

CLOSING SPEECH

H.E.Mr. Thongsing THAMMAVONG

7th Ordinary Session of the National Assembly, VIth Legislature

09 July 2009



- **Excellency Choummaly Sayasone, Secretary General of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic**
- **Respected Members of the Party's Central Committee Politburo,**
- **Honorable Members of the National Assembly,**
- **Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The 7th Ordinary Session of the National Assembly (NA) VIth Legislature has proceeded over 14 days amidst the atmosphere that the entire Party, military and people nationwide is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the late President Souphanouvong, one among the best leaders and respectful for the Lao pluri-ethnic people. Today, the session draws to a successful conclusion having achieved its objectives and purposes.

These achievements constitute the result of common intelligence's enhancement in translating the Resolution of the VIIIth Party Congress as well as resolutions of the 5th and 6th Ordinary Session of the NA VIth Legislature as conditions provided to the furtherance of socio-economic development, as well as the Constitution and laws' enforcement for a better change gradually in our country.

Distinguished Delegates,

During this Session, a wide range of national fundamental issues have been examined and approved, as follows:

1. The Government report on the implementation of the Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) and State Budget Plan (SBP) for fiscal year (FY) 2008-2009 and directives for FY 2009-2010;
2. The session considered and adopted four laws, including:
 - Three new laws, namely:
 - The Law on the Lao Front for National Construction;
 - The Law on Water Supply;
 - The Law on Fisheries; and
 - one amended law, namely:
 - The Law on Investment Promotion.

The session has also scrutinized and deliberated on a number of reports such as:

1. The audit report on the executive summary of the State's Budget Plan for FY 2007-2008;
2. The reports of the Supreme Public Prosecutor and the Supreme People's Court on the public prosecutors' monitoring, and the people courts' procedures and judgments;
3. The report on the execution of the NA functioning for FY 2008-2009 and its guidelines for FY 2009-2010;

Distinguished Delegates,

The proposed and approved contents during this Session have a great importance. The NA Standing Committee has valued the Government report on the implementation of the Socio-Economic Development Plan and State Budget Plan that although with basic facilities in many fields, we have still faced challenges and difficulties, mainly the global financial crisis, the economic recession in many countries, the natural disaster, epidemic, etc... which have directly and indirectly affected our country, in particular to the production, revenue collection of the Government, implementation delay of a number of large investment projects.

Nevertheless, the NA believes that the Government will formulate policies and solving measures in a timely manner to enable the growth of socio-economic development and

to maintain the pace of growth in a continual way; the people's livelihood has gradually improved.

Based on the comprehensive discussion on the implementation of the second semester of FY 2008-2009 SEDP, the NA has approved the adjustment of the economic growth ratio from 8% to 7.5% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and endorsed the adjustment of budget deficit for FY 2008-2009 from 4.56% to 5% of GDP. Moreover, the NA has adopted the targets and directives set in the SEDP and the SBP for FY 2009-2010 upon the request of the Government. But to cope with more revenue collection than in the past year, the session has resolved to increase revenue figures of the State budget for FY 2009-2010 from 14.62% to 15% of GDP in favor of the production, the socio-economic infrastructure investment in rural areas as a contribution to poverty reduction.

The session has discussed and recommended some measures dealing with the audit report on the execution of financial regulations of some monetary units and the executive summary on the budgetary implementation for FY 2007-2008. The NA has expressed its concern towards the status of law breach in the area of public financial management of many monetary units, and urged the Government to pay attention in seriously addressing this situation.

In terms of the reports of the Supreme Public Prosecutor and the Supreme People's Court, although many constraints and negative phenomena have been obstacles to the activities of relevant authorities, public prosecutor offices and people's courts as well as law protecting agencies have made efforts to handle cases in a faster way, and to ensure more justice resulting the society with security and orderliness basically.

In addition, the session has also evaluated weaknesses, shortcomings, causes, solving measures and next guidelines in a frank, clear and deep manner.

The session took 2 days of interpellation towards a number of ministries and relevant authorities to which MNAs raised hot and pressing matters occurred in the society as the reflection of people's aspirations with guidance in consistency with the SEDP in the new era. The session, thus, requested the Government sectors concerned, the Supreme Public Prosecutor and the Supreme People's Court to clarify queries of MNAs for more accuracy.

The NA expects that ministries and relevant authorities will examine and solve these problems with accountability within the scope of their rights, duties and role.

The session considered and adopted 4 laws as the increase of instruments to the public and socio-economic management in a more comprehensive manner, and also the contribution to the promotion of both domestic and foreign investments increasingly.

The session deliberated on the report on the NA functioning for FY 2008-2009 that as the legislative organ overseeing the activities of the executive branches, public prosecutors and people's courts, and the representative of rights and interests of the multi-ethnic people, the NA has made efforts to overcome various difficulties in the past year. And it has attentively performed its mandate; specifically, it has actively met with constituents to seek for and collect public aspirations. The NA has developed and amended laws in various fields, and has overseen the SEDP and SBP implementation,

as well as the Constitution and laws enforcement as a contribution to the reform of governance of the Lao People's Democratic State in a more strengthened way.

Distinguished Delegates,

The 7th Ordinary Session has been successfully achieved. On behalf of the presidium members, taking this opportunity, I would like to express sincere gratitude to the national leadership, former leaders of the Party and State, senior revolutionary cadres, MNAs, members of the Government, members of diplomatic corps and representatives from international organizations, as well as representatives of businesspersons, teachers, students and all distinguished local and foreign guests for their participation, especially during the opening and closing ceremonies, which has contributed to this session with deep significance in a productive atmosphere.

May I express felicitations to the Prime Minister, Ministers, the Supreme Public Prosecutor, the Supreme People's Court, and other relevant parties for their efforts in the preparation of contents and reports to the session with high responsibility.

May I also express appreciation to the sub-committees, professionals, officials, staff of the NA Cabinet, as well as concerned sectors, mainly logistical services, armed and security forces, mass media, and others for their diligence in positively performing their mandate, which has ensured this Session with fruitful results according to set objectives and purposes.

I express congratulations to compatriots nationwide for their attentiveness in following the deliberation of MNAs as well as the scrutiny on various matters, and in sharing a diversity of their views and feedback to this session - both compliments and criticisms – in a constructive way, particularly the handling of various negative phenomena as interests for the nation.

Distinguished Delegates,

In order to realize the results of this Session with concrete outcomes, I call upon the Government, MNAs and all parties concerned in bringing the substance of this session for dissemination and implementation in linkage with the SEDP, poverty reduction, political base structure, village establishment and village development cluster for a better change progressively.

In conclusion, may I wish leaders of the Party and State, MNAs, civil servants, armed and security forces, and the Lao multi-ethnic people throughout overseas Lao compatriots and external friends a strong health, happiness and success of work.

As Chair of the Session, I hereby, declare the 7th Ordinary Session of the NA VIth Legislature officially close.

Thank you.