

**Toast to His Majesty the King of Thailand
At A Charity Dinner in Auckland
Sunday 11 December 2011**

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honour to be here this evening to celebrate with you the 84th Birthday of His Majesty the King; also known as the seventh cycle according to the traditional lunar calendar, which is of particular importance to the Thai people.

It is also a tradition for His Majesty the King together with other members of the Royal Family to grant a public audience on His Majesty's Birthday. This year is no exception to the rule, but is adorned with an additional special element because his Majesty also delivered a vital message to the Thai people at Chakri Throne Hall in the Royal Palace.

I would like to relay to you parts of that important speech. On the wide-spread flood disaster that has lasted over three months, His Majesty said, and I quote;

“All sides must work together to help people who have been affected by the flood and to develop a sustainable water management system. It is the

duty of all sides to get together and work to their full potential to address factors that cause hardship to the people.... Cooperation is needed to solve the problem quickly and set up sustainable projects for water management system [for the future].”

His Majesty also went on to say; “The projects that I’ve discussed are only suggestions, not orders. But if the projects are beneficial and cost-effective, then implement them if possible.” This demonstrates how open-minded the King is.

Most importantly, the King stressed: “It is important that there must not be conflict. Moral support should be given instead, so tasks can be achieved for the happiness of the people and the stability of the country.”

As a Thai, and particularly as His Majesty’s Ambassador, allow me to elaborate the essence of His Majesty’s message. The King wishes to see Thais maintain a cooperative spirit and an open mind in order to jointly work towards the same highest goal of alleviating the people’s suffering. These are key factors to solving Thailand’s problems with greater ease. In so doing, all differences should be put aside, so that this common objective could be achieved.

His Majesty's greatest birthday wish would also be, to see Thais all over the world, live in unity and solidarity, helping one another overcome difficulties together, with genuine kindness and empathy.

My fellow Thais,

I am immensely glad to see the Thai people here in Auckland become the living example of His Majesty's wishes. Your joint efforts to arrange this wonderful event is evident of how you are truly following in the footsteps of His Majesty the King, and transforming His Majesty's vision into reality.

In other parts of New Zealand as well, I have heard that Thai communities are working together in solidarity as we are doing here tonight, to help fellow compatriots in need.

I believe that the proceeds from tonight's event will be donated to the Chaipattana Foundation, a foundation established under royal patronage to help support Thai people in need. During this particular period, the Foundation will be focusing on recovery efforts for those who have suffered from this recent disastrous flood.

I am also more than happy and honoured to be able to take part in such efforts, and with these thoughts, allow me to propose a toast to His Majesty the King.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me in wishing His Majesty the King, good health and a long and happy life.
