

8. Policy on Good Management and Governance

8.1 Efficiency of Administration of State Affairs

8.1.1 Encourage the decentralization of fiscal management to local administration with a view to enhancing the capability and autonomy of local administrative bodies in being self-reliant, by improving relevant laws to allow them to collect greater revenue from taxes, tariffs and fees so as to enable them to provide public services with quality and responsive to people's needs, taking into account the necessity and appropriate potential of each particular locality.

8.1.2 Encourage local administrative bodies to work on the basis of good governance and improve the efficiency of their working systems, to be responsive to people's needs, foster community responsibility and work

with transparency, by providing the public with access to information and involving them in the processes of planning, implementing plans, supplying of public services in collaboration with the local administrative bodies, and monitoring the work of local authorities.

8.1.3 Increase clarity and reduce redundancy in public administration, including the roles and assignments of the central, regional and local bodies, in order to promote greater complementarity and coordination in the appropriate use of resources, while also expediting the devolution of assignments and budgets to local administrative bodies in accordance with the Law on Planning and Processes of Decentralization to Local Administrative Bodies, subject to continuous monitoring and evaluation of outcomes.

8.1.4 Integrate the public administration of central and regional bodies with local administration by supporting the integrated provincial management through a process of formulating development plans for provinces and provincial groups in line with government policy, national and regional strategic plans, and plans of local administrative bodies and communities, taking into account the involvement of all sectors concerned in every step of such planning process.

8.1.5 Promote special models of administration of different areas in accordance with their levels of socio-economic development by encouraging areas which have potential and preparedness to develop into cities.

8.1.6 Establish the moral, ethical and good governance standards for civil servants and public officials, and develop transparency in the operation of public agencies to gain people's confidence, by promoting participation of the people sector, as well as preventing and suppressing corruption and malfeasance; encourage the adherence to the social values of honesty and righteousness, and promote the freedom of organization of civil servants and public officials as stipulated in the Constitution.

8.1.7 Organize the work systems in such a way that they become resilient, flexible, fast, efficient, transparent and accountable; promote and develop the systems for output management and capacity building of civil servants and public officials at all levels in order to deliver efficient and effective public services; and improve the proficiency of civil servants, especially the young generations of civil servants, who will be the future of the public sector.

8.1.8 Adjust the salaries, wages, remunerations and fringe benefits of civil servants and public officials to appropriately reflect their abilities and efficiency, possibly in accordance with geographical areas,

employment competition within each profession and other necessities, in order to retain capable and good officials within the civil service; and create balanced and better quality of life of civil servants and public officials in order that they could live with dignity and high morale so as to work for the welfare and benefit of the public.

8.2 Law and Justice

8.2.1 Reform and amend outdated laws and regulations that lend themselves to corruption, malfeasance or conflicts of interest; introduce new laws aimed at pre-empting and preventing corruption; extend or repeal the statute of limitations in some criminal and corruption cases; vigorously suppress corruption at all levels and encourage the public to increasingly keep in check the power of the state; and promote the idea of morality in tandem with knowledge in and outside schools in order to cultivate the value of honesty among Thais.

8.2.2 Develop the judicial process for the administration of justice that is efficient, transparent and fair to all groups; promote the increasing use of reconciliatory justice and the principles of dispute settlement in dispute mediation and conciliation; establish a dispute reconciliation body; lay down the procedure for delaying lawsuits for negligence, misdemeanours, and cases which carry a penalty of no more than 3 years imprisonment; and develop the judicial system and procedures that can bring about results in a faster and fairer manner.

8.2.3 Bring laws up-to-date with current socio-economic situations and the protection of individuals' rights; develop working systems and processes that could extensively and equitably deliver justice and protection of rights and liberty to the people; expedite the establishment of a body for legal reform and a body for reform of the judicial process in accordance with relevant provisions of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand; support the work of public agencies in providing advisory opinions or keeping in check the promulgation of laws by the state in order to ensure that it is in accordance with the rule of law.

8.2.4 Promote greater participation of the people sector in the judicial process by using volunteers so as to allow the public to participate in the entire judicial process from crime prevention, dispute conciliation and monitoring of civil servants in their use of power and performance of their duties; promote the reintegration of released convicts into the community; and provide lawyer and legal counselling services to low-income people.

8.2.5 Develop rehabilitation systems and diversify their work methods to suit various groups of offenders, including youths and minors, on the basis of the rights and liberties they are entitled to, so that they could be given opportunities to correct themselves, become good citizens and not return to any further wrong-doing.

8.2.6 Develop the efficient and transparent police forces which have professionalism, honour and dignity; and promote the devolution of the administrative and non-major work routines of the police to the regional level.

8.2.7 Increase people's opportunities to get access to information concerning the judicial process with a view to creating transparency and accountability of the use of state authority; and encourage people's participation in the supervision and evaluation of the performances of police officials, public attorneys and other users of state authority.

8.3 Media and Access to Information

8.3.1 Enhance people's opportunities to extensively, fairly and promptly receive and gain access to public and official information as well as information from other sources; ensure that the public sector provide opportunities for people's participation in all dimensions in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

8.3.2 Improve the roles of state media agencies to serve public interest and promote national reconciliation.

8.3.3 Encourage and promote community involvement in the broadcast and circulation of useful information for public interest, which is an activity with minimal commercial return, by receiving support from the Broadcast and Television Development Fund.

8.3.4 Introduce a law on protection of media professionals in order to ensure that the media operate with freedom, non-interference and social responsibility; and repeal or amend laws which contravene the rights and freedoms of the people and the media in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Mr. President,

The Government is determined to work seriously in accordance with the fundamental policy of the state, and wishes to point out that the Government Policy which has just been presented will serve as a guideline for the Government's action over the next three years, taking into account the urgency of resolving the country's problems, and for administration of state affairs in compliance with the provisions under Chapter 5 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand on the Directive Principles of Fundamental State Policies.

Furthermore, for the Government to be able to administer state affairs in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, as well as for the purpose of policy implementation to achieve the goals that have already been set forth, the Government shall proceed with the drafting of legislative bills as required the provisions of the Constitution, and laws which will be supportive of policy implementation, creation of fairness among the people and improvement of or setting the course for operating procedures of state agencies. The Government will also develop management systems and undertake all that is necessary to ensure efficient and pragmatic administration of state affairs for the benefit of the country's development. All these are considered part of its policy on administration of state affairs.

Mr. President,

After delivering this Policy Statement, the Government will expedite its concrete implementation by drawing up detailed plans of action, comprising a plan for state administration, action plans for respective government agencies, and a legislative enactment plan, to serve as references and guidelines for further work.

Mr. President,

The Government reassures the National Assembly, the body charged with overseeing state administration, that the Government will administer the affairs of the country with integrity and honesty, and will uphold the benefit and happiness of the Thai people as the basis for its work.

Thank you.