

Capacity enhancement key as NA oversees Govt

Enhancement of capacity for National Assembly members is a key to better oversight for government performance and the activities of people's courts and prosecutors, NA Vice President has said.



NA member for Attapeu province, Ms Vatsady Khotyotha, comments on an NA report and gives positive feedback regarding its achievement.

Dr Xaysomphone Phomvihane said enhancement of NA capacity was also important to enact effective laws and better become representatives to protect the interests of all people represented by the parliament.

He said the NA would try to build more professional NA members that did not hold other positions in the government and other state sectors.

He said the good thing for NA members holding other positions was that the NA could integrate with the government more easily.

On the downside, such members struggled to find enough time to meet constituents.

Villagers in remote areas found it difficult to gain an audience to air outstanding issues to NA representatives for resolution.

Currently, only 20 members do not hold other positions, and a majority of those had time-consuming duties related to various NA committees.

During the debate yesterday, some NA members felt frustration that proposals made to them by villagers had not been addressed, such as road access to villages and poverty-related issues.

Dr Xaysomphone said he was aware of the issues and pledged to work in cooperation with the government to ensure proposals of villagers were addressed.

Most agreed that the role of the National Assembly had been enhanced every year to ensure better performance by government, people's courts and prosecutors in compliance with the country's laws.

This ensured that national development and poverty reduction were in line with the policy of Lao People's Revolutionary Party.

Since July last year, NA members have met with residents in 218 locations, with participation of 450,320 people.

They provided villagers with information about Party policy, the outcome of various meetings and other development issues.

According to the NA report, members have collaborated with other relevant sectors to settle complaints sent by villagers to the National Assembly.

Since July last year, about 455 grievances were raised by villagers to the NA office, of which 184 had been addressed.

So far, more than 80 pieces of legislation had been approved by NA providing an important legal basis for national development.

The NA has promised to work harder with government sectors to enact new laws and amend existing legislation in the next year as the country makes steps towards being a state governed by the rule of law. However, they said much more should be done regarding cooperation between NA and relevant sectors to ensure that laws were strictly enforced, and complaints sent by villagers were addressed.

Yesterday, the NA approved two laws related to Lao Front for National Construction and investment promotion respectively.

The 7th session of the Sixth NA Legislature will come to an end today after being opened on June 22.

By Times Reporters