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NOTICES

## National Internet Gateway gets PM stamp of approval

May Kunmakara | Publication date 17 February 2021 | 22:09 ICT

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People surf the internet at a café near Phnom Penh's Wat Phnom. © Hong Menea

Cambodia has approved the establishment of a “national internet gateway” (NIG) through which all of the Kingdom’s online traffic will be routed.

The gateway will facilitate and manage web traffic and ensure effective and efficient revenue mobilisation, social order and the proper management of culture and civility, according to a sub-decree signed by Prime Minister Hun Sen dated February 16.

Comprising 11 chapters and 20 articles, the sub-decree said the NIG will incorporate and manage the Domestic Internet Exchange (DIX) and the International Internet Gateway (IIG).

The DIX is the national interconnection point for internet service providers (ISPs) in the Kingdom, while the IIG carries internet protocol (IP) data to other countries.

The sub-decree said: “The NIG’s DIX and IIG will be installed in Phnom Penh, Sihanoukville, Banteay Meanchey province’s Poipet town, Svay Rieng province’s Bavet town and at other designated locations based on the actual demand and as approved by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.”

The statute invited parties interested in operating the NIG to apply for a licence from the Telecommunication Regulator of Cambodia (TRC).

It said the appointed operator would have to “manage and facilitate connections and the use of infrastructure, network and internet services at all instances of the NIG, as

<https://www.phnompenhpost.com/business/national-internet-gateway-gets-pm-stamp-approval>

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well as terrestrial cross-border network infrastructure.

“It will have to install and configure the routers, switches and other network equipment to ensure the quality and security of network connections or peering facilities for NIG and operators of [other] international gateways.

“[It must also] cooperate with the [ministry] and TRC, as well as [other] relevant authorities and take immediate action to block or disconnect any network connection that affects national revenue, security, social order, et cetera,” it added.

Sok Channda, president and CEO of Angkor Data Communication Group Co Ltd (MekongNet), noted that the NIG would deal somewhat of a blow to her business, though admitting that she had not looked at the finer details of the sub-decree.

“I just saw the sub-decree today. Normally, the government wanting to control the gateway is the right approach. But what is important is how the government will bring all ISPs together under a single gateway and a single system. I think we’ll hear more discussions on that,” she said.

She noted that ISPs typically provide multiple gateways to build and maintain a secure network connection for their clients and avoid service interruptions.

“Now, I am waiting to hear an explanation from the ministry on how the NIG will work. For us, if we lose one connection, we’ll still have a few others at our disposal to guarantee our services for clients.”

Pa Chanroeun, president of non-profit think-tank Cambodian Institute for Democracy, posted the sub-decree on his Facebook page and stressed its significance.

“If implemented from a technical standpoint, the sub-decree . . . will become a legal mechanism to maintain and protect the security and safety of internet use in Cambodia. But if it is used politically, it will be a tool to restrict digital rights and democracy,” he warned.

Speaking at a meeting on a draft of the sub-decree in August, telecoms minister Chea Vandeth said the statute was aimed at mobilising national revenue and enhancing internet speed and connectivity in the Kingdom.

Vandeth told operators that a prakas on service quality would be provided and emphasised that the connection fee would be low.

The number of active mobile phone subscriptions across the Kingdom’s six operators was 20,481,051 as of the end of May, inching down 0.08 per cent from the end of May 2019, the latest data from the TRC show.

This figure is the equivalent of 124.09 per cent of the total population.

The number of mobile internet subscriptions across Cambodia’s seven providers also recorded a 2.36 per cent drop to 14,863,435, whereas fixed broadband internet subscriptions across the Kingdom’s 37 providers logged a 33.07 per cent climb to 249,132.

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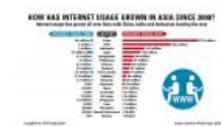
## Internet gateway to streamline security



Cambodia's Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications is reviewing a draft sub-decree on a national internet gateway that would optimise and improve network management and online



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The government has decided to place Phnom Penh in lockdown for two weeks, effective April 14 midnight through April 28, as Cambodia continues to grapple with the ongoing community outbreak of Covid-19, which has seen no sign of subsiding. According to a directive signed by Prime Minister



### **Cambodia on the verge of national tragedy, WHO warns**

The World Health Organisation (WHO) in Cambodia warned that the country had reached another critical point amid a sudden, huge surge in community transmission cases and deaths. "We stand on the brink of a national tragedy because of Covid-19. Despite our best efforts, we are



### **Hun Sen: Stay where you are, or else**

Prime Minister Hun Sen warned that the two-week lockdown of Phnom Penh and adjacent Kandal provincial town Takmao could be extended if people are not cooperative by staying home. "Now let me make this clear: stay in your home, village, and district and remain where





### **Businesses in capital told to get travel permit amid lockdown through One Window Service**

The Phnom Penh Municipal Administration has issued guidelines on how to get travel permission for priority groups during the lockdown of Phnom Penh, directing private institutions to apply through the municipality's One Window Service and limit their staff to a mere two per cent. In



### **Vaccination open to foreigners in Cambodia**

The Ministry of Health on April 8 issued an announcement on Covid-19 vaccination for foreigners residing and working in Cambodia, directing the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training and local authorities to register them. Health minister Mam Bun Heng, who is also head of the inter-ministerial



### **Ministry names types of business permitted amid lockdown**

The Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training singled out 11 types of business that are permitted to operate during the lockdown of Phnom Penh and Takmao town, which run through April 28. Those include (1) food-processing enterprises and slaughterhouses; (2) providers of public services such as firefighting, utility and



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