



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

President's Office

No. 109/PO

DECREE
of the
PRESIDENT
of the
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

On the Promulgation of the Amended Law on the National Assembly

Pursuant to Chapter 6, Article 67, point 1 of the Constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic which provides for the promulgation of the Constitution and of laws adopted by the National Assembly;

Pursuant to Resolution No. 01/NA, dated 17 June 2006, of the National Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic regarding the adoption of the Amended Law on the National Assembly; and

Pursuant to Proposal No. 07/NASC, dated 26 June 2007, of the National Assembly Standing Committee.

**The President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic
Decrees That:**

- Article 1.** The Amended Law on the National Assembly is hereby promulgated.
- Article 2.** This decree shall enter into force on the date it is signed.

Vientiane, 10 July 2006
The President of the Lao People's
Democratic Republic

[Seal and Signature]

Choumaly XAYASONE



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

National Assembly

No. 01/NA
17 June 2006

LAW ON THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Chapter 1 General Provisions

Article 1 (New). Purpose of the Law on the National Assembly

The Law on the National Assembly defines the principles and regulations relating to the organisation and activities of the National Assembly, aiming to strengthen State authority, [and] to create a State that belongs to the people, [is managed] by the people, and for the benefit of the people.

Article 2. Status and Role of the National Assembly

The National Assembly is the representative of the rights, powers and interests of the multi-ethnic people. The National Assembly is also the legislative branch that has the right to make decisions on fundamental issues of the country, [and] to oversee the activities of the executive organs, the people's courts and the Office of the Public Prosecutor.

Article 3 (New). Rights and Duties of the National Assembly

The National Assembly has the following rights and duties:

1. To prepare, adopt or amend the Constitution;
2. To consider, adopt, amend or abrogate the laws;
3. To consider and adopt the determination, amendment or abrogation of duties and taxes;
4. To consider and adopt government report on the implementation of the socio-economic development and the State budget;
5. To elect or remove the President, the Vice-President and members of the National Assembly Standing Committee, to establish or dissolve the committees of the National Assembly, to elect or remove the chairmen of the committees, the Director of the

- Cabinet of the National Assembly¹, vice-chairmen of the committees of the National Assembly, [and to] establish or dissolve the International Parliamentary Committee of the National Assembly based on the recommendation of the National Assembly Standing Committee;
6. To elect or remove the President and Vice-President of the State based on the recommendation of the National Assembly Standing Committee;
 7. To consider and approve the proposed appointment or removal of the Prime Minister based on the recommendation of the President of the State;
 8. To consider and approve the organisational structure of the government and the appointment, transfer or removal of members of the government based on the recommendation of the Prime Minister;
 9. To elect or remove the President of the People's Supreme Court and the Supreme Public Prosecutor² based on the recommendation of the President of the State;
 10. To decide on the establishment or dissolution of the ministries, ministry-equivalent organisations, provinces and cities, and to determine boundaries of provinces and cities based on the recommendation of the Prime Minister;
 11. To decide on granting amnesties;
 12. To decide on the ratification of or [withdrawal from] treaties and agreements signed with foreign countries in accordance with the laws;
 13. To decide on matters of war or peace;
 14. To oversee the observance and implementation of the Constitution and laws, resolutions of the session of the National Assembly, resolutions of the National Assembly Standing Committee, the socio-economic development plan and the State budget, and projects that have national importance;
 15. To cancel legal acts of the government, the Prime Minister, the People's Supreme Court, the Office of the Supreme Public Prosecutor, the Lao Front for National Construction, and mass organisations at the central level that are inconsistent with the Constitution and laws. [In this provision,] legal acts of the People's Supreme Court and the Office of the Supreme Public Prosecutor [refers] only to legal acts that are not related to case proceedings;

¹ The "Cabinet of the National Assembly" is also referred to as the "Office of the National Assembly".

² The term "Public Prosecutor" has been chosen because it is the English term commonly used in Laos for this title/institution. Other common translations include "people's prosecutor" and "people's public prosecutor". Readers from common law jurisdictions should note that the Lao Public Prosecutor has considerably more powers than public prosecutors in their home jurisdictions and is more akin to a procurator in socialist systems. In addition, readers should note that the term is principally used to refer to the "office" or "organisation" of public prosecutors rather than to refer to individual prosecutors. In this Article, the reference is to the person (i.e. the top prosecutor in the country) rather than the office.

16. To make decisions regarding liaison and cooperation with parliaments and international organisations at the regional and international levels; [and]
17. To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as provided by the laws.

Article 4. Principle Underlying the Functions of the National Assembly

The National Assembly is organized and functions in accordance with the principle of democratic centralism. It conducts its work through meetings and takes decisions by a majority of votes.

Article 5. Term of the National Assembly

The term of office of each National Assembly [legislature]³ is five years from the opening session of the incumbent National Assembly [legislature] to that of the new National Assembly [legislature].

The election of a new National Assembly legislature must be completed no later than sixty days prior to the expiration of the term of office of the incumbent National Assembly [legislature].

In the case of war or any other circumstance that obstructs the election, an [incumbent] National Assembly [legislature] may extend its term of office but it must carry out the election of the new National Assembly [legislature] no later than six months after the situation returns to normal.

If deemed necessary by the vote of at least two-thirds of all members of the National Assembly attending the session, such [incumbent] National Assembly [legislature] will carry out the election of [new] members prior to the expiration of its term.

Article 6. Budget of the National Assembly

The National Assembly has its own budget as part of the State budget to fund the performance of its activities and duties.

³ The term “National Assembly” is used interchangeably in the original to mean the “institution of the National Assembly” and the “body of legislators at any one time”. Only where the literal translation – “National Assembly” – may not be clear from the context have the translators inserted [legislature] to indicate that the latter meaning is intended.

Chapter 2 **Sessions of the National Assembly**

Article 7. Sessions of the National Assembly

There are three types of National Assembly sessions⁴:

1. Opening Session;
2. Ordinary Session; [and]
3. Extraordinary Session.

Article 8 (New). Opening Session of the National Assembly⁵

The opening session of the National Assembly is convened no later than sixty days after the election of a new National Assembly. The President of the previous National Assembly presides and guides the opening session until the President of the new National Assembly is elected.

The opening session of the National Assembly has the following rights and duties:

1. To hear the President of the National Election Committee report to the session on the results of the election and the confirmation of the status of the members of the National Assembly;
2. To elect the President, Vice-President and the members of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, based on the recommendations of the previous National Assembly Standing Committee;
3. To establish the committees of the National Assembly;
4. To elect the chairmen of the committees, the Director of the Cabinet and the vice-chairmen of the committees of the National Assembly based on recommendations of the new National Assembly Standing Committee;
5. To establish the International Parliamentary Committee of the National Assembly and to elect the president and secretariat of the International Parliamentary Committee, based on the recommendations of the new National Assembly Standing Committee;
6. To elect the President and the Vice-President of the State, based on the recommendations of the new National Assembly Standing Committee;
7. To consider and approve the appointment of the Prime Minister, based on the recommendation of the President of the State;

⁴ The term “session” is used interchangeably to mean “a meeting of National Assembly members” and “the body of legislators assembled at a meeting of National Assembly members”.

⁵ Even though it may not be apparent from the text in this law, a reference to “the opening session” is not a reference to a single session of a National Assembly legislature but to a certain kind of session of a National Assembly legislature. The same is true for “ordinary session” and “extraordinary session”.

8. To consider and approve the organisational structure of the government, and the appointment, transfer or removal of members of the government, based on the recommendations of the Prime Minister;
9. To elect the President of the People's Supreme Court and the Supreme Public Prosecutor, based on the recommendations of the President of the State;
10. To consider and approve the socio-economic development plan for the term of the office of the government; [and]
11. To consider and decide other issues which are considered important and necessary, such as the legislative development and amendment plan and the work programme of the National Assembly.

Article 9 (New). Ordinary Session of the National Assembly⁶

The National Assembly convenes its ordinary session twice a year. The first ordinary session, which takes place at the end of the fiscal year between June and July, and the second ordinary session, which takes place at the beginning of the fiscal year between November and December, are both convened by the National Assembly Standing Committee.

The first ordinary session of the National Assembly has the following rights and duties:

1. To consider and approve annual reports of the government on the implementation of the socio-economic development plan and the State budget, [and] to consider and approve the socio-economic development plan and the State budget of the government for the next fiscal year;
2. To consider reports on the implementation of the annual plans, and the next fiscal plans of the People's Supreme Court and the [Office of the] Supreme Public Prosecutor;
3. To consider and approve reports on the implementation of the annual plan, and the next fiscal plan of the National Assembly;
4. To consider and make decisions on other issues which are considered important, such as plans for development and amendment of laws, and on any election, transfer or dismissal provided in Article 8(2), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), and (9) of this law if deemed necessary.

The second ordinary session of the National Assembly has the following rights and duties:

1. To consider and approve new laws and amended laws;
2. To consider and approve the final accounting report relating to implementation of the State budget for the previous fiscal year;

⁶ *Ibid.*

3. To consider and approve the report of the government on the implementation of the socio-economic development plan and the State budget of the government for the first six months of the fiscal year; and to consider and approve adjustments to the socio-economic development plan and the State budget of the government for the last six months of the fiscal year;
4. To consider reports of the President of the People's Supreme Court and the [Office of the] Supreme Public Prosecutor on the implementation the Constitution and laws during the first six months and work plans for last six months;
5. To consider and approve reports on the implementation of work plans for the first six months and last six month of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly; [and]
6. To consider and make decisions on other issues which are considered important and on any election, transfer or dismissal provided in Article 8 (2), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), and (9) of this law if deemed necessary.

Article 10. Extraordinary Session of the National Assembly⁷

The extraordinary session of the National Assembly may be convened between the two ordinary sessions of the National Assembly in order to consider and decide on important and necessary issues upon the determination of the National Assembly Standing Committee or on the recommendation of the President of the State, the Prime Minister or at least one-fourth of the total number of the members of the National Assembly.

Article 11. Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly Sessions

The sessions of the National Assembly will be convened only with a quorum of more than one-half of the total number of members of the National Assembly.

The sessions of the National Assembly will be convened openly. In the event that it deems it necessary, the National Assembly Standing Committee will decide to convene closed sessions.

The sessions of the National Assembly are led by a chairing committee.

Article 12. The Convening of the Sessions of the National Assembly

The National Assembly Standing Committee convenes the sessions of the National Assembly. Documents that will be considered at such session shall be delivered to the members of the National Assembly prior to the opening of such session.

⁷ *Ibid.*

Article 13 (New). Participants at the Sessions of the National Assembly

Participants at the sessions of the National Assembly are all the members of the National Assembly. In addition to the members of the National Assembly, [the following persons may participate:] the members of the government[;] the President of the People's Supreme Court[;] the Supreme Public Prosecutor[;] representatives of Party and State organisations, the Lao Front for National Construction, mass organisations, and social organisations[;] and representatives from different social strata. Participants who are not members of the National Assembly may be authorised to provide opinions and comments to the session but shall have no voting rights.

Members of the National Assembly and other relevant participants shall strictly comply with defined rules and agenda.

Article 14 (New). Resolutions of the Session of the National Assembly

Resolutions of the National Assembly shall be in summary and brief, emphasising the goals and objectives of the session.

Resolutions of the National Assembly may be voted upon in either open or closed sessions, as decided by the session.

Resolutions of the National Assembly will be valid only if they are passed by more than one-half of the total number of the members present at the session, except [where the resolution concerns] the election of the President of the State, the [calling of an] election prior to the expiration of the term of the National Assembly [or] the amendment of the Constitution, [in which case the required votes are] as provided in Articles 54, 66 and 97 of the Constitution.

Article 15. Minutes of the Session of the National Assembly

Minutes of each National Assembly session should be taken [; they should be] signed and certified by the Chief of the Secretariat and the Chairman of the National Assembly session.

Chapter 3

Organisational Structure of the National Assembly

Article 16. Organisational Structure of the National Assembly

The National Assembly has the following organisational structure:

- President of the National Assembly;
- Vice-President of the National Assembly;
- Standing Committee of the National Assembly;
- Committees of the National Assembly;
- Committees of members of the National Assembly in the constituencies;

- Members of the National Assembly; [and]
- Cabinet of the National Assembly.

Article 17. Term of Office

The term of office of the President, Vice-President, Standing Committee, committees, committees of members of the National Assembly in the constituencies and the Cabinet of the National Assembly corresponds to the term of the National Assembly.

**Chapter 4
The President and Vice-President
of the National Assembly**

Article 18 (New). The President of the National Assembly

The President of the National Assembly is the supreme leader of the National Assembly who directs and leads the National Assembly's activities and represents the National Assembly in domestic and international affairs.

Article 19 (New). Rights and Duties of the President of the National Assembly

The President of the National Assembly has the following rights and duties:

1. To preside over the chairing committee of the National Assembly;
2. To direct, lead and monitor the internal and external activities of the National Assembly;
3. To consult, coordinate and cooperate on important national activities with the President of the State, the Prime Minister and heads of other organisations when it is deemed necessary;
4. To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as provided in the laws and regulations.

Article 20 (New). The Vice-Presidents of the National Assembly

The Vice-Presidents of the National Assembly have the duty to assist the President of the National Assembly in carrying out his work and serving as members of the chairing committee, and may be assigned specific tasks by the President of the National Assembly.

If the President of the National Assembly is engaged on other matters, the Vice-President who is assigned by the President will act on his behalf.

Article 21. The Seal of the President of the National Assembly

The seal of the President of the National Assembly is a circle. In its centre is the national emblem. The inscription on the top edge is "Lao People's Democratic Republic", and on the bottom edge is "President". To separate the [two] inscriptions, five-cornered stars are inserted.

**Chapter 5
The Standing Committee of the National Assembly**

Article 22. Status and Role of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly

The National Assembly Standing Committee is the permanent body of the National Assembly. It acts on behalf of the National Assembly between the sessions of the National Assembly.

Article 23 (New). Rights and Duties of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly

The National Assembly Standing Committee has the following rights and duties:

1. To study a strategic plan for upgrading the quality of the activities of the National Assembly;
2. To develop its work plan for each period, [and] the plan for development and adjustment of laws of the National Assembly, to present [them] to the session of the National Assembly for consideration and approval, and then to implement them;
3. To prepare for the National Assembly sessions and to ensure that the National Assembly implements its work plan;
4. To interpret and explain the provisions of the Constitution and the laws;
5. To study and prepare draft laws under its responsibility to present to the session of the National Assembly for consideration; and to study and draft presidential decrees or ordinances⁸ [and to] propose them to the President of the State for consideration;
6. To issue instructions relating to the implementation of laws and presidential ordinances developed by the National Assembly;
7. To study draft laws presented by other organisations, and then to present [them] to the session of the National Assembly for consideration[;] to study draft presidential ordinances or decrees presented by other organisations and then to present [them] to the President of the State for consideration[;] and to study other important draft legislation;
8. To propagate and disseminate the Constitution, laws and other legislation;

⁸ This is a reference to statutes/acts that the President has the power to enact.

9. To instruct other concerned organisations to elaborate on and implement laws that have been promulgated, and to evaluate the implementation of such laws;
10. To determine the structure, rights, and duties of Committees, Committees of Members of the National Assembly in the Constituencies, [and] the Cabinet of the National Assembly;
11. To prepare the election of the members of the new National Assembly;
12. If necessary, to consider and approve the appointment, transfer or removal of any minister or the chairman of any ministry-equivalent organisation, and then to report [such action] to the next session of the National Assembly for its consideration and approval;
13. To propose to the President of the State [that the President] consider and approve the granting of amnesties;
14. To monitor and enhance the implementation of the Constitution, laws, resolutions of the session of the National Assembly, resolutions of the National Assembly Standing Committee, socio-economic development plans, the State budget plan, [and] important national projects of the government, the people's courts, the offices of the public prosecutor, and the provincial or city administrative authorities, between the sessions of the National Assembly;
15. To study the summary of the final accounts of the State budget relating to the implementation of the State budget plan for the previous fiscal year, and then to present [it] to the session of the National Assembly for consideration and approval;
16. To suspend the implementation of legal acts of the government, the Prime Minister, the People's Supreme Court, the Office of the Supreme Public Prosecutor, the Lao Front for National Construction, mass organisations at the central level, provincial governors and city mayors that are in conflict with the Constitution, laws or resolutions of the session of the National Assembly, and then to present to the next session of the National Assembly for consideration. [In this provision,] legal acts of the People's Supreme Court and the Office of the Supreme Public Prosecutor [refers] only to legal acts that are not related to case proceedings;
17. To decide on matters relating to the acquisition and relinquishment of Lao nationality;⁹
18. To appoint, transfer, or remove the Chairman, Vice-Chairman of any committee of the members of the National Assembly in the constituencies;
19. To appoint or remove the Deputy Director of the Cabinet of the National Assembly, permanent members of committees and heads of departments of the Cabinet of the National Assembly;

⁹ Readers may wish to refer to the Law on Lao Nationality for more information on the acquisition, relinquishment, forfeiture and withdrawal of Lao nationality.

20. To appoint, transfer or remove judges of the People's Supreme Court, Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the people's courts at local level and of the military courts;
21. To direct and lead the activities of, and to receive reports and feedback from, the Committees, the Committees of Members of the National Assembly in the Constituencies and the Cabinet of the National Assembly;
22. To examine and consider petitions for justice of citizens according to its role;
23. To issue resolutions and instructions;
24. To report to the National Assembly session on its activities performed between the sessions of the National Assembly;
25. To establish ad hoc committees to implement certain activities, when necessary;
26. To coordinate and cooperate with Party organisations, the government, the People's Supreme Court, the Office of the Supreme Public Prosecutor, the Lao Front for National Construction and mass organisations at the central level in the implementation of its activities;
27. To liaise and cooperate with parliaments and organisations of foreign countries, or at regional and international levels;
28. To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as provided in the laws and regulations.

Article 24. Structure of the National Assembly Standing Committee

The National Assembly Standing Committee consists of:

- The Chairman;
- Vice-Chairmen;
- Some members.

The President and Vice-President(s) of the National Assembly are also the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the National Assembly Standing Committee.

Article 25 (New). Division of Responsibilities within the National Assembly Standing Committee

The Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee directs and leads the activities of the National Assembly Standing Committee.

The Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee may assign a Vice-Chairman or any member of the committee to act on his behalf when he is engaged on other matters.

Vice-Chairmen of the National Assembly Standing Committee have the responsibility to assist the Chairman in the implementation of activities and to direct some activities, and will be responsible to undertake other

activities as assigned by the Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee.

A member of the National Assembly Standing Committee exercises the rights and performs the duties of the National Assembly Standing Committee as provided in Article 23 of this law and may be assigned to be responsible for certain activities based on a resolution of the National Assembly Standing Committee.

Article 26 (New). Session of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly

The session of the National Assembly Standing Committee is held at least once a month, and is convened by the Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee.

A person may be invited to participate in an open session of the National Assembly Standing Committee upon a decision of the National Assembly Standing Committee. Such person may participate in the discussions but does not have the right to vote.

In the event that the Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee is engaged on other matters, the session is convened and chaired by the Vice-Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee who has been assigned by the Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee.

The National Assembly Standing Committee session may be convened only with the quorum of at least two-thirds [of the total members].

The National Assembly Standing Committee will have meetings with the government, the People's Supreme Court, and the Office of the Supreme Public Prosecutor at least twice a year.

Article 27 (New). Subjects to be Considered at Sessions of the National Assembly Standing Committee

The subjects to be considered in a session of the National Assembly Standing Committee must be important and focused and, also, documents shall be submitted and the [contents of the session] shall be notified to the National Assembly Standing Committee and invited participants before the opening of the session.

Every session of the National Assembly Standing Committee shall have a minutes of session signed by the recorder and certified by the signature of the chairman of the session, and the result of the session shall be notified to members of the National Assembly and published to the public through the mass media depending on each case.

Article 28 (New). Resolutions of the Session of the National Assembly Standing Committee

The resolutions of the National Assembly Standing Committee will be valid only if passed by the vote of a majority of the members present at the session.

Article 29. The Seal of the National Assembly Standing Committee

The seal of the National Assembly Standing Committee is a circle. In its centre is the national emblem. The inscription on the top edge is "Lao People's Democratic Republic", and on the bottom edge "The National Assembly Standing Committee". To separate the [two] inscriptions, five-cornered stars are inserted.

**Chapter 6
The Committees of the National Assembly**

Article 30 (New). Status and Role of the Committees of the National Assembly

The National Assembly's committees are the secretariat organs of the sessions of the National Assembly and the National Assembly Standing Committee, and have the role to assist the session of the National Assembly and the National Assembly Standing Committee in the implementation of the activities of the National Assembly in accordance with the rights and duties of each committee.

Article 31 (New). The National Assembly Committees

The National Assembly committees consist of:

1. The Law Committee;
2. The Economy, Planning and Finance Committee;
3. The Cultural and Social Committee;
4. The Ethnic Affairs Committee;
5. The National Defence and Security Committee; [and]
6. The Foreign Affairs Committee.

When necessary, the National Assembly Standing Committee may propose to the session of the National Assembly to establish additional committees.

Article 33 (New). Specific Rights and Duties of the Committees

The specific rights, duties and scope of responsibility of each committee are determined by the National Assembly Standing Committee.

Article 34 (New). Structure of Committees of the National Assembly

The structure of each committee of the National Assembly consists of:

- Chairman;
- Some Vice-Chairmen;
- Members of the committee, who are members of the National Assembly.

Article 35 (New). Division of Responsibilities Within the Committees of the National Assembly

The Chairman of [each] committee of the National Assembly instructs activities and leads meetings of the committee, [and] represents the concerned committee to report and propose activities to the Standing Committee and the session of the National Assembly.

Vice-Chairmen assist the Chairman of the committee in the implementation of duties and activities of the committee, and may be responsible to undertake certain activities as assigned by the Chairman of the committee.

In the event that the Chairman is engaged on other matters, the assigned Vice-Chairman acts on his behalf.

Members of the committee exercise the rights and perform the duties of the committee as provided in this law.

Article 36 (New). The Plenary Meetings of the National Assembly Committees

Plenary meetings of a committee shall take place at least once a year before the ordinary session of the National Assembly and shall be convened and chaired by the chairman of such committee in accordance with the consent of the National Assembly Standing Committee.

When deemed necessary, a plenary session of a committee can take place at any time or can take place jointly with another committee and other concerned persons can be invited to participate in such meeting in accordance with the consent of the National Assembly Standing Committee.

The plenary session of a committee mainly considers reports of past activities and the direction for future actions of such committee, and draft laws, legislation and other activities within the area of their responsibility.

A plenary meeting of a committee shall have a minutes of meeting signed by the recorder and certified by the signature of the Chairman, and shall also be reported to the National Assembly Standing Committee.

Article 37 (New). The Seal of the National Assembly Committees

[Each] National Assembly committee has its own circular seal. In its centre is the national emblem. The inscription on the top edge is "National Assembly", and on the bottom edge is the name of the committee. To separate the [two] inscriptions, five-cornered stars are inserted.

Chapter 7

Committees of Members of the National Assembly in the Constituencies

Article 38 (New). Status and Role of the Committees of Members of the National Assembly in the Constituencies

A committee of members of the National Assembly in a constituency refers to an organisation of the National Assembly at such constituency, which is a secretariat to the session of the National Assembly and the National Assembly Standing Committee, and has the role to assist the session of the National Assembly and the National Assembly Standing Committee in the implementation of the activities of the National Assembly in its constituency, according to its rights and duties, and to implement activities that are assigned by the National Assembly Standing Committee.

Article 39 (New). Rights and Duties of the Committees of Members of the National Assembly in the Constituencies

In its constituency, [each] committee of members of the National Assembly in such constituency has the following rights and duties:

1. To develop a work plan for its activities for each period;
2. To disseminate the Party's directions and policies, the laws and regulations of the State and the resolutions of the National Assembly; [and] to motivate the multi-ethnic people to participate in the protection and development of the nation;
3. To attend [meetings] with provincial or city administrative authorities to study and make comments on the socio-economic development plan, local budget plan, and other important issues in its constituency;
4. To oversee and support the implementation of the Constitution and laws, resolutions of the session of the National Assembly, resolutions of the National Assembly Standing Committee, the socio-economic development plan, the State budget plan, and other important projects at provincial level;
5. To direct, [and] guide the activities of members and offices of the National Assembly in its constituency;
6. To receive and consider petitions for justice from the people in accordance with its role;
7. To report on its activities to the National Assembly Standing Committee and other concerned authorities on a regular basis;
8. To cooperate and coordinate with other sectors and organisations from province down to village level in executing its duties; and,

- when necessary, to invite relevant sectors to provide clarification on specific issues;
9. To participate in important meetings, activities and ceremonies of Party organisations, State organisations, the Lao Front for National Construction, mass organisations and other social organisations; [and]
 10. To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as provided in the laws and regulations.

Article 40 (New). Structure of Committees of Members of the National Assembly in the Constituencies

The structure of each committee of members of the National Assembly in a constituency consists of:

- Chairman;
- Vice-Chairmen;
- All the members of the National Assembly from such constituency.

For a constituency that has a Chairman or Vice-Chairman, such person will be the permanent person in charge.

Article 41 (New). Division of Responsibilities within Committees of Members of the National Assembly in the Constituencies

The Chairman of the committee of members of the National Assembly in each constituency directs and leads activities, and chairs the meetings of the committee of members of the National Assembly in such constituency, and represents the committee to report and propose activities to the National Assembly Standing Committee, the session of the National Assembly, and other concerned organisations.

The Vice-Chairmen assist the Chairman in the implementation of activities and will be responsible to undertake certain activities as assigned by the Chairman of the committee of members of the National Assembly in the constituency.

In the event that the Chairman of a committee is otherwise engaged, a Vice-Chairman will act on his behalf as assigned by the Chairman of such committee of members of the National Assembly in the constituency.

The person permanently in charge represents the committee in handling daily activities of the committee of members of the National Assembly in the constituency.

Article 42(New). Offices of the Committees of Members of the National Assembly in the Constituencies

In each constituency, there shall be an office of the committee of members of the National Assembly in such constituency which is the secretariat to the committee of members of the National Assembly in the constituency, has a status equal to a provincial division, and has the duty to facilitate the activities of the committee of members of the National Assembly, and the members of the National Assembly, in such constituency.

Article 43 (New). Structures, Rights and Duties of the Offices of the Committees of Members of the National Assembly in the Constituencies

The structures, rights and duties of the offices of the committees of members of the National Assembly in the constituencies are determined by the National Assembly Standing Committee.

Article 44. Seal of the Committees of Members of the National Assembly in the Constituencies

[Each] committee of members of the National Assembly in a constituency has its own circular seal. In its centre is the national emblem. The inscription on the top edge is "National Assembly" and on the bottom edge "Committee of Members of the National Assembly in Constituency Number___ in _____province or city". To separate the [two] inscriptions, five-cornered stars are inserted.

**Chapter 8
Members of the National Assembly**

Article 45 (New). Status of Members of the National Assembly

Members of the National Assembly are the representatives of the will, rights, interests, and aspirations of the multi-ethnic people. They are elected by the Lao citizens and under the monitoring of the people.

Article 46. The Term of Office of the Members of the National Assembly

The term of office of members of the National Assembly corresponds to the term of the National Assembly.

In the event that there is an election of a replacement member of the National Assembly [to replace a previous member of the National Assembly], the term of the replacement member begins from the session immediately following the election and lasts until the opening session of the new legislature.

Article 47 (New). Rights and Duties of the Members of the National Assembly

Members of the National Assembly have the following rights and duties:

1. To study, comprehend, and implement the Party's directions and policies, the laws and regulations of the State, the resolutions of the session of the National Assembly, and resolutions of the National Assembly Standing Committee;
2. To disseminate the Party's directions and policies, the laws and regulations of the State, and the resolutions of the session of the National Assembly; [and to] encourage the multi-ethnic people from [different social] strata to take part in the implementation of the Party's directions and policies, the laws and regulations of the State, the management of the State and the management of socio-economic [matters];
3. To be involved in [activities] of local administrative authorities, especially the provincial cabinets and divisions, in the studying and making of comments on the socio-economic development plan, local budget plan, and other important issues in their constituencies;
4. To attend the National Assembly sessions, to study, make comments and give explanations on issues raised, and to vote responsibly.
When necessary, [a member of the National Assembly] who cannot attend a session must request prior permission from the National Assembly Standing Committee;
5. To raise questions to the President of the State, the President of the National Assembly, [and] to interpellate the Prime Minister or members of the government, the President of the People's Court, and the Supreme Public Prosecutor in the National Assembly session;
6. To advise citizens in the submission of petitions, and to provide comments to the committees of members of the National Assembly in the constituencies relating to the consideration of petitions for justice made to such committees to consider in accordance with their role;
7. To report their activities in each period to the committees of members of the National Assembly in their [respective] constituencies and to the committees [of the National Assembly] of which they are members;
8. To report their activities to the people in their constituencies at least twice a year, to meet and be close to the people, [and] to find out the comments, will, and requests of the people and then to bring and present [them] to the National Assembly and other concerned organisations for consideration and handling;
9. To participate in important meetings, activities and ceremonies of Party organisations, State organisations, the Lao Front for National Construction, mass organisations and social organisations in their constituencies;

10. To receive important data and information in the implementation of their activities; [and]
11. To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as provided in the laws and the internal regulations of the National Assembly.

Article 48 (New). Members of the National Assembly - Appointment to Committees and Holding Other Posts

Each member of the National Assembly is appointed to one committee of the National Assembly. The members of the National Assembly can continue to hold other positions.

Each member of the National Assembly shall comprehensively fulfil the roles, exercise the rights and perform the duties of members of the National Assembly as provided in the laws.

Article 49. Expiry of the Term of Members of the National Assembly

The term of a member of the National Assembly will expire upon:

1. Such member's death;
2. Such member's resignation;
3. Such member's dismissal from the position of member of the National Assembly; [or]
4. Expiry of the term of office.

Article 50 (New). Policies Towards Members of the National Assembly

The members of the National Assembly will receive general policies according to State principles and regulations and will receive specific policies as provided in specific regulations to ensure the accomplishment of their duties.

Article 51. Immunities of Members of the National Assembly

Members of the National Assembly will not be arrested, detained or prosecuted in a criminal court without the approval of the National Assembly or National Assembly Standing Committee.

In the event that it is necessary to arrest a member of the National Assembly as a result of a manifest offence, or due to the urgency of the matter, the organisation which has detained the member of the National Assembly must immediately report to the National Assembly or to National Assembly Standing Committee in order to obtain instructions regarding further action [or prosecution.] Investigations shall not [be conducted in such a manner as to] prevent a prosecuted member from attending National Assembly sessions.

Chapter 9

The Cabinet of the National Assembly

Article 52. Status and Role of the National Assembly Cabinet

The Cabinet of the National Assembly is an advisory office of the National Assembly and the National Assembly Standing Committee[; it has the] role to study, summarize and compile [information], to be responsible for administrative matters, planning and finance, [and] to facilitate the activities of the session of the National Assembly, the Standing Committee, the Committees, and the members of the National Assembly.

Article 53 (New). Rights and Duties of the Cabinet of the National Assembly

The Cabinet of the National Assembly has the following rights and duties:

1. To develop a draft work plan of the National Assembly to present to the session of the National Assembly, and to develop a draft work plan of the National Assembly Standing Committee to present to the session of the National Assembly Standing Committee for consideration and approval;
2. To develop the budget plan of the National Assembly to present at a session of the National Assembly Standing Committee for consideration and approval;
3. To summarize and compile [information on] all aspects of the implementation of the Constitution and laws, the socio-economic development plan and the State budget plan, resolutions of the session of the National Assembly, and resolutions of the National Assembly Standing Committee throughout the country in order to report to the National Assembly Standing Committee;
4. To establish favourable conditions for the operation of activities of the National Assembly Standing Committee, and of the committees and members of the National Assembly;
5. To organize, manage, maintain and implement the entitlements of officials and civil servants of the National Assembly;
6. To prepare and provide facilitation [services] for the sessions of the National Assembly, the National Assembly Standing Committee and the National Assembly Committees;
7. To manage the budget-spending, materials and assets of the National Assembly;
8. To receive and study petitions for justice from citizens and nationality problems in order to propose [dispositions thereof] to the National Assembly Standing Committee for consideration;
9. To be responsible for order in the premises of the National Assembly;
10. To direct, monitor, control and support the activities of the National Assembly offices in the constituencies;
11. To direct and manage activities of departments and other organisations that are under the administration of the Cabinet, and

- to provide necessary documents, data and information to the National Assembly, mass media and concerned organisations;
12. To liaise and coordinate with the National Assembly committees, the Office of the Party Central Committee, the Office of the President of the State, the Office of the Prime Minister and with other concerned organisations;
 13. To liaise and cooperate with the cabinets of the parliaments and organisations of foreign countries, and at regional and international levels; [and]
 14. To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as are assigned by the President of the National Assembly or the National Assembly Standing Committee.

Article 54. Structure of the Cabinet of the National Assembly

The structure of the Cabinet of the National Assembly is determined by the National Assembly Standing Committee.

Article 55. Seal of the Cabinet of the National Assembly

The Cabinet of the National Assembly has its own circular seal. In its centre is the National emblem. The inscription on the top edge is "National Assembly" and on the bottom edge "Cabinet". To separate the [two] inscriptions, five-cornered stars are inserted.

Chapter 10
Working System of the National Assembly

Article 56 (New). Working Principles

The National Assembly, the National Assembly Standing Committee, the committees, the committees of members of the National Assembly in the constituencies and the Cabinet of the National Assembly work on the basis of democratic centralism, [which principle manifests itself through the following:] a balance between collective and individual responsibility; discussions in meetings and decision making by majority votes.

Article 57 (New). Working Method

The National Assembly, the National Assembly Standing Committee, the committees, the committees of members of the National Assembly in the constituencies and the Cabinet of the National Assembly work on the basis of the following method: division of work even while responsibility rests upon individuals; work in accordance with plans, monitoring, keeping records, drawing lessons learnt and reporting; requests for guidance from higher authority, coordination among various organisations within the National Assembly; and liaison and cooperation with foreign countries, and international organisations in accordance with regulations.¹⁰

¹⁰ For readability, the punctuation in this sentence has been modified.

Chapter 11

Proposal and Consideration of Draft Laws

Article 58. Proposal for Developing or Amending Laws

Before preparing a new draft law or amending an existing law, the organisations which have the right to propose draft laws, as stipulated in the Constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, must make a proposal to the National Assembly Standing Committee elaborating the purpose and reasons for drafting or amending such law.

The National Assembly Standing Committee must give an answer in writing to such proposal no later than fifteen days from the day of receiving the proposal.

Article 59. Submission of a Draft Law to the National Assembly Standing Committee

The organisation which has already developed or amended a law must submit such draft law to the National Assembly Standing Committee to consider no later than sixty days prior to the opening of the session of the National Assembly.

Article 60 (New). Examination of Draft Laws

The National Assembly Standing Committee will assign a draft law to the Law Committee [or] other concerned committees to appoint sub-committees to make a detailed study and comprehensive review and report the results of the study to the National Assembly Standing Committee for consideration.

The National Assembly Standing Committee is the authority that decides whether to submit the draft law for public consultation in various forms before proposing such law to the session of the National Assembly for consideration and approval.

Article 61(New). Submission and Consideration of Draft Laws by the National Assembly

The National Assembly Standing Committee agrees to allow the representative of the concerned organisation that is in charge of developing a draft law or the Chairman of the concerned committee to present such draft law to the session of the National Assembly.

After that, the President of the session of the National Assembly assigns the [appointed] sub-committee to present and explain the detailed contents of the draft part by part, chapter by chapter, and article by article to the session for comments and consideration, and for adoption by voting in a closed or open session.

Chapter 12
Final Provisions

Article 62. Implementation

The National Assembly Standing Committee is to implement this law.

Article 63. Effectiveness

This law shall enter into force on the date of the promulgating decree issued by the President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

This law replaces the Law on the National Assembly No. 01/NA dated 06 May 2003.

Provisions or regulations that contradict this law are null and void.

Vientiane, 17 June 2006
President of the National Assembly

[Seal and Signature]

Thongsing THAMMAVONG