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Couple denies allowing workers to have sex with clients

Buth Reaksmeay Kongkea / Khmer Times /



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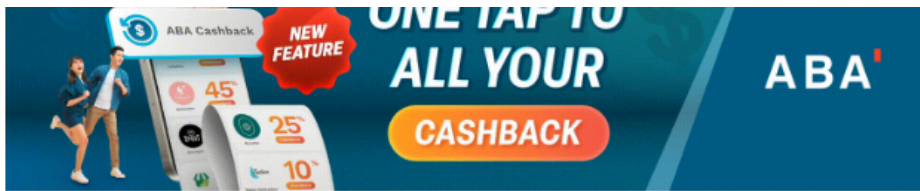


A couple denied at the Phnom Penh Court of Appeal hearing yesterday that they used their waitresses, including underage girls, to have sex with clients inside their Lihour Ponleu Reaksmeay 999 – Grilled-Meats-Restaurant in Stung Meanchey 111 commune in Meanchey district in Phnom Penh.



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Soek Sopheap, 38, and his wife Torth Sophath, 36 who are both owners of the restaurant told the Court that they were unaware and did not allow the waitress to have sex with their clients at the restaurant.

They also denied that they received a commission from these workers in exchange for allowing them to have sex with the restaurant clients.

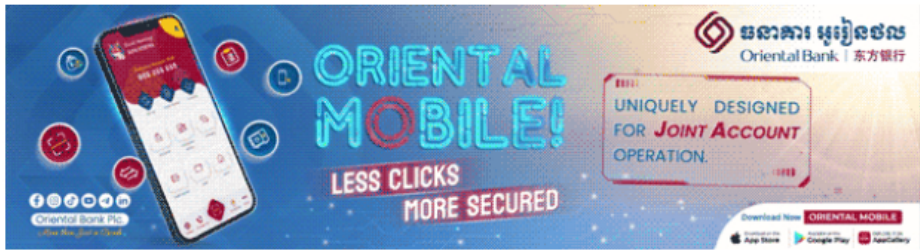
The couple said these when making their appeal to the Court to overturn the decision of the Phnom Penh Municipal Court last year where they were sentenced to seven years in prison each after they were found guilty of allowing their female employees, including underage girls, to have sex with clients in exchange for a commission of between \$5 to \$10 per client.

Presiding Judge Sin Visal said both the accused were charged with “procuring with aggravating circumstances (status of victim) under Article 289 of the Criminal Code.

He said the couple allowed the female waiters to have sex with clients with a rate of between \$20 to \$50 per person, from which they took a commission of between \$5 to \$10 per client.

He added the couple was arrested on February 18 last year following a raid at the restaurant and the detention of seven girls of whom five were underage. Police seized several items from the premises used as pieces of evidence in court. The girls were released after signing a contract that they will not offer sex service.

A verdict is due on September 30.



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Opinion



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When Asia faced the financial crisis in 2008, the Korean investment boom in Cambodia came to a halt, as did the construction of the 42-story tower in the heart of Phnom Penh. Korean investors were the main players at that time, mainly in the real estate sector, and there was not a large presence of Chinese and Japanese investors like today.



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Tags: Lihour Ponleu Reaksmeay 999 – Grilled-Meats- Restaurant, Phnom Penh, restaurant, sex, underage girls

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On 15 February 2024, an article titled “Why Cambodia needs to incorporate more women into its foreign policy process” was published on the Diplomat and has caught attention from various readers including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia, who is also now requesting for clarifications from the author.

Features



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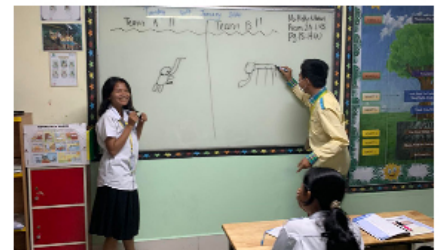
This excerpt is from the 1012 book

THIS EXCERPT IS FROM THE 1912 BOOK *Danseuses Anciennes et Modernes* about the classical dance of Cambodia, written by George Groslier (1887–1945), the creator and first curator of the National Museum of Cambodia and the director of the Service des Arts Cambodgiens from the 1920s to the 1940s.



Harnessing the Power of Bees

Qbee, led by Ms. Man Rathea, has a captivating story of entrepreneurship and a commitment to sustainability. Despite working in an unrelated field, Ms. Rathea's life took a new direction when she decided to empower Cambodian beekeepers and promote superior quality honey production through Qbee.



Why self-care curriculum is needed in today's education system

Education continues to be one of the leading factors in empowering positive change. In Cambodia, community members are encouraged to increase their skills and knowledge through a variety of additional educational programs.

Good Times2



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kicked off the year on an optimistic note that, with the wisdom of hindsight, turned out to be somewhat ironic.



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