

3. Policy on Social and Quality of Life

3.1 Education Policy

3.1.1 Reform the entire education system by reforming its structure and management, amending laws in accordance with the Constitution, pooling resources for the improvement of education management from the primary to the tertiary levels, developing teachers, improving the university entrance examination system, developing curricula, adjusting curricula of

primary subjects including history, improving instructional media, developing thinking and analytical skills, adjusting the role of non-formal learning into an office for lifelong learning, establishing a lifelong learning centre for appropriate learning in each area, as well as promoting decentralization so that all sectors of society can participate in education management to help realize the objective of quality education and learning that emphasizes virtue-led knowledge.

3.1.2 Encourage the private sector to participate in the development of the educational system as a whole, with emphasis on the vocational and tertiary education levels, so as to be able to meet the human resource needs of the economic sector.

3.1.3 Develop teachers, professors and education sector personnel to ensure that there are good and capable, virtuous, quality and more highly-educated teachers, reduce the workload of teachers, which is not associated with teaching in accordance with the "Return Teachers to Students" project, take care of the quality of life of teachers by revising the debt structure and establishing a fund to develop teachers' quality of life, while also investing in information technology that focuses on the development of substances and personnel to be prepared for and ready to take full advantage of the information technology.

3.1.4 Ensure that everyone is provided with access to 15 years' cost-free education, starting from the kindergarten level through the secondary education level, while also increasing the efficiency of education management to create equal and fair educational opportunities for the disadvantaged, including the indigent, persons with disabilities or the invalid, persons in distress, persons with physical and mental deficiencies and those of different cultural backgrounds, and augment the development of child centres (nurseries/day-care centres) in the community.

3.1.5 Raise vocational and tertiary education standards to the level of excellence by grouping educational institutions according to their capacity, revising upwards pay and compensation for vocational education graduates, with the public sector taking the lead and setting examples in using vocational skills as criteria to determine compensation and professional advancement; and developing knowledge and innovation through capacity-building in research and development.

3.1.6 Improve the management of the student loan fund to provide for debt negotiation and arbitration as well as enlarge the fund so as to provide people with greater opportunities to access education at the vocational and bachelor's degree levels.

3.1.7 Encourage children, youth and the people generally to make constructive and intelligent use of information technology so as to enhance learning.

3.1.8 Accelerate investment in education and integrated learning at all levels and in each community by using each area and school as a base for integration in every aspect, apply evaluation criteria made by the Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA) in raising the quality of schools rated sub-standard, and promote excellence at the university level so as to enable Thailand to become a regional education and research and development hub, and build a lifelong learning and knowledge-based society in each community by linking the role of the family and educational and religious institutions.

3.2 Labour Policy

3.2.1 Provide protection for both formal and informal labour according to Thai labour standards, especially in work safety, healthy working environment and conditions of employment, by encouraging business establishments to be certified in accordance with international standards on management of labour rights and protection.

3.2.2 Reform and strengthen the social security system by ensuring independent and transparent administration, and extend the coverage of health insurance to the insured's children and spouses in case of illness, and increase other benefits for the insured.

3.2.3 Develop and train all levels of workers to broaden their knowledge and skills with standards that meet technological changes and market demand by enhancing the training capability of labour skill development institutes and centres across the country by mobilizing participation of the private sector in the forms of 'schools within factory', and integrating the efforts of public and private educational institutions to enhance labour skills.

3.2.4 Promote employment of Thai workers abroad with dignity and decent quality of life by offering loans for going to work overseas, skills and language training, creating guarantees, protecting and overseeing the export of workers to work overseas, and monitoring and protect Thai workers against exploitation while working abroad.

3.2.5 Support labour welfare, by establishing a work safety institute, setting up day-care centres in business establishments, and increasing the capability of the Workmen's Compensation Fund in providing care for workers injured due to their work; organize a welfare system for informal

labour; and promote a tripartite labour relationship system to create good relationships among employees, employers and the public sector.

3.2.6 Manage the foreign labour employment system to correspond with the needs of the manufacturing sector without affecting employment of Thai labour and national security by categorizing the types of work permissible to foreign workers, systemizing foreign labour import, eliminating the problem of illegal foreign workers, and introducing a system for effectively regulating and monitoring foreign labour.

3.2.7 Encourage employment of senior citizens and persons with disabilities by providing various types of employment that are suitable to their capacities, such as part-time employment; temporary employment; short-term contract employment, as well as expanding employment opportunities for the elderly with specific proficiencies.

3.3 Public Health Policy

3.3.1 Support the implementation of national legislation on health by prioritizing measures to improve public health and reduce risk factors that affect health and cause chronic illnesses through forging partnerships with all relevant sectors, including the private sector, local administrative organizations, local communities and public health volunteers, to jointly foster knowledge and understanding and create incentives to stimulate development and healthy behaviours; and encourage the participation of local administrative organizations in the development of medical and public health personnel by granting funds for them to return to work locally.

3.3.2 Systematically build disease surveillance, prevention, control, diagnostic and treatment capacities, with the involvement of all relevant sectors, with a view to preventing illnesses and death caused by newly emerging and reoccurring diseases in humans, including new mutated strains, in a timely manner.

3.3.3 Improve the health service system by investing in the development of public health services at all level; elevate health stations into "Health Promoting Hospitals" for each sub-district; develop efficient networks for patient transfers, linking together public and private sectors, in order to ensure public access to the health insurance system with sufficient quality and varied choices, which also covers medical care in participating private hospitals.

3.3.4 Invest in the production and development of medical and public health personnel, while also providing incentives for their career advancement, adjusting rules and regulations so that they receive suitable and

just incomes from salaries and other remunerations and improving laws related to the medical profession; distribute medical and public health personnel in accordance with local needs; and invest in the development and linkage of information technology system with a view to providing up-to-date and reliable public health information which can be put to optimal use.

3.3.5 Promote Thailand as an international medical and health care centre by implementing a participatory administrative strategy involving all relevant sectors; share medical resources between the public and private sectors; and improve relevant rules and regulations.

3.4 Policy on Religions, Arts and Culture

3.4.1 Promote and preserve Thai culture in all aspects, including local traditions and wisdoms, support the research, restoration and development of Thai culture, and develop cultural learning spaces for the public, especially for Thai children and youth.

3.4.2 Promote the role of the family institution, in cooperation with religious, educational and other social institutions, in inculcating positive values and conscience and in monitoring of cultural threads which may affect behavioural deviancy among children and youth; advocate production of creative media, promote positive trends in the society, and open good public spaces for children and youth.

3.4.3 Promote local wisdoms and the diversity of Thai arts and culture, including way of life, good values and Thai-ness, for studies and promotion to the global community, for use as a vehicle for promoting good relations with the world community, as well as for adding economic value to the nation.

3.4.4 Support the revitalization of organizations and mechanisms responsible for religious affairs in order to ensure that their work in managing, promoting and preserving religions proceeds in a unified and efficient manner; encourage good understanding and harmony among people of all faiths so that religious teachings can be used to promote morality and ethics and motivate people to apply such teachings in their daily life.

3.5 Policy on Social Welfare and Human Security

3.5.1 Alleviate poverty by allocating land to low-income citizens, promoting employment and income generation through projects such as reforestation, as well as strengthening the village funds and other sources of funding at the community level to ensure that these have transparent and

efficient mechanisms and that communities are able to decide and utilize them to resolve problems and advance community development.

3.5.2 Restructure public debt towards debt reduction or extension or postponement of debt payments, or reduction of interest rate, or postponement of interest payment.

3.5.3 Intensify efforts to improve and resolve problems related to living conditions, quality of life, and community environments, with particular emphasis on low-income communities, by improving the quality of and expanding public utilities services to ensure access; improve the management of public organizations for housing of low-income people to enhance their efficiency, and consider establishing more such organizations to enhance the capability in helping improve the quality of life and environment of low-income communities.

3.5.4 Create economic security and social stability for senior citizens by emphasizing the role of social institutions and communities as networks for social protection and welfare distribution for senior citizens; promote utilization of the potential of senior citizens in contributing towards national development and transfer of their wisdoms and know-how to broader society; encourage savings and establish an insurance system for the elderly to better prepare citizens for entering their senior years with financial and social stability.

3.5.5 Attach importance to all aspects of consumer protection by raising awareness, establishing an independent consumers' organization and strictly enforcing consumer protection laws, and using legal mechanisms to protect consumers from being taken advantage of by such means as excessive advertising, hidden advertisements, or use of media for personal interests.

3.5.6 Promote gender equality and eradicate domestic violence and discrimination against women, children and persons with disabilities, provide protection and promote appropriate social welfare for the indigent, persons with disabilities or the invalid, and those under difficult circumstances in order to better their quality of life and enable them to be self-reliant.

3.5.7 Intensify efforts in solving the narcotic drug problem in a comprehensive and systematic manner, from prevention and suppression to rehabilitation of drug addicts, in tandem with improving relevant legislation in accordance with the evolving situation and ensuring strict enforcement of laws, and enhance cooperation with neighbouring countries and the international community in addressing the narcotic drug problem.

3.5.8 Increase efficiency of crime prevention and protection of public safety by introducing effective crime surveillance and monitoring systems with emphasis on development of databases, warning systems and cooperation networks among community volunteers and public authorities in various areas; and strengthening public and community relations operations to create better understanding and cooperation between authorities and the public.

3.6 Policy on Sports and Recreation

3.6.1 Create opportunities for all groups of citizens to exercise and participate in sports, by promoting cooperation among the public and private sectors as well as state enterprises and local administrative agencies in developing sports activities, providing locations and facilities, organizing exercise, sports and recreational activities, and promoting interest among youth in sports and constructive use of their free time.

3.6.2 Develop excellence in sports, by establishing a national sports training centre and incorporate sports science into training, standardize and improve the quality of training methods, and continuously support the organization of sports competitions at the international level.

3.6.3 Promote Thai sports to be better known and recognized internationally.

3.6.4 Improve the sports management system by supporting the role and involvement of local administrative agencies in the management and organization of sports facilities and recreational activities, as well as building sports ground in villages and communities.

3.6.5 Improve existing sports laws and other related laws by introducing laws on sports profession, athletes' welfare and other laws as tools for effective sports management.