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National January 3, 2020

## PassApp drivers hold protest over casino pickup policy

Sen David / Khmer Times /



PassApp drivers gather to protest after a casino banned them from picking up passengers inside the company compound. Nokor Wat



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Nearly one hundred PassApp rickshaw drivers staged a protest yesterday in front of the Poipet City Hall in Banteay Meanchey province to demand permission allowing them to enter a casino to pick up passengers.



### **Khmer Times App**





Bros Mao, a driver for the ride-hailing app, yesterday said Paramex Casino prevents the drivers from picking up passengers from within the casino compound, preventing them from earning money.

Mr Mao said the company argues drivers cannot pick up passengers inside the compound because it is private property.

"The company should be tolerant with rickshaw drivers because their customers inside book us through [PassApp]," he said.

Mr Moa said the company only allows rickshaw drivers to go inside if they pay monthly fees, but PassApp works differently because it is a ride-hailing mobile application.

He said the company's customers use the app call on rickshaw drivers to pick them up.

"We suggest that the company allow us to pick up their guests," Mr Mao said. "We do not disturb the company. We just enter to pick up customers."

Mr Mao said rickshaw drivers in Poipet began working with PassApp after the mobile application gained popularity in Phnom Penh.

"Since the app became available in Poipet last year, it has helped a lot of us support our living," he said.

Representatives of Paramex Casino could not be reached.

Hai Songhoat, another PassApp driver, said the Poipet city governor must convince Paramex to allow rickshaw drivers to pick up customers within the company's compound.

"The company said the area belongs to them and they have rights, but we are not doing anything to affect the company – we only just want to pick up their guests," Mr Songhoat said, adding there have been cases where the company's security guards beat rickshaw drivers.

Poipet city Governor Keat Hol said City Hall will consider their request.

"This problem is related to how businesses are run and City Hall will note the concerns of the drivers and talk with the company," Mr Hol said.



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Tags: Paramex Casino, PassApp, protest

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