

Policy Statement of the Council of Ministers

**Delivered by Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva
to the National Assembly
29 December B.E. 2551 (2008)**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Announcement on the Appointment of the Prime Minister	i
Announcement on the Appointment of Ministers	ii
Policy Statement of the Government of Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister, to the National Assembly	1
1. Urgent Policies to be Implemented in the First Year	4
2. Policy on National Security	7
3. Policy on Social and Quality of Life	8
4. Policy on Economics	14
5. Policy on Land, Natural Resources, and the Environment	23
6. Policy on Science, Technology, Research and Innovation	24
7. Policy on Foreign Affairs and International Economics	25
8. Policy on Good Management and Governance	26
Annex	31
Cabinet's Administration Policy Topics in accordance with the Directive Principles of Fundamental State Policies in Chapter 5 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand	

Announcement on the Appointment of the Prime Minister

Bhumibol Adulyadej, Rex

Phrabat Somdet Phra Paramintharamaha Bhumibol Adulyadej has graciously given a Royal Command for the announcement to be made that:

Given the termination of the ministership of Mr. Somchai Wongsawat, Prime Minister, under Section 182 paragraph 1 (5) of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives having humbly informed His Majesty that the House of Representatives has passed a resolution on 15 December B.E. 2551 (2008) approving the appointment of Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva as Prime Minister with a majority of votes from the existing membership of the House of Representatives;

His Majesty is therefore of the view that Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva is one in whom His Majesty may repose his trust to serve as Prime Minister.

On the authority of Section 171 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, His Majesty therefore graciously appoints Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva as Prime Minister to administer state affairs forthwith.

Announced on 17 December B.E. 2551 (2008),

Being the 63rd year of the present Reign.

Countersigned by

Mr. Chai Chidchob

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Announcement on the Appointment of Ministers

Bhumibol Adulyadej, Rex

Phrabat Somdet Phra Paramintharamaha Bhumibol Adulyadej has graciously given a Royal Command for the announcement to be made that, in accordance with the Royal Command dated 17 December B.E. 2551 (2008) appointing Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva as Prime Minister;

Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister, having now selected those persons deserving to assume positions as Ministers to administer state affairs;

On the authority of Section 171 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, His Majesty therefore graciously appoints the following Ministers:

Mr. Suthep Thaugsuban
Deputy Prime Minister

Mr. Korbsak Sabhavasut
Deputy Prime Minister

Major General Sanan Kajornprasart
Deputy Prime Minister

Mr. Satit Wongnongtaey
Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office

Mr. Virachai Virameteekul
Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office

General Prawit Wongsuwan
Minister of Defence

Mr. Korn Chatikavanij
Minister of Finance

Mr. Pradit Phataraprasit
Deputy Minister of Finance

- Mr. Pruttichai Damrongrat
Deputy Minister of Finance
- Mr. Kasit Piromya
Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Chumpol Silapa-archa
Minister of Tourism and Sports
- Mr. Witoon Nambutr
Minister of Social Development and Human Security
- Mr. Theera Wongsamut
Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives
- Mr. Chartchai Pookayaporn
Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives
- Mr. Sophon Zaram
Minister of Transport
- Mr. Prajak Glawgraharn
Deputy Minister of Transport
- Mr. Kuerkul Danchaivichit
Deputy Minister of Transport
- Mr. Suwit Khunkitti
Minister of Natural Resources and Environment
- Second Lieutenant Ranongruk Suwunchwee
Minister of Information and Communication Technology
- Mr. Wannarat Channukul
Minister of Energy
- Mrs. Porntiva Nakasai
Minister of Commerce
- Mr. Alongkorn Ponlaboot
Deputy Minister of Commerce

Mr. Chavarat Charnvirakul
Minister of Interior

Mr. Boonjong Vongtrirat
Deputy Minister of Interior

Mr. Thaworn Senneam
Deputy Minister of Interior

Mr. Pirapan Salirathavibhaga
Minister of Justice

Mr. Phaithoon Kaewthong
Minister of Labour

Mr. Teera Slukpetch
Minister of Culture

Khunying Kalaya Sophonpanich
Minister of Science and Technology

Mr. Jurin Laksanawisit
Minister of Education

Mr. Chaiwuti Bannawat
Deputy Minister of Education

Ms. Narisara Chavaltanpipat
Deputy Minister of Education

Mr. Witthaya Keawparadai
Minister of Public Health

Mr. Manit Nopamornbodee
Deputy Minister of Public Health

Mr. Chanchai Chairungruang
Minister of Industry

To take effect forthwith.

Announced on 20 December B.E. 2551 (2008),

Being the 63rd year of the present Reign.

Countersigned by

Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva

Prime Minister

**Policy Statement
of the Government of
Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister,
to the National Assembly,
29 December B.E. 2551 (2008)**

Honourable President of the National Assembly,

Pursuant to the Royal Command dated 17 December 2008 appointing me as Prime Minister, and the Royal Command dated 20 December 2008 appointing the Council of Ministers, the Council of Ministers has now completed the formulation of its policy on the administration of state affairs – in adherence to the system of parliamentary democracy with the King as Head of State, and encompassing the fundamental policy approach stipulated in Chapter 5 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand. The Cabinet therefore wishes to present the said policy to this joint session of the National Assembly to apprise the latter of the direction in which the government will administer the nation in order to restore harmony, compassion, and happiness among Thais in the society, and to steer the country through the daunting economic crisis we are facing, so that the nation can advance its development in a secure and sustainable manner.

Mr. President,

This Government assumes office at a time when Thai society is divided and in conflict, caused by differences of views on politics and administration of state affairs. This conflict between sections of society has aggravated to the point of interrupting the country's administration resulting in lack of progress in national development in various areas which require urgent attention, thereby affecting the livelihood and well-being of the people. This conflict is our nation's weakness, especially when the international community is now entering the most challenging economic crisis of the century.

The current global economic crisis began from a crisis affecting financial institutions in the United States in September, with repercussions being felt by the financial system in various countries world-wide. Although this has not directly affected financial institutions in Thailand, it has led to outflow of foreign capital from our country, causing our stock exchange index in October to plummet to its lowest level in five years.

The severe damage to the financial system has caused the economies in developed countries, such as the United States, Japan and many countries in Europe, to enter into recession. At this moment, several major industries in developed countries, such as the automotive, aviation, and electronics industries, are in deep financial trouble and even on verge of bankruptcy. There have been massive worker lay-offs numbering in the millions. The impact of this global economic slowdown on the Thai economy has come faster than many had anticipated. The value of our exports in US dollars fell by 18.6 per cent in November, while the quantity declined by 22.6 per cent. The number of tourists in September shrunk by 16.5 per cent compared to the same month last year. The value of investments under promotion during the past 11 months fell by around 40 per cent. The construction sector continues to contract. Government revenue from taxes and other sources in 2009 is expected to decrease by 10 per cent from the previous estimate.

In 2009, the global economy is expected to grow only slightly. We can expect to see a slowdown in our exports, a decrease in the number of tourists, a drop of the price of agricultural produce, as well as sluggish investment by the private sector. As a consequence, the number of unemployed is expected to rise from 500,000 to one million, bringing with it more poverty, social problems and crime. Moreover, if the existing political differences which have exacerbated into a conflict among the people are left unresolved, and the confidence of investors and tourists not restored, our country's economy and tourist industry would be heading towards recession.

In addition to those issues which need urgent attention, the Government will attach importance to the country's long-term fundamental weaknesses, as these cannot be ignored. At present, Thais have an average of only nine years of compulsory basic education, which is less than the average of Asian countries at ten to twelve years. Problems in the quality of education have caused students' educational achievements to remain below standard in important subjects, such as Thai language, English language, mathematics and science. Meanwhile, Thai people today live longer but are experiencing more health problems. Our senior citizens are afflicted with hypertension, diabetes and heart disease, all of which require continuous care and expensive treatment. Safety of life and property remains a major challenge for Thai society; so does the problem of drugs abuse. The accelerating degradation of our natural resources and the environment, in both urban and rural areas, has directly affected the quality of life of the people as well as our national competitiveness.

The Government will therefore implement its policy in various areas in parallel with addressing the country's urgent problems, so as to achieve sustainable development of the country. These include, among others, preparation for an ageing society; climate change and global warming; food and

energy security; building of a knowledge-based and creative society; poverty alleviation and income disparity; development of good governance, rural development and decentralization of administrative powers; as well as promotion of Thailand's role on the international stage; enhancement of economic linkages with other countries in the region, and peaceful development cooperation with our neighbouring countries.

Mr. President,

This Government considers it our foremost mission to lead Thailand through the current global economic crisis towards sustainable growth, to heal social division and ensure for Thais a better quality of life, to put an end to the political crisis and undertake political reform consistent with the system of democratic governance with the King as Head of State. To this end, the Government will undertake its actions based upon the following four basic guiding principles:

Firstly, to protect and uphold the Monarchy in its role as the centre of national unity and harmony among Thais, to enshrine the Monarchy in a position of reverence above all forms of political conflict; and to take all necessary measures to prevent any infringement of the royal inviolable position;

Secondly, to foster reconciliation and harmony on the basis of righteousness, justice and concurrence of all sections of society;

Thirdly, to rejuvenate the economy and ensure its sustainable growth, while alleviating negative impact of the economic condition faced by the people;

Fourthly, to further develop stable democracy and political system, and ensure compliance with the rule of law, and enforcement of laws on the basis of equality, justice, and universally accepted norms.

Mr. President,

The Government will administer the state affairs by applying His Majesty the King's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy which focuses on the principle of "morality led knowledge", and will strictly abide by the provisions of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand. The implementation of the Government's policy is divided into 2 phases, namely the urgent phase, in which work will be carried out immediately and completed by the end of the Government's first year in office; and the three-year phase in which work would begin from the Government's first year onwards.

1. Urgent Policies to be Implemented in the First Year

1.1 Boost confidence in and stimulate the overall economy in order to promote investment and consumption among the people and private sectors

1.1.1 Promptly promote harmony and reconciliation among people in the nation by using peaceful means, listening to opinions from all sides and avoiding any use of violence as means of resolving national problems in all circumstances; restore social order and enforce law on the basis of equality and justice to all sides; and support the participation of organizations established pursuant to the Constitution in the process of reconciliation within the framework of each organization's mandate.

1.1.2 Set up a Southern Border Provinces Administering Office as a permanent organization to be responsible for resolving problems and developing the Southern Border Provinces, by adhering to the principle of reconciliation and the “understand, reach out, develop” guidelines; apply a stringent and just judicial process to perpetrators; designate the Southern Border Provinces as special development zones which will receive support from low-interest soft loans, special tax preferences and promotion of *halal* industries; and promote these areas as special development zones with flexibility and religious and cultural diversity.

1.1.3 Carry forward political reform by establishing a committee to study reform approaches, with participation by the civil society, with a view to setting up a stable and efficient system of administration of state affairs under the system of democratic governance with the King as Head of State, which is in congruence with Thailand's social conditions, capable of ensuring sustainable development and responsive to the true needs of the people.

1.1.4 Expeditiously boost confidence in Thailand among the global community by giving priority to cooperation frameworks within ASEAN and working with the National Assembly in finalizing by January 2009 the consideration and approval of concerned documents which Thailand, as a member of ASEAN, must sign during the ASEAN Summit; and make preparations for hosting the 14th ASEAN Summit in February 2009 as Thailand is the ASEAN Chair.

1.1.5 Urgently rejuvenate the economy which is facing problems by introducing, by January 2009, a short-term restoration plan covering issues of farmers and agriculture, industries, services and tourism, export and real estate sectors, job and income creation in rural areas,

development of natural sources of water and revival of resources; and prepare an additional budget plan for the 2009 fiscal year with an aim to inject public expenditure into the economic system and to alleviate the difficulties faced by the people and business sector.

1.1.6 Expeditiously boost confidence of foreign tourists and implement measures to stimulate tourism by pursuing cooperation between the public and private sectors in launching campaigns to attract foreign tourists, encourage domestic tourism by Thais and adjust the budget plan of government agencies which have already been allocated for the 2009 fiscal year to include training and seminars across the country, as well as reduce tourism-related fees and servicing costs to promote tourism on a wider scale.

1.1.7 Enhance investment to stimulate the development of the country by giving priority to investment projects with high returns to create a favourable investment climate, raise the quality of life of the people and enhance the competitiveness of the country, particularly investments on upgrading of the quality of education at all levels, improvement of the health service structure with an emphasis on disease prevention and health promotion, development of mass transit system, and development of water management and irrigation system; enable these projects to begin in 2009, with importance being attached to people participation, environmental conservation, transparency, accountability and national financial discipline; and accelerate the disbursement of investment budget of government agencies and state enterprise.

1.2 Maintain and increase people's income

1.2.1 Cooperate with the private sector in implementing measures to delay and prevent lay-offs in industrial and service sectors, including large, medium and small enterprises, while providing incentives to the private sector to alleviate their burden in delaying the lay-offs.

1.2.2 Expedite urgent measures to address the problems of unemployment in industrial sectors and among newly graduated students by organizing training programmes for approximately 500,000 unemployed labours during a one-year timeframe, in accordance with their skills and potential, and preparing for reintegration of labours returning to their home regions, in order to enhance competitiveness and create added economic values for enterprises and community businesses.

1.2.3 Expeditiously alleviate difficulties of those who have been laid off and are unemployed as a result of the economic crisis by ensuring that they receive promptly compensation and welfare benefits as stated by the law, helping them find new jobs, promoting self-employment, creating

more job opportunities, and enhancing their skills to facilitate a shift in professions as well as providing necessary fringe benefits such as an increase in the financial amount of the employee welfare fund to help employees who have been laid off, and implementation of the “labours’ homecoming project”, which includes job creation and land allocation; as well as providing access to sources of funding for labours outside the agricultural sector that have been laid off to enable them to return to the agricultural sector.

1.2.4 Create income insurance for senior citizens who have insufficient income or are unable to work to support themselves by allocating allowances for senior citizens who are above 60 years of age who have registered to receive such assistance; and expand the ceiling of loans from the senior citizen’s fund to 30,000 Baht per person.

1.2.5 Implement additional fiscal measures to help increase people’s income and stimulate the business sectors that have been affected.

1.2.6 Generate income and build economic potential for the grass roots by establishing a sufficiency economy fund and increasing the financial amount of such fund from the level earlier allocated, with a view to developing water resources and natural resources at the community level; decrease agricultural production costs, as well as expedite and shorten the state’s procedures concerning budget distribution so that the locality can promptly receive their budgets.

1.2.7 Implement measures to efficiently maintain pricing stability of agricultural produce through tools and mechanisms of the state and expedite the establishment of the agricultural risk insurance system, which includes a risk insurance system for agricultural pricing through advance market mechanism and an insurance system for crops in case of natural disasters.

1.2.8 Expedite and develop markets and goods distribution system for agricultural and community products in order to generate domestic consumption and export.

1.2.9 Establish the National Farmers’ Council so that farmers can participate in policy-making processes and systematic planning of agricultural development; set up a system to protect and promote the interests of farmers; as well as promote empowerment of farmers in a sustainable manner.

1.2.10 Promote the proactive role of village health volunteers across the country in promoting good health in local and community areas, in providing care of children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and patients in the hospital, and in undertaking surveillance of diseases in the

community, by providing fringe benefits to village health volunteers in order to create motivation for them to work in a flexible and efficient manner.

1.3 Reduce the cost-of-living burden for the people

1.3.1 Ensure access to 15 years' education cost-free for all by providing textbooks on primary subjects to all schools, providing students' uniforms and learning stationeries free-of-charge in time for the B.E. 2552 (2009) school year as well as supporting other cost to compensate schools for fees normally exacted from parents.

1.3.2 Regulate and supervise the prices of consumer goods and services necessary for daily life so that they are fairly priced, reflect appropriately their costs and do not take advantage of consumers.

1.3.3 Undertake measures to reduce the cost-of-living burden for the people in terms of transportation, cooking gas and public utility services by revising existing measures to be in line with current economic conditions and on the basis of the principle of efficient use and consumption.

1.3.4 Maintain oil price stability through efficient use of the petrol fund in a manner beneficial to the promotion of alternative energy and the efficient use of energy.

1.4 Establish a Committee of Economic Ministers and a Joint Public-Private Sector Committee to Resolve Economic Problems with a view to monitoring and expediting the resolution of the problems, simplifying operations and laying down measures and projects to revive the economy in an urgent situation.

Mr. President,

As for the policies to be implemented over the three-year tenure of this Government, the Government will implement the key policies in the administration of state affairs as appear in Policies 2 to 8 as follows:

2. Policy on National Security

2.1 Protect and uphold the Monarchy as the centre of national unity and harmony among all Thais by promoting public consciousness in the loyalty and respect towards the Monarchy, as well as preventing any infringement of the royal inviolable position;

2.2 Strengthen and develop national defence capability in safeguarding the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the state, as well as in protecting the national interest, by enhancing the preparedness of the armed forces, training troops in the conduct of operations, and aligning the budget of the armed forces with their respective missions, instituting plans on weapons and energy reserves to ensure security; support and promote research and development of the national defence industry on the part of both the public and private sectors so as to be able to produce our own weapons and equipment; revise the rights and benefits for troops, per diems and field allowances for the professional military and para-military as well as troops welfare to be in line with current economic conditions; develop military cooperation with neighbouring and other countries; and promote Thailand's role in international peace-keeping under the framework of the United Nations.

2.3 Enhance peaceful coexistence with neighbouring countries, emphasize conflict resolution through peaceful negotiations, attach importance to the survey and demarcation of borders with neighbouring countries in accordance with agreements and treaties, coordinate and cooperate with neighbouring countries in the protection and resolution of problems affecting security in the border areas, including enhancing the safety in life and property of people living in the border areas.

2.4 Resolve the problem of illegal immigrants in its entirety so that it does not affect security, by improving the immigration system, border management and alien worker regulation, including clearly addressing the problem of individuals' status and rights, on the basis of keeping balance between protecting basic individual rights and maintaining national security.

2.5 Strengthen the capacity to handle transnational threats by giving importance to the development of systems and mechanisms to prevent and deal with all forms of terrorism and transnational crime, developing laws and effectively enforcing related laws as well as developing networks of international cooperation, and promoting compliance with international commitments under the framework of the United Nations.

3. Policy on Social and Quality of Life

3.1 Education Policy

3.1.1 Reform the entire education system by reforming its structure and management, amending laws in accordance with the Constitution, pooling resources for the improvement of education management from the primary to the tertiary levels, developing teachers, improving the university entrance examination system, developing curricula, adjusting curricula of

primary subjects including history, improving instructional media, developing thinking and analytical skills, adjusting the role of non-formal learning into an office for lifelong learning, establishing a lifelong learning centre for appropriate learning in each area, as well as promoting decentralization so that all sectors of society can participate in education management to help realize the objective of quality education and learning that emphasizes virtue-led knowledge.

3.1.2 Encourage the private sector to participate in the development of the educational system as a whole, with emphasis on the vocational and tertiary education levels, so as to be able to meet the human resource needs of the economic sector.

3.1.3 Develop teachers, professors and education sector personnel to ensure that there are good and capable, virtuous, quality and more highly-educated teachers, reduce the workload of teachers, which is not associated with teaching in accordance with the “Return Teachers to Students” project, take care of the quality of life of teachers by revising the debt structure and establishing a fund to develop teachers’ quality of life, while also investing in information technology that focuses on the development of substances and personnel to be prepared for and ready to take full advantage of the information technology.

3.1.4 Ensure that everyone is provided with access to 15 years’ cost-free education, starting from the kindergarten level through the secondary education level, while also increasing the efficiency of education management to create equal and fair educational opportunities for the disadvantaged, including the indigent, persons with disabilities or the invalid, persons in distress, persons with physical and mental deficiencies and those of different cultural backgrounds, and augment the development of child centres (nurseries/day-care centres) in the community.

3.1.5 Raise vocational and tertiary education standards to the level of excellence by grouping educational institutions according to their capacity, revising upwards pay and compensation for vocational education graduates, with the public sector taking the lead and setting examples in using vocational skills as criteria to determine compensation and professional advancement; and developing knowledge and innovation through capacity-building in research and development.

3.1.6 Improve the management of the student loan fund to provide for debt negotiation and arbitration as well as enlarge the fund so as to provide people with greater opportunities to access education at the vocational and bachelor’s degree levels.

3.1.7 Encourage children, youth and the people generally to make constructive and intelligent use of information technology so as to enhance learning.

3.1.8 Accelerate investment in education and integrated learning at all levels and in each community by using each area and school as a base for integration in every aspect, apply evaluation criteria made by the Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA) in raising the quality of schools rated sub-standard, and promote excellence at the university level so as to enable Thailand to become a regional education and research and development hub, and build a lifelong learning and knowledge-based society in each community by linking the role of the family and educational and religious institutions.

3.2 Labour Policy

3.2.1 Provide protection for both formal and informal labour according to Thai labour standards, especially in work safety, healthy working environment and conditions of employment, by encouraging business establishments to be certified in accordance with international standards on management of labour rights and protection.

3.2.2 Reform and strengthen the social security system by ensuring independent and transparent administration, and extend the coverage of health insurance to the insured's children and spouses in case of illness, and increase other benefits for the insured.

3.2.3 Develop and train all levels of workers to broaden their knowledge and skills with standards that meet technological changes and market demand by enhancing the training capability of labour skill development institutes and centres across the country by mobilizing participation of the private sector in the forms of 'schools within factory', and integrating the efforts of public and private educational institutions to enhance labour skills.

3.2.4 Promote employment of Thai workers abroad with dignity and decent quality of life by offering loans for going to work overseas, skills and language training, creating guarantees, protecting and overseeing the export of workers to work overseas, and monitoring and protect Thai workers against exploitation while working abroad.

3.2.5 Support labour welfare, by establishing a work safety institute, setting up day-care centres in business establishments, and increasing the capability of the Workmen's Compensation Fund in providing care for workers injured due to their work; organize a welfare system for informal

labour; and promote a tripartite labour relationship system to create good relationships among employees, employers and the public sector.

3.2.6 Manage the foreign labour employment system to correspond with the needs of the manufacturing sector without affecting employment of Thai labour and national security by categorizing the types of work permissible to foreign workers, systemizing foreign labour import, eliminating the problem of illegal foreign workers, and introducing a system for effectively regulating and monitoring foreign labour.

3.2.7 Encourage employment of senior citizens and persons with disabilities by providing various types of employment that are suitable to their capacities, such as part-time employment; temporary employment; short-term contract employment, as well as expanding employment opportunities for the elderly with specific proficiencies.

3.3 Public Health Policy

3.3.1 Support the implementation of national legislation on health by prioritizing measures to improve public health and reduce risk factors that affect health and cause chronic illnesses through forging partnerships with all relevant sectors, including the private sector, local administrative organizations, local communities and public health volunteers, to jointly foster knowledge and understanding and create incentives to stimulate development and healthy behaviours; and encourage the participation of local administrative organizations in the development of medical and public health personnel by granting funds for them to return to work locally.

3.3.2 Systematically build disease surveillance, prevention, control, diagnostic and treatment capacities, with the involvement of all relevant sectors, with a view to preventing illnesses and death caused by newly emerging and reoccurring diseases in humans, including new mutated strains, in a timely manner.

3.3.3 Improve the health service system by investing in the development of public health services at all level; elevate health stations into “Health Promoting Hospitals” for each sub-district; develop efficient networks for patient transfers, linking together public and private sectors, in order to ensure public access to the health insurance system with sufficient quality and varied choices, which also covers medical care in participating private hospitals.

3.3.4 Invest in the production and development of medical and public health personnel, while also providing incentives for their career advancement, adjusting rules and regulations so that they receive suitable and

just incomes from salaries and other remunerations and improving laws related to the medical profession; distribute medical and public health personnel in accordance with local needs; and invest in the development and linkage of information technology system with a view to providing up-to-date and reliable public health information which can be put to optimal use.

3.3.5 Promote Thailand as an international medical and health care centre by implementing a participatory administrative strategy involving all relevant sectors; share medical resources between the public and private sectors; and improve relevant rules and regulations.

3.4 Policy on Religions, Arts and Culture

3.4.1 Promote and preserve Thai culture in all aspects, including local traditions and wisdoms, support the research, restoration and development of Thai culture, and develop cultural learning spaces for the public, especially for Thai children and youth.

3.4.2 Promote the role of the family institution, in cooperation with religious, educational and other social institutions, in inculcating positive values and conscience and in monitoring of cultural threads which may affect behavioural deviancy among children and youth; advocate production of creative media, promote positive trends in the society, and open good public spaces for children and youth.

3.4.3 Promote local wisdoms and the diversity of Thai arts and culture, including way of life, good values and Thai-ness, for studies and promotion to the global community, for use as a vehicle for promoting good relations with the world community, as well as for adding economic value to the nation.

3.4.4 Support the revitalization of organizations and mechanisms responsible for religious affairs in order to ensure that their work in managing, promoting and preserving religions proceeds in a unified and efficient manner; encourage good understanding and harmony among people of all faiths so that religious teachings can be used to promote morality and ethics and motivate people to apply such teachings in their daily life.

3.5 Policy on Social Welfare and Human Security

3.5.1 Alleviate poverty by allocating land to low-income citizens, promoting employment and income generation through projects such as reforestation, as well as strengthening the village funds and other sources of funding at the community level to ensure that these have transparent and

efficient mechanisms and that communities are able to decide and utilize them to resolve problems and advance community development.

3.5.2 Restructure public debt towards debt reduction or extension or postponement of debt payments, or reduction of interest rate, or postponement of interest payment.

3.5.3 Intensify efforts to improve and resolve problems related to living conditions, quality of life, and community environments, with particular emphasis on low-income communities, by improving the quality of and expanding public utilities services to ensure access; improve the management of public organizations for housing of low-income people to enhance their efficiency, and consider establishing more such organizations to enhance the capability in helping improve the quality of life and environment of low-income communities.

3.5.4 Create economic security and social stability for senior citizens by emphasizing the role of social institutions and communities as networks for social protection and welfare distribution for senior citizens; promote utilization of the potential of senior citizens in contributing towards national development and transfer of their wisdoms and know-how to broader society; encourage savings and establish an insurance system for the elderly to better prepare citizens for entering their senior years with financial and social stability.

3.5.5 Attach importance to all aspects of consumer protection by raising awareness, establishing an independent consumers' organization and strictly enforcing consumer protection laws, and using legal mechanisms to protect consumers from being taken advantage of by such means as excessive advertising, hidden advertisements, or use of media for personal interests.

3.5.6 Promote gender equality and eradicate domestic violence and discrimination against women, children and persons with disabilities, provide protection and promote appropriate social welfare for the indigent, persons with disabilities or the invalid, and those under difficult circumstances in order to better their quality of life and enable them to be self-reliant.

3.5.7 Intensify efforts in solving the narcotic drug problem in a comprehensive and systematic manner, from prevention and suppression to rehabilitation of drug addicts, in tandem with improving relevant legislation in accordance with the evolving situation and ensuring strict enforcement of laws, and enhance cooperation with neighbouring countries and the international community in addressing the narcotic drug problem.

3.5.8 Increase efficiency of crime prevention and protection of public safety by introducing effective crime surveillance and monitoring systems with emphasis on development of databases, warning systems and cooperation networks among community volunteers and public authorities in various areas; and strengthening public and community relations operations to create better understanding and cooperation between authorities and the public.

3.6 Policy on Sports and Recreation

3.6.1 Create opportunities for all groups of citizens to exercise and participate in sports, by promoting cooperation among the public and private sectors as well as state enterprises and local administrative agencies in developing sports activities, providing locations and facilities, organizing exercise, sports and recreational activities, and promoting interest among youth in sports and constructive use of their free time.

3.6.2 Develop excellence in sports, by establishing a national sports training centre and incorporate sports science into training, standardize and improve the quality of training methods, and continuously support the organization of sports competitions at the international level.

3.6.3 Promote Thai sports to be better known and recognized internationally.

3.6.4 Improve the sports management system by supporting the role and involvement of local administrative agencies in the management and organization of sports facilities and recreational activities, as well as building sports ground in villages and communities.

3.6.5 Improve existing sports laws and other related laws by introducing laws on sports profession, athletes' welfare and other laws as tools for effective sports management.

4. Policy on Economics

4.1 Policy on Macroeconomic Management

4.1.1 Promote stable economic growth through coordination of fiscal and monetary policies to create balance between the rate of economic growth, price stability and employment.

4.1.2 Create stability and security for domestic financial institutions, manage domestic liquidity and monitor international capital movements, closely following the financial transactions of financial institutions to prevent the impact of abrupt movements of capital; expand regional financial

cooperation under the ASEAN Summit framework to provide mutual assistance and solutions in the event of economic and financial crisis in the region.

4.1.3 Strengthen the capital markets and system of financial institutions to cope with global financial volatility and provide stable support for investment and business by amending rules and regulations and putting in place a regulatory system in line with financial innovations; encourage long-term savings as a basis for the country's future capital mobilization.

4.1.4 Promote and maintain fiscal discipline by adjusting fiscal management practices to be in line with the nation's monetary capacity, as well as expedite the introduction of fiscal and financial legislation to serve as regulatory mechanisms and a best practices framework.

4.1.5 Improve the tax structure and collection system to enhance fairness and transparency, and support the enhancement of national competitiveness, including tax measures to encourage energy savings and alternative energy use.

4.1.6 Develop a medium-term and long-term public sector investment framework that makes clear the source of financing, types of investment and support for an increased private sector role as appropriate; develop tools and mechanisms for efficient capital mobilization for large-scale projects, taking into consideration fiscal discipline and the burden on the public budget.

4.1.7 Increase the operational efficiency of state enterprises by emphasizing service improvement, optimum utilization of resources, operational cost reduction, risk management and good governance in management practices, including rehabilitating financially troubled state enterprises and accelerating investment budget disbursement according to target.

4.2 Economic Restructuring Policy

4.2.1 Agricultural Sector

4.2.1.1 Expedite efficiency enhancement in agricultural production and development of agricultural logistics to increase agricultural returns by promoting the production of key crops in accordance with local conditions, promoting research and development on crop strain development, providing quality and necessary production materials and production infrastructure, developing agricultural product preservation technology and logistics to reduce agricultural costs, and zoning farmland to define proper areas for food and energy crop production in an efficient way that ensures appropriate and fair prices for energy crops to enhance farmers' income security.

4.2.1.2 Develop the fishery profession and expand fishery opportunities by developing aquaculture, coastal and freshwater fisheries, locally and industrially; elevate prices of fishery products with local participation; improve and strictly enforce fishery laws and fishing areas that clearly distinguish between commercial and coastal fisheries; develop the potential of the fishery industry; pursue negotiations to promote international cooperation in fisheries both within and outside international waters; promote the use of alternative energy in fisheries; and establish a national organization responsible for solving fishery problems and developing national fisheries in both aquatic animal resources conservation and supporting industries related to the fishery sector.

4.2.1.3 Enhance the potential of livestock products by developing and conserving key economic livestock breeds, such as cows and buffalos, in order to add economic value; develop each stage of the production process to meet international safety standards; enhance the potential of prevention and control of livestock diseases; enhance the potential of livestock product inspection and certification; expand export opportunities in global markets for livestock products; as well as promote household organic livestock in accordance with the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy.

4.2.1.4 Ensure the stability of agricultural product prices and marketing by establishing a risk insurance scheme for agricultural product prices; strengthen the agricultural futures market; establish a central wholesale and retail market for agricultural products in all regions of the country; encourage the opening of new agricultural markets worldwide; promote contract farming; utilize a tripartite system involving government, private sector and farmers as a mechanism to resolve agricultural product price issues.

4.2.1.5 Promote value addition for agricultural products through the promotion of research and development on production and safety standards of agricultural products and food at the community level to meet international standards, with linkage between agricultural production and agro-industry; promote agricultural processing of international quality and standards; strengthen product branding; establish special economic development zones to add value to farm products comprehensively; expedite international negotiations relating to standards of farm products and food; and encourage local administrative organizations to participate in financing the development of machinery for primary agricultural processing.

4.2.1.6 Ensure food security through the promotion of farming according to His Majesty's initiative, expansion of the learning process and development of the New Theory of agriculture, school lunch projects and

livestock banks according to His Majesty's initiative; support organic farming, integrated farming, forest farming consistent with the community's needs in order to reduce the use of chemicals and increase the value of farm products; as well as promote international cooperation relating to food security.

4.2.1.7 Expedite the provision of water sources thoroughly and sufficiently, as well as enhance the efficiency of water resource utilization for agricultural production, with emphasis on increasing reservoirs in paddy fields and canal dredging to alleviate flooding and drought; promote efficient water utilization in accordance with crop type; increase irrigable areas in all sizes: large, medium and small; and expand the water distribution system in irrigation areas to enable maximum capacity utilization.

4.2.1.8 Protect and conserve land that is suitable for farming, with a developed irrigation infrastructure already in place, so that it may become a long-term agricultural production base; rehabilitate soil quality; provide land for poor farmers through the establishment of land banks and the acceleration of the issuance of land rights certificates in the form of community land title deeds for poor farmers and communities living on state land that are no longer forestland; and support agricultural development in the form of agricultural estates.

4.2.1.9 Strengthen the agricultural sector by building and developing the quality of the new generation of farmers so that they are capable of managing the products and the various types of agricultural organizations, utilizing knowledge from innovation, local wisdom and appropriate technologies, through formal and informal education, to enhance agricultural security and social stability in Thailand.

4.2.1.10 Solve the debt problems, revitalize the livelihoods and standards of living of farmers by accelerating the management of farmers' debts, both within and outside the formal credit system, in order to alleviate their hardships and maintain their agricultural land.

4.2.2 Industrial Sector

4.2.2.1 Build the strength and competitiveness of the Thai industrial sector in the global market by increasing production efficiency through reducing costs and increasing value added, in cooperation with the private sector, research institutes and academic institutions to increase the capabilities of business operators, enhance labour skills, improve machinery efficiency, improve the design of products and goods, reduce logistics costs, and increase regional cooperation in value chain production through international negotiations.

4.2.2.2 Impose measures to solve problems specific to each industry and develop industries with future potential, such as domestic machinery production, automobile, food and jewelry industries, by improving investment promotion measures through tax and non-tax incentives and promotion of joint ventures with foreign companies in high technology industries.

4.2.2.3 Work with the private sector to improve the quality and standards of products to match or surpass international standards, by promoting the development of capital mobilization and risk insurance mechanisms for the private sector to stimulate more private investment in innovation and technology, as well as providing intellectual property rights protection for domestically-produced products with Thai logos.

4.2.2.4 Step up the production of vocational workers in line with the demand for industrial labour, increase compensation for vocational workers comparable to bachelor degree holders, and devise a curriculum that enables vocational workers to further their education at the university level.

4.2.2.5 Strengthen small-scale and medium-scale industries, by facilitating the formation of cluster networks, improving credit approval standards, broaden the scope of credit issuance and insurance by using the state's network of banks and financial institutions, to provide small-scale and medium-scale industries better access to sources of funding.

4.2.2.6 Establish Special Economic Development Zones to promote industrial investment in line with the potential of each area, such as the southern coastal area and special border economic development zones, taking into account the sustainable coexistence between local communities and the environment.

4.2.2.7 Encourage industries to practice corporate social responsibility with regard to quality and standards of products and services and safety standards in the workplace and the environment.

4.2.3 Tourism and Services Sector

4.2.3.1 Expand the services sector base in the country's production structure by increasing the diversity of service businesses, adding value, enhancing competitiveness, improving skilled labour in terms of both quality and linguistic skills; and linking services, industrial and agricultural businesses into product clusters, e.g. healthcare, food and tourism businesses, including creative services products based on culture and Thai wisdom linked with modern technology.

4.2.3.2 Develop public and private tourist destinations by preserving and developing existing destinations, including natural, historical, cultural and manmade attractions, through linkage with community ways of life, establishing special economic zones on tourism and identifying the selling strengths of destinations in each region and provincial group in a complementary manner, such as Charming Bangkok, Southern Thailand as a global marine tourism hub, Northern Thailand as the Lanna civilization hub, Northeastern Thailand as a historical, archeological, cultural and border tourism hub, Central Thailand as a tourism hub for civilizational, world heritage and natural heritage attractions.

4.2.3.3 Develop standards for tourism services by setting up standards for tourism-related businesses such as tourist guides, travel, souvenir shops, hotels and accommodations; develop standards for human resources in tourism-related sectors such as hotel staff, tour company workers, tourist guides, restaurant workers, tour bus drivers, etc.; and improve the service standards of tourism-related government agencies regarding traveler safety, fees and charges.

4.2.3.4 Develop marketing and public relations for tourism by supporting private sector participation in identifying policy, marketing and public relations strategies to promote target destinations in Thailand as a world-class tourism hub, especially its readiness to serve as a centre for international conferences, product exhibitions and medical tourism; and encourage the role of local administrative organizations in upgrading tourist destinations so that they are known throughout the world.

4.2.3.5 Revise all tourism-related laws to be up to date and complementary; and enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement on public safety and the environment.

4.2.4 Marketing, Trade and Investment

4.2.4.1 Promote a free and fair trading system with the private sector taking the business lead while the Government acts as promoter, supporter, and supervisor, and sees to the strict enforcement of trade competition and consumer protection laws to prevent unfair trade, monopolization, and exploitation of consumers; enact legislation on retail trade to systematically regulate retail trade, so that large and small operators may coexist in a complementary and sustainable manner.

4.2.4.2 Expand export markets for Thai goods and services by laying out a marketing strategy together with the private sector to increase market share in existing markets and expand their market base to new

countries, such as in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Asia; develop logistics system for efficient and rapid distribution of goods using Thailand's competitiveness in terms of geographical location and transport potential.

4.2.4.3 Make use of bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements (FTAs), in tandem with negotiating problematic FTAs, both those under negotiation and those already negotiated, for the highest benefit to the country by emphasizing participation by the civil society, private and public sectors; and identify comprehensive remedy measures for those affected in the short term and long term.

4.2.4.4 Improve import administrative standard to prevent unfair trade, dumping, and disqualified products in terms of standard and safety.

4.2.4.5 Encourage Thai entrepreneurs to register intellectual property rights for their products and protect such rights of Thai products overseas.

4.2.4.6 Promote investment in agricultural, industrial and service sectors in which Thailand has potential, in particular *halal* food products and services, film industry, goods and services which use innovation and local wisdom, environment-friendly investment, and support overseas investment in areas where Thai entrepreneurs have potential as well as establish business networks in Thailand and abroad.

4.2.4.7 Improve the efficiency and facilitation of international and border trade by introducing electronic systems particularly for one-stop-service centres, one-lane service, joint single inspection points, e-commerce, and e-logistics system, etc.

4.2.4.8 Improve and accelerate the tariff appeals process by upgrading the relevant agencies from departmental to ministry level, and allowing private sector representatives to take part in deciding cases on appeal similarly to associate judges, and set specific timeframes for announcement of judicial decisions on appeal cases.

4.3 Policy on Development of Infrastructure to Raise the Quality of Life and Increase Competitiveness

4.3.1 Expand good quality services of basic public utilities necessary to the livelihood of the people to sufficiently cover all rural areas; the services include clean water, electricity, basic telecommunications and housing as well as develop dust free roads by raising road standards in rural areas to concrete or asphalt roads.

4.3.2 Develop integrated transport system and logistics by developing infrastructure, improve and develop rules and regulations concerned, promote trade in logistics services, trade facilitation and develop human resource in logistics including the establishment of national committee as an engine to earnestly develop logistics systems.

4.3.3 Continually develop diversified transport systems by systematically linking road, rail, water and air transportation as well as developing transport facilities such as station for packaging and classifying goods and centre for collecting and distributing goods in the region in order to increase efficiency and reduce cost of logistics.

4.3.4 Develop a complete mass electric train system network in Bangkok and surrounding areas as well as trains in suburban areas to link to mass electric train system network and other mass transport systems in a fast, efficient and convenient way at appropriate prices as well as expand development of mass transport system to major cities in the region.

4.3.5 Develop dual track train network countrywide especially in routes with heavy traffic and develop routes linking regional and international production bases, improve pathways including develop standardized services and facilities to be more convenient, fast, safe, and reduce transportation costs.

4.3.6 Develop network of principal state highways, main highways and special highways network between cities to link with major cities in the region as well as international economic routes, and in line with development of other transport networks especially train network; improve state highways and law enforcement measures to reduce road accidents to increase efficiency and safety in traveling and delivering of goods.

4.3.7 Develop commercial navigation and water transport infrastructure especially services at Laem Chabang to be a standardized world-class port; develop coastal transport and water transport domestically and internationally in order to efficiently link with other transport systems to increase the proportion of water transportation.

4.3.8 Develop and expand facilities of Suvarnabhumi International Airport and other major airports in the region to be able to support future air traffic; improve Don Muang Airport for optimum utilization and develop the aviation industry business such as the centre for aircraft repair and related businesses to support Thailand to be Asia's leading aviation, tourism and air goods transportation hubs.

4.3.9 Promote research and development of manufacturing industry related to transportation such as ship construction, train and electric train construction while promoting the transfer of technology in production and management in a continuous and effective manner.

4.3.10 Expedite solving of problems related to environment as a result of mega projects by enhancing public participation process; improve management structure, and regulate development and services of infrastructure to protect consumers and to ensure fair competition.

4.3.11 Develop transportation and logistics systems in the region; link transportation network to neighbouring countries along North-South and East-West economic corridors, economic bridge project linking the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea, and transportation network linking Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand; improve trade facilitation system and goods transportation along important borders i.e. Nongkhai, Maesod, Mookdaharn, Singkhon, and Chongmek.

4.4 Energy Policy

4.4.1 Develop energy source in the country for greater self-reliance in order to increase energy stability and to meet sufficient demand by expediting the exploration and development of energy sources at both domestic and international levels through negotiation with neighbouring countries at the government level for joint development; develop energy mix to reduce sourcing risk, price volatility, and reduce production cost; encourage electricity production from renewable energy, particularly from small or very small scale electricity generating projects, as well as study the appropriateness of alternative energy for electricity generation.

4.4.2 Set alternative energy usage as national agenda by encouraging the production and usage of alternative energy, particularly bio-fuel and bio-mass such as gasohol (E10, E20 and E85), bio-diesel, solid waste to enhance energy security, reduce pollution, and for the benefit of the farmers by encouraging the production and usage of renewable energy and at community level under appropriate incentive; encourage the usage of natural gas in the transportation sector by expanding natural gas distribution system nationwide; rigorously and continuously promote research and development of all forms of renewable energy.

4.4.3 Supervise and maintain energy price at appropriate, stable and affordable level by setting appropriate fuel price structure which supports the development of energy crops that reflect true production cost; manage through market mechanism and oil funds to promote effective use of

energy and encourage investment competition in energy business to improve service and safety quality.

4.4.4 Encourage energy conservation in household sector, industrial sector, service sector and transportation sector through energy-conscience building campaign and promote effective energy usage with incentives to attract private sector in opting for energy conserving appliances; set incentive measures to reduce electricity usage during peak period; research, develop and set standard for electrical appliances and energy conserving building; encourage the development of mass public transportation and railway system to promote effective energy usage which will reduce the country's investment in obtaining energy.

4.4.5 Encourage energy exploration and usage which attach importance to the environment through public participation by setting various standards such as Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM) to reduce social and environmental impact and reduce greenhouse gas emission.

4.5 Policy on Information Technology

4.5.1 Develop basic telecommunication network nationwide to provide equal access for the people, community and various organizations; encourage the development of the nation in becoming a knowledge-based economy with modern telecommunication services to serve business demand and employ information technology to improve public services such as public education, public health and logistics to increase national competitiveness.

4.5.2 Develop information and communication technology industry for both software and hardware by encouraging research and development, as well as, improve human resource in becoming a regional hub for information technology and communications.

5. Policy on Land, Natural Resources, and the Environment

5.1 Protect and conserve forest, wildlife, geological resource, water resource, mineral resource, marine and coastal resource, as well as, rehabilitate marine reservations systematically; expedite land demarcation by clearly making clear distinction between public and private land; expedite the declaration of protected forest, determine areas for and promote reforestation, community forest; build stream check dams in accordance with His Majesty's initiatives; promote the cultivation of commercial forest in appropriate areas, suppress deforestation; encourage the planting of vetiver grass to prevent soil erosion; reduce chemical usage and rehabilitate soil, as well as, set up water management system, for ground and underground water to meet the economic demand and consumption.

5.2 Protect and rehabilitate important ecological sites to preserve bio-diversity by setting up conservation database and utilize bio-diversity to improve food security, energy security, health security and create economic value on the basis of indigenous knowledge and local culture with an equally shared benefit which takes into account the protection of biological safety.

5.3 Put in place preventive measures, such as early warning system to help alleviate victims of natural disasters by utilizing geo-informatics to locate and warn areas with high risk; develop database and install early warning system by setting up basic infrastructure in areas of high risk prone to the effects of global warming such as flood, land or mud slide, drought, earthquake or tsunami, particularly in important tourist destinations.

5.4 Monitor and reduce solid waste which cause pollution in the form of garbage, hazardous waste, air pollution, odour, noise pollution and water pollution by promoting environmental friendly consumption by recycling technology to encourage the prevention of pollution at the source of origin; increase the capacity of local administrative organizations on communal waste disposal and waste water treatment; increase “green area” by setting up a provincial waste disposal site; apply strict law enforcement on violators; expedite solutions for redundant problem areas by providing incentives in the form of taxes and privileges for participating business owners in the global warming and pollution reduction campaigns.

5.5 Develop environmental management knowledge through research and development by encouraging the participation of local community and scholars, and in which the private sector could utilize; promote the use of energy and natural resource conserving technology to reduce pollution.

5.6 Improve environmental and natural resource management mechanisms to raise public conservation conscience and its usage through local administrative bodies, the community, the people and the stakeholders through the form of environmental assembly which takes part in the management; establish strategic environmental assessment system to assess the impact as a mechanism for long term sustainable development; fully support royal initiatives on natural resource and environmental conservation projects.

6. Policy on Science, Technology, Research and Innovation

6.1 Promote and support royal projects on basic and comparative scientific and technological studies for commercial usage and industrial development; expedite research and develop technology vital to improving the quality of life and future heavy industries such as technology for disabled

persons, space technology, alternative energy technology, and technology for national security.

6.2 Expedite the production of skilled personnel in the area of science and technology to respond to the demands of manufacturing sector by developing career paths and have enough research institutions such as Centre for Small and Medium Enterprise, Centre of Excellence and Science Park to back up the personnel.

6.3 Reform national research system by establishing funds through public and private sectors, with 50 per cent state holding, and providing low interest loans for participating private sector; allocate more budget for national research; improve basic research quality and comprehensive research and development which increases economic return, income, employment and value-adding, through projects with tangible outcomes such as medicine, chemical products, medical equipment and agricultural products by linking private sector, research institutions, universities and state enterprise network.

7. Policy on Foreign Affairs and International Economics

7.1 Develop relations with neighbouring countries in every dimension and at all levels to cultivate good understanding and mutual respect in order to promote stability, security and prosperity in the region through the promotion of cooperation in all areas under various sub-regional frameworks as well as expeditiously resolving issues with neighbouring countries through peaceful means based on relevant treaties and laws.

7.2 Promote cooperation to strengthen ASEAN during Thailand's chairmanship as well as to realize the goal of creating an ASEAN Community as stipulated in the ASEAN Charter by making ASEAN a people-centred organization, encouraging member countries to collectively respect human rights, pushing for ASEAN to play a leading constructive role in international fora, and expanding cooperation with other Asian countries through various cooperative frameworks both within Asia and between Asia and other regions.

7.3 Promote close cooperation with Muslim countries and international Islamic organizations to create correct understanding of and support for Thailand's efforts in resolving the issue of the southern border provinces.

7.4 Strengthen cooperation and strategic partnership with countries that play important roles in global affairs as well as Thailand's trading partners in other regions to maintain and expand cooperation in the areas of politics, security, economics, trade, finance, investment and tourism, while searching for new markets to promote cooperation on resources, raw materials, science and technology and new knowledge.

7.5 Promote Thailand's interaction with the global community in setting international standards, particularly on agricultural trade, rules and regulations on intellectual property, preservation and restoration of peace and security, promotion and protection of democratic values, human rights and humanitarianism, conservation of the environment and energy and resolution of related issues, cooperation to resolve all transnational issues that affect human security, as well as promoting Thailand as regional headquarters for international organizations and increase technical cooperation with developing countries.

7.6 Support entry into international agreements, bilateral and multilateral, that are beneficial to Thailand; expedite the ratification of agreements already signed and revise those that create negative impacts on the people and society.

7.7 Promote public awareness and understanding of global changes that affect Thailand so as to forge consensus in the formulation and conduct of foreign policy.

7.8 Build confidence among foreign countries and access at the public level by promoting correct understanding and confidence in Thailand's politics and economy, in order to maintain Thailand's good image as well as support people-to-people contact with foreign countries to promote positive attitudes toward Thailand and the Thai people among their public and governments and the international community.

7.9 Protect and promote the rights and interests of Thai nationals, Thai workers and the Thai private sector abroad and support the strengthening of Thai communities abroad.

8. Policy on Good Management and Governance

8.1 Efficiency of Administration of State Affairs

8.1.1 Encourage the decentralization of fiscal management to local administration with a view to enhancing the capability and autonomy of local administrative bodies in being self-reliant, by improving relevant laws to allow them to collect greater revenue from taxes, tariffs and fees so as to enable them to provide public services with quality and responsive to people's needs, taking into account the necessity and appropriate potential of each particular locality.

8.1.2 Encourage local administrative bodies to work on the basis of good governance and improve the efficiency of their working systems, to be responsive to people's needs, foster community responsibility and work

with transparency, by providing the public with access to information and involving them in the processes of planning, implementing plans, supplying of public services in collaboration with the local administrative bodies, and monitoring the work of local authorities.

8.1.3 Increase clarity and reduce redundancy in public administration, including the roles and assignments of the central, regional and local bodies, in order to promote greater complementarity and coordination in the appropriate use of resources, while also expediting the devolution of assignments and budgets to local administrative bodies in accordance with the Law on Planning and Processes of Decentralization to Local Administrative Bodies, subject to continuous monitoring and evaluation of outcomes.

8.1.4 Integrate the public administration of central and regional bodies with local administration by supporting the integrated provincial management through a process of formulating development plans for provinces and provincial groups in line with government policy, national and regional strategic plans, and plans of local administrative bodies and communities, taking into account the involvement of all sectors concerned in every step of such planning process.

8.1.5 Promote special models of administration of different areas in accordance with their levels of socio-economic development by encouraging areas which have potential and preparedness to develop into cities.

8.1.6 Establish the moral, ethical and good governance standards for civil servants and public officials, and develop transparency in the operation of public agencies to gain people's confidence, by promoting participation of the people sector, as well as preventing and suppressing corruption and malfeasance; encourage the adherence to the social values of honesty and righteousness, and promote the freedom of organization of civil servants and public officials as stipulated in the Constitution.

8.1.7 Organize the work systems in such a way that they become resilient, flexible, fast, efficient, transparent and accountable; promote and develop the systems for output management and capacity building of civil servants and public officials at all levels in order to deliver efficient and effective public services; and improve the proficiency of civil servants, especially the young generations of civil servants, who will be the future of the public sector.

8.1.8 Adjust the salaries, wages, remunerations and fringe benefits of civil servants and public officials to appropriately reflect their abilities and efficiency, possibly in accordance with geographical areas,

employment competition within each profession and other necessities, in order to retain capable and good officials within the civil service; and create balanced and better quality of life of civil servants and public officials in order that they could live with dignity and high morale so as to work for the welfare and benefit of the public.

8.2 Law and Justice

8.2.1 Reform and amend outdated laws and regulations that lend themselves to corruption, malfeasance or conflicts of interest; introduce new laws aimed at pre-empting and preventing corruption; extend or repeal the statute of limitations in some criminal and corruption cases; vigorously suppress corruption at all levels and encourage the public to increasingly keep in check the power of the state; and promote the idea of morality in tandem with knowledge in and outside schools in order to cultivate the value of honesty among Thais.

8.2.2 Develop the judicial process for the administration of justice that is efficient, transparent and fair to all groups; promote the increasing use of reconciliatory justice and the principles of dispute settlement in dispute mediation and conciliation; establish a dispute reconciliation body; lay down the procedure for delaying lawsuits for negligence, misdemeanours, and cases which carry a penalty of no more than 3 years imprisonment; and develop the judicial system and procedures that can bring about results in a faster and fairer manner.

8.2.3 Bring laws up-to-date with current socio-economic situations and the protection of individuals' rights; develop working systems and processes that could extensively and equitably deliver justice and protection of rights and liberty to the people; expedite the establishment of a body for legal reform and a body for reform of the judicial process in accordance with relevant provisions of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand; support the work of public agencies in providing advisory opinions or keeping in check the promulgation of laws by the state in order to ensure that it is in accordance with the rule of law.

8.2.4 Promote greater participation of the people sector in the judicial process by using volunteers so as to allow the public to participate in the entire judicial process from crime prevention, dispute conciliation and monitoring of civil servants in their use of power and performance of their duties; promote the reintegration of released convicts into the community; and provide lawyer and legal counselling services to low-income people.

8.2.5 Develop rehabilitation systems and diversify their work methods to suit various groups of offenders, including youths and minors, on the basis of the rights and liberties they are entitled to, so that they could be given opportunities to correct themselves, become good citizens and not return to any further wrong-doing.

8.2.6 Develop the efficient and transparent police forces which have professionalism, honour and dignity; and promote the devolution of the administrative and non-major work routines of the police to the regional level.

8.2.7 Increase people's opportunities to get access to information concerning the judicial process with a view to creating transparency and accountability of the use of state authority; and encourage people's participation in the supervision and evaluation of the performances of police officials, public attorneys and other users of state authority.

8.3 Media and Access to Information

8.3.1 Enhance people's opportunities to extensively, fairly and promptly receive and gain access to public and official information as well as information from other sources; ensure that the public sector provide opportunities for people's participation in all dimensions in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

8.3.2 Improve the roles of state media agencies to serve public interest and promote national reconciliation.

8.3.3 Encourage and promote community involvement in the broadcast and circulation of useful information for public interest, which is an activity with minimal commercial return, by receiving support from the Broadcast and Television Development Fund.

8.3.4 Introduce a law on protection of media professionals in order to ensure that the media operate with freedom, non-interference and social responsibility; and repeal or amend laws which contravene the rights and freedoms of the people and the media in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Mr. President,

The Government is determined to work seriously in accordance with the fundamental policy of the state, and wishes to point out that the Government Policy which has just been presented will serve as a guideline for the Government's action over the next three years, taking into account the urgency of resolving the country's problems, and for administration of state affairs in compliance with the provisions under Chapter 5 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand on the Directive Principles of Fundamental State Policies.

Furthermore, for the Government to be able to administer state affairs in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, as well as for the purpose of policy implementation to achieve the goals that have already been set forth, the Government shall proceed with the drafting of legislative bills as required the provisions of the Constitution, and laws which will be supportive of policy implementation, creation of fairness among the people and improvement of or setting the course for operating procedures of state agencies. The Government will also develop management systems and undertake all that is necessary to ensure efficient and pragmatic administration of state affairs for the benefit of the country's development. All these are considered part of its policy on administration of state affairs.

Mr. President,

After delivering this Policy Statement, the Government will expedite its concrete implementation by drawing up detailed plans of action, comprising a plan for state administration, action plans for respective government agencies, and a legislative enactment plan, to serve as references and guidelines for further work.

Mr. President,

The Government reassures the National Assembly, the body charged with overseeing state administration, that the Government will administer the affairs of the country with integrity and honesty, and will uphold the benefit and happiness of the Thai people as the basis for its work.

Thank you.

**Cabinet's Administration Policy Topics in accordance with
the Directive Principles of Fundamental State Policies in Chapter 5
of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand**

31

Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand	Cabinet Policy	Page
(2) Reorganize central, regional and local administrative bodies with clearly defined areas of authority and responsibility appropriate for the country's development, and encourage the provinces to prepare plans and budgets for provincial development for the benefit of residents.	8. Policy on Good Management and Governance 8.1 Efficiency of Administration of State Affairs (8.1.3, 8.1.4)	27
(3) Decentralize power so that local administrative organizations may be self-reliant and can decide on local affairs; encourage local administrative organizations to participate in the fundamental policy approach of the State; develop local economies, public utilities and facilities, as well as local information infrastructure thoroughly and equally throughout the country; and develop provinces that are ready into large-scale local administrative organizations, taking into account the will of people in such provinces.	8. Policy on Good Management and Governance 8.1 Efficiency of Administration of State Affairs (8.1.1, 8.1.2, 8.1.5)	26
(4) Develop the work system of the public sector, with emphasis on development of the quality, merit, and ethics of state officials, in tandem with improvement of the style and method of operations to ensure efficient administration of state affairs, and encourage state organs to adopt the principles of good governance in performing their official duties.	8. Policy on Good Management and Governance 8.1 Efficiency of Administration of State Affairs (8.1.6)	27
(5) Reorganize government work and other state affairs so that performance and delivery of public services are timely, efficient, transparent, and accountable, with public participation in mind.	8. Policy on Good Management and Governance 8.1 Efficiency of Administration of State Affairs (8.1.7)	27

Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand	Cabinet Policy	Page
(6) Ensure that legal affairs agencies that have the duty to give legal opinions on public administration and vet state legislation function independently, so that administration of state affairs is based on the rule of law.	8. Policy on Good Management and Governance 8.2 Law and Justice (8.2.1-8.2.7)	28
(7) Prepare a political development plan, and set up an independent political development council to strictly monitor implementation of the plan.	1. Urgent Policies to be Implemented in the First Year (1.1.3)	4
(8) Ensure that civil servants and state employees receive appropriate benefits.	8. Policy on Good Management and Governance 8.1 Efficiency of Administration of State Affairs (8.1.8)	28
Section 79 The State shall patronize and protect the Buddhist religion, long the faith of most Thais, and other religions; promote good understanding and harmony among adherents of all faiths, as well as encourage the application of religious principles to enhance virtue and develop quality of life.	3. Policy on Social and Quality of Life 3.4 Policy on Religions, Arts and Culture (3.4.2, 3.4.4)	12
Section 80 The State shall follow the policy approach on social issues, public health, education, and culture as follows: (1) Protect and develop children and youth; support their upbringing, care, and early education; promote equality between women and men; enhance and develop the integrity of the family institution and communities; provide aid and welfare to the elderly, the indigent, the disabled or handicapped and the underprivileged for better quality of life and self-reliance.	1. Urgent Policies to be Implemented in the First Year (1.2.4) 3. Policy on Social and Quality of Life 3.5 Policy on Social Welfare and Human Security	6 12

Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand	Cabinet Policy	Page
(2) Promote, support, and develop a health system that emphasizes health promotion for sustained well-being; provide and promote standard public health services to people universally and efficiently; and encourage the private sector and communities to participate in health development and provision of public health services, whereby providers of such services who perform their duties according to professional and ethical standards shall be protected by the law.	1. Urgent Policies to be Implemented in the First Year (1.2.10) 3. Policy on Social and Quality of Life 3.3 Public Health Policy (3.3.1-3.3.5) 3.6 Policy on Sports and Recreation (3.6.1)	6 11 14
(3) Develop the quality and standards of education at all levels and formats to keep up with changes in the socio-economic environment; see to a national education plan and laws to develop national education; develop the quality of teachers and educational personnel to keep up with changes in the global society; inculcate learners with Thai consciousness, discipline, regard for the public interest, and adherence to democratic rule with the King as Head of State.	1. Urgent Policies to be Implemented in the First Year (1.3.1) 3. Policy on Social and Quality of Life 3.1 Education Policy (3.1.1-3.1.8)	7 8
(4) Promote and support decentralization of power so that local administrative organizations, communities, religious organizations, and the private sector may organize and participate in education management to raise education quality and standards to a level equal to and consistent with the fundamental policy approach of the state.	3. Policy on Social and Quality of Life 3.1 Education Policy (3.1.1)	8
(5) Promote and support research in various disciplines, and disseminate the state-funded research results and information.	3. Policy on Social and Quality of Life 3.1 Education Policy (3.1.5)	9
(6) Promote and support harmony, learning, consciousness-raising, and dissemination of arts and culture, traditions and customs of the nation, as well as positive social values and local wisdom.	3. Policy on Social and Quality of Life 3.4 Policy on Religions, Arts and Culture (3.4.1-3.4.3)	12

Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand	Cabinet Policy	Page
Section 81 The State shall follow the policy approach on the law and justice as follows: (1) See to the correct, timely, impartial, and universal observance and enforcement of the law; promote the provision of legal aid and legal knowledge to the public; reorganize civil service work and other state work in the judicial process to be efficient, with participation by people and professional organizations in the judicial process and provide legal assistance to the public.	8. Policy on Good Management and Governance 8.2 Law and Justice (8.2.1)	28
(2) Protect the rights and liberties of the individual from being violated by state officials and others, and dispense justice equally to all people.	8. Policy on Good Management and Governance 8.2 Law and Justice (8.2.2)	28
(3) Enact legislation to establish an independent agency for law reform with functions to improve and develop the laws of the country, as well as amend laws to comply with the Constitution, taking into account the views of people affected by those laws.	8. Policy on Good Management and Governance 8.2 Law and Justice (8.2.1, 8.2.3)	28
(4) Enact legislation to establish an independent agency to reform the justice administration process, to improve and develop the operations of agencies involved with the process.	8. Policy on Good Management and Governance 8.2 Law and Justice (8.2.2, 8.2.3)	28
(5) Support the operations of private organizations that provide legal aid to the public, particularly those affected by domestic violence.	8. Policy on Good Management and Governance 8.2 Law and Justice (8.2.4)	28

Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand	Cabinet Policy	Page
Section 82 The State shall promote friendly relations with other countries and adopt the principle of non-discrimination and shall comply with human rights conventions to which Thailand is party as well as international obligations concluded with other countries and international organizations. The State shall promote trade, investment and tourism with other countries and shall render protection and look after the interests of Thais living abroad.	1. Urgent Policies to be Implemented in the First Year (1.1.4) 7. Policy on Foreign Affairs and International Economics (7.1-7.9)	4 25
Section 83 The State shall encourage and support implementation of the sufficiency economy philosophy.	1. Urgent Policies to be Implemented in the First Year (1.2.6)	6
Section 84 The State shall follow the policy approach on the economy as follows: (1) Support a free and fair economic system through market mechanisms and to promote sustainable economic development by repealing and refraining from the enactment of laws and rules regulating business which are inconsistent with economic needs, and refraining from economic activities that compete with the private sector, except where necessary for the purpose of maintaining state security, preserving the common interest, or providing public utilities. (2) Encourage the application of merit, ethics and good governance principles in the conduct of business. (3) Control monetary and financial discipline to strengthen economic and social stability and security; improve the tax collection system to ensure fairness and compatibility with changing socio-economic conditions.	1. Urgent Policies to be Implemented in the First Year (1.1.5, 1.3.2) 4. Policy on Economics 4.1 Policy on Macroeconomic Management (4.1.1, 4.1.2) 4.2 Economic Restructuring Policy (4.2.4)	4 14 19
	4. Policy on Economics 4.1 Policy on Macroeconomic Management (4.1.3, 4.1.7)	15
	1. Urgent Policies to be Implemented in the First Year (1.2.5) 4. Policy on Economics 4.1 Policy on Macroeconomic Management (4.1.4-4.1.6)	6 15

Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand	Cabinet Policy	Page
(4) Provide a comprehensive savings system for old age for public and state officials.	3. Policy on Social and Quality of Life 3.5 Policy on Social Welfare and Human Security (3.5.4)	13
	4. Policy on Economics 4.1 Policy on Macroeconomic Management (4.1.3)	15
(5) Regulate business activities to ensure free and fair competition, prevent monopolies, whether direct or indirect, and protect consumers.	1. Urgent Policies to be Implemented in the First Year (1.3.2)	7
	3. Policy on Social and Quality of Life 3.5 Policy on Social Welfare and Human Security (3.5.5)	13
(6) See to the fair distribution of income; protect, enhance and extend occupational opportunities to the public for economic development, including promotion and support of the development of local and Thai wisdom for application in the manufacture of goods, provision of services, and occupations.	3. Policy on Social and Quality of Life 3.5 Policy on Social Welfare and Human Security (3.5.1, 3.5.2)	12
(7) Encourage people of working age to have employment; protect child and women workers; organize a tripartite labour relations system which entitles workers to elect their representatives; provide a social security system and ensure that workers working at equal value obtain equal wages, benefits and welfare on a fair and non-discriminatory basis.	1. Urgent Policies to be Implemented in the First Year (1.2.1-1.2.3)	5
	3. Policy on Social and Quality of Life 3.2 Labour Policy (3.2.1-3.2.4)	10
(8) Protect and maintain farmers' interests in production and marketing; encourage maximum remuneration from farm products, including the promotion of farmers associations in the form of farmers councils in order to carry out agricultural planning and protection of shared interests.	1. Urgent Policies to be Implemented in the First Year (1.2.7-1.2.9)	6
	4. Policy on Economics 4.2 Economic Restructuring Policy (4.2.1)	15

Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand	Cabinet Policy	Page
(9) Promote, support and protect the independence of the cooperatives system and the formation of occupational or professional associations, as well as associations by the public for carrying out economic activities.	4. Policy on Economics 4.2 Economic Restructuring Policy (4.2.1)	15
(10) Provide basic utility services that are essential for people to live on to maintain the economic security of the state and ensure that the private sector does not monopolize basic utility services, which may be harmful to the State.	1. Urgent Policies to be Implemented in the First Year (1.1.7)	5
(11) Refrain from any act that may cause ownership of basic utility services infrastructure or networks that are essential for people's lives or national security to be transferred to the private sector or which results in the State holding less than a fifty-one percent share of ownership.	4. Policy on Economics 4.1 Policy on Macroeconomic Management (4.1.7)	15
(12) Promote and support merchant marine, rail transportation, including the operation of domestic and international logistics management systems.	4. Policy on Economics 4.3 Policy on development of Infrastructure to raise the Quality of Life and increase Competitiveness (4.3.1-4.3.11)	20
(13) Promote and strengthen private sector economic organizations at national and local levels.	1. Urgent Policies to be Implemented in the First Year (1.4) 4. Policy on Economics 4.2 Economic Restructuring Policy (4.2.1, 4.2.2)	7 15
(14) Promote the agricultural processing industry to create economic added value.	4. Policy on Economics 4.2 Economic Restructuring Policy (4.2.1, 4.2.2)	15
Section 85 The State shall act in compliance with the policy approach on land use, natural resources and the environment as follows:		

Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand	Cabinet Policy	Page
(1) Prescribe rules on land use applicable to the entire country with due regard to compatibility with environmental conditions, including land and water and the way of life of local communities, efficient measures for conservation of natural resources, sustainable standards for land use, with people in the affected area having a say in the decision-making.	5. Policy on Land, Natural Resources, and the Environment (5.1)	23
(2) Ensure equitable distribution of land rights to entitle farmers to land rights or ownership for agriculture by means of land reforms or through other means, and providing adequate and suitable water resources for farmers for agricultural usage.	4. Policy on Economics 4.2 Economic Restructuring Policy (4.2.1) 5. Policy on Land, Natural Resources, and the Environment (5.1)	15 23
(3) Conduct town and city planning, and implementing those plans effectively and efficiently for sustainable conservation of natural resources.	5. Policy on Land, Natural Resources, and the Environment (5.1)	23
(4) Provide a systematic water and natural resources management plan for the benefit of the public, and encouraging public participation in the preservation, conservation and appropriate utilization of natural resources and biological diversity.	5. Policy on Land, Natural Resources, and the Environment (5.1, 5.6)	23
(5) Promote the conservation and protection of environment quality based on sustainable development, and controlling and eliminating pollution affecting health, sanitation, welfare and the quality of life of the public by encouraging the public, the local communities and the local governments to participate in the formulation of policy measures.	5. Policy on Land, Natural Resources, and the Environment (5.4)	24
Section 86 The State shall follow the policy approach on science, intellectual property and energy as follows:		

Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand	Cabinet Policy	Page
(1) Encourage the development of science, technology and innovation in all aspects by enacting specific laws, allocating educational budgets for study and research, establishing research and development institutes, encouraging utilization of research outcomes, the effective transfer of technology and the development of research personnel and dissemination of knowledge on science and modern technology to the public, and encouraging the public to apply scientific knowledge in real life.	4. Policy on Economics 4.4 Energy Policy 6. Policy on Science, Technology, Research and Innovation (6.1-6.3)	22 24
(2) Support invention or cogitation to create new knowledge, preserving and developing local and Thai wisdom, and protecting intellectual properties.	6. Policy on Science, Technology, Research and Innovation (6.3)	25
(3) Promote and support research and development and utilization of alternative energy that benefits the environment in a continuous and systematic manner.	4. Policy on Economics 4.4 Energy Policy 6. Policy on Science, Technology, Research and Innovation (6.3)	22 25
Section 87 The State shall implement the policy approach on public participation as follows: (1) Promote public participation in policymaking and socio-economic development planning at both the local and national levels.	8. Policy on Good Management and Governance 8.1 Efficiency of Administration of State Affairs (8.1.4)	27
(2) Promote and support public participation in political decision- making, socio-economic development planning, including provision of public services.	8. Policy on Good Management and Governance 8.3 Media and Access to Information (8.3.1)	29
(3) Promote and support public participation in monitoring the exercise of state power at all levels, in the form of various professional, occupational or other types of bodies.	8. Policy on Good Management and Governance 8.2 Law and Justice (8.2.7)	29

Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand	Cabinet Policy	Page
(4) Promote a politically strong citizenry; and legislate the establishment of a political development fund for the civil sector to support public community activities, as well as to support the formation of citizen groups and networks of any form to present the views and needs of the local community.	1. Urgent Policies to be Implemented in the First Year (1.1.3) 8. Policy on Good Management and Governance 8.1 Efficiency of Administration of State Affairs (8.1.2)	4 27
(5) Promote and educate the people on political development and democratic rule with the King as Head of State; and encourage the people to exercise their voting rights honestly and fairly. Public participation according to this section must bear in mind the close gender ratio.	1. Urgent Policies to be Implemented in the First Year (1.1.3) 8. Policy on Good Management and Governance 8.3 Media and Access to Information (8.3.1)	4 29

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