

THE MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF PHNOM PENH SUGAR'S FACILITY IN KOMPONG SPEU

In light of recent comments that have been made about Phnom Penh Sugar Company regarding the operation of its sugar plantation at Kompong Speu, the company would like to highlight the following points -

- Phnom Penh Sugar has a strict policy against the employment of children in the workplace. Financial penalties are in place for the first offense. The second offense results in a termination of employment as well as the possibility of legal action.
- Phnom Penh Sugar has never engaged in 'military-backed land grabs'.
- Phnom Penh Sugar has never evicted anyone from any land. In addition Phnom Penh Sugar does not own the land on which the Phnom Penh Sugar plantation and refinery now stands. Phnom Penh Sugar is the lessee of the land and the Royal Government of Cambodia is the lessor.
- Phnom Penh Sugar is engaging and has been engaging in direct dialogue with the villagers at Kompong Speu to discuss claims that are being made by outside entities - including those in the Oxfam report.
- Phnom Penh Sugar has engaged international experts to assist with environmental, health and social management plans as well as security considerations that may be outside the company's field of expertise.
- The Phnom Penh Sugar Company has received 9317 hectares of land at Kompong Speu which was mostly waste land being used for unsustainable charcoal creation. The Company has developed the land to create a successful sugar plantation that provides gainful employment and modern agricultural techniques to the local population there. The community also provides a thriving community with business opportunities for others. The amount of land leased to Phnom Penh Sugar is within the letter of the Cambodian law.
- Phnom Penh Sugar has invested more than USD \$200 million building a sugar refining facility at its plantation in Kompong Speu. The development of the site has included a state-of-the-art refinery, housing for more than 1000 workers, a thriving community with stand-alone businesses and markets 400 km of road inside and around the plantation, 65km of electricity transmission line, 5000m3 per day of clean water.
- The Phnom Penh Sugar Company employs approximately 5000 people at its sugarcane plantation and sugar refining facility at Kompong Speu. The company funds specialist training programs for Cambodian workers to ensure the transfer of skills for a newly developing sugar industry in Cambodia as well as sugar cane planting skills in the community
- The Phnom Penh Sugar Company plantation has been developed to supply the domestic market and to reduce the amount of sugar being imported from neighboring companies. Eighty per cent of Phnom Penh Sugar's output is bought locally

Phnom Penh Sugar is wholeheartedly committed to assisting with the continued development of the Kingdom of Cambodia (as evidenced by the company's investment and actions), recent reports by local and international parties would have Cambodians and international institutions think otherwise.



As a Cambodian company trying to do what is best for the Kingdom of Cambodia and its people, the management of Phnom Penh Sugar would ask all people inside and outside Cambodia to judge for themselves rather than being influenced by others about matters relating to Phnom Penh Sugar.

I would like to assure all readers that Phnom Penh Sugar only has the interests of the Kingdom of Cambodia in mind.

Yours sincerely

Mr Seng Nhak

Managing Director PHNOM PENH SUGAR