

## **1. Urgent Policies to be Implemented in the First Year**

**1.1 Boost confidence in and stimulate the overall economy in order to promote investment and consumption among the people and private sectors**

**1.1.1 Promptly promote harmony and reconciliation among people in the nation** by using peaceful means, listening to opinions from all sides and avoiding any use of violence as means of resolving national problems in all circumstances; restore social order and enforce law on the basis of equality and justice to all sides; and support the participation of organizations established pursuant to the Constitution in the process of reconciliation within the framework of each organization's mandate.

**1.1.2 Set up a Southern Border Provinces Administering Office as a permanent organization** to be responsible for resolving problems and developing the Southern Border Provinces, by adhering to the principle of reconciliation and the "understand, reach out, develop" guidelines; apply a stringent and just judicial process to perpetrators; designate the Southern Border Provinces as special development zones which will receive support from low-interest soft loans, special tax preferences and promotion of *halal* industries; and promote these areas as special development zones with flexibility and religious and cultural diversity.

**1.1.3 Carry forward political reform** by establishing a committee to study reform approaches, with participation by the civil society, with a view to setting up a stable and efficient system of administration of state affairs under the system of democratic governance with the King as Head of State, which is in congruence with Thailand's social conditions, capable of ensuring sustainable development and responsive to the true needs of the people.

**1.1.4 Expeditiously boost confidence in Thailand among the global community** by giving priority to cooperation frameworks within ASEAN and working with the National Assembly in finalizing by January 2009 the consideration and approval of concerned documents which Thailand, as a member of ASEAN, must sign during the ASEAN Summit; and make preparations for hosting the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in February 2009 as Thailand is the ASEAN Chair.

**1.1.5 Urgently rejuvenate the economy which is facing problems** by introducing, by January 2009, a short-term restoration plan covering issues of farmers and agriculture, industries, services and tourism, export and real estate sectors, job and income creation in rural areas,

development of natural sources of water and revival of resources; and prepare an additional budget plan for the 2009 fiscal year with an aim to inject public expenditure into the economic system and to alleviate the difficulties faced by the people and business sector.

**1.1.6 Expeditiously boost confidence of foreign tourists and implement measures to stimulate tourism** by pursuing cooperation between the public and private sectors in launching campaigns to attract foreign tourists, encourage domestic tourism by Thais and adjust the budget plan of government agencies which have already been allocated for the 2009 fiscal year to include training and seminars across the country, as well as reduce tourism-related fees and servicing costs to promote tourism on a wider scale.

**1.1.7 Enhance investment to stimulate the development of the country** by giving priority to investment projects with high returns to create a favourable investment climate, raise the quality of life of the people and enhance the competitiveness of the country, particularly investments on upgrading of the quality of education at all levels, improvement of the health service structure with an emphasis on disease prevention and health promotion, development of mass transit system, and development of water management and irrigation system; enable these projects to begin in 2009, with importance being attached to people participation, environmental conservation, transparency, accountability and national financial discipline; and accelerate the disbursement of investment budget of government agencies and state enterprise.

## **1.2 Maintain and increase people's income**

**1.2.1 Cooperate with the private sector in implementing measures to delay and prevent lay-offs** in industrial and service sectors, including large, medium and small enterprises, while providing incentives to the private sector to alleviate their burden in delaying the lay-offs.

**1.2.2 Expedite urgent measures** to address the problems of unemployment in industrial sectors and among newly graduated students by organizing training programmes for approximately 500,000 unemployed labours during a one-year timeframe, in accordance with their skills and potential, and preparing for reintegration of labours returning to their home regions, in order to enhance competitiveness and create added economic values for enterprises and community businesses.

**1.2.3 Expeditiously alleviate difficulties of those who have been laid off and are unemployed as a result of the economic crisis** by ensuring that they receive promptly compensation and welfare benefits as stated by the law, helping them find new jobs, promoting self-employment, creating

more job opportunities, and enhancing their skills to facilitate a shift in professions as well as providing necessary fringe benefits such as an increase in the financial amount of the employee welfare fund to help employees who have been laid off, and implementation of the “labours’ homecoming project”, which includes job creation and land allocation; as well as providing access to sources of funding for labours outside the agricultural sector that have been laid off to enable them to return to the agricultural sector.

**1.2.4 Create income insurance for senior citizens** who have insufficient income or are unable to work to support themselves by allocating allowances for senior citizens who are above 60 years of age who have registered to receive such assistance; and expand the ceiling of loans from the senior citizen’s fund to 30,000 Baht per person.

**1.2.5 Implement additional fiscal measures** to help increase people’s income and stimulate the business sectors that have been affected.

**1.2.6 Generate income and build economic potential for the grass roots** by establishing a sufficiency economy fund and increasing the financial amount of such fund from the level earlier allocated, with a view to developing water resources and natural resources at the community level; decrease agricultural production costs, as well as expedite and shorten the state’s procedures concerning budget distribution so that the locality can promptly receive their budgets.

**1.2.7 Implement measures to efficiently maintain pricing stability of agricultural produce through tools and mechanisms of the state and expedite the establishment of the agricultural risk insurance system,** which includes a risk insurance system for agricultural pricing through advance market mechanism and an insurance system for crops in case of natural disasters.

**1.2.8 Expedite and develop markets and goods distribution system** for agricultural and community products in order to generate domestic consumption and export.

**1.2.9 Establish the National Farmers’ Council** so that farmers can participate in policy-making processes and systematic planning of agricultural development; set up a system to protect and promote the interests of farmers; as well as promote empowerment of farmers in a sustainable manner.

**1.2.10 Promote the proactive role of village health volunteers across the country** in promoting good health in local and community areas, in providing care of children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and patients in the hospital, and in undertaking surveillance of diseases in the

community, by providing fringe benefits to village health volunteers in order to create motivation for them to work in a flexible and efficient manner.

### **1.3 Reduce the cost-of-living burden for the people**

**1.3.1 Ensure access to 15 years' education cost-free for all** by providing textbooks on primary subjects to all schools, providing students' uniforms and learning stationeries free-of-charge in time for the B.E. 2552 (2009) school year as well as supporting other cost to compensate schools for fees normally exacted from parents.

**1.3.2 Regulate and supervise the prices of consumer goods and services necessary for daily life** so that they are fairly priced, reflect appropriately their costs and do not take advantage of consumers.

**1.3.3 Undertake measures to reduce the cost-of-living burden for the people** in terms of transportation, cooking gas and public utility services by revising existing measures to be in line with current economic conditions and on the basis of the principle of efficient use and consumption.

**1.3.4 Maintain oil price stability through efficient use of the petrol fund** in a manner beneficial to the promotion of alternative energy and the efficient use of energy.

**1.4 Establish a Committee of Economic Ministers and a Joint Public-Private Sector Committee to Resolve Economic Problems** with a view to monitoring and expediting the resolution of the problems, simplifying operations and laying down measures and projects to revive the economy in an urgent situation.

**Mr. President,**

As for the policies to be implemented over the three-year tenure of this Government, the Government will implement the key policies in the administration of state affairs as appear in Policies 2 to 8 as follows: