

Joint Statement
By Indigenous Peoples and Forestry Network (IPFN)

on

**Support for the Remarks by Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, Committed to
Resolution of Land Conflicts for Kui Indigenous People in Promer Commune, Tbeng
Meanchey District, Preah Vihear Province**

The remarks made by **H.E Ouk Rabun**, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries show the stance for seeking solutions to land conflicts for Kuy indigenous people in Prame commune, Tbeng Meanchey district, Preah Vihear province, which was reported by VOD's webpage at 6:07 pm on Monday 9 February 2015, which showed the stance in seeing solutions after the meeting with **H.E Eng Chhay Eang**, Chair, First Commission of the National Assembly. The meeting received a response from HE Minister that solutions will be sought for land conflicts in Preah Vihear and at other places.

Excellency Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries has taken strong measures requiring the Lan Feng and Rui Feng Companies, which are now clearing the land in Promer commune, Tbeng Meanchey district, Preah Vihear province, to suspend all their activities temporarily to wait for the people under land conflicts to collaborate with authorities to resolve the issues, and **H.E Ouk Rabun** indicated that future resolutions would be positive.

Based on the positive response and strong measures by His Excellency, we, IPFN members, with coordination by the NGO Forum on Cambodia, consisting of 37 national and international organizations, would like to support His Excellency's remarks on the stance to seek solutions to the land conflicts for the Kuy indigenous people in Prame commune, who have suffered from the land encroachment of the economic land concessionaires, Lan Feng and Rui Feng. Currently, the two concessionaires continue to bluntly clear land, ignoring national and international laws and indigenous people's rights, including the Directive No. 001, in particular, the Inter-Ministerial Prakas. We, IPFN members, strongly hope that Excellency Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries will resolve the land conflicts in Promer commune quickly as promised, honoring the indigenous people's will and decisions.

So far, we have observed that the Kuy indigenous community together with IPFN member organizations have carried out a lot of advocacy campaigns by preventing in-place clearance, press conferences in Phnom Penh, dialogues with both provincial and national authorities, submission of petitions to all relevant agencies with a strong stance to remove the above companies from Prame commune land, but we have not seen any positive results yet.

With request by the Kuy community in Prame commune through the Indigenous Peoples and Forestry Network (IPFN), we request that national authorities and relevant agencies conduct field investigation of land under conflicts and suspend activities of the economic land concessionaires, Lan Feng and Rui Feng, which are clearing the land, pending solutions.

We, member organizations of the Indigenous Peoples and Forestry Network (IPFN), earnestly request that Excellency Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, coordinate solutions to these chronic land conflicts quickly and collaborate with the Ministry of Land Management, Urbanization, and Construction to expedite the process of collective land registration for the Kuy indigenous people in Prame commune, Tbeng Meanchey district.

Phnom Penh, 17 February 2015

Indigenous Peoples and Forestry Network (IPFN)

For detailed information, please contact:

1. Mr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director, NGO Forum on CambodiaTel: 012 793 489
2. Mr. Suok Bunsak, Chief of Secretariat, CHRAC Tel: 092 344 357
3. Mr. Ang Cheat Lom, Director, Ponlok Khmer Tel: 012 517 943
4. Mr. Lor Chan, Coordinator, ADHOC Tel: 012 995 902
5. Mr. Bun Vanna, Senior Project Officer, World Vision Tel: 012 316 654
6. Mr. Vong Voeun, Director, Organization to Promote Kuy Culture (OPKC)Tel: 012 267 489

List of supporting organizations:

1. Action on Environment and Community (AEC)
2. Building Community Voices (BCV)
3. Cambodia Indigenous People Alliance (CIPA)
4. Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association (YIYA)
5. Community Legal Education Center (CLEC)
6. Community Peace-Building Network (CPN)
7. Development and partnership in Action (DPA)
8. Environment Protection and Development Organization (EPDO)
9. Indigenous Community Support Organization (ICSO)
10. Indigenous Rights Active Members (IRAM)
11. Non-Timber Forest Products Organization (NTFP)
12. Mlup Baitong
13. Morodok
14. My village (MVi)
15. Save Vulnerable Cambodians (SVC)