



30 June 2025

Subject: Concerns and recommendations to mitigate impact on agricultural and trade sector as a result of the closure of border between Thailand and Cambodia

Dear Prime Minister,

CC: Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Ministry of Labour

Deputy Minister of interior, acting on behalf of Minister of Interior

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour

Director General of Department of Employment

Pursuant to the announcement to close permanent crossing points and all other checkpoints between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Kingdom of Cambodia on 23 June 2025, with the imminent impact on cross-border travel between Thailand and Cambodia, particularly the migrant workers from Cambodia who have to travel to work along the border area, while fundamental economic sectors at the local and national levels in Thailand, particularly, the Thailand's agricultural sector, still have to rely on labour force from Cambodia to perform the task related to agricultural business along the Thailand-Cambodia border, including workers authorized to work here invoking Section 64 of the Foreigners' Working Management Emergency Decree B.E. 2560 and its amendments;

At the moment, more than 40,000 workers from Cambodia are staying and working in the Kingdom of Thailand in the provinces of Sa Kaeo, Prachin Buri, Chanthaburi and Trat by virtue of Section 64 of the Foreigners' Working Management Emergency Decree. The majority of them have been permitted to reside in the Kingdom of Thailand using Border Pass, a documentation for workers along the Thailand-Cambodia border. If the employments provisionally allowed in agricultural sector and other border trade are included, the number of such workers could be as high as 100,000. The border closure will inadvertently affect the workers who are barred from returning to their home countries, or to renew their border pass within the deadline. It may give rise to labour shortage,

particularly during harvesting periods of exported fruits, sugar cane and sugar industry, and all other fundamental border economic sectors, An estimate goes that the impact will be worth more than 30 billion baht and the ramification will be felt by at least 50,000 Thai farmers and entrepreneurs should the border closure remains in place for a period of time.

To address the immediate problems and mitigate impact on both Cambodian workers and Thai farmers along the Thailand-Cambodia border, we urge the government, the Ministry of Labour, and the Ministry of Interior to consider take the following actions urgently;

1. May the Prime Minister instruct the Ministry of Labour to promptly hold a meeting of the Foreigners' Working Management Policy Commission to approve an amnesty to allow migrant workers from Cambodia to who have entered to work by virtue of Section 64 of the Foreigners' Working Management Emergency Decree to be able to reside and work here on a special circumstance until the border situation returns to its normalcy. This can be done invoking Section 17 of the Immigration Act B.E. 2522 and Section 14 of the Foreigners' Working Management Emergency Decree B.E. 2560 with the cabinet's approval.
2. May the Foreigners' Working Management Policy Commission via the Ministry of Labour propose an amnesty to allow the employment of Cambodian migrant workers along the Thailand-Cambodia border during the border closure with the cabinet's approval.

This should be done to address the impacts due to labour shortage in manufacturing sector along the Thailand-Cambodia border and to mitigate the impacts on Thai farmers along the Thailand-Cambodia border.

Please be informed and take action urgently.

Yours sincerely,

Migrant Working Group (MWG)

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