

## Govt focuses on poverty reduction.



(KPL): Lao government will spend 47.51 billion kip borrowing from foreign of the poverty reduction programme in rural and remote area in order to achieve the millennium Development Goals ( MDGs ) by 2015.

This was a proposal of Prime Minister Bouasone Bouphavanh at the ongoing 9<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of National Assembly's sixth legislature.

He said that Laos will attempt to reduce the poverty rate to 24 percent in this year from 27.6 percent, and pay attention to improve living condition of people in 21 poorest districts in Luang Namtha, Houaphanh, Savannakhet, Saravanh, Phongsaly, Xiengkhouag, Champassak and Sekong provinces.

“All sectors should follow and pay attention to promote people and children in rural and remote areas to basic education,” PM Bouasone advised. “The implementation of poverty reduction programmer and the eradication of slash-and-burn cultivation should be moved together”. To fulfill the alleviation of slash-and-burn cultivation, the Government will set up a community development project in rural areas by focusing on the constructions of roads, electricity, water supply, school and health care service, club and allocation areas.

Between 5 and 10 per cent of villages of all rural districts will be development village cluster that will establish in every two small districts and large scale district.

The small factories, markets, agricultural technique service centers, credit services and village development funds will be built in the districts.

However, the government will further provide agricultural techniques and train vocational skills for farmers, especially the technique of rice plantation and animal rising.

He expected the production of agriculture will increase by 3.5 per cent next year.

The Lao government will actively further carry out an investment promotion policy to ensure the volume of domestic investment in this year which will reach more than 10 trillion kip or US\$1 billion

In order to magnetize more overseas investors, Laos will improve the investment promotion policy, which focuses on providing more conveniences to investors, said PM Bouasone.

The promotion of domestic investment in market-oriented production through the banking system should be also conducted.