampuchea with Mr. KHIEU Samphan as President, officially made written declarations stating that **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** was still the lawful Head of State of Cambodia and consequently he still held officially the position of Head of State until the 1993 elections in Cambodia.

On 24 September 1993, **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** signed the Royal Kram (Royal Decree) promulgating the new Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia, adopted by the Constituent Assembly of Cambodia.

On Friday, on the ninth day of the waxing moon of the tenth lunar month, in the year of the Rooster, Pancasaka, Buddhist Era 2537, or 24 September of the Gregorian calendar, **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** was elected by the Royal Council of the Throne as King of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The same day, a mass meeting was held with the attendance of many people in order to express their feelings of enthusiasm, support and welcome to the new Constitution and His Majesty's position as King of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK fulfilled his great duties for national reconciliation and unity. He formed a coalition government with the co-prime ministers in 1993. In particular, he fulfilled his duty to induce the leaders of the Cambodian People's Party and FUNCINPEC Party to sign a joint declaration on the cooperative principles between the two parties decided at a meeting held at the Khemarin Palace under the presidency of His Majesty the King of Cambodia on 12-13 November 1998. The Cambodian people in the whole Kingdom of Cambodia would like to express their heartfelt gratitude for his important actions and activities as King of Cambodia.

On the fifteenth day of the waxing moon, the full moon, on the first lunar month, in the year of the Horse, Catvasaka, Buddhist Era 2546 or 19 December 2002 of the Gregorian calendar, His Majesty presided over the ceremony transporting the Buddha's relics, located in a stupa in front of Phnom Penh's Railways Station to a new stupa located in Athras Mountain in Psar Dek commune, Ponhea Leu district, Kandal province, according to what he had expressed at a public general meeting in front of the Royal Palace on 16 November 1991.

On 30 October, 2011, **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** presided over a mass meeting to bless him on the occasion of his 90th Birthday and the 20th Anniversary of his return to Cambodia, held in front of the Chan Chhaya Pavilion, Royal Palace. This was the last time His Majesty was seen by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and great great-grandchildren. On that auspicious occasion, the Heroic King left his final message stating that he would never again go abroad, away from the Cambodian people. He said that he would stay with his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and

great great-grandchildren until he passed away. He also expressed the hope that his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great great-grandchildren would unite and live together as one with Samdech HUN Sen as Prime Minister of the Royal Government, in order to show to the outside world that we have united well.

His Majesty the Heroic King, Father of the Khmer Nation and the Queen Mother of the Khmer Nation repeated again and again that they had decided not to leave Cambodia; they would stay with their people in Cambodia.

He said that he would enjoy great happiness staying forever with his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great great-grandchildren. According to this royal statement, it was clear that **His Majesty the Heroic King, Father of the Khmer Nation** intended to remain permanently with his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great great-grandchildren. He expressed his admiration for His Majesty the King, Samdech Prime Minister, Samdech President of the Senate, Samdech President of the National Assembly and the people for having helped build the country, clearly showing the world that Cambodia has constantly grown and for having helped the country, the compatriots and the poor in particular. He also expressed his admiration at how well we had done in solving national issues.

His Majesty the King, the Royal Government, the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and all the people have joined to build the country so Cambodia can avoid any weaknesses and advance towards prosperity as in other countries around the world. All these show the world that Cambodia has achieved national unity in peace, independence and ongoing national construction, and despite the fact that he had retired, he continued to help build the country with the Royal Government. It was the first time that Cambodia found itself in a state of unbreakable unity.

His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK was a Heroic King who always discharged his duties with the basic attributes of a kind disposition for his people, grand children, great-grandchildren and great great-grandchildren across the entire Kingdom of Cambodia. From the past to the present, His Majesty always undertook social activities – including the building of Temples, Buddhists cells, ceremonial halls, schools, hospitals, clinics, houses, roads, embankments, creeks, wells and

ponds - for the Buddhist monks and for the people. He donated and continued to grant his weekly gifts to the poor and to those who faced extreme hardship in their livelihoods.

The above-mentioned charitable activities reflected the trustworthiness of the tenfold qualities of the highly esteemed **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK**, who offered donations to his Cambodian people on the basis of non-discrimination about colour, race or religion. Because of this integrity, all the political parties and the people in the whole country fully supported the King and put him back on the throne in 1993, something which has never happened in the history of the world.

His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK was a great Buddhist supporter, who had good faith in Buddhism and observed Buddhist guidance with purity in mind for growth, protection and love of peace both inside the country and around the world. In particular, His Majesty brought peace, happiness and prosperity to the Nation and the Cambodian people. Thus, on 2 May 2012, the President of the World Buddhist Summit, Most Venerable Dr. Kyuse Enshinjoh, from Japan, bestowed on His Majesty the title of “**Supreme Royal Father of World Buddhism**”.

On the fifteen day of the waning moon, of the tenth lunar month, in the year of the Dragon, Catvasaka, Buddhist Era 2556, or 15 October 2012 of the Gregorian calendar, at 01:20 a.m., **His Majesty the Heroic King NORODOM SIHANOUK, Father of the Khmer Nation**, passed away at the age of 90 in a Hospital in Beijing, in the People's Republic of China.

The Commission for the arrangement of the Funeral Ceremony of His Majesty the Heroic King, was instantly established with Samdech Akka Moha Thamma Pothisal CHEA Sim, President of the Senate, as Chairman,; Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin, President of the National Assembly, as Deputy Chairman; Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen, as Standing Deputy Chairman; Samdech Chaufea Veang Voreak Viengchey Athipadey Sroeungkea KONG Sam Ol, as Permanent Deputy Chairman, many other Excellencies, Deputy Prime Ministers, Senior Ministers, Ministers and the Capital and Provincial Governors, acting respectively as deputy chairpersons and members.

On the second day of the waxing moon, of the tenth lunar month, or 17 October of the Gregorian calendar, the royal body was carried in a procession to His Majesty's motherland by a special plane. The royal carriage carried the royal body in a procession from the Phnom Penh International Airport to the Royal Palace, with some 1,200.000 people taking part in the mourning and receiving the royal body along the streets of the capital.

On the eleventh day of the waning moon, of the eleventh lunar month, in the year of the Dragon, Chatvasaka, Buddhist Era 2556, or 10 November 2012 of the Gregorian calendar at 13:00 hours, the Supreme Patriarchs of the two Buddhist orders and the ten chiefs of monks assembled together to give the royal body of His Majesty the Heroic King the posthumous royal title as "**Preah Borom Ratanak Kaudh**". His Majesty the King bestowed the posthumous title on his eminent Father by signing a Royal Decree on the same date.

On Sunday 18 November 2012, the Nenbutsushu Buddhist Sect in Japan, led by the Most Venerable Dr. Kyuse Enshinjoh, organized a Grand Funeral Ceremony to honour the memory and dedicate good deeds to the spirit of His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK "**Preah Borom Ratanak Kaudh**". On this solemn occasion, His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath NORODOM SIHAMONI and the Queen Mother of the Khmer Nation, assigned the Supreme Patriarchs of the two Buddhists orders as royal representatives to attend the ceremony.

On the fifteenth day of the waxing moon, in the full moon, of the eleven lunar month, in the year of the Dragon, or 28 November 2012 of the Gregorian calendar, at a royal ceremony presided by His Majesty the King and the Queen Mother of the Khmer Nation, the Supreme Patriarchs of the two Buddhist orders and the ten chief monks, in the presence of Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin, President of the National Assembly, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen, Prime Minister, the Minister of the Royal palace, Samdech Chaufea Veang Voreak Viengchey Athipadey Sroeungkea KONG Sam OL, officiated the ceremony of granting the royal posthumous title of "**Preah Borom Ratanak Kaudh**".

One of the most notable occurrences in the extraordinary life of **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** is that he was born on 31 October 1922; was crowned King of Cambodia on 28 October 1941 and passed away on 15 October 2012. Three important occurrences all happened in the same month – October – only the days were different.

His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK, was the most outstanding **Heroic King**. During his whole life, he devoted his physical strength and intelligence to the great duties of maintaining the territorial integrity, developing and protecting the country and to improving the region for the sake of its prosperity and happiness, and renowned fame throughout the world from the beginning to the present.

