

## Newsletter

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### **Preparation for the next NA session is on consideration**



Preparation for the third ordinary session of the National Assembly (NA) (sixth legislature) topped the agenda of the March meeting of the NA Standing Committee, which was held here on 26-27 March in Vientiane Capital, presided over by Mr Thongsing Thammavong, NA President.

The issues to be considered in the next session are NA budgetary plan for 2007-2008, three new draft laws (Law on Defence and Security, Law on State Control and Law on State Inspection) and two promulgated laws (Law on Education and Law on Enterprise Accounting), which are protected to be amended.

The meeting discussed ratification to the master agreement between Laos and Thailand on transferring sentenced persons and cooperation in judgment enforcement. It considered and adopted Decree on amended Land Law and heard a report on foreign relations.

The event also discussed the appointment of Chairperson of People's Court of Saravan province, reconsidered uniforms for people's courts officers and heard the draft preparation for creating conditions for establishing local assemblies.

## NA Vice President visits Vietnam



The delegation of the National Assembly (NA) led by Pany Yathotu, its Vice President paid a working visit to Vietnam on 5-10 March.

During the visit the Lao delegation met with delegations of committees of Vietnam's National Assembly such as the Economy and Budget Committee, the Planning and Investment Committee, the Social Issue Committee, the Law Committee and Sub-committee for Solving Complaints. NA Vice President Pany and her delegation also met and shared lessons with the Executive Board of the Finance Ministry of Vietnam and of Hanoi City People Assembly and paid a courtesy visit to Mr Nguyen Phu Trong Chairman of Vietnam's National Assembly.

The two sides discussed and shared opinions and lessons of economics in fraternal atmosphere, touching upon many issues such as organisation and working style of the Planning and Budget Committee, formulation of laws in the economic filed, initial participation of the Economy and Budget Committee in setting up the national socio-economic and budgetary plan, auditing and obligations of the Vietnam's National Assembly for preparation for the entry into the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and other issues concerning both sides.

In the meeting with the Law Committee of Vietnam National Assembly, the two sides discussed the formation of laws, cooperation between the National Assembly and

the Government in drafting laws, improvement of law formulation technique (step and approach for expressing comments on draft laws), oversight of the Law Committee, law education and publicity and other issues related to both sides.

The visit of the NA delegation to Vietnam contributed to fortify and further develop the traditional friendship, special solidarity and comprehensive cooperation between the two Parties, States and people of Laos and Vietnam, particularly between the two legislative bodies.

### **High-ranking delegation of Vietnam's National Assembly to visit Laos**

Mr Nguyen Phu Trong Chairman of Vietnam's National Assembly and his delegation are scheduled to pay an official visit to Laos on 23-25 April, in response to the invitation of Mr Thongsing Thammavong, President of the National Assembly.

The visit is to fortify and further develop the traditional friendship, special solidarity and comprehensive cooperation between the two Parties, States and people of Laos and Vietnam, particularly between the two legislative bodies.

### **Six laws promulgated**

Three new laws, Law on Commercial Banks, Law on Value-added Tax and Law on Protection of Children's Rights and Interests and other three amended laws, Law on State Budget, Law on Labour and Law on Court's Fees were promulgated on 16 January 2007, according to Decree of the President of the Lao PDR No 01, 02, 03, 04, 05 and 06.

These six laws have come into effect since they were signed, the Decrees said. The promulgation is based on the Constitution of the Lao PDR, Decrees of the National Assembly and Proposals of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly.

The above-mentioned laws were adopted in the second ordinary session of the national Assembly (Sixth Legislature), which was held in December last year.

The laws will accelerate the socio-economic development, help the relevant organizations operate effectively and promote people to exercise their rights with aim of helping the country step toward to be a state of law.

### **NA leaders talk to people**

President of the National Assembly (NA) Thongsing Thammavong on 26 February to 7 March visited four southern provinces of Champassak, Saravan, Sekong and Attapeu to oversee and promote the implementation of the socio-economic development and 2006-2007 budgetary plans. The visit aimed to promote the rural development and poverty reduction plan, talk to people as well as local party and state authorities and NA members and visit some districts and production establishments.



When the NA President and his entourage met with the local authorities of the four provinces, they heard reports on the implementation of the socio-economic development and materializing resolutions of the VIII Party Congress. The local authorities also informed the NA President of the implementation of 11 action plans of the Government.

According to the reports of the four provinces' authorities, these provinces pursue the Directive of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee No 20 on Building Political Grassroots and Comprehensive Rural Development and the Directive of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee No 09 on Building Villages and Village Clusters throughout Provinces. They are able to maintain the social order, accelerate the socio-economic development and alleviate poverty step by step. Awareness of laws and justice among people heightens gradually. The provinces pay great importance to the political ideology and build up the comprehensive mass-involved national defence fields.

The NA President expressed appreciations to the four provincial authorities for the achievements that they gained. He mentioned many issues that the provinces should pay attention to, such as enhancing the political ideology and solidarity. "The party members and officials should be an example in fulfilling tasks and make efforts in guiding people to implement the socio-economic plan with the aim of dragging the country out of the least undeveloped status by 2020. They should also pay attention to societal and cultural works, particularly eliminating social ills among the youth," he said.

The party members and officials should educate people from all walks of life to enhance the spirit of patriotism, self-reliance, self-sufficiency, self-building, allegiance to the new regime, solidarity among people of all ethnic groups and confidence in both local and central administrations. The provinces must inspire officials to build the political grassroots in villages and village clusters with the aim of guiding and promoting production and building up closer relations with people, he added.

The NA President urged all sectors of the provinces to implement the policies of the Party and Government, improving the working style by not interfering others' role and responsibilities. He encouraged NA members to publicize the Constitution and laws and enhance law enforcement and law awareness among the public.

The NA President visited and met with people in Khone village cluster and Lao-Cambodian border checkpoint in Khong district, Champassak province, talked to core cadre of Champassak district, the province of the same name and Lout-ngam district, Saravan province. He also visited production and construction establishments such as rubber tree plantations, cashew nut farms in Bachieng Chaleunsouk, pig farm, Chinese cabbage farm in 49km village, coffee plantations in Makchan river area, coffee processing of Daohuang Import-Export Company Limited in Paksong district, Champassak province, 15A road construction project, cement factory, medicine tree nurseries, cassava processing, Saset II hydropower project in Saravan, cassava and coffee plantations and Lao-Vietnamese Phoukeua checkpoint in Attapeu province.

On 23 March NA President Thongsing Thammavong and his delegation also visited



Xaysonboun district, Vientiane province to promote the socio-economic development and rural and poverty reduction plan.

In the talk to district authority and people, the NA President encouraged all to enhance the political ideology and solidarity among party members and people of all ethnic groups. He urged all sectors of the district to pursue the policies of the Party and Government and requested NA members to publicize the Constitution and laws with the aim of heightening awareness of laws among the public and enhancing law enforcement.

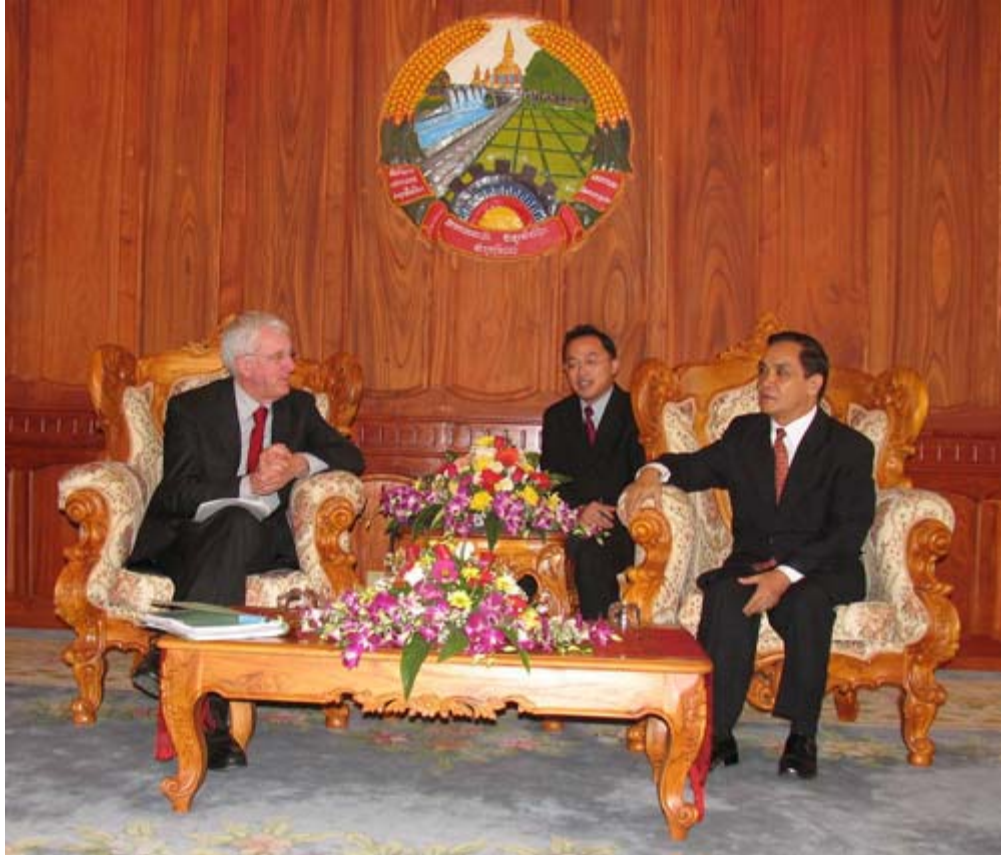
The NA President handed over clothes and foodstuffs to needy people. His entourage and he also visited Phoubia gold mining to hear progress of the project.

Dr Xaysomphone Phomvihane, NA Vice President, Chairperson of the NA Foreign Affairs Committee visited Xieng Khouang province on 2-16 March to talk to the provincial core cadre.

The NA Vice President encouraged the provincial authority to pay attention to build political grassroots, implement the party policies and disseminate the Constitution and laws. He also visited Kham and Mork districts to oversee the socio-economic development in these two districts.

### **NA leaders receive foreign guests**

Mr Thongsing Thammavong, President of the National Assembly (NA) received here a courtesy visit on 20 March in Vientiane Capital from Mr. Hartmut Nassauer, Chairman of the Delegation with the Countries of Southeast Asia and ASEAN in the European Parliament.



Mr Thongsing expressed warmly welcome to Mr Nassauer and his delegation, who were in Laos on working visit to enhance relationship, cooperation and mutual understanding between Laos and EU, particularly between the two parliaments. Mr Nassauer informed of the purpose of his visit to Laos and expressed thanks to the NA President for warm welcome.

NA President Thongsing also received here on 16 March a courtesy visit from new Malaysian Ambassador.

The NA President welcomed the new Ambassador and highly valued the new diplomatic mission, which would contribute to strengthening relations and cooperation between the Lao PDR and Malaysia. He wished the new Ambassador success in his new task.

The new Malaysian Ambassador expressed thanks to the NA President for warm welcome and affirmed that he will do his utmost to carry out his mission here in the Lao PDR with the aim of enhancing relations and cooperation between the two countries, Malaysia and the Lao PDR. The new Malaysian Ambassador presented a credential to H.E. M Choummaly Sayasone, President of the Lao PDR in the end of January.

On 20 March Dr Xaysomphone Phomvihane, Deputy President of National Assembly (NA) received a bid farewell from H.E. Mr Chung Soon Suk, outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Korea (ROK) to the Lao PDR, who finishes his mission here in the Lao PDR.

Dr Xaysomphone expressed appreciation to the outgoing Ambassador for active contributions to strengthening relations, cooperation and mutual assistance between

Laos and ROK. H.E. Mr Chung expressed thanks to the NA as well as the Lao government and officials for support, which has been extended to him during his mission in Laos.

### **NA continues building its capacity**

The National Assembly (NA) on 22 March organised a seminar in Borlikhamxay province to upgrade ability and competency of officials, who work in IT, research and summary fields, supported by the European Union (EU) and the UN Development Program (UNDP). Over 30 participants from 17 constituencies and 11 NA departments reported attending the event.



The participants learned the role of the mass media, qualities of good journalists, finding sources and story ideas, requirements of good stories, newsgathering and writing hard and soft news articles. Some interview techniques were also introduced to them. Besides the basic research and summary works, they also learned how to use Internet and email for searching information and data, which are necessary to the NA works.

Having a speech in the opening ceremony, Mr Thongtheun Sayasene, Member of the NA Standing Committee and Head of the NA Office said the National Assembly is the body of representatives of the rights of the multiethnic people to be the masters. It is the Body of the State apparatus with power to make decisions on the fundamental issues of the country. At the same time the National Assembly is the legislative body overseeing the activities of the executive and judicial bodies. “It can be said that its functions are wide, therefore, we must pay attention to research and know how to summarise documents and speeches concisely and precisely with the aim of enabling leaders to easily understand the matters,” he said. The seminar is a component for building the NA capacity and helps officials improve their IT knowledge.

The NA Defence and Security Committee also organised a seminar to upgrade knowledge of its role and responsibility on 14-15 March in Vientiane province, supported by EU/UNDP. Participants from the NA, relevant ministries and organisations reported

attending the event, chaired by Brigadier General Khamveo Sikhotchounlamaly, Member of the NA Standing Committee and Chairperson of the NA Defence and Security Committee.

The seminar learned the role, responsibility, oversight, investigation and other tasks of the NA Defence and Security Committee and provided the participants with an opportunity for sharing opinions and lessons of defence and security.

The seminars held in Bolikhamxay and Vientiane provinces are a component of the capacity building project, which is supported by UNDP and EU. This project aims to narrow the gap between what the National Assembly is expected to do and what it is able to do.

The NA has made efforts in enhancing its capacity. The fourth legislature organised mass media seminars in Luang Prabang and Savannakhet provinces; the fifth legislature held the seminar of the same nature in Vientiane province and last year the sixth legislature also organised a media seminar in Vientiane province.

### **Learn more to get improved**

“Learn and learn again” still works today so without learning from theory and experiences, it is impossible to gain a success. Following the above-mentioned saying, Phouthen Pasaxon Magazine never stops learning to improve itself. Besides learning lessons and experiences with counterparts and other media organizations in the country, Phouthen Pasaxon goes to share lessons and experiences with those of friendly countries with the aim of improving both format and content to attract more readers.



Recently, the delegation of Phouthen Pasaxon Magazine comprising of five led by Mr Thongda Souphasith, its Editor in Chief visited Vietnam to share lessons and experiences with Vietnamese counterparts such as Nguoi Dai Bien Nhan Dan (the People's Deputy Daily, voice of Vietnam National Assembly, Deputies and People's

Council Members) and Nghien Cuu Lap Phap (legislative magazine of Vietnam National Assembly).

Thanks to the special relations and all-round cooperation between the two Parties, Governments and Peoples of Laos and Vietnam, particularly between the two legislative bodies as well as the publications of the two national assemblies, the visit yielded satisfactory results, fulfilling the set target.

The Lao delegation met with its counterpart, Nguoi Dai Bien Nhan Dan led by Mr Ho Anh Tai, its Editor in Chief. The meeting that was carried out in warm and fraternal atmosphere touched upon several issues regarding how to improve the publication in quantity and quality as well as format and content.

The delegation also met with Mr Tran Quang Hai, Deputy Editor in Chief of Nghien Cuu Lap Phap and Mr Dand Khac Tai, Deputy Director of the Information, Library and Science Research Centre of Vietnam National Assembly.

Besides the publication structure, job descriptions, role and responsibilities, the meeting touched upon the publication management, format, content, marketing and sell.

The Lao delegation visited Nguoi Dai Bien Nhan Dan to see how they produce newspaper. Besides that, the delegates went to visit constituencies of Bac Giang and Bing Ha Long to find out how the newspaper reaches local readers. It was informed that the constituency of Bac Gieng with a population of over one million regularly provides the newspaper with news articles and subscribe 600 copies of Nguoi Dai Bien Nhan Dan per day. These subscribed papers are distributed to all members of Vietnam National Assembly in the constituency and local officials.

Thanks to the meetings, the differences of the publications were seen. Phouthen Pasaxon, voice of the National Assembly of the Lao PDR is still fully subsidized, while its counterparts, Nguoi Dai Bien Nhan Dan and Nghien Cuu Lap Phap already run their businesses in the mechanism of the market-oriented economy. This means these two publications of Vietnam National Assembly are able to stand on their own in terms of finance without any subsidy from the Government, following Doi Moi (Renovation), a reform programme that Vietnam adopted in 1986.

Nguoi Dai Bien Nhan Dan was established as magazine 18 years ago, however, to meet demands of the economic growth and society, the magazine was changed into daily newspaper five years ago. Its circulation is 20,000 copies per day. Being financially independent, Nguoi Dai Bien Nhan Dan pays tax to the Government (about 28 percent of its incomes). It employs 50 employees, only 15 of whom are government servants, who get salaries from the Government. The remainders are contract officials hired by the newspaper. In addition, there are 500 people throughout the country, who write news articles for the newspapers. The newspaper also gets news articles from Council of Vietnam National Assembly's Journalists and other sources.

The newspaper has eight pages (50-100 pages – special issue), about 50 percent of which is news coverage regarding the national assembly and another 50 percent is non-national assembly matters. The percentage of news coverage varies, depending on situations. For instance, during election and national assembly sessions, more news coverage about legislature is found on this paper. Similarly, the newspaper contains 90-percent news coverage and 10-percent advertisements, which bring 80 percent of its incomes to the newspaper, being the main income source of Nguoi Dai Bien Nhan Dan. Percentage of ads also varies and sometimes more than 10 percent of

ads are found on the paper, for instance, on Vietnamese Lunar News Year. Selling papers is another source of incomes. An issue costs 2,500 Dong (Vietnamese currency).

Phouthen Pasaxon magazine of the Lao National Assembly was established in 12 June 1996 to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Constitution. Its first Director and Editor in Chief was Mr Viseth Svengsuksa, the then Deputy Chairperson of the NA Foreign Relations Committee (now Deputy Head of the NA Office). The magazine is to disseminate policies of the Party and State translated into laws, build awareness of laws, justice and obligations among people from all walks of life. It publicizes the NA role in oversight and functions as the body of representative of rights of multiethnic people to be the masters, the body of the State apparatus with power to make decisions in the fundamental issues of the country.

Since the sixth legislature was formed in 2006, the status of Phouthen Pasaxon magazine has been heightened as a department under the NA Office. Today, being in the improvement stage, the magazine comes out quarterly.

### **Lecture on the 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of founding of LPRP**

The National Assembly (NA) organised here a lecture on 20 March in the NA small conference room to commemorate the 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of founding of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) (22 March 1955-22 March 2007). Party members and officials reported attending the event.



Dr Xaysomphone Phomvihane, Member of the Party Central Committee, NA Vice President and Chairperson of the NA Foreign Relations Committee lectured on history and activities of the Party.

Some excerpts from his lecture and other works are as follows: Laos, a nation, has the history of birth, existing and development in the region. Lao patriotic heroes and people have struggled and safeguarded their fatherland from generation to generation.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, following the ways to divide the world markets, the French colonists occupied Laos in 1893. However, Lao people of various ethnic groups under the leadership of patriotic heroes rose in waves against imperialists in many localities: the movement under the guidance of Phor Kadouad in 1901-1903, Ong Keo Ong Kommadam in 1901-1937, Chao Fa Padchay in 1918-1922 and uprising of Lui tribe in Sing district in 1914-1918. However, the movements failed because they occurred separately and there was no centralized leadership.

President Ho Chi Minh established Communist Party of Indochina in 1930 to guide the battles of peoples in Indochina. Thanks to this event, the battles spread in wide areas. Comprised of 32 members and six party cell units, the Party Committee of Lao Region was established in 1934 to lead the battles against French colonists.

In 1945 the World War II was over and Laos declared independence on 12 October 1945, following the victory gained by the Vietnamese people. This was a historical turning point to make a Lao map to involve in the world atlas.

However, the French colonialists came back to invade Laos second time by creating a tragedy in Thakhek on 21 March 1946. To help Lao people fight for independence, Lasavong military unit was established on 20 January 1949 in the revolutionary stronghold in Taseng Lao Hung, Xingkhor district, Houaphanh province. The unit was under command of President Kaysone Phomvihane. On 22 March 1955 the Lao People's Party (Today, the Lao People's Revolutionary Party) was established and President Kaysone Phomvihane was elected as Secretary General.



Since then, the battle of Lao people under leadership of the Party continued and gained victory. After the victory in Dien Bien Phu (Vietnam), the Geneva Accord to acknowledge the independence of the three countries, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia was signed.

Not long after the signing of the Geneva Accord, neo colonialism replaced the old colonialism and carried out the special war increasingly and fiercely in Laos. From the beginning of 1964 the American Air Force carried out air raids and bombarded the Lao territory devastatingly, which resulted in the average Lao person to receive a ton of bombs from the U.S Air Force over the 20-year period. Dommen says: 'When the bombing finally halted in 1973, U.S. aircraft had dropped 2,092,900 tons (1,898,260 metric tons) of bombs on Laos, approximately the total tonnage dropped by U.S. air forces during all of World War II in both the European and Pacific theatres' (1985, p.90)."

The bombardment aimed to bring Laos back to the stone era. However, Lao people of all ethnic groups under the brilliant leadership of the Party united solidarity for the battle and carried out a people's war against the imperialist invader and reactionary forces. The attempt to unify the country was made and the coalition government between the patriotic force and pro-imperialist force was established thrice in 1957, 1962 and 1973.

1973-19975 is the period to end the national democratic revolution across the country. The Lao People's Revolutionary Party set up three hammer strategies: seize power peacefully, but able to seize the power throughout the country; toward the great victory by eliminating the yoke of colonialism and feudalism; and establishment of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on 2 December 1975.

It took many years of struggles under the leadership of the Party before the Lao people of all ethnic groups could rid themselves of the yoke of foreign domination, abolish backward feudalism, and proudly and gloriously establish a new regime - the regime of Lao people's democracy on 2 December 1975.

With revolutionary and patriotism spirit and love for the new regime and independence, entire Party, entire Army and entire people united solidarity, overcame different difficulties and hardships to carry out the economic development plan with a number of significant achievements.

After successfully implementing the plan to heal the wounds of the war and the 1976-1980 plan for the recovery of the post-war economy, the Party led people to implement the first five-year socio-economic development plan (1981-1985), which resulted in the average growth of the national economy at 7.6 percent a year and the gradual improvement of people's living conditions.

The IV Party Congress in 1986 adopted the policy of reform Chitanakanmai, meaning New Thinking, usually referred to as the New Economic Mechanism (NEM). It aimed at transforming economic management from centralized planning to a market-

orientated system, privatising State-owned enterprises, liberalising prices and removing barriers to international trade. It also opened Laos to foreign investment, changed agriculture to private household system and removed most quotas and other quantitative import restrictions

The V Party Congress in 1991 improved the renovation policy to be more comprehensive, continued, expanded the people's democracy regime, reformed the political system, heightened roles of state and mass organisations and enhanced the party leadership in the renovation.

The VI Party Congress in 1996 affirmed the ability of the Party in determining and guiding renovation tasks to meet demands of people and the world situations.

The VII Party Congress adopted the policy on shifting to industry and modernisation, setting up the target "lift up the country from least developed status by 2020".

The VIII Party Congress is under tough responsibility to correctly synthesise and summarize the achievements recorded and valuable lessons learned in the past years, particularly over the past 20 years of renovation, objectively assess the results of the implementation of the resolution of the Seventh Congress.

Based on this, the congress clearly pointed the way to the entire party and state power system as well as to the people to continue forward under the slogan: "strengthening the unity of all Lao peoples, strongly enhancing the overall strength in order to encourage the cause of renovation under the leadership of the party with new firm steps, protecting and developing our country towards the objective of socialism."

During the past 20 years of the implementation of the renovation policy, the Lao PDR maintained political stability, security and social order. On average, the national economic growth constantly stood at 6.2% per year and the living conditions of people improved better than before obviously. Per capita income increased from 200 USD in 1985 to 500 USD in 2005.

The school enrolment rate from primary to university levels increased from 38 percent in 1985 to 54 percent in 2005; the average life expectancy of the Lao people in 1980 stood at 50 years of age while in 2005, it reached 61 years; clean water use covers 67 percent of family households nationwide.

The Lao People's Revolutionary Party has increasingly grown as demonstrated by the admission of progressive individuals into the Party whose members increased to 153,572 comrades, including 22,012 females; there are in total 11,784 Party cell units, 99,659 government servants, including 41,075 females (not including military and police officers).

The international community has accepted the political system of our country under the brilliant leadership of the LPRP. Friends living nearby and far away have further increased their support and assistance to our country; friendship and cooperation with other fraternal socialist countries have also been enhanced. First and

foremost, the special solidarity and the all-round cooperation with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the friendship and the cooperation all-round with the People's Republic of China have become much closer and more fruitful; the Party's relations and the people's diplomacy have been broadened; cooperative relations with developing countries, international organizations and friends around the world have also been further developed.

### **Progress of poverty reduction reported to the NA second session**

As we are aware, the Lao PDR remains as a poorest country in the world. According the survey in 2000, 39 percent of the total families are in poverty and the country has 72 poor districts and 47 poorest districts.

Majority of its population live in rural areas and the poor families, villages and districts are in rural areas. The production relies on nature and the living standard is low in terms of materials. The out-of-date traditions and supernaturalism still influence those who live in countryside and infrastructure is limited. Therefore, the rural development and poverty reduction has been put on focus of all parties.

During the implementation of the rural development and poverty reduction plan, some achievements have been gained. 125 districts (88% of total districts) have roads accessible in both dry and wet seasons; approximately 80% of a total of districts and 60% of a total of villages have an access to telephone; there are 130 post offices in 104 districts; 47% of families, 45% of villages and 90% districts across the country access electricity.

90% of total villages have new and restored primary school facilities, the percentage of primary and secondary students increase 84.2% and 54.8% respectively and 73% of people aged 14-50 are literate.

The country has over 700 dispensaries, 94% of total villages have village medical kits and 45.6% of families have lavatories. The average life expectancy of the Lao people in 1980 stood at 50 years of age while in 2005, it reached 61 years.

Today, the TV and radio signal covers majority of the country's territory. 176 cultural model villages, 30,000 cultural model families were built and 21 children culture centres were established in 12 provinces.

The number of poor family drops from 30% in 2000 to 28.7% and poppy opium cultivation definitely stopped in 2005. In general, to date rural and mountainous areas have changed and improved step by step and many focal development areas and village clusters have become small towns. Material and spiritual standards of living of rural folks have improved.

The Party and Government have made efforts in the rural development and poverty reduction. In 1994, the Party Central Committee issued the Decree on Rural

Development; in 2004 the Government adopted the comprehensive rural development plan; in 2001 resolutions of the VII Party Congress set up the development goal for 2010 and 2020; in 2001 the Government issued the Directive No 01/PM on shifting provinces into strategic units, districts into planning-finance units and villages into implementing units; in 2001 the Government issued the Directive No 10/PM on poverty standard and planning for poverty elimination; in 2002 the Government issued the Directive No 04/ PM on arranging permanent occupations and settlement for people; in 2003 the National Assembly adopted the National Growth Poverty Eradication Strategy (NGPES); in 2003 the Government adopted eight millennium development goals; in 2003 the Government reviewed and assessed the nationwide poverty alleviation; in 2003 the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee authorized ministries, party and state organizations at central level to help provinces throughout the country; in 2004 the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee issued the Directive on Building villages and Village Development Clusters; in 2005 resolutions of the VIII Party Congress affirmed the development goal for up to 2010 and vision for up to 2020, pursuing the resolutions of the VII Party Congress; and the Office of the Party and Prime Minister's Office also issued many notices to suggest how to implement the policy, decrees and directives.



Today, the rural development and poverty reduction is one of the core priorities of the Government. All sectors make efforts in the implementation of this task; particularly the National Assembly pays its role in overseeing the activities of the executive and judicial bodies. The rural development and poverty reduction is on oversight by the NA.