

PUBLIC OPINION ANALYSIS

Dr. Kin Phea's Speech at the Royal Academy of Cambodia

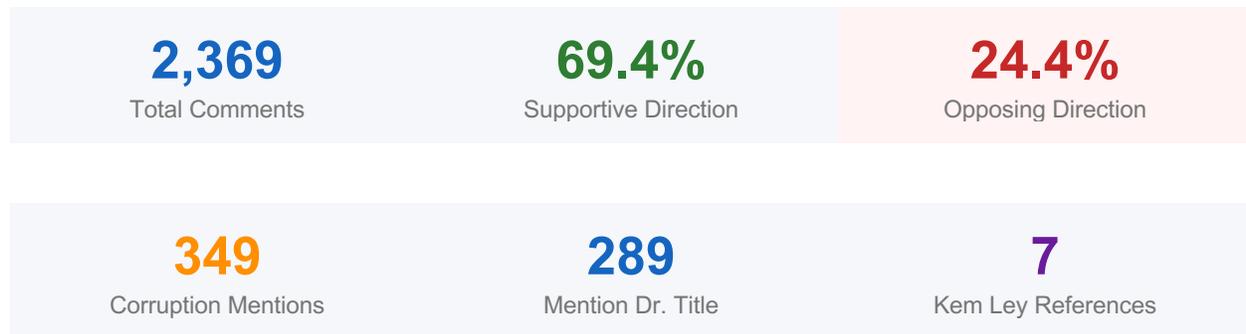
Analysis of 2,369 Facebook Comments

Source: Cambonomist Facebook Page | Posted March 14, 2026

Roundtable: "World Order in a New Context" | March 13, 2026

March 17, 2026

Key Numbers at a Glance



Purpose

This report looks at what Cambodian people think about Dr. Kin Phea's speech at the Royal Academy of Cambodia on March 13, 2026. We collected 2,369 comments from the Cambonomist Facebook page and studied them to answer four main questions:

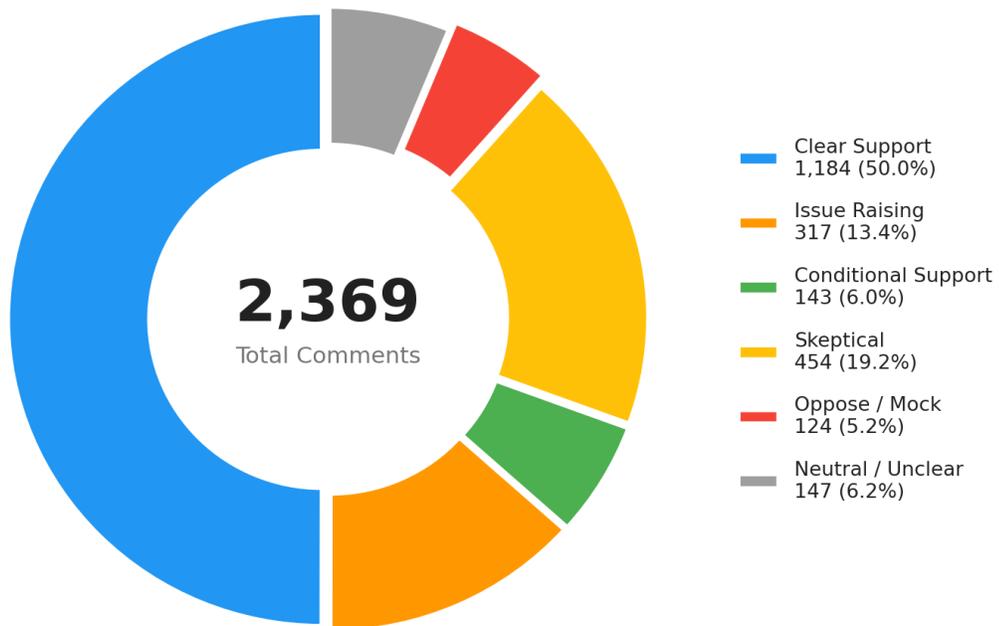
1. **Do people's comment support or oppose the speech?** We counted how many comments agree, disagree, or have no clear opinion. The result shows 69.4% of people support the speech and 24.4% oppose it.
2. **What problems do people talk about?** Many comments mention big problems in Cambodia like corruption (349 comments), the need for reform, land and border issues, and unfair treatment in the justice system.
3. **How do people express their feelings?** Some people use kind and hopeful words. Other people use angry or sarcastic language. We measured the range of emotions from positive to negative.
4. **What do people think about the "Dr." or "Bandeth" title?** Some people believe Dr. Kin Phea is a real intellectual. Some people criticize other educated people who stay silent on national problems. Some comments also mention Dr. Kem Ley, a famous Cambodian analyst who was killed in 2016, to compare him with today's intellectuals.

Section 1: Sentiment Distribution

This section show how the public feel about Dr. Kin Phea’s speech. The analysis put each comment into one of six categories. After careful review and re-analysis of all comments, the result show that half of all comments clearly support his speech, while about one quarter express doubt or opposition.

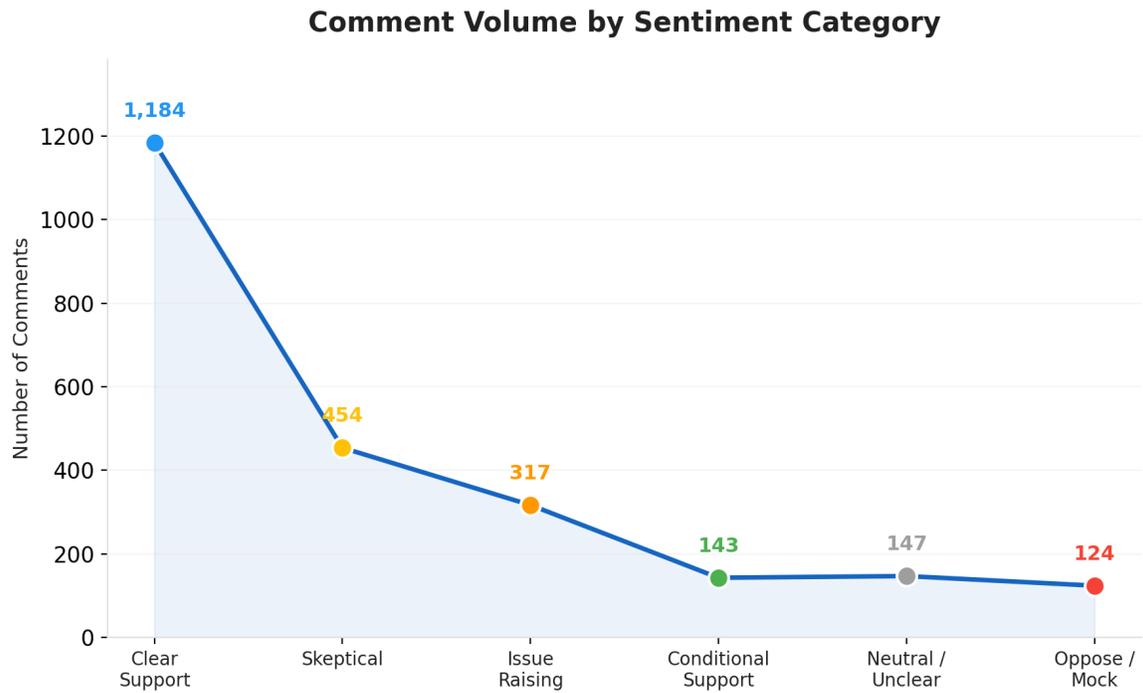
Overall Sentiment Donut Chart

Public Sentiment Distribution



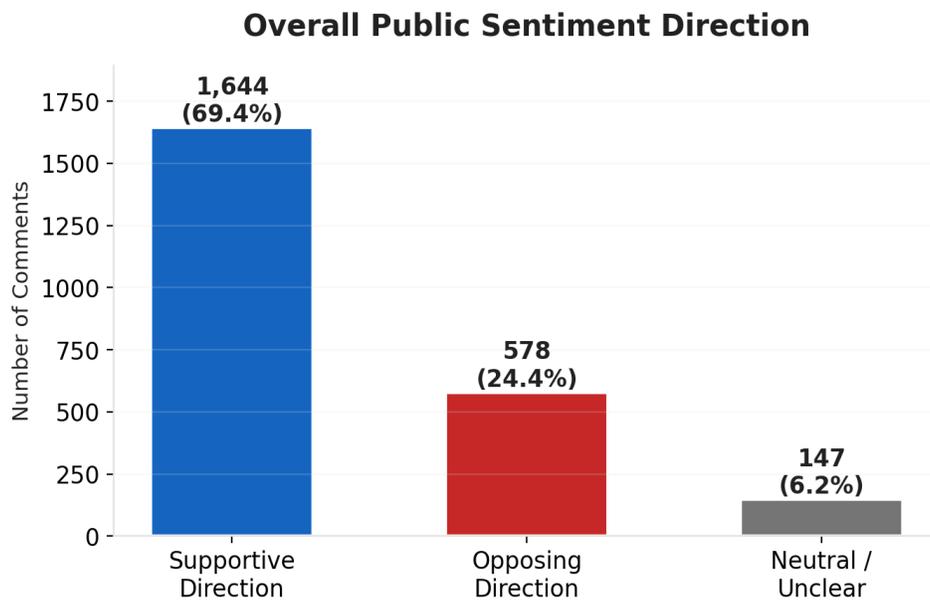
The biggest group is Clear Support with 1,184 comments (50.0%). These people agree with what Dr. Kin Phea say. The second biggest is Skeptical with 454 comments (19.2%). Issue Raising comments are third with 317 (13.4%). 124 comments (5.2%) use mocking or offensive language. Only 147 comments (6.2%) remain neutral or unclear after careful review.

Comment Volume by Category



The line graph above shows the number of comments in each category. Clear Support is much higher than all other categories. This means the majority of public opinion is positive about the speech.

Overall Direction: Support vs. Oppose



When we combine all positive categories together (Clear Support + Conditional Support + Issue Raising), 69.4% of comments go in supportive direction. 24.4% go in opposing direction (Skeptical + Oppose/Mock). Only 6.2% is neutral or unclear.

Category	Count	Percentage
Clear Support	1,184	50.0%
Issue Raising	317	13.4%
Conditional Support	143	6.0%
Skeptical	454	19.2%
Oppose / Mock	124	5.2%
Neutral / Unclear	147	6.2%

Important finding: Even the skeptical comments (19.2%) do not disagree with what Dr. Kin Phea say. They agree corruption and nepotism are real problem. They only doubt that the government will take action. The common phrase is “talk but can’t do” and “believe this, quick end.”

Sample Clear Support Comments

No.	Sample Comment	Likes
1	ដល់ពេលហើយដែលបណ្ឌិតបញ្ឈប់នូវការតែហ៊ាននិយាយដូចគាត់	402
2	ណឹងបានហៅថាបណ្ឌិត ខ្ញុំគាំទ្រ100%	50
3	Bravo Dr. Kin Phear, you have my admiration.	0
4	Good speech and meaningful. I agree with you	0
5	ខ្ញុំគាំទ្រ ប្រសាសន៍ លោក បណ្ឌិត គីន ភា	15

Sample Skeptical Comments

No.	Sample Comment	Likes
1	ទ្រឹស្តីល្អ អនុវត្តន៍សូន្យ	246
2	ដឹងដែលតែមិនបាន ស ប្រែជាខ្មៅ ខ្មៅជាបណ្ឌិត	34
3	បើនិយាយអញ្ចឹងកាំងពីយូរប្រហែលជាប្រទេសមានបាត់	14
4	មិនដឹងថាអង្គការស្តាប់ចូលត្រចៀកវិជគ	3
5	ស្តាប់ចង្អុលហើយ នៅឡើយអនុវត្តន៍	3

Sample Oppose / Mock Comments

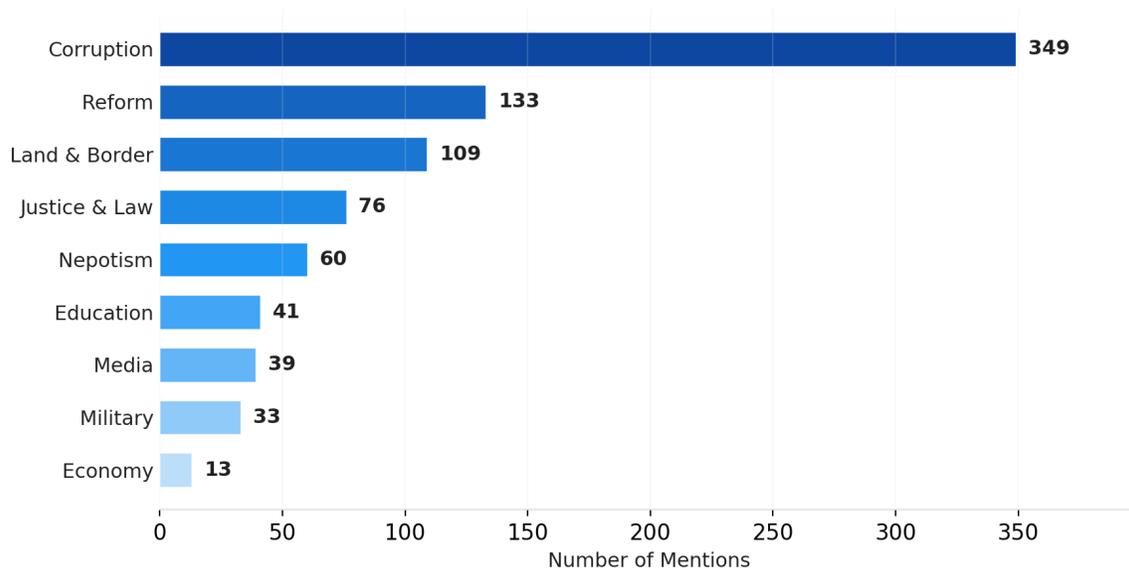
No.	Sample Comment	Likes
1	អាចម៍	3
2	ឃ្លោកលិច អំបែងអណ្តែត(ចេហត្រឹមតែថាហើយចោល >>>>)	1
3	គេអោយគាត់និយាយទេ ខិខិខិ	1

4	ស្មុគស្មាញ	0
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Section 2: Long-Term Issues Raised by the Public

Many comments talk about real problem in Cambodia that the public want the government to fix. These are not new issues. The public have been waiting for solution for many years.

Long-Term Issues Raised by the Public



Corruption (349 mentions)

Corruption is the number one issue. It is mentioned in 14.7% of all comments. People describe corruption as something that go from bottom to top of the government system. Many comments say the Anti-Corruption Unit have not produce any real result. Some people share that they need to pay money to get government job. Common metaphor is “sweep the stairs from top to bottom”, which mean reform must start from the leaders. Drug trafficking and online gambling are also seen as part of corruption problem.

Reform (133 mentions)

The second biggest issue is call for reform. People want real change in how the government operate. Many say the country is at a critical point and if leader do not wake up, the nation will face serious problem. Comment like “time to wake up” and “enough already” show the public urgency.

Land and Border Issues (109 mentions)

Many people worry about land and border. They say border land belong to rich business people (Oknha) and powerful official, not to normal citizens. Some comment express concern about Vietnamese presence in Cambodia.

Justice and Rule of Law (76 mentions)

People want better justice system. They ask for independent court and real rule of law. Some feel the law only apply to poor people, not to powerful people.

Nepotism and Cronyism (60 mentions)

The public see nepotism as closely connected to corruption. Government position are given based on family connection, not ability. One commenter say every ministry is run like family business.

Other Issues

Other issue include: education quality (41 mentions), media freedom (39 mentions), military reform (33 mentions), and economy and livelihood (13 mentions). People want education to improve especially in rural area, media to be honest, and real economic opportunity for citizen.

Sample Comments on Corruption

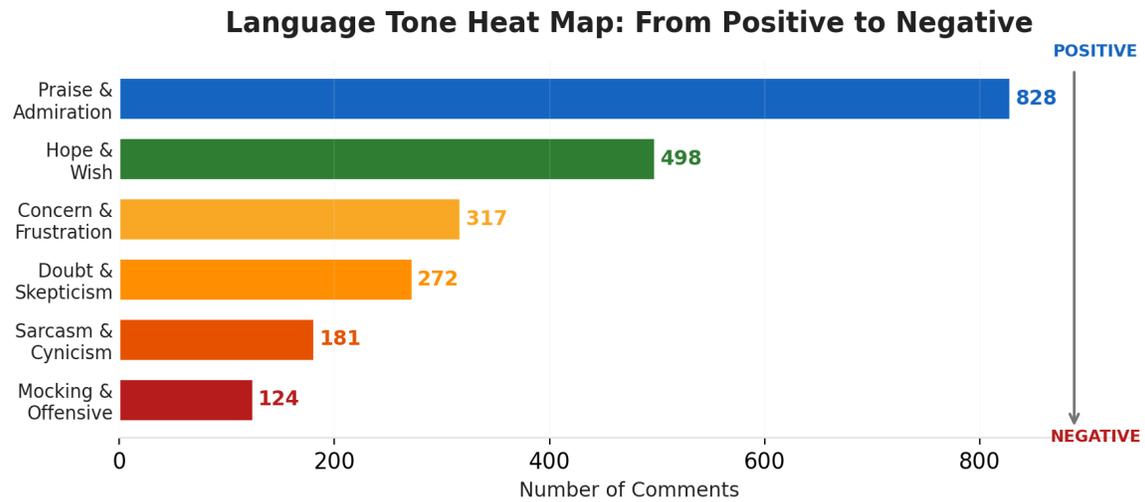
No.	Sample Comment	Likes
1	បើមន្ត្រីដូចលោកឲ្យបាន 50% ប្រទេសយើងមិនដល់ថ្នាក់ភ្នឹងទេរាល់ថ្ងៃនេហាព្រាហាអ៊ីស្រែកខ្មែរអ្នកណាក៏ដឹងដែរ។ ពុករលួយផ្តាំពីក្រោមដល់លើ	109
2	នៅឃុំប្រមោយស្រុកវាលវែងខេត្តពោធិ៍សាត់មានមន្ត្រីមួយចំនួនតូចបំបែកគ្នាធ្វើបាបប្រជាពលរដ្ឋយកដីគ្នា 40%	5
3	អំពើពុករលួយដូចជាសម្រាមត្រូវបោសពីលើចុហក្រោមហើយការកំចាត់អំពើពុករលួយមិនត្រូវគិតពីបក្សពួកឡើយ។	2
4	រឿងពុករលួយប្រហែលមិនមានផ្លូវទេ 😞	1
5	ដកក្រសួងប្រឆាំងអំពើពុករលួយចោរទៅ	1

Sample Comments on Reform and Other Issues

No.	Sample Comment	Likes
1	គាំទ្របណ្ឌិតគិន ភាចាក់ចំហេហដូងត្រូវកែទំរង់ទើបជាតិយើងខ្លាំង	2
2	យើងខ្សោយ បក្សពួកនីយម	2
3	Rural children must also be given proper opportunities for development and education.	1
4	ប្រទេសជិតរលាយអស់ល្មមភ្នាក់ខ្លួនហើយ។	1
5	ចុហបើរដ្ឋដឹកនាំដោយនយោបាយ មិនឲ្យរើសអើងនយោបាយដោយរបៀបណា 😞	1

Section 3: Language Tone Heat Map

This heat map show the tone of language that commenter use. The color go from blue (positive) to red (negative). Most comments use positive or concerned language. The mocking and offensive comments (shown in red) are a significant minority.



The heat map show that most people express their opinion with respect. Over 800 comments use praise and admiration language. Over 400 comments express hope and wish. 124 comments use mocking or offensive language (shown in red). This mean the public take this topic seriously, though there is also a vocal group that use cynicism and sarcasm.

Sample Praise and Admiration Comments (Blue Zone)

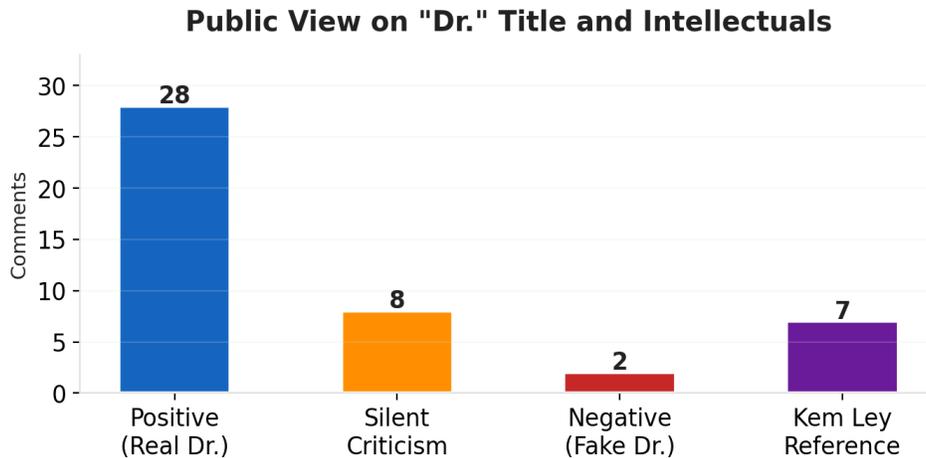
No.	Sample Comment	Likes
1	សង្ឃឹមថាទស្សនៈរបស់លោកបណ្ឌិតបានអនុវត្តនៅស្រុកយើង អោយបានស្ទើរភាព	18
2	Thank you very much for giving us a very good advice and well said	0
3	Yeah I agreed with you 🙏👏	0
4	បងនិយាយពិរោហមាំហាស់	0
5	លោកនិយាយមានអត្ថន័យណាស់	0

Sample Mocking and Offensive Comments (Red Zone)

No.	Sample Comment	Likes
1	អាចម៍ បានតែនិយាយ អាលើនោហវាជំជាងពូ	0
2	អាចម៍ឆ្កែ🐶	0
3	សូន្យ	0
4	អាចម៍	0

Section 4: Public View on “Doctor” Title and Silent Intellectuals

289 comments mention the title “bandeth” (បណ្ឌិត) which mean Doctor or PhD. The public have strong opinion about what a real Bandeth should be.



What is a “Real Bandeth”?

28 comments specifically praise Dr. Kin Phea as a “real Bandeth.” They say thing like “This is what you call a Bandeth” and “Worthy of the Bandeth title.” The public believe that the Bandeth title should come with moral courage, not just academic paper.

Criticism of Silent Intellectuals

21 comments directly talk about the silence of educated people in Cambodia. The most-liked comment in the whole post (402 likes) say: “It is time for intellectuals and scholars to dare to speak like him.”

The public feel frustrated that many educated people in Cambodia know the truth but choose to stay quiet for their own safety and comfort. Comments say thing like:

- Intellectuals should dare to speak, not sit in comfort and pursue wealth
- Many Bandeth degree holders follow orders, only few think independently
- Leaders no longer listen to the Royal Academy, but some Academy members have also been self-serving

The Kem Ley Connection

7 comments mention Dr. Kem Ley, the political analyst who was kill in 2016. People compare Dr. Kin Phea’s courage to Kem Ley. This show that the public understand the risk of speaking up, and they respect Dr. Kin Phea even more because of it.

All 7 Comments Referring to Dr. Kem Ley

No.	Sample Comment	Likes
1	នឹកលោកបណ្ឌិតកែម ឡី	22
2	បណ្ឌិត កែម ឡី ឲ្យអនុសាសន៍ រហូតដល់បាត់ជីវិត អំពីការទទួលស្គាល់ការពិត ហើយកែលម្អរ	0
3	មិនសរសើរមិនបាន ត្រូវតែសរសើរ និយាយពិតត្រឹមត្រូវល្អណាស់ បន្ទាប់ពីកែម ឡី	0
4	ពេលលោកនិយាយ នឹកឃើញលោកបណ្ឌិតកែមឡីណាស់	0
5	និយាយបានតែខ្លាចតែធ្វើមិនបាននោហទ។ មានបណ្ឌិតកែមឡីជាគំរូស្រាប់ទៅហើយ ដូចយើងដឹងហើយ	0
6	ខ្ញុំក្រោកស្តាប់ប៉ុស្តិ៍រ៉ាត់យ៉ូអេហ្វអឹម.១០២ កាលលោកកែមឡី .អ្វីវិវិៈ សុខទូច.គាត់វិភាគមកម៉្លេត!! ជំងឺរលួយរលះ អ្នកក្មេងក្មាង បក្សពួកនិយម យកលុយទិញឈ្មោះមន្ត្រី.ទិញកៅអីកន្លែងខ្លាញ់ វាមិនអាចព្យាបាលជាវិលុបបំបាត់	0
7	ប៉ុន្មានឆ្នាំទៀតទើបអាចធ្វើបានលោកបណ្ឌិត?បើស្រុកយើងស្តាប់តែមនុស្សម្នាក់ ! វិញអ្នកចេញដឹង បិទមាត់លែងហ៊ាននិយាយការពិតអស់ហើយហ្នឹង ហ៊ាននិយាយការពិតដូចបណ្ឌិត កែម ឡី ត្រូវគេសំឡេងចោលទៀត។	0

Summary: Does the Public Discredit Silent Intellectuals?

Yes, the public clearly discredit intellectuals who stay silent. But the feeling is complex. It is a mix of frustration, understanding (they know it is dangerous to speak up), and hope (they want more people to be brave). Dr. Kin Phea is being celebrate because he break the pattern of silence. The public use him as proof that the Doctor title should require moral courage, not only academic degree.

Sample Comments on Dr. Title and Silent Intellectuals

No.	Sample Comment	Likes
1	ដល់ពេលហើយដែលបណ្ឌិតបញ្ជូននូវតែហ៊ាននិយាយដូចគាត់	402
2	ណឹងបានហៅថាបណ្ឌិត ខ្ញុំក៏ទ្រ100%	50
3	ដឹងដែលតែកែមមិនបាន ស ប្រែជាខ្មៅ ខ្លាជាបណ្ឌិត	34
4	នឹកលោកបណ្ឌិតកែម ឡី	22
5	Yes! You are really Dr	0

Methodology

Data Sources

This analysis is based on three source of information:

1. **Event Summary:** A brief summary of the roundtable event “World Order in a New Context” held at the Royal Academy of Cambodia on March 13, 2026, which provide background and context for the speech.
Source: <https://rac.gov.kh/kh/posts/1984>
2. **Speech Transcript:** The full English transcript of Dr. Kin Phea’s speech, which was used to understand the key message and topic he address, including corruption, nepotism, rule of law, and the need for reform.
Source: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1434371841610007>
3. **Public Comments:** A total of 2,369 Facebook comments collected from the Cambonomist Facebook post (published March 14, 2026). The comment data include user name, user ID, comment text, like count, and timestamp.
Source: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1434371841610007>

Analysis Method

This analysis use keyword-based sentiment classification on all 2,369 comments. Each comment was check against comprehensive Khmer and English keyword list for support language, skepticism language, offensive language, conditional support, and issue-specific word.

Each comment get a score across multiple dimension and was put into the category with the strongest signal. Comments that only raise issue without clear support or opposition was categorize separately as “Issue Raising.” All comments was then manually review to correct any mis-categorization.

Comment Category Definitions

Below is a short definition of each sentiment category used in this report, so reader can understand what each group mean:

4. **Clear Support:** The commenter clearly agree with Dr. Kin Phea's speech. They use word like "support," "agree," "good speech," "bravo," or positive emoji such as 👍 and ❤️.
5. **Conditional Support:** The commenter agree with the speech but add a condition. For example: "Good idea, but can the government really do it?" or "I support this, only if they take real action."
6. **Issue Raising:** The commenter use the speech as a chance to talk about specific problem in Cambodia, such as corruption, drugs, border issue, nepotism, or education. They do not directly oppose the speech but focus on the issue itself.
7. **Skeptical:** The commenter doubt that any change will happen. They may agree with the problem but do not believe the government will act. Common phrase include "talk but can't do," "believe this, quick end," and "theory 10, practice 0."
8. **Oppose / Mock:** The commenter use mocking, sarcastic, or offensive language to reject the speech or the speaker. This include insult, name-calling, laughing emoji, or dismissive word like "rubbish," "clown," or "zero."
9. **Neutral / Unclear:** The comment is too short, ambiguous, or in another language to classify. This include single letter, random emoji, comment in Japanese or Chinese, or statement that do not show any clear opinion about the speech.

Limitation

This analysis have several limitation that the reader should be aware of:

- The analysis rely on keyword matching, which may not capture the full meaning of every comment. Khmer language have many misspelling, slang, and informal expression that are difficult to detect automatically.
- Sarcasm and irony are hard to identify by keyword alone. Some comment that appear positive may actually be sarcastic, and vice versa.
- The comment data only represent the opinion of Facebook user who choose to comment on the Cambonomist post. It do not represent the opinion of the whole Cambodian population.
- A small number of comment (6.2%) remain neutral or unclear because they are too short, written in other language (Japanese, Chinese), or do not contain enough information to classify.