

Statement

By

His Excellency Mr. Thongsing Thammavong,

President of the National Assembly of Lao PDR

To the Opening of the 7th Ordinary Session of the National Assembly's VIth Legislature

22 June 2009



- Excellency Choummaly Sayasone; General Secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic,
- Excellencies members of Party's Polit. Bureau and party's secretarial committee,
- Respected Members of the National Assembly,
- Distinguished guests, members of the diplomatic corps, ladies and gentlemen;

Today the 7th Session of the National Assembly's Sixth Legislature is inaugurated in order to consider and adopt a number of issues of national significant.

On behalf of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, may I express my sincere welcome to the distinguished present and former state and party leadership, revolutionary veterans, members of the National Assembly, members of the diplomatic corps and all distinguished guests present at this opening session.

Taking this opportunity, I would also like to pass on my warm regards to all civil servants, members of the army, members of the police force and the entire multi-ethnic Lao people.



Distinguished quests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

During the period from the 6th Ordinary Session of the National Assembly to date, we have witnessed a complex development in the international and regional situation; especially, the global financial crisis which time of recovery is still hard to predict; the problem of natural disaster and pandemics such as the 2009 influenza H1N1 poses great concern worldwide and affected our country in many fronts. However, with firm determination of the party, state and the entire Lao people to overcome difficulty and challenges, our country has been able to attain a number of significant achievements namely: the social security, political stability, socio-economic development, steady and continuous economic growth. The situation concerning commercial production and poverty reduction has witnessed positive changes; living condition of the people has been gradually improved. There has been an increase in the volume of foreign investment; interaction and cooperation with friendly countries and international organizations within the region and the world has been expanded; reputation and role of the Lao PDR in the international arena has been strengthened.

The aforesaid success derived from tireless efforts of all of us in realizing resolution of the VIIIth party's congress as well as resolutions of the 5th and the 6th sessions of the National Assembly's VIth legislature, the documents that have become solid foundation for an improved socio-economic development of our country.

However, reflecting on the need of national development in the new era, we can still see weaknesses and shortfalls to be addressed, for instance, revenue collection during the past period did not meet the target planned due to the fall in price of our export commodities and difficulty in finding export market for our products, unemployment is on the rise. The strengthening of grass-root and poverty reduction; in spite of efforts made, the desired result has not been attained. There have been difficulties in addressing negative social phenomena; the enforcement of state authority and the effectiveness of state management have not been satisfactory. The management of state by the rule of law has not been adequately enforced. There are a certain number of the members of the public who are still lack of awareness for the rule of law and the change in the work of the Law guarding bodies have not been progressive enough. For all the problems mentioned, if we do not place adequate attention to solve, their consequence will surely affect our socio-economic development in both immediate and long terms.

Distinguished quests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

During this 7th session of the National Assembly, we will concentrate on the consideration of the following important subjects:

1. Report of the government on the implementation of Socio-economic Development Plan and State Budget of the FY 2008-2009 and government directions and work plan for 2009-2010;
2. Audit Report of state budget of FY 2007-2008 by the State Audit Authority;
3. Report on the implementation of works for 2008-2009 and direction and work plan for 2009-2010 of the People's Supreme Prosecutors and the People's Supreme Court;
4. Report of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on the implementation of Socio-economic Development Plan and State Budget and the implementation of the Constitution and the Law;
5. Evaluation Report on the functioning and execution of the role of the National Assembly for 2008-2009 and work direction for 2009-2010
6. Consideration of 4 laws, in which 3 are newly drafted, namely:
 - Law on the National Construction Front
 - Law on Water Supply
 - Law on Fisheries
 - Amendment of the Law on Investment Promotion

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

In order to achieve objectives set forth, I would therefore like to request cooperation of all members of the National Assembly to heighten their responsibility in the elaboration and comment on issues tabled before the session, especially on the implementation of socio-economic development plan and state budget of 2008-2009 as well as work plan and direction for 2009-2010, the execution of role and duties of the Law guarding agencies, the implementation of oversight function of the National Assembly. Focus shall be placed on identifying strengths, weaknesses, shortfalls, causes and their remedies in order to make sure positive improvement for future works which shall also be consistent with policies, rule of law and actual condition of our country. On the other hand, the adoption of new laws shall take into account gradual integration into international laws and practices in line with reform policies of our country; efforts shall be made to ensure long term validity of the laws adopted.

In this regard, I would like to encourage all interested parties to closely follow the session and the elaboration by the National Assembly members in order to make

sure that the session is being conducted in a good atmosphere, rich in substance, meaningful and successful.

With the above mentioned spirit, in the capacity of the Chair Person of the session, I hereby declare official opening of the 7th Session of the National Assembly's VIth legislature.

Thank you for your attention.